



THE DISCOVERERS – MILESTONES IN THE DISCOVERY OF LIFE ON MARS

SEATTLE, WA (MARS) February 12, 2009 – In 2008, a major discovery was made that has revolutionary implications for the future of human civilization on Earth.

Andrew D. Basiago, founder and president of the Mars Anomaly Research Society, found evidence of life on Mars in a photograph taken by NASA's Mars Rover *Spirit* in 2007 and sent back to the Earth in 2008.

On December 12, 2008, Andy published his findings in his landmark paper entitled *The Discovery of Life on Mars*, the first work to prove that Mars is an inhabited planet.

His paper, which presents evidence from NASA photograph PIA10214 showing humanoid beings, animal species, carved statues, and built structures in the West Valley of the Columbia Basin in the Gusev Crater of Mars, finishes the work of a great tradition in natural history.

For more than a century, this tradition has posed to humanity a vital question, namely, “Does Mars – which every two years supplants Venus as Earth’s nearest celestial neighbor – harbor life?”

Whether life exists on Mars is a question of vital significance for human beings on Earth, for if life exists on Mars, then we can say that life exists beyond Earth and that humanity inhabits an inhabited Universe.

Many individuals – including Schiaparelli, Flammarion, Lowell, Tesla, Wells, Burroughs, Welles, DiPietro and Molenaar, Carlotto, Hoagland, Hancock, Brown, Van Flandern, Skipper, and Webre – have contributed to the great debate about whether Mars is inhabited.

Let’s look at who some of these individuals were, and examine the contributions they made to promoting a far-fetched theory that has now been proved – that life exists on the Red Planet and has for a long time.

1877



Giovanni Schiaparelli

This tradition began with the Italian astronomer Giovanni Schiaparelli, who during Mars’ “Great Opposition” of 1877 first identified natural channels on Mars that he called “canali,” causing public speculation that Mars has artificial “canals” and thus is an inhabited planet.



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1892



Nicolas Camille Flammarion

In *La Planète Mars* (1892 and 1909), the French astronomer Nicolas Camille Flammarion supported the existence of canals built by an advanced civilization on Mars.

In 1873 and 1885, he proposed that the color of Mars might be attributed to vegetation growing on the Red Planet's surface.

1894



Percival Lowell

The American astronomer Percival Lowell began the study of Mars in 1894 after reading Flammarion's *La Planète Mars*. He was very intrigued by the canals of Mars drawn by Schiaparelli.

In three major works, *Mars* (1895), *Mars and Its Canals* (1906), and *Mars as the Abode of Life* (1908), Lowell advanced the controversial and unpopular assertion that the planet Mars sustains life.

His belief that life exists on Mars, and that improved telescopes would show it, is credited with leading to the discovery of the planet Pluto by astronomer Clyde Tombaugh in 1930.



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1898



H.G. Wells

These early speculations that conditions on Mars might not just support life but even intelligent life inspired many science fiction stories of what life on Mars might be like once we encountered it there.

One of the first and best known works in this genre was H.G. Wells' classic *The War of the Worlds* (1898), in which Martians endeavor to escape a dying Mars by invading the Earth.

1902



Nikola Tesla

In 1900, the famed Lowell Observatory that Lowell constructed in Flagstaff, Arizona observed a blue beam of light reaching from Mars to Earth for 70 minutes. Nikola Tesla interpreted this strange beam of light to be a possible signal from a civilization on Mars to our human civilization on Earth.

In 1902, using an electro-magnetic device on Pike's Peak in Colorado Springs, the brilliant immigrant inventor achieved what he believed was a form of interactive communication with the civilization on Mars that had sent the blue beam of light to Earth in 1900, but this odd claim was soon forgotten.



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Early 20th Century



Edgar Rice Burroughs

In the early 20th Century, the notion of life on Mars entered the public's imagination not via science but science fiction, such as the writings of the novelist Edgar Rice Burroughs (*left*), who chronicled the exploits of the imaginary Mars explorer John Carter.

His *Barsoom* novels were so popular that the bookplate of Burroughs, who invented the character Tarzan, featured Tarzan holding up Mars (*right*).

1938



Orson Welles

Popular thought about life on Mars was negatively affected by Orson Welles' 1938 radio adaptation of Wells' novel *The War of the Worlds*. This Mercury Theater broadcast caused widespread panic among listeners, some of whom believed that an invasion by Martians was actually taking place.

