CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

From the Earth to the Moon

Jules Verne · *1865 (sequel Round the Moon, 1869, is in this file) · translated by Louis Mercier and Eleanor E. King*

During the War of the Rebellion, a new and influential club is established in Baltimore: the Gun Club. They will try to fire a projectile, and then men, at the moon. The hosted file contains this novel and its sequel, Round the Moon. The English is Louis Mercier and Eleanor E. King, Project Gutenberg #83. Label both parts honestly.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What happens when a club of artillerymen, formed after a war, turns their science toward the moon, and how should a school read a file that contains both the shot and the voyage around?

"During the War of the Rebellion, a new and influential club was established in the city of Baltimore in the State of Maryland."
Chapter I, The Gun Club

From the Earth to the Moon is a tale of American energy, of calculation, and of a shot fired from Florida toward the moon. This hosted file continues, after the first novel, with Round the Moon, "a sequel to From the Earth to the Moon." Teach both, and say where the first book ends. The Mercier and King English is the hosted wording; quote it exactly, including the file's "nevertheless; they" if you cite that sentence. For a wide band (catalogue 6–12); the science is of 1865, not of later flight.

KEY CHARACTERS

Impey Barbicane
President of the Gun Club, who proposes the shot to the moon

The Gun Club
The Baltimore circle of artillerymen formed after the war

Captain Nicholl and Michel Ardan
The rival and the later companion of the voyage

The men in the projectile
Whose voyage around the moon is the sequel in this same file

A CLUB IN BALTIMORE

> *"During the War of the Rebellion, a new and influential club was established in the city of Baltimore in the State of Maryland."*
> Chapter I, The Gun Club

Grades 6–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

The Gun Club

CHAPTER I

In the War of the Rebellion, tradesmen jump their counters to become extemporized captains and generals. The point in which the Americans singularly distance the Europeans, the book will say, is the science of gunnery. The Gun Club is born in Baltimore.

- The first sentence is exact, including "War of the Rebellion" and "Baltimore in the State of Maryland"
- Chapter I is titled "The Gun Club."
- The tone is already comic and admiring at once; keep both
- This is the Mercier and King English; quote it as printed

> *"During the War of the Rebellion, a new and influential club was established in the city of Baltimore in the State of Maryland."*
> Chapter I, The Gun Club

02

Barbicane's Communication

THE EARLY CHAPTERS OF THE FIRST NOVEL

President Barbicane proposes a shot to the moon. Cambridge is consulted. Florida and Texas contend. The Columbiad is planned, and a projectile is named.

- Keep the names: Barbicane, the Gun Club, Stones Hill, the Columbiad
- Nicholl the rival, and later Michel Ardan, belong to the human comedy of the plan
- The "hymn of the cannon-ball" and the question of the powders are the book's scientific play; they are of 1865
- Help a student enjoy the calculation without treating it as a modern textbook of spaceflight

03

The Shot

THE CLOSE OF FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON

The gun is fired. The first novel's question is whether the projectile, and the men in it, will reach the moon. The answer is not quite a landing.

- Do not invent a landing this first novel does not give
- The first book ends as a shot and a mystery of trajectory; the sequel takes up the voyage
- A class should be told, in this file, where the first novel stops and Round the Moon begins
- The fete, the rivals, and the public of two continents belong to this climax

04

Round the Moon

THE SEQUEL IN THIS SAME FILE

A preliminary chapter, "the first part of this work, and serving as a preface to the second," recalls the experiment. The sequel follows the men inside the projectile around the moon.

- The heading in this file is "ROUND THE MOON / A SEQUEL TO / FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON"
- It begins: "During the year 186-, the whole world was greatly excited by a scientific experiment unprecedented in the annals of science."
- Label the sequel honestly; it is in this hosted file, and it is a second work, 1869
- Do not treat the two titles as one novel without a seam

05

The Hosted Translation

PG #83, MERCIER AND KING

The hosted English is Louis Mercier and Eleanor E. King, complete for both works in this file. Quote this wording, not a later translation's.

- If you cite the tradesmen sentence, this file has "nevertheless; they quickly rivaled their compeers" — a semicolon as printed
- Catalogue year-line already notes Round the Moon 1869
- For a wide grade band (6–12); a scientific romance, and a comedy of American energy
- This may be read with other Verne voyages in this wave, each in its own translation as hosted

A Shot at the Moon · Calculation and Daring · American Energy · Science as Adventure · Rivals and Companions · A Sequel in the Same File

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 6–12

1. The first novel begins: "During the War of the Rebellion, a new and influential club was established in the city of Baltimore in the State of Maryland." Chapter I is "The Gun Club."
2. This hosted file also contains Round the Moon, a sequel (1869). A preliminary chapter recalls the experiment. Label both parts honestly; do not treat them as one novel without a seam.
3. The English is Louis Mercier and Eleanor E. King, PG #83. Quote this wording. In one early sentence this file prints "nevertheless; they".
4. Do not invent a landing the first novel does not give. The sequel takes up the voyage around the moon.
5. A scientific romance of 1865, for a wide grade band (6–12). The science is of its time, not of later flight.

Quotations are verbatim from the translated by Louis Mercier and Eleanor E. King, Project Gutenberg #83, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/from-the-earth-to-the-moon/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.