

## Titan In History and Popular Culture

Saturn's moon Titan is a fixture in science fiction, making appearances in books, movies and television as well as comic books and video games. And why not? It's the only moon in the solar system with an atmosphere worthy of a planet. It's a place where clouds of methane float in a hazy brownish sky that, until recently, kept the moon shrouded in mystery.

This talk will review how Titan has been portrayed in science fiction and art over the years, from Chesley Bonnestell's iconic painting with a Saturn in a blue sky behind jagged hills, through Arthur C. Clarke's 'Imperial Earth' novel, where Titan resounds to the howl of ramscoops from spacecraft refueling in its atmosphere, and more. The talk will also review world history around key events in Titan exploration some remarkably recurrent themes emerge even across the centuries since Titan's discovery.

Dr. Ralph Lorenz is a scientist at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Md., who specializes in research on Titan, especially its climate, weather and landscape. In 1990 and 1991, he worked for the European Space Agency on the design of the Huygens probe, which landed on the surface of Titan in January 2005. He is presently the Project Scientist for the Titan Mare Explorer (TiME) mission being proposed to NASA for flight to Titan's polar sea Ligeia Mare in 2023. His other research interests include the geology and geophysics of icy moons, dust devils on Earth and Mars, and the design of instruments for planetary exploration. He is author or co-author of several books including 'Lifting Titan's Veil', 'Spinning Flight', and 'Space Systems Failures' as well as more than 180 publications in refereed journals.