

# Space Renaissance: The Cosmic Anthropology of Giordano Bruno and F. W. J. Schelling

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The Society of Space Culture

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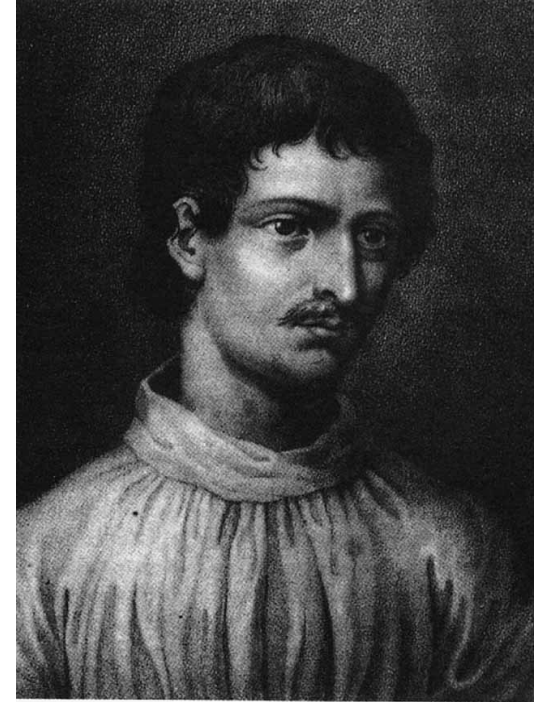
# Renaissance Thinkers



Cusanus (1401-1464)



Kopernikus (1473-1543)



Nolanus (1548-1600)

# Renaissance Invention of Space

## Giordano Bruno (1548-1600)

contra Aristotle's universe of shells

contra Aristotle's sum of the places of things

contra Aristotle's horror vacui

instead

unlimited, uniform space,

space as an ontological entity

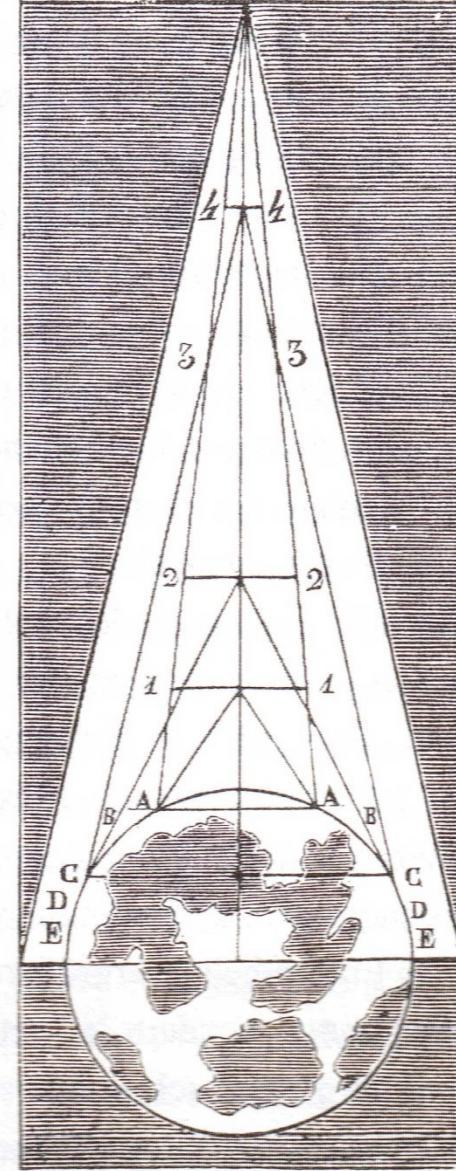
vacuum



"Giordano Bruno-Buch", 1927

# Spaceflight with the wings of the spirit Giordano Bruno, 1591

„Can you get there **with the wings of the spirit**, where to go the feet do not carry us? Well then, first of all imagine - if you don't want to reveal that it really is - I also say, invent you leave the earth, and fly straight to the near moon. Now say, when you fly to the top - *if one can still speak of 'above'* - then not a larger part of the earth becomes visible, and doesn't the horizon just keep widening?"



