

# Neil Armstrong's "Misquote" Changes the Meaning of the Moon Landing

It was 10:56 PM EDT on July 20, 1969 when astronaut Neil Armstrong, commander of the Apollo 11 Space Mission, stepped out of the lunar landing module to place his foot on the surface of another world and say:

*"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."*

This historic statement has been quoted by millions of Americans over the past 50 years. But it's not what Neil Armstrong meant to say. After returning to earth, Armstrong admitted that, in his excitement, he'd accidentally left out one small, yet very important word: "a."

So, as millions of people watched and waited in breathless anticipation for the first human to set foot on the moon, this is what they should have heard when it finally happened:

*"That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."*

This second version, which Armstrong had been rehearsing, speaks only of a single man, taking his final step in a single mission. But the version he spoke addresses "man," as a single, unified race, taking a step onto another world for the very first time.

Surely, the Apollo 11 mission was originally intended to put the United States on the moon before the Soviet Union. But it would not have been possible without the collective efforts of people from all over the world and from all eras of history. The NASA rocket program was the brainchild of German-born

Scientist Wernher Von Braun who, as a child, dreamed of flying into outer space. Scores of scientists who worked on the NASA Rocket Program were brought in from Germany after World War II.

The audio of Armstrong's statement was made possible by microphones -- an invention developed simultaneously by David Edward Hughes in England and by Thomas Edison in the United States. The audio was recorded onto magnetic tape using a device developed by several tinkerers over a series of decades, starting with Oberlin Smith in 1878, then Alexander Graham Bell in 1886 and finally Franklin C. Goodale in 1909.

Armstrong's first steps on the lunar surface were recorded by a 16-mm camera, an invention which started with Scottish Engineer John Logie Baird in the early 1900s. Later, this technology was refined by tinkerers like the Russian-born Vladimir Zworykin and American inventor Philo Farnsworth

The audio and visual recordings were transmitted to NASA Mission Control in Houston via a radio signal and footage of the moon landing was broadcasted to every TV set in the United States. Just as many minds and many hands had made the Apollo 11 mission possible, the experience itself was shared by millions of people who had, in some way or another, contributed to the collective story of human innovation.

To celebrate the success of the mission, United States President Richard Nixon requested NASA to gift all 50 US States, all The United Nations, and to 135 other countries. Each gift consisted of an Apollo 11 plaque and a fragment from the moon's surface.

In conclusion, perhaps Armstrong misspoke because he knew that he *wasn't* just taking one small step for a man. He was taking one of many steps in a long journey; a journey with footprints tracing back through thousands of years of human history; a journey marked with hope, innovation, and sacrifice, pushing all of mankind forward, not by giant leaps, but by one small step at a time.

# Was Napoleon's Penis More Profitable Than Facebook, Google, Microsoft or Apple?

In 1977, an investor paid \$3,000 to purchase the dismembered penis of the historically infamous military leader and conqueror, Napoleon Bonaparte.

According to Time Magazine, the dismembered penis measured one and a half inches in length when it was purchased. The price was based on an unconventional "appraisal," where each inch was deemed to be worth \$1,000.

Perhaps the only thing stranger than the \$3,000 purchase, is the dismembered organ's 50-year trek across the Western World.

*"The penis had taken on quite a mythic status,"* said Tony Perrottet, author of *Napoleon's Privates: 2,500 Years of History Unzipped*. *"It was in a little leather presentation box, and it had been fried out in the air. It hadn't been put in the formaldehyde so it is rather the worse for wear, a bit like beef jerky."*

According to Perrottet, Napoleon's doctor took the penis during Napoleon's autopsy, after Napoleon died on the island of St. Helena in 1821. The military giant had been exiled there and likely died of stomach cancer. The doctor gave the penis to a priest, who smuggled it into Corsica, shortly before he was murdered. Next, the penis fell into the hands of a British collector in 1916.

Perrottet claims that the French government turned down an opportunity to buy the penis, and that it went on to become a public relic for the next 50 years. In 1927, it was even put on display in New York by an American rare books dealer who had bought the penis in 1924.

Finally, in 1977, a urologist and professor, decided to end the notoriety of Napoleon's dismembered penis by purchasing it for \$3,000. Not wanting to draw

any more attention to the penis, Lattimer kept it under his bed and refused to show it to anyone who asked to see it.

