



Jules Verne and the Heroes of Birkenhead.

By John Lamb

(Former Head of Geography, The Liverpool Blue Coat School, England).

35. The Last Soul of Captain Nemo.



From the Earth to the Moon.

UBI FIDES IBI LUX ET ROBUR

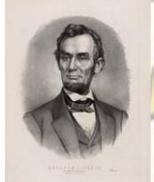




The Last Soul of Captain Nemo.



G Washington



A Lincoln



William Seward



Daniel O'Connell



F Douglass



W L Garrison



John Brown



Victor Hugo



T. Roosevelt Sr.



T. Roosevelt



F.D. Roosevelt



E. Roosevelt



W. Churchill



J.F. Kennedy



M Bulloch



F Tremlett



C Prioleau



Jefferson Davis



James D Bulloch



I Bulloch



John Laird



M F Maury



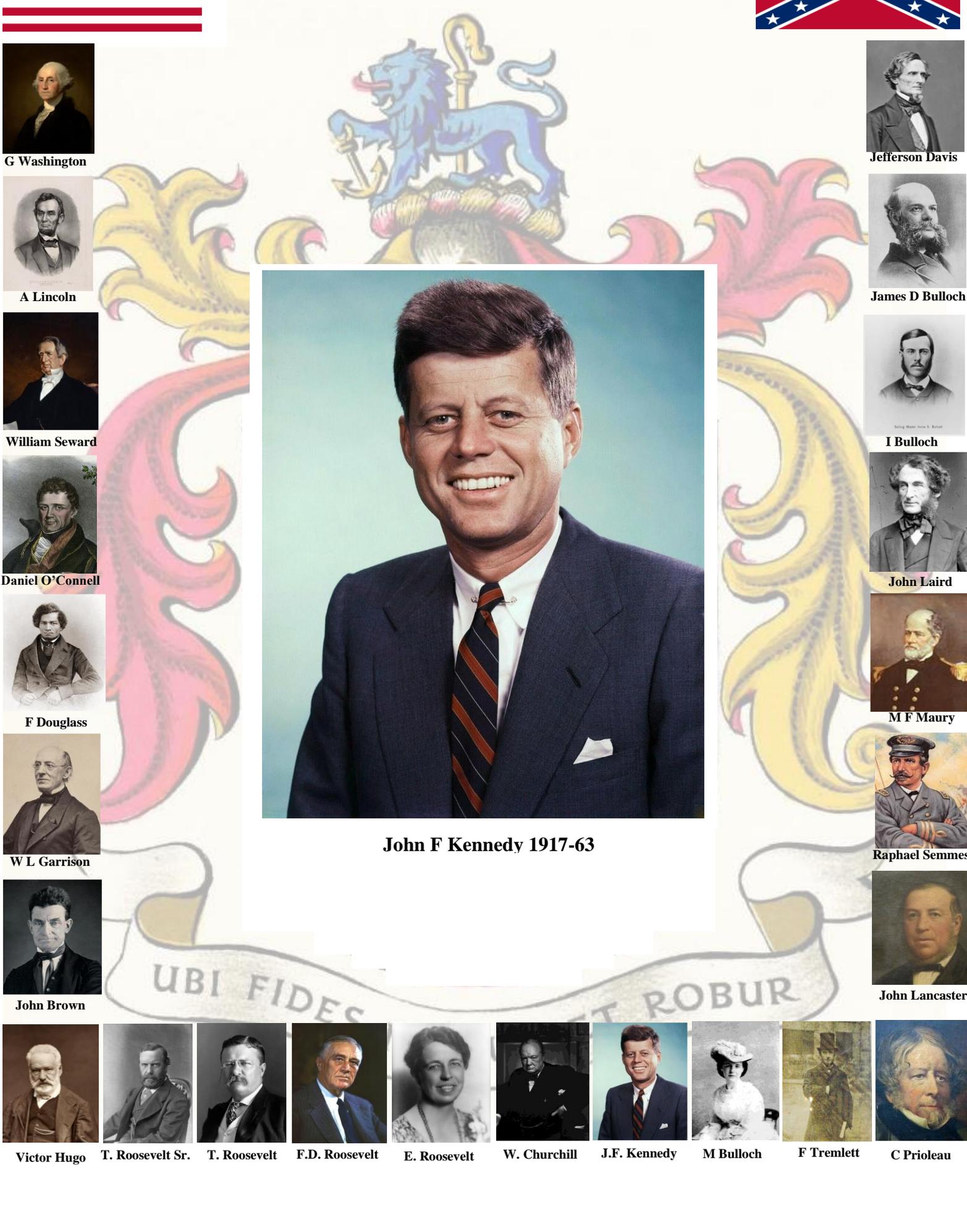
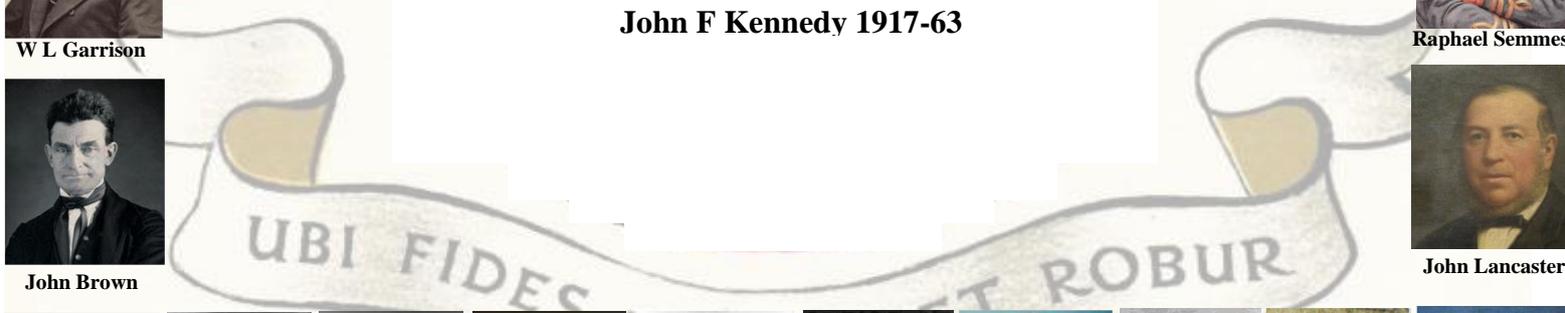
Raphael Semmes



