

A DEPARTMENT OF ASTRO-GEOGRAPHY

JUPITER

JUPITER, mighty monarch-world of the Solar System, was first colonized by Earthmen in the year 2005. But men had visited it some years previously, and had brought back reports of the giant planet's wonders.

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As every school child knows, the first space flight was that of Gorham Johnson to the moon, in 1971. Johnson was a veteran of the Second World War who spent years trying to perfect a rocket that would make use of the newly discovered atomic power. Soon, after his first great flight to the moon, he made a second voyage in which he reached Venus and Mercury, and a third in which he touched Mars and Jupiter.

Johnson was accompanied on this great third voyage of 1988 by Mark Carew, inventor of the gravitation equalizer. When they sailed on that voyage, their crew did not know that they meant to go beyond the orbit of Mars. Had they known, the men would never have signed up for the trip.

After leaving Mars, Johnson and Carew headed on outward through the asteroidal belt. Carew, in his book (*Spaceward to Glory*, 1994), says that the men became mutinous when they realized that the voyage was to continue to Jupiter. They believed, like most other Earthmen at that time, that the outer planets were all too cold and poisonous of atmosphere for human existence, and that they would surely perish there.

LANDED AT CALLISTO

To quiet them, Johnson told them he would not land on Jupiter, but on one of its larger moons. Their rocket, the Pioneer II, made a landing on Callisto. There they were attacked by the crystals of that moon, which Carew calls "a creeping diamond horror." And it was there on Callisto that Gorham Johnson was stricken by a swift fatal sickness, his frame enfeebled by the incredible hardships of his three stupendous voyages. Carew in his book (Page 434) tells how Gorham Johnson, dying, asked that they carry him out of the rocket and let him look up at Jupiter, whose vast, cloudy white bulk filled the sky over them.

"I will never live to reach it, but you must land there," Johnson murmured to his loyal lieutenant. "It will be safe. The day will come when Earthmen will have cities on that great world - yes, and on the worlds beyond, even out to Pluto."

IN THE VOID

A little later, Johnson died. His last speech, Carew tells us, was his famous dying request that they release

his body in space, to roam the void in death as in life. Johnson's prophecy that Jupiter would be habitable was fulfilled when Carew landed there. Beneath the upper poisonous levels of the atmosphere they found a clear, breathable atmosphere, and a world warmed by inner radioactive heat. They were amazed by the vast continents and endless seas. They marveled at the limitless fern-jungles, dotted with ruins of a vanished civilization, and the colossal and terrible Fire Sea. And they met the Jovians and made a friendly contact with them.

Carew went back to Earth from Jupiter, to lead his famous expedition to Saturn and the farther planets the following year. For some time, in the excitement of the exploration of those outer worlds, Earthmen heard little of Jupiter.

SITE FOR EARTH COLONY

But explorers had visited Jupiter in 1990, 1994 and 1997. They had fixed a site for a possible Earth colony in the continent which Carew named South Equatoria, for it was here that deposits of valuable uranium, radium, iridium, platinum and other ores had been located. A concession for a huge area was obtained from the Jovians by a fair treaty. In 2005 the First Jovian Expedition sailed from Earth, under command of Robert Caswell whose name is immortalized by the Caswell Strait between North and South Equatoria.

The expedition stopped at Mars for replenishing of supplies, and then sailed for Jupiter. Three ships were

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meteor-struck during passage through the asteroidal zone, but there were no other casualties during the long trip.

Landing was made on the southwest coast of South Equatoria, on June 12, 2005 (Earth calendar). A monument of simple design, bearing that historic date and no other legend, now rises from the shore near Jovopolis to celebrate the event.

The first step in establishment of the Earth colony was erection of smelters which rapidly poured out a stream of metalloy from the rich Jovian ores nearby. Metalloy sheets were rapidly built into the structures of a city, and that city, called Jovopolis by Robert Caswell, grew quickly from a straggling village, to a considerable community.

PROGRESS IN TRADE

Contact with the Jovians was maintained on a friendly basis. Authorities were careful not to offend the planetary natives by granting any mining or other concessions near the mysterious ruins which the Jo-

vians held sacred. Within five Earth years, ships were traveling from Jupiter back to Earth and Mars, heavily laden with grain, new hybridized Jovian fruits, super-valuable radium, uranium and other rare metals, and a variety of miscellaneous Jovian products.

Robert Caswell, the first governor of Jupiter, was an ambitious explorer and mapped large portions, not only of South Equatoria, but of the neighboring continents of North Equatoria and Torridia. Of course, he was able to chart only the main continental outlines, and the great part of Jupiter's actual surface remains unexplored to this day. Caswell was killed in a crash-landing in the jungle outside Jovopolis, in 2012.

A MINIATURE JUPITER

The colony prospered, however. Expeditions were sent to Europa, Io and Ganymede, the other three of the four great moons, to explore. Europa was found to be a miniature Jupiter, jungle-covered and quite habitable, though lacking valuable minerals as far as could be ascertained. Io, on the other hand, was as harsh and forbidding as Callisto, though uninhabited by the crystal-creatures that tenant Callisto's wastes. Ganymede, the fourth moon, is still a mystery. Three expeditions sent there have failed to return, and further attempts at exploration there are temporarily prohibited.

In 2015, the Jupiter-Earth ship-lines were terrorized by radium bandits who held up the craft carrying back the precious metals to Earth. Development of the colony was set back for a time. But as the Planet Police got the radium bandits under control, colonial development prospered again, and was destined to meet no further danger until there suddenly developed the dark, unbelievable menace of the atavism horror - a menace that seemed fated to sweep Earthmen from Jupiter forever.

THE WORLDS OF TOMORROW

- will appear in every issue