

Issue 64

Extraterrestrial Intelligence

If extraterrestrial intelligence (ETI) finally is discovered elsewhere in space and we have established communication with it through our radiotelescopes and receivers, what questions do you think we should ask of it? What information do you think we should send out about ourselves? What about pictures? Music?

Think about this . . . *In the 13th century, the sonnet was invented in Sicily and the button in northern Europe. Given the different climates and resultant lifestyles, why is it unlikely the northerners would have devised a new form of poetry or the southerners an efficient way to fasten clothes?*

"Men have become the tools of their tools." H. Thoreau, Walden. True?