John Lancaster

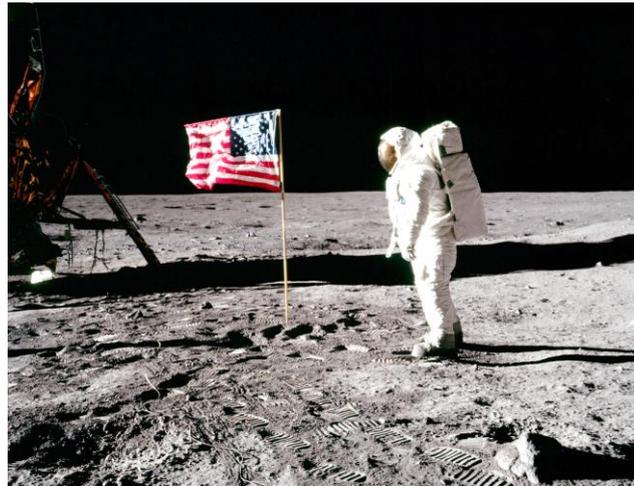


John F Kennedy 1917-63



The Last Soul of Captain Nemo.

Did The Heroes of Birkenhead Help the United States put a Man on the Moon?



Neil Armstrong (1930-2012) and Apollo 11.

On 23rd of July 1969, Neil Armstrong the commander of Apollo 11 and the first man to walk on the moon would pay this tribute to Jules Verne on the day before returning to Earth.

