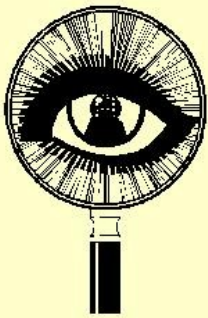


Sleuthing Russian Space Secrets

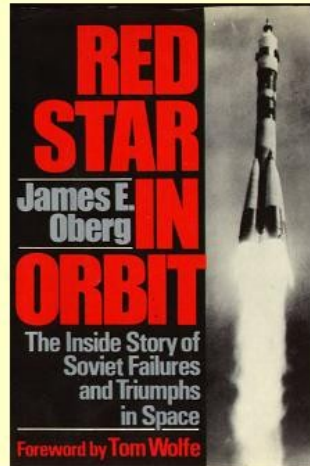


Then and Now

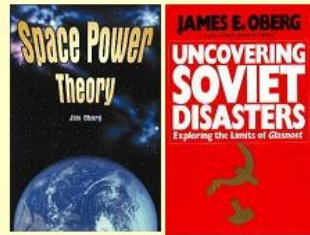
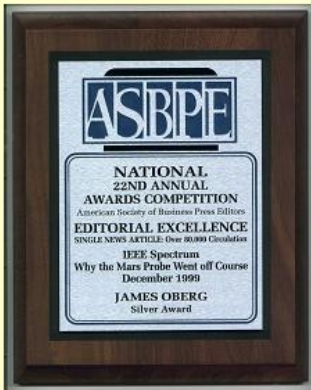
Jim Oberg



How does a 'space expert' get anointed?



- * Go on TV
- * Win awards
- * Write books
- * Pass a test



The 'Krechet Challenge'



Sotheby's Auction House:
"How do we get the backpack
open to photograph it inside?"

Why 'sleuth Russian space secrets'?

- How far can we trust the Russians?
- How can we detect signs of omissions and half-truths and untruths and oversights?
- How can we satisfy ourselves that we are going to get our money's worth?
- What is our debt to history?
- Isn't it FUN!!



Bathroom secrets



Shuttle (top)
Soyuz (right)
Mir (bottom)



A Wrong-Way Re-Entry



Boris Volynov on Soyuz 5 in 1969 (top), and later (left) after restorative dental work.

(Right) Right.
(Below) Wrong.



Houses... and ‘Cottages’, OR “Nightline” Does Star City



Top Left: Modest houses for astronauts in residence



Right: Million dollar secret mansions for officials

Bottom Left: Reporter confronts cosmonaut at NASA



Generalizations on Space Sleuthing



- For all their practice, the Soviets were clumsy liars, and there's been no improvement since
- The private possession of 'the truth' is a prime source of power and prestige in Russia
- Soviet motivations were political and image; Russian motivations are profit and power
- Resources for 'sleuths' are much more extensive these days and satisfactory results are probable
- Despite fears the skill would be made obsolete, it is as needed as ever, and even more fun
- Russians do not resent confrontational style -- it shows respect for the truth

Lessons Learned

- 'Krechet puzzle' lesson -- Fill-in-the-gap with operational experience and informed guesses from Western programs
- 'Missing Cosmonaut' lesson -- Wide-ranging search often reveals inconsistencies that are clues to important coverups
- 'Mars-96' lesson -- Nowadays ('space alliance') both Moscow and Washington find some fictions convenient
- 'Rocket UFOs' -- Reality often appears in disguise
- 'Soyuz Secrets' -- Small clues lead to big secrets
- 'Space Guns' lessons -- Like crabgrass, much of the Russian space industry is connected underground
- 'Follow the money' -- Power follows the payer

