

# SANDS OF MARS



# Sands of Mars



By John and Patty Bell  
Crystal Computer  
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# CAPTAIN OF THE STARSHIP HERMAN

There is a slight pause and your mother's face appears on the telescreen. "You've finally done it; my son's a captain," she beams from the Modex, "and you'll have your very own starship!". "Yes, mom my very own," you mumble. Mothers can be very embarrassing at times. "I've got to leave now," you add hastily, your finger hanging longingly over the disconnect button. "But son, now you be careful and don't forget to . . ."; bleep — your eager finger has lost control and mom is now invisible and 4000 miles away; a nice safe distance. Well, now it's off to the J.F.R. Spaceport to see for the first time the vessel that will be your home for the next 10 years — the Starship Herman.

As you arrive, you find a note left by the admiral who was supposed to brief and see you off. Like many of the higher officers, he has grown lazy and impatient and has left even before the time you had scheduled to meet with him. As you read your until now Secret assignment, your eyes feel as if you must hold them in to keep them from popping out of your head. Just to be sure there are no toys in your attic, you begin mumbling the note out loud to yourself.

“ . . . and after assuming command of the Starship Herman, you are to select a crew and equip her for your mission which will be explained in a few lines. You will be given a list of things to buy and people to hire, from which you must choose the proper amount and combination of items and people for the survival of yourself, your crew, the mission, and most important of all, Her-

man. On the bridge you will manually control takeoff from Earth and head for Mars. Oh, yes, I almost forgot, you are on a mission to Mars. Since this is your first mission, I guess I should warn you. It is very possible you will encounter pirates, asteroid swarms, and much, much more! Only your own quick thinking and reactions will save you and your crew from destruction and enable you to fulfill your mission.

Several previous missions, Explorer I and Explorer II, have failed to report back from their own missions on Mars. Dr. Grady, our top archaeologist, on the Explorer II, was reported to have descended into some type of labyrinth while the crew members waited at the opening above ground. That was the last transmission received from that expedition.

Your mission is to find Dr. Grady and rescue the other survivors if there are any. Also several Martian inscriptions were left undeciphered. They are similar to early Phoenician or Cuneiform. Why is there a similarity in these glyphs? What did Dr. Grady discover before his disappearance? Why was the radio transmission suddenly cut off? The answers lie hidden beneath the Sands of Mars.”

Finding yourself a little taken aback, you stuff the note into your thermasuit pocket; you are anxious to get to your ship. On closer examination you find a small report on the bottom labeled "History of Lemuria." The title page says:  
*A summary of inscriptions taken from Mars and partially deciphered by Dr. Grady . . . . Zanti people — giant bee hive cities — Mudra . . . . mmmmmmmmmmm . . . .* and you begin to read the report.

# HISTORY OF LEMURIA

Due to carbon dating, we know that the oldest of the inscriptions found on Mars seem to date back about 2 billion years ago. This seems to be a reference to the struggle between two cultures: the Zanti and the Meshim. The translations can't be considered any better than rough. We have attempted to make a few conclusions about these species, but at best it is only guesswork. The Meshim were a race of reptilian creatures who lived beneath the sands in vast subterranean tunnels. The Meshim although fairly intelligent never developed writing or any type of religion. Due to a genetic mutation, these lizardmen were able to run at fantastic speeds across the desert. They frequently raided the Zanti hives and stole food and eggs.

The Zanti, who according to descriptions looked like giant beetles, lived in huge, towering hives of fused rock. Unlike the Meshim, the Zanti developed quite an advanced form of culture and a system of writing. The Zanti passed through three stages of life: first, eggs were laid by the Zanti Mudra (which will be explained later) in hexagonal chambers under the surface. These chambers served as perfect incubators and the eggs hatched into larvae rather quickly. Next these larvae were transported to larger chambers deeper underground, devoid of all light. Here they ate and grew until they were 20 times their original size. They were resealed into larger chambers once more and in a short while emerged as Kendra. The Kendra were similar in function to the worker ants here on earth. They also doubled as warriors should the need arrive.

If the Kendra survived the hard work and rigors of constantly defending the Zanti cities, at the end of 100 years they would

be entombed, using an elaborate ritual, in the Chamber of the Ages. Before entering this chamber, they were given a narcotic drug which put them into a deep sleep. Only one in five thousand would ever be reborn. The metamorphosis, the change from a Kendra to a Mudra, took more than 1,000 years.

Upon emerging from its cocoon it immediately was faced with a life or death struggle. Seeing there could only be one Mudra, if the last Mudra were still alive, the two engaged in a fight to the death. The loser of the combat (usually the older Mudra) was then eaten by the victor in an elaborate ritual. To be a Mudra and to be eaten was called the 4th Rebirthing. It was the Zanti's equivalent of Christian salvation.

The job of the surviving Mudra was to become the mother of the next generation of Zanti. Being transexual, the Mudra simply laid eggs and let the Kendra do the rest. That is, until another Mudra was born. In addition to this function, the Mudra was responsible for recording the history of the Zanti. With each successive Mudra an additional chapter was written into the Archives. The Mudra was also required to know by memory the entire history of the Zanti race. It was the only member of the race who could write.

