



# Spaceships: An Illustrated History of the Real and the Imagined

*Ron Miller*

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## **Spaceships: An Illustrated History of the Real and the Imagined** Ron Miller

How have actual spaceships influenced the design of fictional ones like the *Millenium Falcon* and the *Starship Enterprise*? Did a fiction series in *Collier's* magazine really inspire us to create real-life space stations like Mir and the ISS? How have our depictions of space travel developed as the reality of space travel changed? In his new book *Spaceships: An Illustrated History of the Real and the Imagined*, Ron Miller shows that when it comes to spacecraft, art actually does imitate life and, even more bizarrely, life imitates art. In fact, astronautics owes its origins to art. Long before engineers and scientists took the possibility of spaceflight seriously, virtually all of its aspects had been explored in art and literature. Miller takes readers on a visual journey through the history of the spaceship both in our collective imagination and in reality. The vivid illustrations trace the spaceship through its conception, engineering, and building, from the practical origins of spaceflight in the wartime V-2 rocket to future Mars programs. They also chart, in exquisite detail, the ubiquity of spaceships in the golden age of space travel (1950s and '60s) plus their broad influence in popular art, television, film, and literature. *Spaceships* reminds us of the romance of space travel as it has been, as we imagined it could be, and as it may be in the future.

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