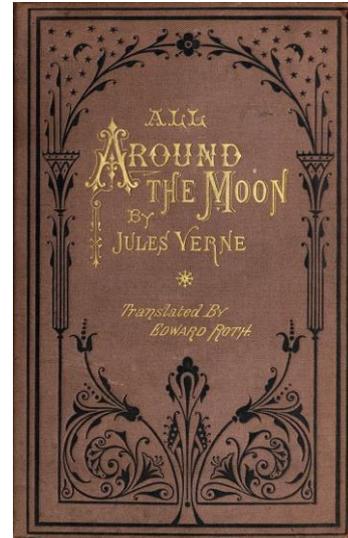
A hundred years ago Jules Verne wrote a book about a voyage to the Moon, his spaceship the Columbia took off from Florida and landed in the Pacific Ocean after completing a trip to the Moon.

It seems appropriate to us to share with you some of the reflections of the crew as the modern day Columbia completes its rendezvous with the planet Earth in the same Pacific Ocean tomorrow.

Neil Armstrong – speaking from the *Columbia* Command Module July 23rd 1969.

In naming the lunar module *Colombia*, the North American Space Agency (NASA) had obviously copied Jules Verne's giant cannon the *Columbiad* which had fired a manned projectile into space in his 1864 novel *From the Earth to the Moon*. The question is, what else did NASA copy?

Jules Verne wrote two novels about travelling to the moon, in *From the Earth to the Moon* (1864) he launches three people into space and after a five year wait, he writes the sequel *Around the Moon* (1869) and brings them back again.



If NASA were faithful to the writings of Jules Verne as scientifically possible then they would be acting out the prophecies of two people.

Anything one man can imagine, other men can make real.

Jules Verne

The best way to predict the future is to create it.

Abraham Lincoln

There are so many similarities between Verne's writings and the Apollo 11 Moon landings that the American Space Museum in Titusville Florida has cast some of them in stone.



American Space Museum, Florida.

Regarding Jules Verne's 1869 *Columbiad* and Apollo 11's 1969 *Columbia*....

Both had three man crews

Both landed in the Pacific Ocean

Both used retro-rockets for descent

Both flights blasted off from Central Florida

Florida and Texas sought control of both missions

Spacecraft dimensions were approximately the same

Astronauts in both were secured in couches at launch

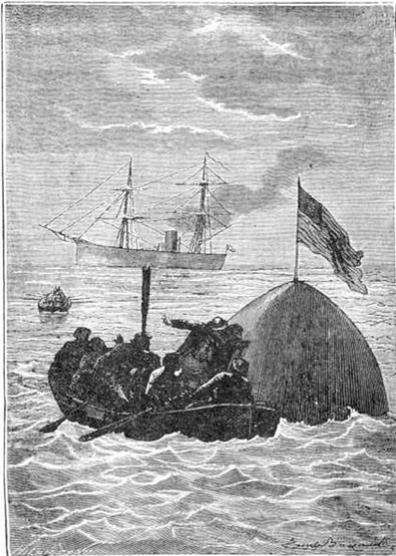
*Verne's craft was *Columbiad* – Apollo 11 was *Columbia**

Air in both crafts was recycled through potash to absorb CO2

Columbiad had a crewman named Ardan – Columbia had Aldrin

The Historical Marker Database.

In 1969 Neil Armstrong's speech brought Jules Verne's novel to peoples' attention, and many could not help but notice the numerous similarities between the image of the splashdown and pickup in *Around the Moon* (1869) and the image of the actual splashdown and pickup of Apollo 11 on July 24th 1969.



***Around the Moon* (1869)**



Apollo 11 splashdown 1969.

The views are so uncannily similar. The ship in the background in Verne's 1869 novel is the fictional *Susquehanna*, while the aircraft carrier in the background in the 1969 view is the *USS Hornet*.

Jules Verne writes in *From the Earth to the Moon*,

we shall one day travel to the moon, the planets, and the stars, with the same facility, rapidity, and certainty as we now make the voyage from Liverpool to New York!