The following are transcripts of translated inscriptions by Dr. Grady who was present on both the Explorer I & II expeditions.

. . . Aton did not give us abundant Sasquati and Degwat for our Kendra to eat today . . . there was much sadness . . . sand everywhere . . . the crops are failing . . . the tunnels of great

Lemuria fill with sand . . . more than Kendra can remove . . . some Kendra have been executed for breaking the sacred oath forbidding eating the dead bodies of Meshim . . . s. Ulmane

. . . came to raid us again . . . we fought bravely . . . many Kendra's life fluid spilled up the desert Kurmat . . . there seemed no end to the Meshim . . . they came in waves . . . many valiant Kendra fell to the power of the Laar . . . many Meshim carried away prisoners who were chopped into pieces using Hutam . . . consuming their flesh and then, as an insult donning their shells as armor . . . s. Crombona

. . . wrath of the Vorog seem to slay more of our Kendra than even the Meshim raids . . . there are not enough to bury dead and sweep away the dreaded sand . . . moving around our great city is rough . . . when Aton grants us darkness . . . the Vishni now begin to attack while in the day we must eat our own . . . I have made a drink to ease the burdens of our Kendra souls . . . I will call it Skishi after our former Mudra whom I sent to the 4th Rebirthing . . . I grow so very tired of the fighting . . . s. Lukrudia

. . . I have shut myself away in the caves to the north as protection from the Meshim . . . these evil beings can not survive the cold to which I am accustomed . . . Meshim have broken into the Chamber of the Ages; eaten our sleeping Kendra . . . the last Kendra is now dead . . . I have grown enough Degwat for myself to eat . . . I feel a great loneliness because there are no Kendra . . . I cannot go on this way much . . . s. Xerman

*End of Manuscript Transcription now translated*

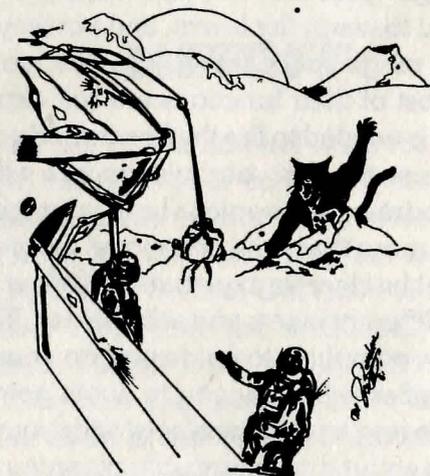


# ZANTI GLOSSARY

- ABRABA** — Ancient magical incantation
- ATON** — Zanti God of the Sky
- ATZLAN** — The first earth colony founded by descendants of the Mishim in 3 million B.C.
- CANALS** — Remnants of the ancient Martian irrigation system. Some still have water.
- CHAMBER OF THE AGES** — Holy place where Kendras are transformed into Mudras.
- CRATER LANDS** — Moon like terrain with many deep pits and craters.
- DEGWAT** — Desert vegetation similar to cactus. Edible for humans.
- GEESH** — A large amoeboid type creature.
- HUTAM** — Meshim sword.
- KETEMEOW** — Race of cat-like beings which are telepathic and have great affinity for man.
- KELLAC** — Meshim armor made from the exoskeleton of the Zanti
- KENDRA** — The worker and soldier class of the Zanti
- KURMAT** — An area of loose and treacherous sand pits filled with a substance similar to quicksand.
- LAAR** — A Martian lasar.
- LEMUR** — Ancient city of the Zanti resembling a gigantic anthill.
- MESHIM** — A half-reptilian, half-man carnivore. Subterranean, nocturnal, and highly carnivorous. Because of

special genetic adaptations, they are able to move at fantastic speeds across the desert. Also they are able to burrow and disappear beneath the sand when threatened.

- MUDRA** — Title of the Zanti ruler also the name of their most powerful deity.
- REBIRTHING** — The process by which the Zanti passes from one stage of life to the next.
- SASQUATI** — A Martian vegetation semi-poisonous to humans.
- SKENOL** — A type of fuel alcohol which is used in Martian space crafts.
- SKISHI** — Martian whiskey.
- UXERMAN** — The last of the great Mudras before the fall of the Zanti civilization.
- VISHNI** — Half-rodent, half-plant creatures. They are carnivorous and nocturnal.
- VOROG** — A perilous sand storm. Sometimes picking up rocks of over 10 lbs.



