

10/25/90

Charles Kohlhase
Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Dear Charlie:

Rex told me that you read our paper IAA 90-630 and that you learned things about the history of gravity assisted trajectories that you never knew before. He told me that you are now convinced that I really did originate gravity assisted interplanetary trajectories and want to acknowledge this with an award.

I want to tell you from the bottom of my heart how happy I am. The problem I've had all these years was the fact that this history was locked inside of me and I didn't know how to get it out. Rex, William and Richard Dowling helped me a great deal in getting this history into print in the elegant way I wanted it.

But my most valued reward will come from official JPL recognition in the form of an award citation without ambiguity or qualification. That's all I've ever wanted for most of my life. Charlie, could you please make the citation read:

"For the origination of the concept and solution procedures for ..."

Please don't qualify it with wording like "contemporary concept" which will be ambiguous 20 years from now. Also mariner 10 was launched almost

20 years ago. Would the words "contemporary concept" apply to that mission? This ~~is~~ qualification wording is not necessary.

although you may perceive my sensitivity to wording as extreme or overly emotional, I don't mean to be arrogant, or a pain in the - . It's just that the technical justification is there to support a statement of clear originality and I'm only asking for a citation that reflects this. I'm sure that this will also benefit JPL. Any argument submitted to contradict this position could be easily exposed as without foundation which will harm JPL.

do you decide to let the citation go through without qualification, as I am hoping, I will be most grateful. any lawyer that might tell me afterwards that I could ~~now~~ now use this citation as grounds for a law suit will be disappointed. I never intended, nor do I ever intend to sue anyone or any institution for using my scientific research.

I am happy, and I will remain happy with the knowledge that my scientific research was put to good use by JPL and NASA.

Sincerely
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