

## Re: Interstellar Propulsion idea using an Asteroid and a few comets!

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**From:** AA Institute ([abdul.ahad\\_at\\_ntlworld.com](mailto:abdul.ahad_at_ntlworld.com))

**Date:** 09/02/04

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"Androcles" <[androc1es@nospamblueyonder.co.uk](mailto:androc1es@nospamblueyonder.co.uk)> wrote in message news:<[sXrUc.2028\\$OP.24130596@news-text.cableinet.net](mailto:sXrUc.2028$OP.24130596@news-text.cableinet.net)>...

> "AA Institute" <[abdul.ahad@ntlworld.com](mailto:abdul.ahad@ntlworld.com)> wrote in message

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> / Writing a sci-fi novel around a trip to Alpha Centauri in a generation

> / starship sounds an excellent idea and I have imagined some of it

> / already. If anyone beats me to it,

>

> Oh come on... it's been done. Haven't you read any sci-fi? Larry Niven and

> Jerry Pournelle's "Mote in God's Eye" for example. Or "Eon"? Even nearly

> Asimov with a cop jaunting off to the planet Aurora? That shouldn't stop

> you writing another, though. There is always a demand for new fiction.

>

>

> / please can you remember to add some

> / supernatural horror, as I'm into all that spine chilling stuff. A sort

> / of "Arthur C. Clarke meets Stephen King" would be ideal...

>

> Me? I'm not adding anything. It's your yarn, not mine.

> You should remember that it was Clarke that dreamt up the communications

> satellite.

>

How can I forget! Arthur C. Clarke is my role model when it comes to powerful self-promotion. All his books have on their reverse: "He is a true prophet of the Space Age!", "He invented the geostationary orbit" (I didn't think you could \*invent\* something like that, but never mind), "He has an asteroid named after him"...

He does write some excellent stuff though. "2001 - A space odyssey" was the only novel that I read of his, which was totally brilliant, and I really would like to read a few more of his many excellent novels.

And the other day I was watching a re-run of his famous "Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World" series on video (aired on UK TV back in the

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1980s if anyone is old enough to remember?). In one episode he was examining this ancient, 2000 year old battery (lead-acid?) found in Babylonia (modern day Iraq). This is what he had to say:-

"Since man knew how to harness electricity that long ago, imagine if he'd continued developing technology at that rate up to the present day, not only would we have made a few footprints on the Moon by now, but we would have colonised every single star visible to the naked eye across the whole night sky!". (Steady on now, Arthur...)

Or something along those lines any way. Goes to show how much optimism we once had... and can still have if only they'd push ahead with bigger space exploration budgets for Moon and Mars, etc.

Abdul