## J.F.R. SPACEPORT

After your slight detour to the bridge, you are now back in the Spaceport all ready to equip your ship. At the requisition desk you are informed that you have a certain budget with which to complete this task. The clerk hands you a list of things you may order and their price per unit. Among these items are the obvious like food-Q3, water tanks, salt tablets, etc. Other less common items warrant an explanation. *Thermasuits* are essential for anyone to venture onto the Martian surface. If you find yourself without water, the *Hydrolizer* is used to pull that precious commodity out of the air. *Q3 lightpacks* will be used to shed light on the situation once you get underground (hopefully). *Gravitron* is your fuel for Ion propulsion; can't go anywhere without that now can you! When the food runs out you may need *Hydroponics* to synthesize your own. Also to glide across the Martian sand you may want the use of an *Astrosled*. A *Gravipak* will simply hold you down so you don't trip as much. Most importantly of all, you must get yourself an ample supply of *Astracrystal*. This allows you to warp, fire lasers, and power your shields, a must for long range space travel. Oh yes, you can't forget your crew. Most of their functions are self explanatory, like *Laser Gunner* is needed to fire the Lasers and so on. Probably at one point or another in your mission you will need almost the whole assortment of people to be in your crew, so I advise you not to get more than one of anyone. Some of their functions might not be clear so explanations follow. The *Botanist* is to tell what different plants and animals are. The *Programer* programs your computer to guide you on your voyage. The *Mountain Climber* will allow you to avoid going around the mountains. Having an *Archaeologist* with you will allow you to know more about the culture, city planning, etc. With the

*Philologist* on board, when and if you find some Martian writing, he will decipher it for you. Finally the *Explorer* acts as your guide. "Hope you choose your crew and supplies well, sir. We wouldn't want you to get stuck up there!" you hear from behind. Gently you turn, say "thanks," to the clerk, bend down on the clerk's desk and begin filling out your tedious form . . .

After what seems like days, you pick yourself up from your crouched position and begin to hand your form to the clerk, but no such luck. It seems you still have to punch this information into the computer. So you waddle your tired body over to the terminal, press B for Buy and input your choices. First and last letter of the cargo, then the amount you want. Finally when you've completed that task you type S for See Cargo and check all your purchases. At long last it's time for count-down so you type C and the computer summons your crew, loads your supplies, and gives you time to run to the bridge before anyone else gets there . . .

## LIFTOFF

The last orders left by the admiral were for you to make a manual lift off. Sitting in your command console you watch your crew assemble into their stations while you think over the procedure for lift off. "Let's see, first we've got to turn these knobs here back to zero. Oh! Look at all the buttons! I don't remember those from the simulators. Now we check the old engines. Alright now, which button does what to which knob. Oh, here it is, knob 0 is to set "angle of ascent", button 0 is fire them ol' retros, knob 1 controls how many hundreds of pounds of fuel per 20th of a second, and button

11 will . . . Alright, I got that straight. I guess it's time to get going. Oh yes, what was it the physics professor said at the academy? If I don't set a proper angle for ascent and I try just a straight up lift off a couple of things will happen. Now what the hell were they . . . ah, it uses more fuel and I get going so fast I can't go into orbit before shooting off into space. They tell me there's a space station up there I can dock with, so let's see, what's a good angle? Now, what am I leaving out? Of course, can't forget that we must reach 18,000 m.p.h. to go into orbit and 29,000 m.p.h. to break out of it. Whew! If I forgot that, we might pass the 100-110 mile orbit right into space and not be able to dock with the station. If I remember right we can pick up some extra fuel there. Sounds like a great deal for all the trouble I have to go through! OK, set an angle — that looks pretty good — now press them thrusters and blastoff!

## MAIDEN VOYAGE TO MARS

As in Galactic Quest, there are 7 main command modules (0-6). These may be utilized by inputing the appropriate corresponding number. A "0" when in the first level of any command mode will always return you to the menu and Master Command Level. Many of these modules contain subdivisions and are broken down as follows. When in a sublevel, pressing "space" or "0" will return you to the menu for that sublevel.

### I. NAVIGATION

- 0) *Command Level*
- 1) *Solar Map* — The walls of your vessel will disappear and you will view your position in relation to Earth, Mars, and the Sun. Remember that the planets continue to

rotate about the Sun during your flight and you must compensate for this when setting your course.

- 2) *Status Report* — This will give you your current course setting, fuel consumption, and other relevant engine information.
- 3) *Impulse Gravitron Power* — In this submode you may change your course, and burn rate.
- 4) *Crystaldrive* — This is the equivalent of a warp drive and if you have had the foresight to buy Crystal it can greatly cut down on your time in transit.

### II. WEAPONS

- 0) *Command Level*
- 1) *Status Report* — Gives the current strength of Lasers, Rifter Pods, and Shields.
- 2) *Lasers* — A crosshair appears on the screen, on the TRS-80 arrows. Maneuver crosshair to face enemy. The #2 key will fire your laser. Be careful that when attacked you do not begin wildly firing (unless you just like watching the lasers). Your laser energy is limited by the amount of Crystal you are carrying.
- 3) *Rifter Pods* — On TRS-80 use arrow to aim. Key #3 fires pod.

In these last two submodes you may return to the weapon submode by pressing the space bar.

### III. COMPUTER

- 0) *Command Level*
- 1) *Ship Status* — A comprehensive summary of all parameters.
- 2) *Redistribute Crystal* — Lasers, Warp Drive, and all take energy from the main Crystal. In varying situa-

tions, especially while under attack you may want to change your shield energy or laser power.