Jules Verne writes in *From the Earth to the Moon* (1864).

...and when Jules Verne mentions Liverpool, we should look for one person – that most versatile of ‘actors’ who will play five roles in our next novel – the notorious ‘Birkenhead Pirate’ Raphael Semmes.

Indeed, it did not take long to find him, for it will be the versatile ‘Birkenhead Pirate’ Raphael Semmes (Aka Captain Nemo) who plays ‘Captain Blomsberry’ of the *Susquehanna* and picks up Verne’s lunar capsule in his 1869 novel *Around the Moon*.

“WELL, lieutenant, and our soundings?” ... “These great depths... “are not favorable for laying telegraphic cables...

In the 1830’s Raphael Semmes had worked on the United States survey ship USS *Brandywine*, taking soundings of the ocean floor. The USS *Brandywine* was formerly called the *USS Susquehanna*.

In a final paragraph, Jules Verne cannot resist referring in code to the *Brandywine* and at the same time having a go at Semmes’s long obsession with both sailors’ grog and his own home comforts.

The captain of the Susquehanna, as brave a man as need be, and the humble servant of his officers, returned to his cabin, took a brandy-grog, which earned for the steward no end of praise, and turned in, not without having complimented his servant upon his making beds, and slept a peaceful sleep.

Jules Verne *All Around the Moon* (1869)

The reader has been introduced to my Malayan steward, John, on several occasions. John’s black, lustrous eyes filled with ill-concealed tears, more than once, during the last days of the Sumter, as he smoothed the pillow of my cot with a hand as tender as that of a woman, or handed me the choicest dishes at meals.

Raphael Semmes *Memoirs of Service Afloat During the War Between the States* (1869)

The Birkenhead obsessed author Jules Verne has now employed the ‘Birkenhead Pirate’ Raphael Semmes to pick up the 1869 lunar capsule! Is there any escape from ‘The Pirate Semmes’ – not if our fifth novel is anything to go by. Or perhaps Semmes is a ‘safe metaphor’ he has repented and is atoning for his sins?

Neil Armstrong would pay Jules Verne the ultimate compliment from outer space, and so it can be safely said that at least one of our heroes of Birkenhead will help the United States to put a man on the moon.

The science fiction author Ray Bradbury would say this about Jules Verne's influence on President John F Kennedy;

Back in the early sixties when Verne was the unacknowledged ghostwriter for President Kennedy...

Ray Bradbury. Forward in *Verne's Journey into the Centre of the Self, Space and Time* by William Butcher (1991).



President John F Kennedy 'We choose to go to the Moon'

John F Kennedy does not mention Jules Verne in his famous 'We choose to go to the Moon' speech at Rice University Texas on September 12th, 1962.

He would make it quite clear who he would credit for inspiring the United States to put a Man on the Moon and bring him back safely again and it would certainly not be Jules Verne.

Here is a very much abridged version of the speech

We meet at a college noted for knowledge, in a city noted for progress, in a state noted for strength, and we stand in need of all three, for we meet in an hour of change and challenge, in a decade of hope and fear, in an age of both knowledge and ignorance. The greater our knowledge increases, the greater our ignorance unfolds...

... The exploration of space will go ahead, whether we join in it or not, and it is one of the great adventures of all time, and no nation which expects to be the leader of other nations can expect to stay behind in this race for space...

... We set sail on this new sea because there is new knowledge to be gained, and new rights to be won, and they must be won and used for the progress of all people. For space science, like nuclear science and all technology, has no conscience of its own. Whether it will become a force for good or ill depends on man, and only if the United States occupies a position of pre-eminence can we help decide whether this new ocean will be a sea of peace or a new terrifying theater of war. I do not say that we should or will go unprotected against the hostile misuse of space any more than we go unprotected against the hostile use of land or

sea, but I do say that space can be explored and mastered without feeding the fires of war, without repeating the mistakes that man has made in extending his writ around this globe of ours...

