

M 86 Notebook is written each month as an appendix to The Times of Man however it is a story and hence an analogy.

Viewed in normal light from outside Terra is a marble flecked orb, majestically revolving along its orbit in space accompanied by the planetary body Luna. It lies in a star/planetary system in a relatively empty area of space for stars. The planet varies somewhat in ecological structure of life over its surface but generally the surface conditions through the levels though not 100% desirable to biological life progress, are reasonably stable apart from periodic external influences.

The weather is more variable than one would expect on a similar planet due to the influence of Luna. Terra is a highly complex planet for its size and age and has a very high potential for evolution. It also has a complex history tied in with the various influence acting on it.

The KEL survey vessel M 86, recently arrived to relieve the communications station M42 parked well clear of the two binary planets. The scope surveyor array in the special projects office assigned to the 2I6 group hummed, clicked and flickered quietly while it absorbed its continuous flow of odd items of information, drawing them from the incoming lines and feeding them out to the memory stores.

Having been on M42 for some years Gef was glad to have the greater space and company that M 86 afforded. He had grown quiet attached to the M42, he knew every modification to its circuits that had been added over the years, but now it was inadequate and had been translated back to engineering school as a museum piece.

M42 had been such a specialised satellite packed full of communications equipment and memory relay systems that space had been very limited. It had been cosy though with such a small crew, sometimes only 4 on the station, the whole day had seemed to be spent on the relay amplifiers. Much had been learnt since 1944, and much more about the human condition since the other members of the 2I6 team had lived on Earth.

It was ironic that both the M42 and M86 were recorded as independent craft flying the blue flag of neutrality and not having any association with any wider group. The unobtrusive survey of M42 had not attracted much attention from any particular body. But since the arrival of M86 on loan from KEL Services, nobody was left with any misconceptions. A new vessel stationed permanently near Terra/Luna, and with a compliment of 24 crew and a much higher number of specialist members, it was obvious that the KEL unit was engaged in an

extended level of research into the developing events on Terra.

Although still a small vessel by KEl standards its arrival was significant. EL6 would much rather it was not there and was producing a certain amount of restrictive and time wasting delays. But EL6 was the local authority and when they claimed that the KEl staff were bending the rules they were almost correct. The fact that they had disregarded many of the rules themselves for thousands of years seemed to escape their attention. It didn't help that EL6 were an older level of control than Terra, which was without an overall admin. and hence was fair game for EL6 to do what they liked.

M 86 had been built by EL9 and it must be clear to EL6 that EL9 would influence its associated personnel, and that was something EL6 would try to restrict, or find itself with a shorter horizon to its space. It was a pity that EL6 were territorial but that was their problem; a system of distinction never employed by EL9 which ranged freely and in friendship, limited only by their technical ability.

EL6 would claim that the programmes for Terra were quite adequate but the ELV people were unlikely to agree to that and as they made up a large percentage of the local EL9 staff their view was bound to predominate. The whole scene was a complex one, everyone seemed to be here, but many of them were just passing through. There were lots of other survey units in the area, some working independantly and others working in closer association. EL9 was still in a backed off position to Terra and was waiting for the chain of laid down events to run their full course. But contact had never been lost with Terra and the influence had continued steadily over the ages so that Terra constituted almost a neutral planet carrying the quarantine coding in theory, while the higher authority was playing it by the book and giving EL6 the maximum rope to play with while still holding the ultimate strings of the game. The external Cosmic influences still controlled the chain of events, but since the last major shift around EL6 was firmly entrenched in its policy and would try to maintain the established situation of its control on young entrants to the 3D/4D interphase slot that Terra 3 occupied. Despite its transitional authority EL6 would try to hold the situation at whatever cost to its people it considered justified. EL9 with its careful influence was slowly moving the interface of ideas along. EL6 was bound to loose it within the next fifty years, they just didn't have the know how to outmanoeuvre EL9 when the Cosmic pattern required times to change. The pattern of events didn't allow for any other possibility to occur. The Cosmic Godhead might spin along with the anomaly for a few thousand years but not for ever. It was exam time

Gef glanced at the white control desk, instantly the notation tapes stopped. It was time he eat, he left the tape to be transmitted while he joined the others for a meal in 'C' deck lounge.

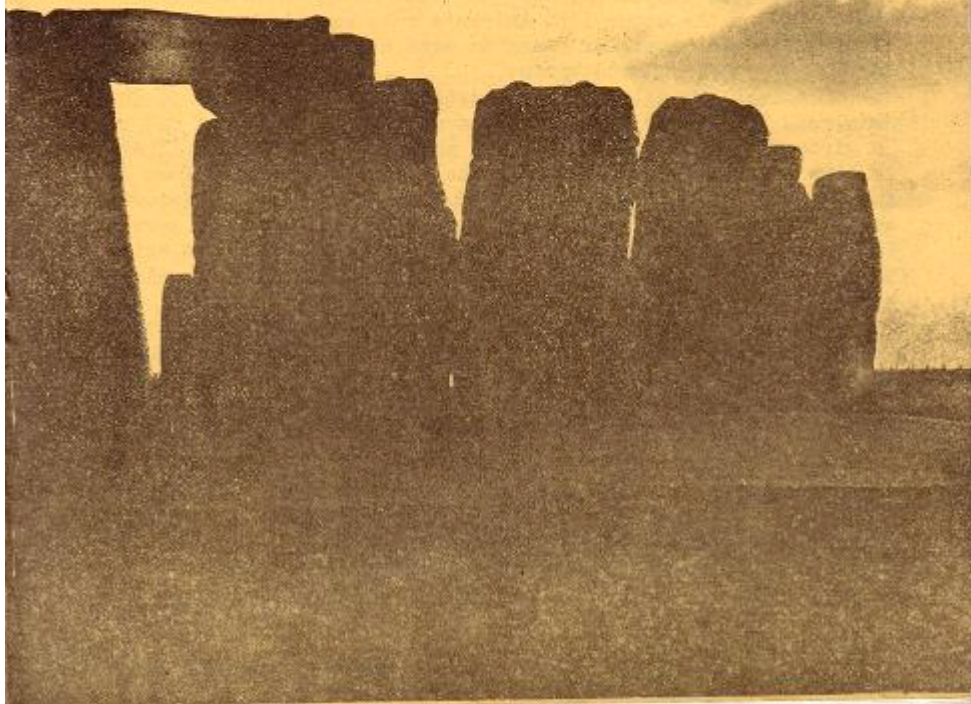
Terra is a marble flecked orb, majestically revolving ...in space. ♣ II