#### IV. CARGO DECK

During your Maiden Voyage various types of craft will appear on your viewscreen. If you wish to "Hail", press "4". Depending on the way in which you greet the unknown vessel, you may be offered a chance to trade, be attacked by aliens, or pirates may attempt to board your ship. When you are in the Cargo Deck mode here are the options available:

- 0) *Command Level*
- 1) *Cargo* — You have 10 holds in which you may transport cargo and a weight limit of 50 tons. If you have no cargo, this mode will not activate. A list of your cargo will be displayed after any purchase. This display will also tell you how much additional space and capacity you have to work with. Pressing the space bar will return you to the main Cargo Deck level.
- 2) *Barter* — To improve your Quinton situation you must buy and sell cargo. If you change your mind, a "0" will return to the Main Cargo Deck. Cargos may be purchased in any specified number, but because of differences in weight, some may occupy more than one hold. You may store different quantities of the same type cargo in different holds.
- 3) *Use of Jettison* — You may utilize a cargo for your vessel by pushing "1" for use. Your cargo will be listed and you will be asked to pick a hold for use. You may not use a portion of a hold. The entire amount will be utilized when you select this option. A "Jettison" means basically dumping into space by means of the air lock. All that is gained by this is to make room for a more valuable cargo when you run out of empty holds. Attempting to

use an article which has no function has the same effect as a Jettison.

- 4) *Hail* — You have a number of ways you may greet a vessel. You may: 1 - Immediately try to blast him out of space; 2 - Send out a scout ship with an ambassador; 3 - Offer to trade; 4 - Radio back to Starfleet command. Obviously, attempting to blast a friendly vessel may bring about an attack or failing to immediately attack a suspicious looking pirate ship may cost you your crew, your ship, and your life.

#### V. TOUCHDOWN

Depending on whether you have reached Mars yet, this may initiate one of two landing sequences. If you are not close enough to Mars or Earth for a landing you will be informed of such and be returned to the main command mode. Do not attempt to land on Mars or Earth without going into the Touchdown mode. This will result in a rather spectacular crash.

#### VI. SAVE GAME

Since Sands of Mars is such a lengthy adventure, we were forced to include this option. You may either save a game when you are in the Maiden Voyage Mode or the Sands of Mars Mode. Games may not be saved during takeoff, while at the Spaceport, or while in the Meshim or Lemurian labyrinths. This will save your game and position as is and you may return to your game at a later time without having to start all over. More detailed instructions on how to load in a "saved game" will be discussed in the "Changing Disks" chapter.

## OUTER SPACE PERILS

In addition to hostile spacecraft there are quite a few dangers in outer space. Some of the ones you need to be particularly

cautious of are Asteroid Swarms, Black Holes, Magnetic Storms. It would take some of the surprise out of the game to tell you how to cope with these dangers, but suffice it to say, quick thinking and action can save you from most of the severe pitfalls.

## **TOUCHDOWN**

As you descend into the Martian atmosphere there are two parameters that you need to become immediately concerned about: 1 - Your angle of descent, and 2 - Your velocity. Although we are not great mathematicians here at Crystal, some attempt has been made to include a consideration of friction in relationship to angle of descent, velocity and atmospheric density in relationship to altitude. If you come in at too steep an angle at too high a speed with no shields, your ship will go up like a magnesium torch.

Before you begin your actual touchdown, you will be able to select from 5 levels of landing difficulty. We suggest in your first few Sands of Mars adventures you select the easiest one. Don't try to be a hero; that level is challenging enough until you master the intricacies of fuel rate and angles of ascent. A speed of less than 50 m.p.h. will be considered a successful touchdown. If you feel that your angle of descent or velocity is incorrect, increase your speed, lift the nose of your ship which will increase your altitude and you will be given the opportunity of another pass. Upon landing you will find, for some strange reason, your craft refuses to take off. If you have remembered to bring sufficient oxygen and

thermasuits for your crew, you will find yourself standing on the Sands of Mars ready to begin your exploration.

## **CHANGING DISKS**

- 1) *Loading a saved game* — When your game disk 1 first boots up you will be given the option of reloading a saved game or starting a new game. All games in whatever mode are saved on Disk 1. Once the variables from the previous game have been loaded you will be prompted as to which disk to insert, so you can continue where you left off. As complicated as this may sound, if you follow the prompts you should be able to master this technique without much difficulty.

Since Sands of Mars uses almost 200,000 Bytes of memory it was imperative that it be put on 2 disks. Immediately after your touchdown on Mars you will be prompted to put in the other disk and push the space bar. On leaving Mars you will be prompted. Only this time you will be asked to re-insert the 1st Disk. We suggest that before you begin to play that you study this section thoroughly. Both disks are copy copy protected for obvious reasons.

### **Do not attempt to copy or enter the catalog!**

This may result in the destruction of your disk and program. The program is only destroyed when the machine senses a deliberate attempt to enter the code or copy disks. This can not happen by accident and we will not replace disks or refund money to individuals attempting to copy, or use or subroutines without authorization.

## **DISEMBARKING FROM THE SHIP**

Once you have landed you are ready to leave the ship. If you have forgotten to buy oxygen or thermasuits, you will have to take off again and hope you can run into a merchant from which you can buy them.