This tragic event created a phobic attitude about Mars in the minds of the general public.



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1945 - Present



Ray Bradbury



Robert A. Heinlein



Larry Niven

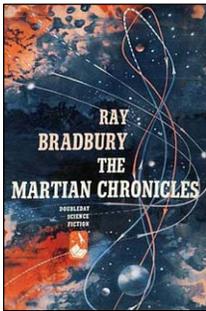


Kim S. Robinson

After World War II, the prospect of life on Mars inspired a generation of imaginative science fiction writers, including Ray Bradbury, Robert A. Heinlein, Larry Niven and Kim Stanley Robinson.

In their works, Earth and Mars are linked in a common destiny. Mars is imagined to be the destination where humanity's first contact with life forms on another planet might one day take place.

1950



The Martian Chronicles

Ray Bradbury's short story collection *The Martian Chronicles* (1950) is exemplary of this literary genre. It tells of the colonization of Mars by humans fleeing a troubled and ultimately atomically devastated Earth, and the conflict that ensues between the native Martians and the hegemonic colonists from Earth.

Such a disastrous scenario might soon occur in our solar system, whereby human civilization on Earth invades Mars' to its detriment, if we should fail to act responsibly in the way that we engage the Red Planet and its inhabitants.



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1952-53



Howard Percy Robertson

Outside the realm of science fiction, any speculation that Mars might harbor life was suppressed as a result of the legacy of the Durant Report of the CIA's Robertson Panel of 1952-53.

This official US government study into the UFO mystery decreed that claims of extraterrestrial life should be “debunked” and that those persons who claim contact with any form of evidence of life beyond Planet Earth should be smeared publicly, as Andy was when he first published his Mars findings.

1958



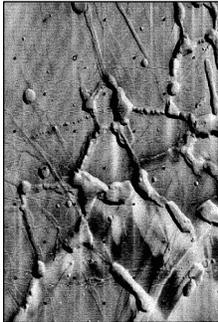
The National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 [the NASA Act], which created the US space agency, made NASA's first objective “the expansion of human knowledge of the Earth and of phenomena in the atmosphere and space.”

Yet NASA has adhered to the regime of official state secrecy about extraterrestrial life that was established by the Robertson Panel and has refrained from all comment about life on Mars, even when its own satellites and rovers have collected photographic evidence of past and present life on Mars.



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1971



Mariner 9: Tunnels on Mars

Consequently, it went little noted outside the corridors of the US government and aerospace community when NASA's Mariner probes to Mars began to return images with *prima facie* evidence of life in them, like this picture (*above*), taken by Mariner 9 in 1971, in which tunnels connecting locations on the surface of Mars can be readily seen.

1976



The Face on Mars

Since 1976, the search for evidence of life on Mars has been symbolized by the controversy over whether The Face on Mars in the Cydonia region is a natural object or a built structure.

The Face was photographed by the Viking 1 orbiter on July 25, 1976 and later found by two computer engineers at the Goddard Space Flight Center, Vincent DiPietro and Gregory Molenaar, while they were searching NASA archives.



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NASA: “A Trick of Light and Shadow”

In keeping with the decree set by the Robertson Panel establishing state secrecy about extraterrestrial life, soon after The Face on Mars was found by DiPietro and Molenaar, NASA quickly “debunked” it.

In regard to the first photograph of it – Image 35A72 – Viking chief scientist Gerry Soffen glibly dismissed The Face on Mars as “a trick of light and shadow.”



MARS: “The Face on Mars *is* a Stone Monument”

Skeptics held that The Face on Mars results from the phenomenon known as *pareidolia*, our propensity to see human faces in inanimate objects even when no life is present.

However, a second photo of The Face found by DiPietro and Molenaar – this one Image 70A13 – revealed that The Face on Mars *is* a stone monument.

This second image was taken 35 Viking orbits later and at a different “sun angle” than 35A72, but still reveals that The Face on Mars has distinctively simian features.