Giordano Bruno,  
De Immenso, 1591

# Exploring other worlds – change of perspective

## Giordano Bruno, 1591

If you can move in thought,  
then go to the places where your feet do not carry you,  
go to the distant stars and get to know all their worlds.  
They consist of the same substances  
and you can see earth and sun,  
(...)

If you could leave our world here,  
to be the inhabitant of another sun,  
then our sun is not bigger there than here for us  
and you can see the planets orbiting them  
not even a small point anymore.



# Science Fiction Utopias in the 17th Century

Johannes Kepler

Somnium, 1634 (1593)

Francis Godwin

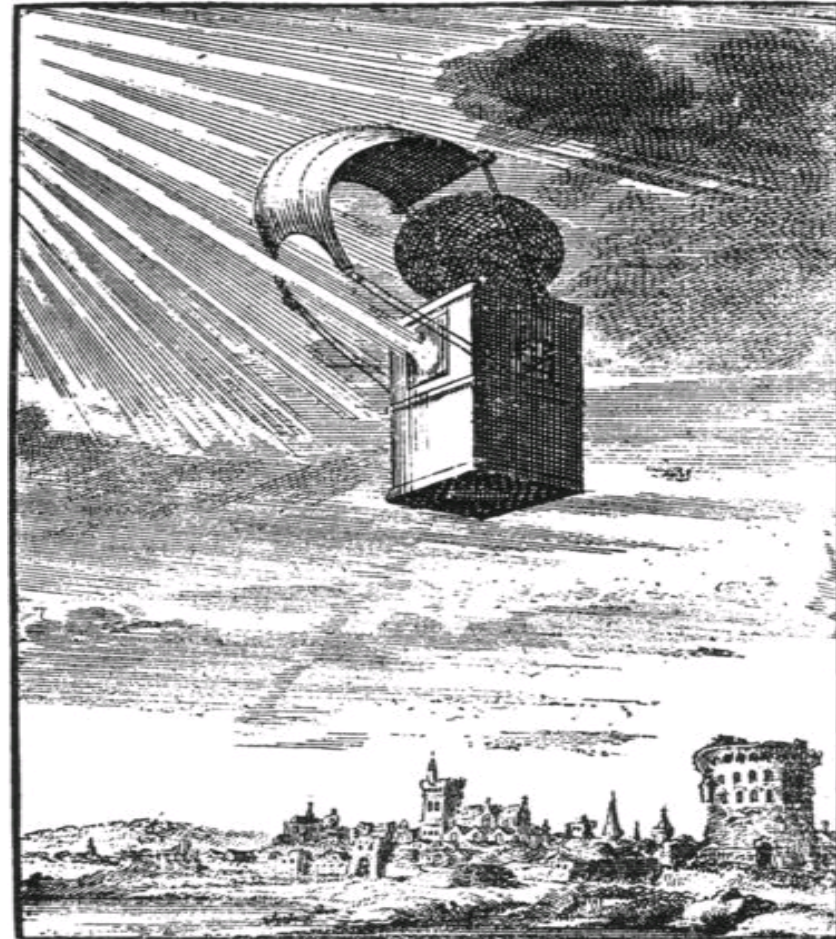
The Man in the Moone, 1638 (1602)

John Wilkins

A Discovery of a World in the Moon,  
1638

Mathematical Magic or, the wonders  
that **may be** performed by mechanical  
geometry, 1648