### **Basic Movement**

All movements are controlled on the planet by using the number keys 1-9

#### **Regular**

- 1— Moves Up/North
- 2— Moves Right/East
- 3— Moves Down/South
- 4— Moves Left/West
- 5— Fires Laar
- 6— Displays Items
- 7— Drops an Item
- 8— Uses an Item
- 9— Picks up an Item

You may also use, pick up, or drop members of your crew. Don't expect them to be in the same place you left them when you return to the same location. When entering a labyrinth be sure to look closely for different shaped objects or be attentive to strange noises...

## **TERRAINS AND TERRORS**

Upon landing on Mars you will find yourself in the middle of a Martian desert.

In the distance to the north and south are two ranges of

mountains. The high peaks to the north are covered with snow at an elevation of 4,000 feet, and are almost impossible to cross. Sloping hills in the south are barren and lifeless. They are more like gigantic sand dunes than mountains.

To the west according to reports from Dr. Grady there are entrances to the peerless Meshim labyrinths. To the south, beyond the mountains, it has been reported that there are still functioning canals and a huge hive-like city made of fused rock.

Then appear the winding prismatic corridors of this city once called Lemuria by the long dead Zanti. It is written that alien creatures still guard the sleeping Kendra.

**MOUNTAINS** — Although on Earth there are some mountain ranges which appear fairly jagged, the Martian mountains because of low gravity are much steeper and sometimes even resemble cave stalagmite formations. At times they form spires of a solid crystalline substance, whose points are razor sharp. One might think that low gravity would make things easier, but the Martian mountains are extremely treacherous. Without an experienced mountain climber they are impossible to cross. It is suspicioned by Dr. Grady that, in a secret cave somewhere in the mountains, the last Mudra Uxherman still waits to guide adventurers to the hidden Chamber of the Ages in Lumeria.

**SASQUATI** — The Sasquati is one of the native flora of Mars. It may grow to a height of 18 feet, and in many ways resembles terrestrial cactus. Although it grew wild for millions of years, during the final development of the Meshim civilization it was cultivated and used as a food substance. Because of a peculiarity of the growth and metabolism of the Sasquati plant, it utilizes chromium in large quantities. It manufactures a molecule using chromium as a central atom which is highly

toxic to human systems; also it contains an extremely high mercury concentration, so it is unsuitable as a human food. Ingestion of Sasquati results in paralysis and death within a matter of minutes. It would be wise to bring a Botanist with you on your expedition to avoid such mishaps.

**CRATERLANDS** — In several areas Mars has been particularly damaged and pitted by unrelenting meteor showers. Some of the projectiles are as small as a pea, some as large as a mountain. These areas resemble the moon's surface, giving one a sense of loneliness and desolation. Nothing on Mars could ever seem to survive in the craterlands; no water, no vegetation, no life.

**CANALS** — The Martian canals are remnants of a culture predating both the Zanti and the Meshim. At one time the now barren Sands of Mars were a tropical paradise. The canals irrigated thousands of miles of Sasquati, which to the early Martians was a staple similar to wheat or corn. Now most of the canals are overgrown by a toxic crystal substance which rises, often some hundred feet, toward the Martian skies. All the Martian canals lead to Lumeria, the capital city of the ancient Zanti.

**DESERT** — Martian deserts are much harsher than those of Earth, with temperatures rising to over 200° F in a day and below -100° F at night. Because of the high mineral salt concentration, Martian sands are extremely corrosive to all types of equipment and cause severe skin irritation. They are lethal if swallowed. Due to the lesser gravity and extreme temperature changes, the Martians in their inscriptions spoke of a peculiar weather disturbance called a Borog. Martian rocks as large as one's fist were hurled at speeds of greater than 100 m.p.h. In a particularly savage Borog an entire mountain could be, and often was, literally sand-blasted away. Because of these rugged conditions and the fact that the Martian atmosphere will not support human life, therma-

suits must be worn and oxygen supplied if you wish to leave the ship with your crew.

**KATEOMEOW** — The race which preceded the Meshim and the Zanti was a highly developed culture of telepathic cat-like creatures. Since they never evolved a real thumb or true color vision, they were not able to become the master race. It is still a mystery how, with only paws, they built the Martian canals.

**LAND OF THE VISHNI** — In ancient Martian evolution there was a plant very similar to Earth's Venusian Fly Trap. This plant, named the Vis by the ancient Zanti, produced a highly stimulating nectar and a large orange blossom. Because of the harsh climate, the insects of Mars quickly perished after only a few million years. A type of rodent called the Hnue began using the Vis as a hiding place and source of food. Over millions of years the two organisms united in a symbiotic relationship. As the seasons changed the Hnue would migrate carrying the plants with them, and eventually they became a single organism, half plant, half rodent. These animal-plants are only mobile at night and can be highly carnivorous. If one is traveling through a territory occupied by Vishnu one should always do so during the daytime when they are fairly harmless.

**SAND PITS** — There are areas of Mars where there are super fine scarlet crystals of an iron mercury compound. Rock pits filled with this substance are very similar in action to quicksand. Some of these pits are hundreds of feet deep. An entire expedition may vanish within a matter of seconds without leaving a trace. The way to recognize these sand pits is to look for their characteristic purple and green glitter. One must be especially careful during a Borog when everything is obscured by flying Martian rock.

