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I am especially indebted to Dr Bernard Oliver, Vice-President and Director of Research of Hewlett-Packard, not only for hospitality at Palo Alto but also for an advance copy of the Project CYCLOPS Design Study (NASA/Ames CR 114445), which he directed. And I hope Barney will forgive me for the assumption - which in fact I regard as highly improbable - that CYCLOPS would not have detected intelligent signals, even after two hundred years of operation.

Indignant antenna designers who feel that Argus would not work as specified are invited to contemplate ABM search radars, and to Think Big. All I will say in self-defence is that the Argus elements would be superconducting, active, and divided into many switchable sub-sections, perhaps with cross-connections between the 'spines'. I leave minor practical details (as in the case of the 'Asymptotic Drive') as an exercise for the student.

I am deeply grateful to my old friend William MacQuitty, producer of *A Night to Remember*, for much material concerning the *Titanic*.

Some readers may feel that the coincidences - or 'correspondences' - that play a key part in this story are too unlikely to be plausible. But they were, in fact, suggested by far more preposterous events in my own life; and anyone who doubts that this sort of thing *can* happen is referred to Arthur Koestler's *The Roots of Coincidence*. I read this fascinating book only after completing *Imperial Earth*, though that fact itself now seems somewhat improbable to me.

The curious acoustic behaviour of the Spiny Sea Urchin, *Diadema Setosum*, was observed by me on Unawatuna Reef, off the south coast of Sri Lanka. I have never seen this recorded elsewhere, so it may be my one original contribution to marine biology.

Finally, my speculations about conditions on Titan were triggered by a series of papers that Dr Carl Sagan was good enough to send me. Needless to say, I am also indebted to Carl for many other stimulating ideas, which any properly designed Universe would be very foolish to ignore. 'For if not true, they are well imagined ...'

Arthur C. Clarke  
Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo  
January 1974-January 1975

*Addendum.* Several expert readers have accused me of grave error by assuming that Malcolm would pass on the Makenzie defect to his clones. Though I was well aware of this problem (and tried to avoid it by being carefully unspecific) I did not go into the matter as seriously as I should have done. I am still hoping that some ingenious geneticist will be able to contrive a solution; unfortunately, I doubt if I will be able to understand it.

Meanwhile, for those biologists who refuse to be placated, I can only fall back upon what is known in the trade as Bradbury's Defence, viz:

One dreadful boy ran up to me and said:

'That book of yours, *The Martian Chronicles*?'

'Yes,' I said.

'On page 92, where you have the moons of Mars rising in the east?'

'Yeah,' I said.

'Nah,' he said.

So I hit him.

COLOMBO, JUNE 1976

\* *Mars and the Mind of Man* (Harper & Row, 1973)

fascinating concept of mini-black-holes, and for making such encouraging noises about the somewhat outrageous propulsion system of *S.S. Sirius* that I am almost inclined to patent it....

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