Cyrano de Bergerac, L'Histoire comique  
des États et Empires du Soleil, 1662



# German Idealism: Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph Schelling (1775–1854)

"We must, of course, assume that the earth is the source of human beings - why, we do not know that, it goes back to circumstances we do not overlook, but man is not specifically a product of the earth - he is a product of the whole process - not the earth alone, the whole universe is involved in it, and if out of the earth, he is, (...), but not exclusively for them, he is for all the stars (...). If he appears as a local being, he is not original, he has been localized: how? This must be shown by the sequence. He is, as said, the universal being, and therefore should not at a certain point, he should dwell in the whole, (...): Our place of residence is in heaven, that is just in the universe (...) from the shackles of the Concrete Free. "(Presentation of the Natural Process, 1843/44)

# Romanticism: Sky Longing (“Himmelssehnsucht”) in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century



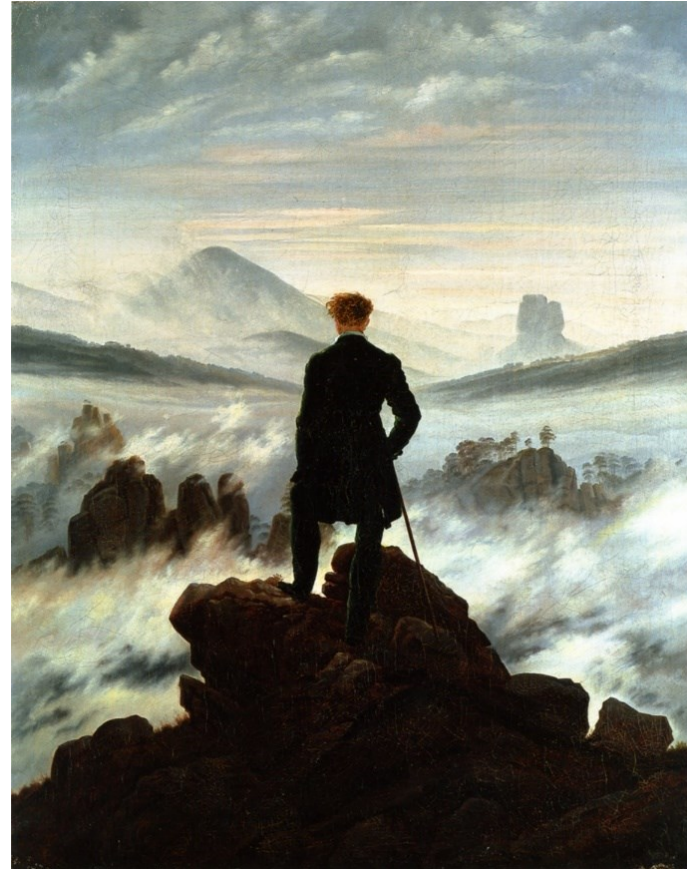
Caspar David Friedrich (1774-1840)

Frau in der Morgensonne, 1818

Der Wanderer über dem Nebelmeer, 1818

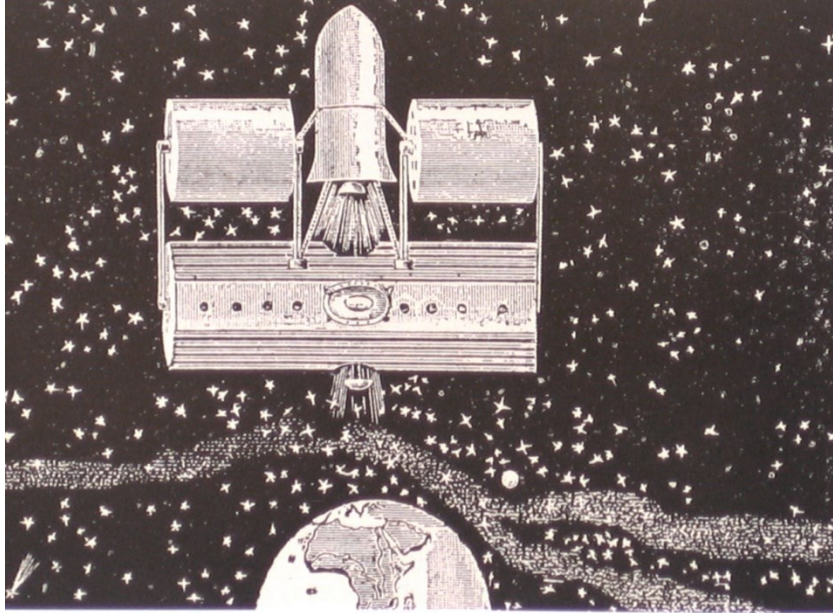
(Woman in the morning sun, 1818

The Wanderer above the Sea of Fog, 1818)





