



UNDER THE MOON

Renaissance Fantastic Voyages

‘Some said, the moon was another world
like their terrestrial globe...’

Welcome to this ‘Under the Moon’ event. We’re going to take you on a trip to the moon and back, based on the work of researchers of the TIDE project at the University of Liverpool, and presented by the Liverpool Players. Our moon tales look back at the great age of travel and discoveries in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, when it must have seemed like the world had become both much larger, and much smaller, at the same time. Astounding new geographical discoveries, faster ships, links to global networks of trade and diplomacy, and above all – the movement of people – left their mark on English life and imagination. What happened to our old friend the Moon in that world? Come with us to find out.

William Shakespeare, *Midsummer Night’s Dream*
(1600)

Act 5 Scene 1

MOONSHINE

This lanthorn doth the horned moon present;--

DEMETRIUS

He should have worn the horns on his head.

THESEUS

He is no crescent, and his horns are
invisible within the circumference.

MOONSHINE

This lanthorn doth the horned moon present;
Myself the man i' the moon do seem to be.

THESEUS

This is the greatest error of all the rest: the man
should be put into the lanthorn. How is it else the
man i' the moon?

DEMETRIUS

He dares not come there for the candle; for, you
see, it is already in snuff.

HIPPOLYTA

I am aweary of this moon: would he would change!

THESEUS

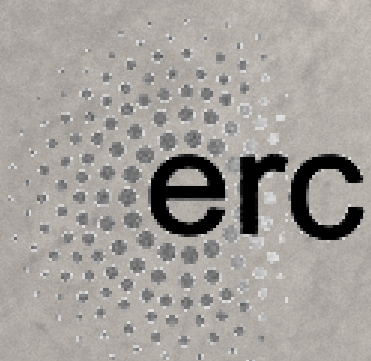
It appears, by his small light of discretion, that
he is in the wane; but yet, in courtesy, in all
reason, we must stay the time.

LYSANDER

Proceed, Moon.

MOONSHINE

All that I have to say, is, to tell you that the
lanthorn is the moon; I, the man in the moon;
this thorn-bush, my thorn-bush; and this dog, my dog.



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William Shakespeare, *Merchant of Venice* (1600)

Act 5 Scene 1

LORENZO

The moon shines bright: in such a night as this,
When the sweet wind did gently kiss the trees
And they did make no noise, in such a night
Troilus methinks mounted the Trojan walls
And sigh'd his soul toward the Grecian tents,
Where Cressid lay that night.

JESSICA

In such a night
Did Thisbe fearfully o'ertrip the dew
And saw the lion's shadow ere himself
And ran dismay'd away.

LORENZO

In such a night
Stood Dido with a willow in her hand
Upon the wild sea banks and waft her love
To come again to Carthage.

JESSICA

In such a night
Medea gather'd the enchanted herbs
That did renew old Aeson.

LORENZO

In such a night

Did Jessica steal [...]
And with an unthrift love did run from Venice
As far as Belmont.

JESSICA

In such a night
Did young Lorenzo swear he loved her well,
Stealing her soul with many vows of faith
And ne'er a true one.

LORENZO

In such a night
Did pretty Jessica, like a little shrew,
Slander her love, and he forgave it her.

JESSICA

I would out-night you, did no body come;
But, hark, I hear the footing of a man.

Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, Book 2 (1590)

Right well I wote, most mighty Sovereign;
That all this famous antique History,
Of some, th' abundance of an idle Brain,
Will judged be, and painted Forgery,
Rather than Matter of just Memory;
Sith none that breatheth living Air, does know,
Where is that happy Land of Fairy,
Which I so much do vaunt, yet no where show,
But vouch Antiquities, which no body can know.

But let that Man with better Sense advise,
That of the World least part to us is read;
And daily how thro hardy Enterprise,
Many great Regions are discovered,
Which to late Age were never mentioned.
Who ever heard of th' Indian Peru?
Or who in venturous Vessel measured
The Amazons huge River now found true?
Or fruitfulest Virginia who did ever view?

Yet all these were, when no Man did them know;
Yet have from wisest Ages hidden been:
And later Times things more unknown shall show.
Why then should witless Man so much misween,
That nothing is, but that which he hath seen?
What if within the Moon's fair shining Sphear,
What if in every other Star unseen,
Of other Worlds he happily should hear?
He wonder would much more: yet such to some appear.

Of Fairy-Lond yet if he more enquire,
By certain Signs, here set in sundry place,
He may it find; ne let him then admire,
But yield his Sense to be too blunt and base,
That no'te without an Hound fine footing trace.
And thou, O fairest Princess under Sky,
In this fair Mirror mayst behold thy Face,
And thine own Realms in Lond of Fairy,
And in this antique Image thy great Auncestry.