Since then, rumors have circulated that a subsequent offer was made to purchase the penis for \$1 Million. If the offer was real, that would be a total return on investment of about 3,200 percent. Meaning, if Lattimer had decided to part with the penis, it would have been a more profitable investment than Facebook, Google, Microsoft or even Apple.

For example, on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Facebook's stock was priced at \$38. Six years later, on August 7, 2018, the stock price was about \$185. This is almost a 500 percent return on investment over a period of six years, making Napoleon's penis potentially six and a half times more profitable than Facebook.

On August 19, 2004, Google's stock was priced at \$85. Fourteen years later, on August 7, 2018, their stock price was about \$1,250. In spite of being a near 1,500 percent return on investment, Napoleon's penis was potentially more than twice as profitable.

On March 13, 1986, Microsoft's stock was priced at \$21. Thirty-two years later, on August 7, 2018, the stock price was about \$108. This is approximately a 500 percent return on investment over a period of more than three decades, making Napoleon's penis potentially six times more profitable than Microsoft.

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1980, Apple's stock was priced at just \$22. Thirty-eight years later, on August 7, 2018, the stock price was about \$207. This is just shy of a 1,000 percent return on investment over a period of nearly forty years, making Napoleon's penis potentially more than three times as profitable.

When Lattimer died in 2007, the famous penis went to his daughter Evan. No records exist that it has changed owners since then. On May 10, 2011, Time Magazine named Napoleon's Penis as one of the "10 most famous stolen body parts."

# Glowing Sea-Algae Saved One of America's Greatest Heroes

The year was 1953. The sun was quickly setting over the expanse of the Pacific. A silvery crescent moon wouldn't rise for another four hours, and Jim Lovell, a carrier-based pilot with the United States Navy, was facing a life and death decision.

His instruments had just failed. He knew that if he didn't bring his plane, an F2H Banshee, in for a safe landing on the USS Shangri-La, he might be sleeping with the fish that night.

Desperate for options, Lovell radioed his flight chief to ask his relative location to the USS *Shangri-La*, where he planned to land his plane. After discovering that he was flying directly towards the stern of the carrier, he realized he was facing two dangers.

If he flew too low, he'd fly directly into the stern, breaking his plane to pieces. If he flew too high, he'd overshoot the landing hook which was designed to catch, slow and stabilize his plane. Since Jim was traveling towards the carrier at 30 and 40 knots, a crash landing wasn't an option, and neither was overshooting his landing hook.

He would need to make a surgically precise landing, with zero visibility and no instruments. On top of this all, Jim lost radio contact. He was now flying completely blind. That's when he noticed a faint, ethereal glow in the shimmering and darkening water.

Lovell recognized this as the phosphorescent glow of planktonic algae that lived in the Pacific. The carrier's giant propeller had stirred up the flowing organisms, leaving a stream of pale, bioluminescence in its wake. The closer he got, the more brightly the cloud of planktonic algae glowed.

This was all Lovell needed. Using the soft, green light as his guide, Lovell held his plane steady and brought it in for a safe landing on the deck of the USS Shangri-La. Little did he know, this miraculous landing would prepare him for what would later become the most challenging mission of his life.

According to a story published in the April-May issue of Air & Space magazine, Lovell had been dispatched to Moffett Field in California. He made his first carrier landing six months later, just off the coast of Japan.

*"I told the skipper, 'You know, I'm having a little trouble flying in the daytime yet, and you want me to go out at night?'"* Lovell said recalling his experience of the mission in a 1999 interview with NASA.

Despite his humble reticence, Lovell would go on to complete more than 100 successful carrier landings. In April 1970 Lovell would go on to pilot the Space Shuttle for the now-infamous Apollo 13 mission.

The mission inspired a movie, featuring a riveting scene where the shuttle's cryogenic oxygen system failed. The crew spent four nail-biting days working with NASA's ground control, in a desperate attempt to return the space shuttle home.

Upon realizing his slim odds of returning safely to earth, Tom Hanks, who played Lovell in the movie, remembered his near-perilous flight on the darkening Pacific, and the soft bioluminescent glow that had guided him to a safe landing. This gave Lovell the inspiration to keep his crew hopeful and sane until the mission was completed.

Later, Lovell would become the first man to make two trips to the moon. He also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Air and Space Museum In 2016. At the close of his career, he had collected 7,000 flight hours, including 715 hours in space and 4,500 in jet aircraft and had participated in four NASA space missions.