Ring out, ye crystal spheres,
Once bless our human ears,
 (If ye have power to touch our senses so),
And let your silver chime
Move in melodious time,
 And let the bass of heaven's deep organ blow;
And with your ninefold harmony
Make up full consort to the angelic symphony.



John Milton - Hymn on the Morning of Christ's Nativity - 1629



'Here with the Master. See what they have for supper- boiled fish, rice with leeks, wine and loaf. One of the pitchers in which it is served is broken. The handle is broken as is the lip to same. The Master's hair is most red, inclined to be curly in portions. Yet he is not feminine nor weak but strong - with heavy piercing eyes that are blue or steel-gray. His weight would be at least a hundred and seventy pounds. He has long tapering fingers. The nails are well kept with a long nail, though on the left little finger. He is merry even in the hour of trial. He jokes even in the moment of betrayal. The whole robe of the Master is not white but pearl gray - all combined in one, the gift of Nicodemus to the Lord.

The better looking of the twelve is, of course, Judas; while the younger is John with oval face, dark hair, smooth face - the only one with short hair. Peter, the rough and ready, has a very short beard - rough and not altogether clean. Andrew's is just the opposite - very sparse but inclined to be long more on the side and under the chin, long on the upper lip. Andrew's robe was always near gray or black while his clouts or breeches were striped. Those of Philip and Bartholomew were red and brown.

The sack is empty. Judas departs. The last is given of the wine and loaf. The Master lays aside his robe which is all of one piece. He girds the towel about his waist which is dressed with linen that is blue and white. He rolls back the folds and kneels before John, then James - then to Peter, who refuses. Now comes the dissertation as to "He that would be greatest among you should be the servant of all. The basin used is without handle and is made of wood. The water is from the gherkins that are in the wide-mouth shibboleths that stand in the house of John's father, Zebedee.

And now comes, "I have finished..." They sing the ninety-first Psalm: "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord He is my refuge and my fortress; my God; in Him will I trust." He is the musician as well for He uses the harp.

They leave for the garden.

(5749-1)

Thank you Edgar, and peace be with you ...



THE FOUNTAIN CENTRE

STAR HOUSE

78, PORTWAY, WARMINSTER, WILTSHIRE.

Dear Friends,

Boy are things warming up here, the phones ringing and its flap time again. What about that landing at Winchester! What are we going to give you in No. 7? I don't know but you had better hold onto your seats because things are moving really fast.

Happy, Happy Christmas to you all. Have a great time and give a little thought to the guy who started it all. Yes its that time for giving and receiving, or perhaps a time for highlighting that happy attitude which we should have all the year round. So have a joyful time, we will be drinking your toast here on the 31st at the Star House Sky Watch party. We still have a little space left spare, and anyway if you are passing through Warminster, within range, or camping or whatever do drop in on New Years Eve - 8.30pm onwards - try to let us know if possible in advance: Tel. Warminster 5423.

Arthurs book is out, but deadline prevents a review in this issue. Keep those news cuttings coming in. Please don't assume we know about it or have got a copy, so please send them in. The mag. is a means of communication, so use it don't just read it. If anyone wants to get in touch with other subscribers in your area we will print your free advertisement (max. 2 lines) to get friends together. We have noticed how many subscribers we have in the same towns and have done a survey which follows later in this edition.

Thanks again for your letters, Happy Christmas All.

Fountain Centre Association

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We got to wondering where you all were so we have done a survey of the *subscribers*. They are spread over 55 counties and countries of the world. Below we have listed only those with two or more members, space preventing listing of the others. If you would like to reach others who are near you we will publish your advertisement (max. 2 lines free of charge so others can write to you. You are no further from the FCA than your nearest member and there could be another living in the same street, that's a fact.

In order of total members per district:

Over 10 per area.	UK (England)		Outside England
	5 - 10	2 - 4	2 - 10
Wiltshire	Yorkshire	Humberside	Wales
Surrey	Avon	Lancashire	Scotland
London	Essex	Herts	Eire
Hampshire	Merseyside	W Midlands	N. Ireland
	Worce	Kent	U S A
	Sussex	Middlesex	Australia
	Dorset	Somerset	
	Devon	Lincolnshire	
		Norfolk	
		Cumbria	
		Cleveland	
		Cornwall	
		Berks	
		Cheshire	
		Warwickshire	
		Derbyshire	

Advertisement:

West Midlands. Any other subscriber or interested person who would like to get together for local skywatching/discussion etc. Contact: Ray Cox, 59, Briery Road, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63 1AS.

West Midlands. FCA member Kevin Goodman, Fountain Journal rep. for area would like to contact other members: write: 38, South Ave, Stourbridge, West Midlands.

FCA notice. Meetings of FCA members in the Wessex area will be held at Warminster in early 1977. Members requiring information when available should write to Fountain Centre, Star House, 78, Portway, Warminster, Wilts. Tel. Warminster 5423. (code 09-852)