

The "Pepper Moon Transcript" – Bogus from the Beginning"

The Apollo-11 UFO Incidents. by James Oberg

Excerpt from UFOs and Outer Space Mysteries

(Donning Press, Virginia Beach, VA, 1982, Chapter 3).

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Entire chapter at <http://www.debunker.com/texts/apollo11.html>

[O]nly shortly after the astronauts returned to earth in mid-1969, a bootleg "tape" and voice transcript of what was really said on the moon has been circulating clandestinely in UFO circles. The headline on the cover of National Bulletin magazine (distributed in Canada but printed in New York City) for September 29, 1969 cries out that "Phony Transmission Failure Hides Apollo 11 Discovery. . . . Moon is a U.F.O. Base!" Author Sam Pepper gave this version of the "Top Secret Tape Transcript" from "a leak close to the top," as follows:

What was it, what the hell was it? That's all I want to know....

These. . . (garbled) . . . babies were huge, sir, they were enormous....

No, No, that's just field distortion....

Oh, God, you wouldn't believe it....

What...what...what the hell's going on? Whatsa matter with you guys . . ?

They're here, under the surface....

What's there.. .malfunction. . .Mission Control calling Apollo 11....

Roger, we're here, all three of us, but we've found some visitors....

Yeah, they've been here for quite a while judging by the installations....

Mission control, repeat last message....

I'm telling you, there are other spacecraft out there. They're lined up in ranks on the far side of the crater edge....

Repeat, repeat....

Let's get that orbit scanned and head home....

In 625 to the fifth, auto-relays set...My hands are shaking so bad...

Film...yes, the damned cameras were clicking away from up here...

Did you fellows get anything?

Had no film left by the time. . . (garbled) . . . three shots of the saucers, or whatever they were. . .may have fogged the film.

Mission Control, this is Mission Control...are you under way, repeat, are you under way? What's this uproar about UFOs? Over.

They're set up down there...they're on the moon... watching us....

The mirrors, the mirrors . . . you set them up, didn't you?

Yes, the mirrors are all in place. But whatever built those spacecraft will probably come over and pull 'em all out by the roots tomorrow....

When this account was discussed by Fate editor Curtis Fuller in 1970, he confessed to "extreme skepticism about the whole alleged transcription" But the account has been printed elsewhere, (science fiction author and UFO buff Otto Binder helped spread it widely), and it reminds observers of the radio signals picked up in Europe in the early 1960s from doomed Russian cosmonauts on secret space shots which ended in their undisclosed deaths. Radio amateurs have become very proficient in smoking out 'official secrets' in the past few decades.

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[FATE magazine editor] Fuller's skepticism about the "Pepper Transcript" appears have been justified. From internal evidence alone, it looks more and more like a crude hoax. This can be deduced from the vocabulary itself:

"Mission Control"...this was never a phrase used astronauts, who instead referred always to "Houston."

Technical-sounding gibberish such as "field distortion," "orbit scanned," "625 to the fifth," "auto-relays," etc. were never found in real transcripts.

"Repeat, repeat" is never used on the radio; instead, astronauts and Mission Control use the phrase "Say Again."

"Three of us" ...actually, only two men were on the lunar surface.

In addition, interviews with the handful of amateur radio listeners who are known to have tuned in the S-band (2270 megahertz) moon signals produced testimony that they heard the same conversations which were released by NASA. Since listening to the moon required the use of ten-foot diameter radio dishes, few people actually could do it, and they were known to each other, having done similar space eavesdropping for years

(The consensus among such experienced American "hams" is that the old stories of "radio transmissions from secret dying Russian spacemen" were either dumb mistakes, outright hoaxes, or playful publicity stunts by Italian and German radio amateurs.)

The unavoidable conclusion is that Pepper either fabricated the fake "transcript" himself or used very poor judgment in allowing himself to be victimized by somebody else's fake. As is often the case with UFO reports, it is very hard to prove definitely that something did not happen. But in this case, fortunately, the hoax was so rickety that it collapses under its own weight.