



Title 72

**Exhibiting Moon maps** in 1973 at the library of the University of Houston, I had the opportunity of explaining to the University's Chancellor, Dr Alfred Neumann, how closely the antique map of 1630, drawn by Cassini, resembled the photographs taken during the Apollo flights. [See also Title 331].

*Courtesy Houston Post ©*

All results of scientific research must be communicated if they are to contribute to the progress of science, and since the written, and later the printed word was the only means of doing so, it is obviously of importance for any historian of science to collect the *Editio princeps* of scientific books. When my collecting of old scientific instruments became too expensive, I changed my acquisitive activities to books, for which London was of course an ideal place. Even if I could not afford a first edition by the Hon. Robert Boyle, several hundred pounds Sterling in the 1950s and 1960s, I was happy to spend £100 for Napier's first Continental edition, Lugduvini 1619, of his *Logarithmorum Canonis*. It is the first Table of Logarithms ever published on the European Continent, in the same year as the *Editio princeps* appeared in Scotland.

My exploding library had but one dominant feature, its *Scientific Temper*—Science, past, present and future. One example was the subject of *Selenography*, and as I had reported for *The Daily Telegraph* almost all the Apollo Moon flights, it was natural to collect all possible early books about the Moon, as well as many of its rare antique maps. I was invited to exhibit the major items of the Collection under the title "The Image of the Moon—Galileo to Apollo 11" at the Library of the University of Houston, Texas, from 16-27 April 1973. It contained 43 early books and maps, including Galileo's *Siderius nuncius* (as a 1655 reprint) and a copy of the actual chart which Armstrong and Aldrin used in their Apollo 11 Lunar Module during their descent to Tranquility Bay in July 1969. I was proud to show my treasures to an appreciative audience.

I should like to quote one paragraph from my Preface to the small Catalogue of the Houston Exhibition:

*This dream [of reaching the Moon] must be kept alive, now more than ever, when a brief recession in the forward march of selenology has occurred. Man will return to the Moon—soon! The history of geography has taught us that whatever has once been discovered, will be visited again and again, until it becomes a permanent settlement.*

I had hoped that the exhibition in Houston would lead to the acquisition of the whole Collection by some Texas Institution, interested enough in the contribution which Texas had made to the whole Apollo Project, but I was disappointed. In the end I donated my whole Selenography Collection to the Space Museum in Huntsville, Alabama. It was there that Wernher von Braun and his team of engineers had designed, developed and tested the Apollo rockets.

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