There is no strife, no prejudice, no national conflict in outer space as yet. Its hazards are hostile to us all. Its conquest deserves the best of all mankind, and its opportunity for peaceful cooperation may never come again. But why, some say, the moon? Why choose this as our goal? And they may well ask why climb the highest mountain? Why, 35 years ago, fly the Atlantic? Why does Rice play Texas? We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win, and the others, too.

But if I were to say, my fellow citizens, that we shall send to the moon, 240,000 miles away from the control station in Houston, a giant rocket more than 300 feet tall, the length of this football field, made of new metal alloys, some of which have not yet been invented, capable of standing heat and stresses several times more than have ever been experienced, fitted together with a precision better than the finest watch, carrying all the equipment needed for propulsion, guidance, control, communications, food and survival, on an untried mission, to an unknown celestial body, and then return it safely to earth, reentering the atmosphere at speeds of over 25,000 miles per hour, causing heat about half that of the temperature of the sun--almost as hot as it is here today--and do all this, and do it right, and do it first before this decade is out--then we must be bold.

Many years ago the great British explorer George Mallory, who was to die on Mount Everest, was asked why did he want to climb it. He said, "Because it is there."

Well, space is there, and we're going to climb it, and the moon and the planets are there, and new hopes for knowledge and peace are there. And, therefore, as we set sail we ask God's blessing on the most hazardous and dangerous and greatest adventure on which man has ever embarked.

Thank you.

**John F Kennedy We Choose to go to the Moon.
Rice University, Texas. September 12th 1962.**

*It was not Jules Verne, Raphael Semmes or any other 'Hero of Birkenhead' who inspired John F Kennedy to put a man on the moon, it was a mountain climber who very few of us have heard of ... who simply happened to say *because its there*.*

There is only one problem...

... is this the same George Mallory of 34 Slaty Road, Prenton, Birkenhead? It is!

**34 Slaty Road, Prenton
Birkenhead – the home of
great British explorer
George Mallory (right).**



So, which ever way we look at it, whether it be the speech of Neil Armstrong or the speech of John F. Kennedy, they both agree on one thing – it was the Heroes of Birkenhead who inspired the United States to put a man on the moon!..

...and our story does not end there. On 18th February 2021 the Mars Rover *Perseverance* landed on the red planet by parachute and NASA would confirm they hide secret codes.

Contained in the parachute canopy was a secret coded message entitled *Dare Mighty Things* – a speech uttered by none other than Theodore Roosevelt who plays ‘Herbert’ in the Birkenhead based novel *Mysterious Island* and will play the main lead in our fifth Birkenhead based novel.



Dare Mighty Things

The parachute of the *Perseverance* was not made in the United States of America, but it was made in the country that has maintained a ‘special relationship’ since the Alabama Claims were settled in 1872.

That is why the parachute that landed on Mars was made in England at ...

... Tiverton, Devon.

Next in Jules Verne and the Heroes of Birkenhead.

