

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Space Culture –Public Engagement in Space through Culture (9)

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REUNION ISLAND FROM SPACE : THE MAKING OF A GREAT BOOK ADVENTURE

Abstract

How far should we extend our vision in time ? The billion years since our Universe was created, our Sun was born, a planet which we call Earth was formed and cell life began, the million years since a volcano emerged from an ocean to make a “singularity” in the course of evolution, the few years in the emergence of a space-faring culture in the Solar system ? Let’s begin our story in 1956 when a young engineer called Vladimir Syromiatnikov joined the team of Serguey Korolev to build the first man-made satellite of our home planet. Forty years later, a group of Russian students called on students from Reunion Island, the singularity we were talking about, to celebrate the 40th anniversary with a small scale model of Sputnik-1, which was launched “by hand” by Pavel Vinogradov from the MIR Space Station. A few months later, Pavel visited Reunion and he loved the island. In 2006 when he flew for his second time, he said hello while passing over the island, and in 2014, from the International Space Station, he took many pictures of Reunion Island. Then, some twenty writers and poets took up to celebrate “magic island” along with the photos taken from space and the whole work was translated from French into Russian and English by a number of interpreters for readers and dreamers in the whole world. This paper tells the still unfolding story of this great adventure in space, literature and vision.