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SPACE ACTIVITIES AND THE MEDIA: FROM SCIENCE FICTION TO SCIENTIFIC REALITY?

**Abstract**

This paper will focus on space activities in the written media, which predates the celluloid media by several thousand years. Specifically, three authors - Jules Verne, George Orwell and Arthur Clarke - will be referred to, as their writings have changed our perception of, and relation to time, space, and human interaction. As technology progressed in the 20th century, many of their writings have been 'translated' or converted into radio, film or TV series, or have served as the basis for these. (Other authors, such as Antoine de St. Exupéry, will also be discussed, as they have also contributed to the depiction of outer space activities, some of which have become reality in our time, and will be alluded to).

While legal issues are rarely discussed directly in their writings, there is concern about the legal implications of the activities they describe in their books. For instance, George Orwell's "Big Brother", Arthur Clarke and communication satellites in geostationary orbit, are just two examples. Some of these will be elaborated upon in this paper.