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THE GENEALOGY OF INFLUENCE: VIKING MARS MISSIONS IMPACTS ON THE FUTURE

Abstract

The Viking Missions were not only the first missions to successfully land on Mars, but they also provided data and context establishing Mars as an interesting and complex world demanding more exploration. However, the Vikings' influence, then and now, extends beyond even the science, to technology, exploration, education and culture.

Human development throughout time has been influenced by discoveries we make, both accidental and intentional, tools we create, events, and leaders that emerge from inspirations around them. Viking embodied all of these.

This presentation aspires to demonstrate the significance of Viking not only as commonly reflected in scientific and historical firsts, but the impact Viking had on the following areas, through a unique visual representation, "The Genealogy of Influence"

- Bodies of knowledge from scientific discoveries itemize
- Recollections and citations of individuals' contributions as Scientists, Teachers, Artists, Philanthropists, Leaders influenced by Viking itemize
- Instruments, technologies, and products developed for or influenced by Viking itemize
- Works of art influenced by Viking and subsequent Mars exploration

We will also discuss the Viking mission and its legacy with respect to:

- Impact to the economy
- Unique models of innovation and collaboration
- Viking as a multinational project in a time where collaboration beyond borders was impinged by historical circumstance. Examples of academic, scientific, cultural, experiential influences that contributors brought with them will be cited.

Channels for outreach include internet, and multi-touch digital interactive installations for multiple global sites: museums, cultural, and academic institutes, to ensure broad, inclusive reach to people with little financial means.

The lessons learned are the contents of "The Genealogy of Influence" itself, as it reflects Vikings' impact to date. The benefits include easy to digest visual demonstrations of impact individuals in diverse roles can have and tangible paths they can follow. We feel these installations can inspire youth and present potential pathways to leadership and innovation.

This presentation is prepared by the Viking Mars Missions Education and Preservation Team, based on an ongoing project described at <http://www.thevikingpreservationproject.org>. The internet and installations are designed, however, the visual representation (for IAC) will be the Poster Presentation and Paper, and on the website. The project is ongoing, and influence (success stories) in future generations will be tracked by audio, video, and typed submissions to the projects' web site and interfaces that will be integrated into the installations after 2014. However online submissions will be enabled soon.