Richard Hakluyt, *The Principal Navigations* (1599)

...in this most famous and peerless government of her most excellent Majesty, her subjects [...] in searching the most opposite corners and quarters of the world, and to speak plainly, in compassing the vast globe of the earth more than once, have excelled all the nations and people of the earth. For, which of the kings of this land before her Majesty, had their banners ever been in the Caspian sea? which of them hath ever dealt with the Emperor of Persia, as her Majesty hath done, and obtained for her merchants large and loving privileges? Who ever saw before this regiment, an English Ligier in the stately porch of the Grand Signor at Constantinople? whoever found English Consuls & Agents at Tripolis in Syria, at Aleppo, at Babylon, at Balsara, and which is more, who ever heard of Englishman at Goa before now? [...] [or] return home most richly laden with the commodities of China, as the subjects of this now flourishing monarchy have done?

Elizabeth I, *Charter to Sir Walter Raleigh* (1584)

ELIZABETH To all people to whom these presents shall come, greeting.

Knowe ye that of our especial grace, certain science, and mere motion, we have given and granted, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, we give and grant to our trusty and well-beloved servant Walter Raleigh, Esquire, and to his heirs assignee for ever, free liberty and licence from time to time, and at all times for ever hereafter, to discover, search, find out, and view such remote [...] countries, and territories [...] as to him, his heirs and assignee, and to every or any of them shall seem good, and the same to have, horde, occupy and enjoy [...].

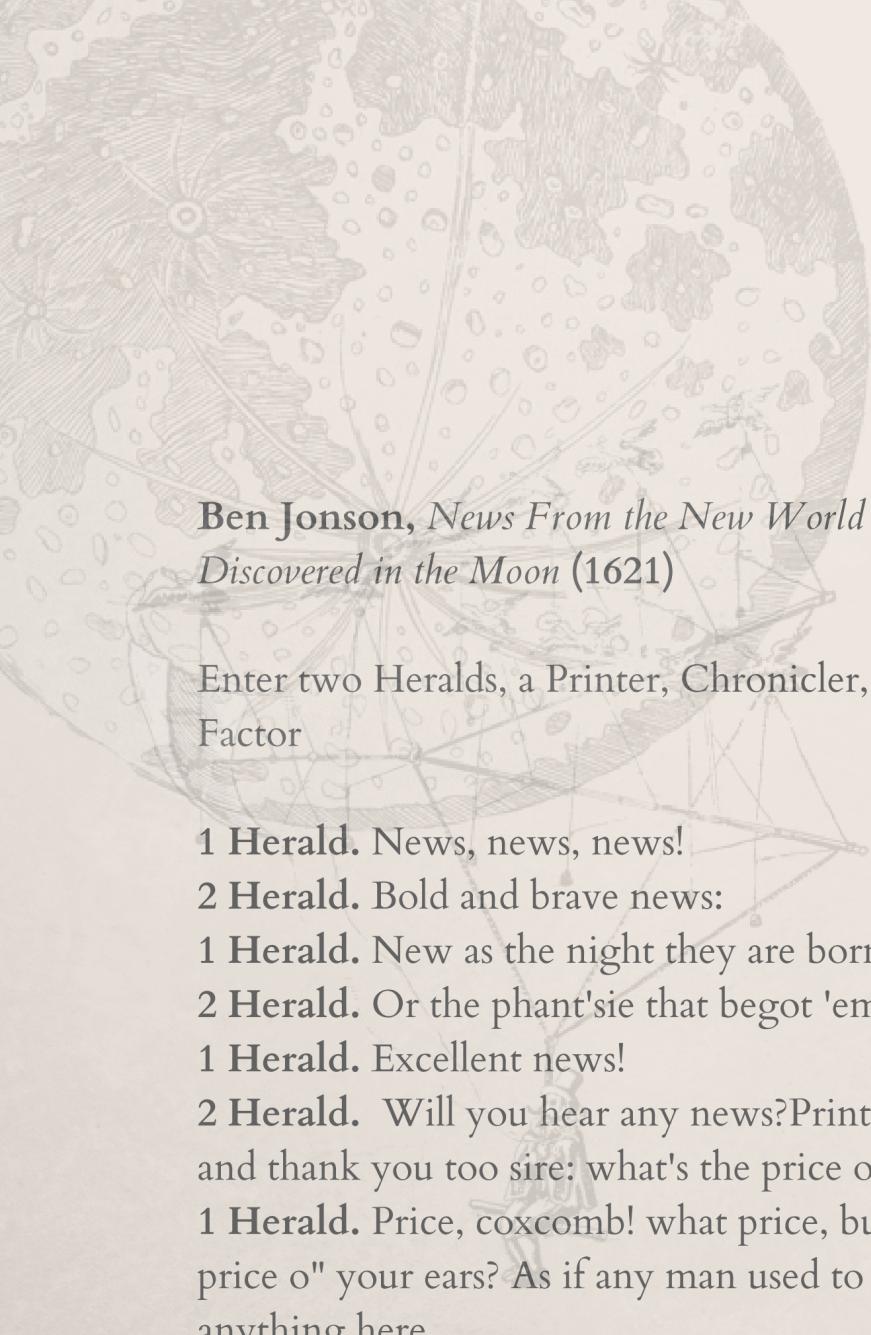
Roll-call of travel account titles:

The long, dangerous, and memorable voyage of M. Ralph Fitch merchant of London, by the way of Tripolis in Syria, to Ormuz, to Goa in the East India, to Cambaia, to the riuer of Ganges, to Bengala, to Bacola, to Chonderi, to Pegu, to Siam, &c. begunne in the yeere 1583, and ended in the yeere 1591.

Sir Walter Raleigh's *Discoverie of the Large, Rich and Bewtiful Empyre of Guiana* (1596)

John Taylor, *Newes and strange newes from St. Christophers of a tempestuous spirit, which is called by the Indians a hurry-cano or whirlwind Which hapneth in many of those ilands of America* (1638)

A testimony of Francis Lopez de Gomara, concerning the strange crook-backed oxen, the great sheepe, and the mighty dogs of Quiuira (c. 1550s)



**Ben Jonson, *News From the New World
Discovered in the Moon* (1621)**

Enter two Heralds, a Printer, Chronicler, and
Factor

1 Herald. News, news, news!

2 Herald. Bold and brave news:

1 Herald. New as the night they are born in.

2 Herald. Or the phant'sie that begot 'em.

1 Herald. Excellent news!

2 Herald. Will you hear any news? Printer. Yes,
and thank you too sire: what's the price of em?

1 Herald. Price, coxcomb! what price, but the
price o' your ears? As if any man used to pay for
anything here.

2 Herald. Come forward; you should be some
dull tradesman by your pig-headed sponce now,
that think there's nothing good anywhere but
what's to be sold.

Printer. Indeed I am all for sale, gentlemen, you
say true: I am a printer, and a printer of news; and
I do hearken after 'em wherever they be, at any
rates; I'll give anything for a good copy now, be it
true or false, so't be news. [...]

Factor. [...] but to your news gentlemen,
whence come they?

1 Herald. From the MOON, ours, sir. Factor.
From the Moon! which way? by sea or by land?

1 Herald. By moonshine; [...] the neat and clean
power of poetry.

2 Herald. This mistress of all discovery.

1 Herald. [...] hath employed thither a servant of
hers, in search of truth: who has been there---

2 Herald. In the moon. **1 Herald.** In person

2 Herald. And is this night returned. Factor.

Where? Which is he? I must see his dog at his
girdle, and the bush of thorns at his back, ere I
believe it.

1 Herald. Do not trouble your faith then, [...] Our
relation, I tell you still, is news.

2 Herald. Certain and sure news.

1 Herald. Of a new world.

2 Herald. And new creatures in that world.

1 Herald. In the orb of the moon.

2 Herald. Which is now found to be an earth
inhabited.

1 Herald. With navigable seas and rivers.

2 Herald. Variety of nations, polities, laws.

1 Herald. With havens in 't, castles, and port-
towns.

2 Herald. Inland cities, boroughs, hamlets, faires
and markets.

1 Herald. Hundreds and wapentakes! Forests,
parkes, coney-ground, meadow pasture, whatnot?

2 Herald. But differing from ours.

Printer. How might we do to see your poet? Did
he undertake this journey, I pray you, to the moon
o' foot? [...]

1 Herald. No, I assure you, he rather flew upon
the wings of his muse.[...]



Francis Godwin, *The Man in the Moon* (1620)

Now for my self, I was so fast knit unto my Engine, as I durst commit myself to slumbering enough to serve my turn, which I took with as great ease (although I am loath to speak it, because it may seem incredible) as if I had been in the best Bed of down in all Antwerp.

After Eleven days passage in this violent flight, I perceived that we began to approach near unto another Earth, if I may so call it, being the Globe or very body of that star which we call the Moon.

[...]

my Gansas stayed their course as it was with one consent, and took their rest for certain hours; after which they took their flight, and within less than one hour, let me upon the top of a very high hill in that other world, where immediately were presented unto mine eyes many most strange and unwonted sights.

[...]

There is no want of anything necessary for the use of man. Food groweth everywhere without labour, and that of all sorts to be desired. For rayment, housing, or anything else that you may imagine possible for a man to want, or desire, it is provided by the command of Superiors, though not without labour, yet so little, as they do nothing but as it were playing, and with pleasure. Again their Females are all of an absolute beauty:

[...]

But the chief cause, is that through an excellent disposition of that nature of people there, all, young and old doe hate all manner of vice, and doe live in such love, peace, and amity, as it seemeth to be another Paradise.