**DEGWAT** — Degwat is a semi-fungoid material, which in texture, taste, and food value is very similar to the mushroom family. It grows wild in uncultivated areas and can withstand enormous temperature fluctuation. Although it does not contain sufficient food nutrients to be used as a staple food, it may be eaten. It cannot be stored or carried, as it decomposes at a tremendous rate after it has been severed from the mother plant. For you Botanists, Degwat is only the class name and there are many species and sub species. It also possesses amazing healing properties and may be used to numb pain. It produces a very beautiful multicolored sporesac. The spores may be carried and replanted. They germinate almost instantly and reach full size within a matter of days.

## TERRORS

In addition to treacherous terrain there are many mutant creatures in the Martian desert. Some say that there are remnants of the Meshim race, which still guard their sacred tunnels; or Kendra warriors who lurk about the Chamber of the Ages, and that somewhere in the mountains the last Mudra Uxherman waits in dreamless sleep, having been undisturbed for 3 billion years.



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## THE MESHIM LABYRINTHS

The Meshim being cold-blooded and reptilian lived far beneath the surface of Mars in an intricate labyrinth of tunnels with triangular doors. There are approximately 3 levels to these tunnels, and they are still guarded by mutants of the original Meshim race. If you did not have the foresight to bring a light you may end your adventure rather quickly by lumbering into a pit or Meshim trap.

The Meshim tend to be quite a bunch of pack rats. In some places there are large caches of Zanti treasures, ill-gotten by raids on Lemuria. Remember, treasure is not for human consumption and carrying treasure uses up energy. The empty shell-like exoskeletons may be scattered about in quite a few places. These may be picked up and used as armor. They are quite light and very effective for that reason.



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## LONG LOST LEMURIA

Towering over the desert sands of Mars rises the lookout and entrance of Lemuria, capital city-state of the Zanti. One could liken the Zanti to a cross between an ant and bee civilization. The entire structure is made of hexagonal hollow crystal which the Zanti named Zircom. Deep below the sands of Mars were mines where Zircom was excavated from rich deposits and shaped by the use of Kendra saliva. The chemical secreted by the Kendra was almost identical to an 18 molar solution of  $H_2SO_4$ . Dr. Grady in his reports had the suspicion that the entire Zanti city was actually pure emerald; some of the chambers are filled with diamonds the Kendra used for boring tunnels.

As the Zanti was an insect-like colony, some chambers were used for food storage and others as hatcheries. Dr. Grady reported an overwhelming ammonia odor as he first entered the city tunnels. He reported countless hieroglyphics scrawled across the walls of the chambers and, at times, seemed to hear some type of skittering movement behind the walls. There are four entrances to the Zanti city and there is a distinct possibility that the Geesh, which once patrolled the tunnels, are still there. The Geesh were ameboid-type organisms, domesticated by the Zanti and used to keep the tunnels free of debris and invaders. Their one purpose in life was to digest everything in sight, except the Zanti, of course.

In your exploration of the Zanti Hive you would do well to jot down the inscriptions if you wish to solve the mystery.

## WINNING THE GAME

You must do a lot more than get to Mars and back to win Sands of Mars. There are also varying degrees of accomplishment.

As you recall, if you have read the Legend, your mission is to find the Explorer II party; especially Dr. Grady. You have not been guided to Mars by the hands of fate just to check out the terrain. Your presence there may prove to be a very important prologue to Martian history and the survival of the Zanti as a civilization. You must find the Mudra and Dr. Grady. With these two now accompanying your party, you must use their skills to find entrance to some secret locations. Oh, well, enough for the clues. Once you have succeeded in all of this, you must manage to get Dr. Grady back to earth — which is not exactly an easy task. Good Luck, Captain!

# THE MYSTERY OF THE SANDS OF MARS

Throughout your exploration of Mars you will notice various glyphs on the landscape and within the labyrinths. Although the Meshim were illiterate, the Zanti had a highly developed system of writing. The deciphering of the Martian alphabet is a vital step toward the solution of the mystery.

The mystery has three parts, all of which must be solved in order to win the \$100 prize money.

I. There are three phrases found on Mars which must be decoded. Bringing an archaeologist or language expert may be helpful in accomplishing this first task.

II. Once you have translated these phrases, they will inform you about an action you must perform. They will also supply some crucial information on how to go about this.

III. Completion of the previous cycle of events will make it possible for you discover the final mystery, which is not anywhere to be found in the program and must be explained in your own words.

Onward Adventurers!!!