# World vehicle (“Weltenfahrzeug”) by Hermann Ganswindt, 1891



## Application of the recoil principle 1891

Über die wichtigsten Probleme der Menschheit,  
Vortrag von 1891

(About the most important problems of mankind,  
Lecture from 1891)

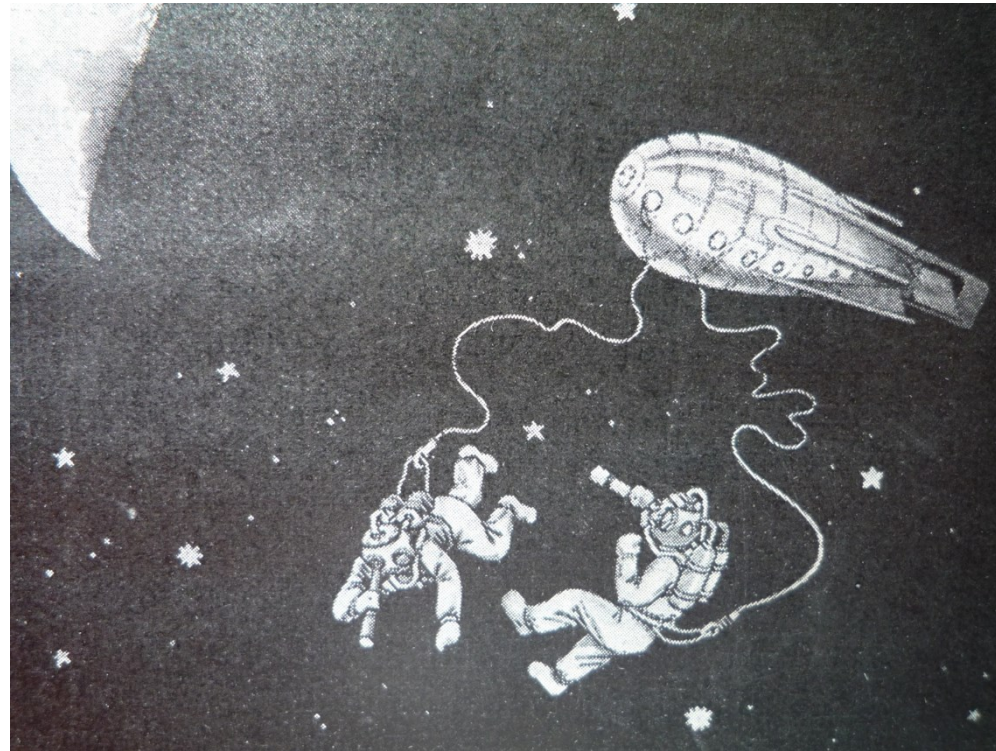
"Expedition to other world bodies to study reality and **draw conclusions from such a changed point of view.**"

"The first question that has preoccupied everyone is: Are there also living beings there? And what are they like?"

“There are infinitely many other earths. The older earths will have a better social system. The younger earths will allow us valuable glimpses into history, because they are at a stage of development that we have already left behind.”

Translated with [www.DeepL.com/Translator](http://www.DeepL.com/Translator)

# Max Valier: Advance into outer space, 1924



Six editions from 1924-1930: popular scientific presentation



# VfR 1930: Rudolf Nebel, Hermann Oberth, Klaus Riedel, Wernher von Braun





**Stanley Kubrick's star child, 1969**



Thank you for your attention!

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