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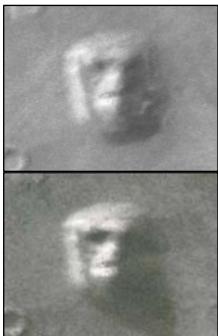
1987



The Great Richard C. Hoagland

The heroic cause of proving that life once existed on Mars was championed by Richard C. Hoagland, whose *The Monuments of Mars: A City on the Edge of Forever* (1987) was the first serious study of The Face on Mars at Cydonia. Hoagland popularized the fact that The Face on Mars is an artificial structure during numerous appearances on radio's *Coast to Coast AM* and even displayed The Face on Mars in an historic appearance on television's CNN. He is considered the dean of Mars anomaly researchers.

1988



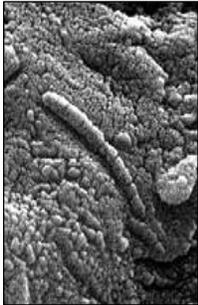
The Carlotto Investigation

In 1988, Dr. Mark Carlotto performed 3-D constructions of two nearly identical photos of The Face on Mars at Cydonia, and found that The Face has persistent face-like traits when viewed from any angle and also all the features of a humanoid face, including a head, eyes, cheekbones, nose, mouth, forehead, chin, nostrils, and a helmet or headdress. "The impression of a recognizable facial structure is not a transient phenomenon," he concluded.



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1996

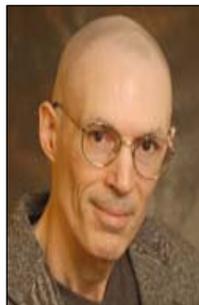


Ancient Martian Microbes

In 1996, twenty years after The Face on Mars was discovered, NASA scientists declared that a meteorite from Mars found in Antarctica in 1984, ALH84001, contained tiny tubular forms that might be fossils of bacteria that lived on Mars 3.6 billion years ago. NASA's hypothesis was that if life has ever existed on Mars, it had to be *very* small and a *very* long time ago.

This disinformation campaign by NASA failed because The Face on Mars had already become the icon of the Mars cover-up. Critics asked: If NASA has been hiding the fact that The Face on Mars is a monument, what else then has it been hiding? NASA's mission, after all, was "to promote the expansion of human knowledge of space," not maintain a cosmic cover-up that keeps human beings in the dark.

1999-2000



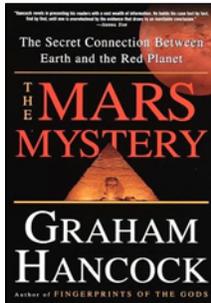
Graham Hancock Dr. Courtney Brown Dr. Thomas Van Flandern

As the 21st Century dawned, undaunted by NASA disinformation ploys about Martian microbes, respected thinkers – like Graham Hancock, Dr. Courtney Brown, and the late Dr. Thomas Van Flandern – advanced the debate over whether Mars once was, or still *is*, inhabited.



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1999

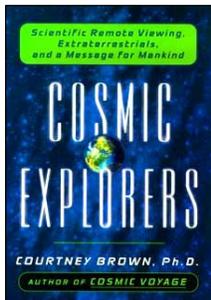


Hancock's *The Mars Mystery*

In *The Mars Mystery* (1999), Graham Hancock showed that some formations on Mars are the remnants of an ancient civilization that was destroyed by a cataclysmic deep impact.

He argued that the damage to Mars might have coincided with the Great Flood stories of Earth and an apparent disaster or series of disasters 9,000 to 12,000 years ago that involved a scattering of comets or other space objects that could endanger Earth in the future.

1999



Brown's *Cosmic Explorers*

In *Cosmic Explorers* (1999), Courtney Brown revealed that scientific remote viewers at Emory University had located a humanoid civilization living under the surface of Mars.

According to Dr. Brown, the Martians have the capability to make brief interplanetary trips to Earth, have already placed colonies here in New Mexico and South America, and are seeking to move their small surviving population to this planet.



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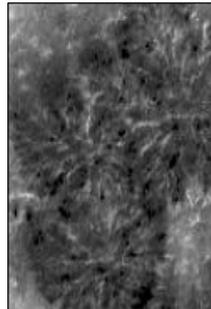
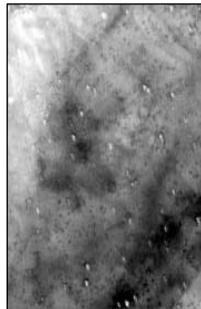
2000



Dr. Thomas Van Flandern

In 2000, Tom Van Flandern, former Chief Astronomer for the US Naval Observatory and an international authority on celestial mechanics, studied The Face on Mars at Cydonia. He concluded that “The natural origin hypothesis is disproved by odds of 1,000 billion *billion* to one” and declared that the artificiality of the Cydonia artifacts was now established “Beyond a reasonable doubt.”