36. Jules Verne Moves Aside.

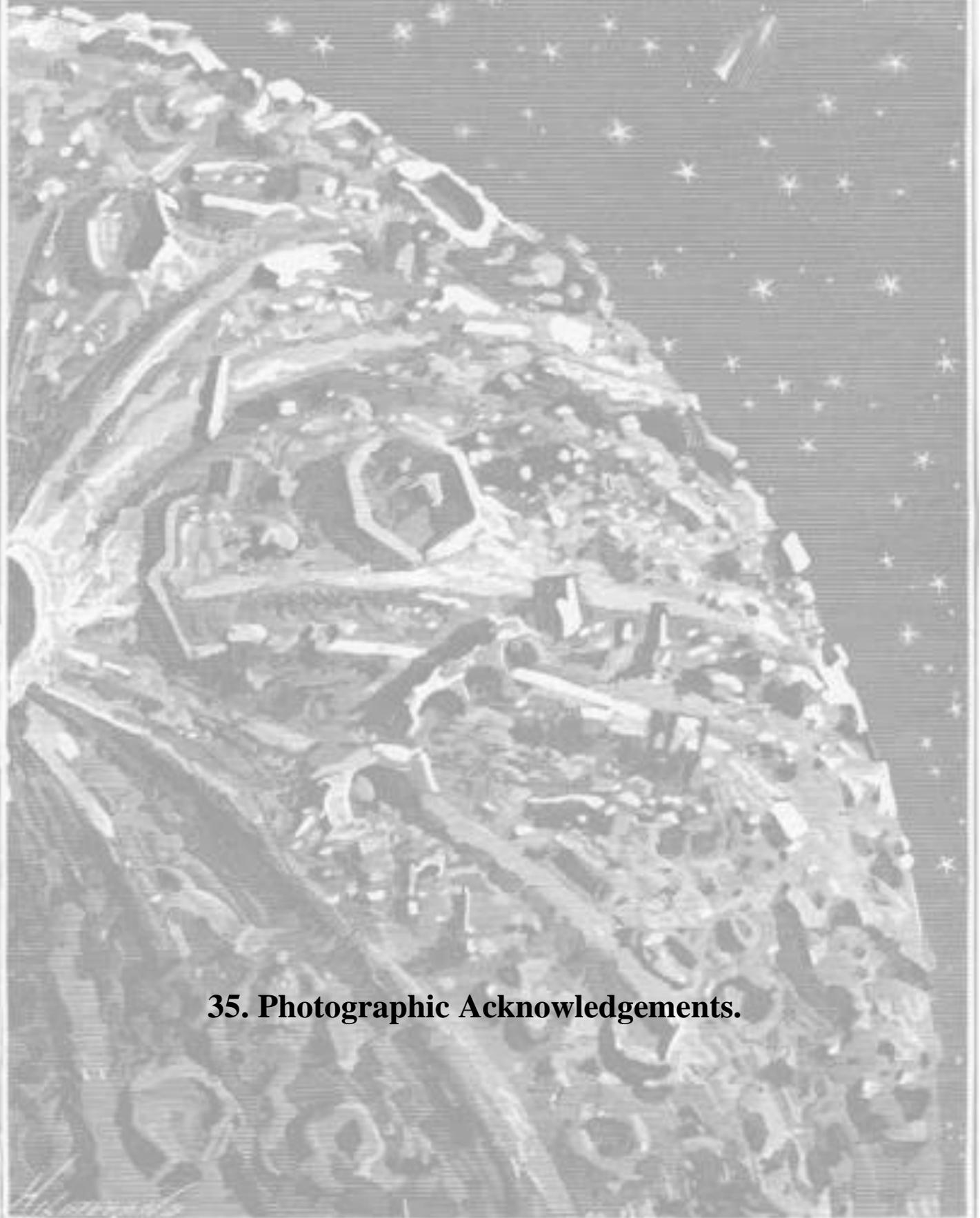
Inspiration and imagination are critical to spaceflight. The Museum's collection has long included artifacts that show how people have imagined spaceflight.

Some early rocket pioneers and theorists also read Jules Verne's stories, for instance. This model and the other science fiction artifacts in the Museum's collection tell that story.

National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian. Washington D.C.

35. The Last Soul of Captain Nemo.

35. Photographic Acknowledgements.



Page	Photograph Acknowledgement	Page	Photograph Acknowledgement
1a	TRIXES Large French Flag	3b	History.com
1b	Pending	4a	julesverne.ca
1c	Talbot Flags	4b	pending
1d	Heraldry-wiki.com	4c	Hmdb.org
1e	julesverne.ca	5a	Wikisource – La Bibliotheque Libre
1f	Talbot Flags	5b	Youtube.com
1g	Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire.	6	-
1h	Flag and Bunting Store	7a	Speaktolead.co.uk
1i	pond5.com	8	-
1j	VectorStock	9a	amiamhomes.co.uk
1k	shutterstock.com	9b	Imdb.com
1l	Wikiwand.com	9c	Pbs.org
2a-z	John Lamb	10	-
3a	enwikipedia.org		