# CRYSTALWARE CATALOG

## 1981



Crystal computer

12215 murphy ave.  
san martin, ca 95046  
(408) 683-0696

### System Requirements

**APPLE:** 48K/ Applesoft ROM/ Disk  
**ATARI:** 32K/ Basic Cartridge/ Disk  
**TRS-80:** 32K/ Disk Drive  
**PET:** 32K/ Disk Drive

1 — ADVENTURELAND 2041	\$59.95
2 — HOUSE OF USHER	\$24.95
3 — GALACTIC QUEST	\$29.95
4 — SUMER	\$19.95
5 — WORLD WAR III	\$29.95
6 — LASAR WARS	\$29.95
7 — SANDS OF MARS	\$39.95
8 — BENEATH THE PYRAMIDS	\$29.95
9 — LITTLE CRYSTAL	\$39.95
0 — WATERLOO II	\$49.95

COMING IN JUNE 1981!!

## FANTASYLAND 2041 A.D.

Step with us through the Crystal door into the world of tomorrow's fantasy. In the great Outback of Australia in the year of 2041, will be built the greatest Adventureland of all time. Through you computer, you can experience six separate worlds of fantasy. These programs will take up more than 500,000 bytes of memory and fill 6 disks. Many of the options may be played by up to six players and in many cases against the computer itself.

**CONGOLAND** — In the deep dark heart of Africa at the turn of the 19th century; supply yourself at the village and lead a group of explorers into the treacherous jungle to find the lost mines of King Solomon.

**ARABIAN NIGHT** - Embark for Cathay from ancient Baghdad. You are the leader of a caravan and must overcome the perils of the desert and . . .

**OLYMPUS** — Prepare to embark on a great sea odyssey as the captain of the Athena. With a group of brave warriors you seek the golden fleece.

**CAPTAIN NEMO** — You lead an expedition to find the lost city of Atlantis. You are the captain of a new experimental diving apparatus . . . with a few bugs still to be checked out.

**NIGHT ON BALD MOUNTAIN** — You stand at the gates of Hades. A wise old Magus approaches you and offers magical help and advice. He spreads out 8 Tarot cards and warns of hideous demons and bottomless pits . . . Dante's Inferno awaits you!

**KING ARTHUR** — You are Sir Lancelot in the days of King Arthur. You have been called to find and rescue Guinevere from an evil sorcerer who has stolen her away. You must buy armor and supplies and find the bottomless cave in Emerald Mountain.

## HOUSE OF USHER

Walk the dreaded corridors of the deadly House of Usher. Complete with 40 rooms and hundreds of aggressive monsters and unique treasures. This is not your typical text adventure game but goes far beyond that, with animated monsters and a visual display of each room. We believe this to be the first indoor-outdoor game ever written for a microcomputer game which includes graphics.

You may choose to wander through Usher's scenic garden paths or brave the perils of the graveyard and descend into the crypt. Beneath the house there are labyrinths, shrinking rooms, and torture chambers with no doors or windows. Your character may pick up, drop, or use objects, fire arrows, or run frantically for the door when pursued by some loathsome creature. As the old grandfather clock ticks away, you will have until dawn to solve the Usher Mystery and win a real live \$100 prize!

## GALACTIC QUEST

Warp through 64 solar systems in Hires graphics with Crystalsonics sound. Fire lasers and rifter pods as you battle the Vegans in real time simulation. In Galactic Quest we have attempted to combine the best elements of a Star Trek type game with one similar to Space Trader. What is Skishi and where is the Pleasure Planet? In some systems, lurking behind swarms of asteroids, are Space Pirates who will gut your ship and leave you a derelict in space. To win Galactic Quest you must be a shrewd business man as well as a top notch warrior.

## **SUMER**

Sumer was the name of a city state between the Tigris and Euphrates river some 8000 years ago. Life then in some ways wasn't much different from life today. Although Sumer is a text game similar to Hammurabi, we think you will find it quite challenging. We have added quite a few new twists. You will be king of Sumer for a reign of 10 years; if you're not assassinated sooner. Your goal is to restore Sumer to the glory it knew under the reign of Sargon II. At that time it had 1,000,000 pieces of gold and 1,000,000 acres of land. You may plant, buy, sell, consult, and many other options. At the end of each year your fields are harvested and a tally is taken. At this point some very surprising things may happen unexpectedly. This game will take quite a few sessions to master and can be used for educational as well as entertainment purposes.

## **WORLD WAR III**

This is a three scenario war game in Hires graphics with sound. It is not merely the conversion of a board game to computer, nor are your pieces represented by lifeless text characters. It may be played by two persons and takes about 8 hours to complete. The rules are simple enough that you won't have to spend several days reading your manual before you can play. It contains 2 world maps and a fairly detailed map of the Iran-Iraq battle field. All scoring, animation, and positions are handled by the computer — no separate tablets to fool with. Moves are input by both players in series of 3 and when the space bar is pressed the battle becomes animated. A must see to believe . . . .

## **LASAR WARS**

Attacking aliens in 3D. Thousands of approach simulations and 10 levels of difficulty. Three kinds of invader craft scored by size and attack mode. An exciting Invaders type game with perspective and sound. For fantasy enthusiasts from 8 to 80.