2001



Van Flandern Finds Ancient Monuments and Forests on Mars

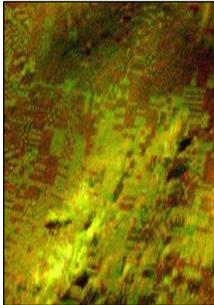
Certain that The Face on Mars at Cydonia was an ancient artifact, Dr. Van Flandern searched for corroborating evidence. He found other, similar monolithic faces on the surface of Mars, including, above, The Face of a Boy King (*left*) and a Nefertiti-like ground drawing (*center*). In 2001, he found stands of “possible trees” on Mars (*right*) and speculated that they might be “ancient forest remains.”

With these findings, Dr. Van Flandern came tantalizingly close to discovering life on Mars. The astronomer, however, held that Mars is a dead planet that was once the moon of a parent planet that disintegrated and became the asteroid belt. The Face on Mars, he concluded, was the ancient remnant of its builders’ civilization, which “ended as ours began 3.2 million years ago.”



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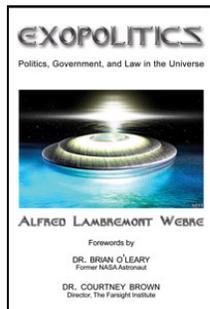
2001-2003



City Patterns in the Victoria Crater

Joseph Skipper, whose work exemplifies the valiant efforts of independent Mars anomaly researchers around the world, provided evidence that supported Van Flandern's conclusion that a prehistoric civilization once flourished on Mars, when he identified city patterns in the Victoria Crater of Mars.

2005



Webre's *Exopolitics*: A Mars Case Study

Inspired by Hancock, Brown, Van Flandern, and others, Alfred Lambremont Webre, the chairman of the board of advisors of MARS, included a case study of human contact with an advanced, intelligent civilization on Mars in his book *Exopolitics: Politics, Government and Law in the Universe* (2005), the work credited with founding the field of Exopolitics – the science of our relations with our human civilization on Earth and off-planet civilizations.

This book begins the great debate about how humanity should govern its interactions with off-planet cultures, like the one that we now know exists on Mars.



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2008



Andrew D. Basiago

That Mars is an inhabited planet was proved in 2008, when American lawyer Andrew D. Basiago, the president of MARS, discovered evidence of life on Mars in NASA *Spirit* photograph PIA10214, and presented his findings in his landmark paper *The Discovery of Life on Mars*, first published on the Web.

This work completed the arc of discovery that began with Schiaparelli, Lowell, and Tesla and that was sustained during the decades-long debate over The Face on Mars through the valiant efforts of individuals such as DiPietro, Molenaar, Carlotto, Hoagland, Van Flandern, Hancock, and others.

In announcing his discovery, Andy was stating that he had found the first *dispositive evidence* of human and animal life on Mars that *proves* that Mars is presently inhabited with life forms. He gave credit to earlier discoverers for having found different forms of evidence of ancient life on Mars.

PIA10214 is a westward view of the West Valley of the Columbia Basin in the Gusev Crater that was taken by NASA's Mars Exploration Rover *Spirit* and sent back to the Earth in November 2007. In it, Andy found a cosmic treasure trove of evidence of life on Mars, including images of several types of humanoid beings, different animal species, carved statues, and built structures that show that Mars is inhabited.

"This image is the most significant photograph ever taken by human beings from Earth," he wrote at the time of his discovery. "In it, humanity has crossed the threshold that separates our past as an earth-bound race from our future as a space-faring civilization in contact with extraterrestrial species... This epochal discovery begins a new chapter of the human adventure in the Cosmos..."

Andy believes that as the natural heritage of humankind, human beings on Earth have a human right to be told the truth about the natural history of the solar system that we inhabit.

After making his discovery, Andy founded the Mars Anomaly Research Society (MARS) to lobby the US government to disclose that Mars is an inhabited planet; to release its secret Mars intelligence documents, including those that reveal that the US government has been teleporting individuals to Mars for over 25 years; and to foster the developments in international law and policy that are now needed to protect the ecology and the civilization of Mars from human visitation, exploration, and colonization.