## **SANDS OF MARS**

You embark on the Maiden Voyage of the Starship Herman. This game takes up almost 200K and uses 2 disks. It includes more than 300 Hires screens animated scenarios, a 3 dimensional maze, and a Martain labyrinth drawn entirely with hexagons. The takeoff and landing sequences are paddle or joystick controlled for the Apple and Atari and the game has 5 full scenarios. Once you land on Mars, you wander through fields of Sasquati and Degwat. Beware of the Vishu and the Lizardmen Meshim. Seek the wise Mudra and unlock secrets hidden for centuries. Glyphs written on the Martian Sand hold the key to the mystery for which we offer \$100 to the first to solve it. To answer a question we have been asked many times — yes, Sands of Mars attempts to fully utilize the sound and graphics capabilities of the Apple and Atari to their max!

## **LITTLE CRYSTAL**

Especially designed anthology for children from ages 5 to 80. Includes Mr. Music which turns your Apple or Atari into an organ of sorts, Gunk — where two weird monsters shoot chunks out of each other — and many other entertaining, educational programs for children. Truly a unique addition for kids who always feel left out of Dad's or Mom's computerizing.

# BENEATH THE PYRAMIDS

Your character in this adventure is that of an archaeologist. You have been commissioned by the Egyptian government to recover a golden statue of the cat goddess Bast. It has been rumored that somewhere beneath the Great Pyramid on the plains of Giza there are hidden passages, once used by the priests in their ancient initiations. After a brief stop at the Bazaar, you find yourself ready for a super adventure as you discover a secret entrance to the Great Pyramid in the breast plate of the Sphinx.

Your exploration of the Great Pyramid is of course in Hires and accompanied by Crystalsonic. We have been informed by some of our "Red-Eye players" (those playing continuously for more than 24 hours without sleep), that, by using the pick axe and traveling through 5 levels of the pyramid, one can secure the cat and solve the mystery. There are several animated peril scenarios and numerous real-time creature encounters. We are including a new mystery in our Apple-Star editions (those with an apple and a golden star on the package). There is a \$100 prize for the solution of this mystery!

COMING IN JULY 1981

# THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO

A war game with graphics very similar to World War III. We have attempted to make this as detailed as possible, down to what each individual is wearing, his line of sight, and the number of bullets he has fired. It will occupy two disks and may be saved over a period of weeks. We will be publishing more information on this in *Byte Magazine* in July.

## PURCHASE ORDER

	Quantity	Type Computer	Unit Price	Total
1. Labyrinths	_____	_____	\$ _____	\$ _____
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10. Galactic Quest	_____	_____	_____	_____
11. Sands of Mars	_____	_____	_____	_____
12. Galactic Expedition	_____	_____	_____	_____
13. Crystaloids	_____	_____	_____	_____
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15. Imperial Walker	_____	_____	_____	_____
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17. House of Usher	_____	_____	_____	_____
18. Glamis Castle	_____	_____	_____	_____
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26. Poor Herman's Almanac	_____	_____	_____	_____
27. CTAE-Education Module	_____	_____	_____	_____
28. From Earth to Moon	_____	_____	_____	_____
29. Mists of Venus	_____	_____	_____	_____
30. Planet Herman	_____	_____	_____	_____
31. Uranus-World of Ice	_____	_____	_____	_____
32. Jupiter-World of Dwarfs	_____	_____	_____	_____
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# Additional Instructions for Atari 800 Users

We are extremely proud of our Atari version of Sands of Mars. Since it is significantly different from all of the other versions, in fact a whole lot better, there are a few things you need to know before you start.

This game needs a full 40K worth of memory, joysticks, and a disk drive, obviously. It will not run on less memory and there are sequences which demand the use of both joysticks; so you must have two. In several places the play of the game takes some major detours from the manual which was designed for an Apple computer. They are as follows:

## COUNTDOWN

After you have been to the J.F.R. Spaceport you will be ready to take off. To control your pitch of ascent or descent use STK(0) pushing forward or backward. Pushing BTN(0) will fire your retro rockets. Using STK(1) you may control your Burn Rate; BTN(1) will fire your thrusters and increase your speed. If you mean to climb when taking off and don't want to crash be sure and keep your pitch positive. If you keep your speed at 18,000 mph you will be able to dock with a space station and get more fuel.

## VOYAGE

There is no solar map as in the Apple version but a large universe which you may screen scroll through. If you wish to see this universe go to navigation and then push gravitron to turn on your rockets. Your STK(0) will control your direction of flight. If you should run into an alien which you will be able to see following you, Red Alert will be initiated. Lasers and Rifter Pods function the same as is documented in the manual.

## ON MARS

Once on Mars you will be able to see our revolutionary system of course screen scrolling. Using STK(0) you may freely explore a 7 x 10 screen of Mars and the Lemurian and Meshim Labyrinths which use even more screens. Be sure and buy a Q3-Lightpack or you will find yourself stumbling around in the dark. There are trap doors which require secret passwords to open them and to fire your laar if you've been wise enough to buy one; move your joystick in the direction you wish to fire and press the button. Oh, if you hear footsteps other than your own, a monster is on your trail. Our Atari version monsters are especially aggressive so sometimes it is better to outrun them if you can.

Don't forget one of the objects of the game is to solve the mystery and get that \$100 prize. Better be quick though, we've got a lot of people trying already.

Additional instructions  
for  
Atari 800 Users



**Crystal computer**

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