

Embracing Earth

New Views of Our Changing Planet

BY PAYSON R. STEVENS AND
KEVIN W. KELLEY
FOREWORD BY JAMES BURKE

The beauty and fragility of Earth has never been more dramatically revealed than in this collection of extraordinary images of the planet as seen from outer space. Taken from satellites and space shuttles using the latest remote sensing technology, these compelling photographs offer a unique global perspective on the Earth's forces at work. Natural phenomena such as wind patterns, volcanic eruptions, glaciers, and storms take on lyrical, stunningly beautiful forms. Other images show with startling clarity humanity's impact on every continent of the globe: the growing ozone hole, the changing polar ice cap, the burning oil wells in Kuwait, and severe deforestation. Visually striking and factually stimulating, *Embracing Earth* carries a critical environmental warning, but it also inspires through the strength of its images and lucidity of its text a new commitment to the future of life on our planet.

Payson R. Stevens is a consultant to NASA on *Mission to Planet Earth*, *Earth System Science*, and other projects. Trained in science and art at Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the Art Students League, he is the author of numerous articles on the environment and contributing author to college textbooks. **Kevin W. Kelley** conceived and edited the international best-seller *The Home Planet*. He is at work on other projects that integrate art, science, and the spirit, using visual imagery as a means of illuminating perception. He lives in Northern California. **James Burke** is the host of the award-winning PBS series, "Connections," which has been broadcast in over 50 countries, and the author of the best-selling book, *The Day the Universe Changed*.

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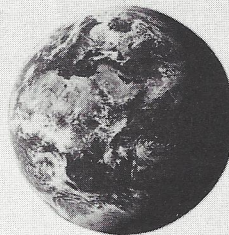
Nearly four million years ago, an asteroid struck the Earth in north-eastern Siberia and formed an immense crater called the Elgygytyn impact crater. The remoteness of the region prevented the crater from being discovered until the early 1960s. Its extraterrestrial origin was not determined until the 1970s. The diameter of the crater's rim is approximately 12 miles, and the surrounding area contains material dispersed from the asteroid's impact.

Satellites have provided unique tools to study inaccessible regions such as this one in Siberia and to understand the evolution of landforms. We can imagine that the immediate impact of the asteroid would have resulted in extensive destruction to the land and forest. After millions of years, water flowing from many small rivers and streams filled the crater.

EMBRACING EARTH

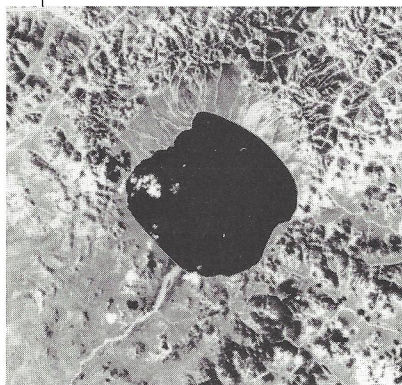
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"This book is a timely reminder that if we are to survive as a global community in the next century, it will be here, where we began, on Earth. There is nowhere else to go."—from the Foreword by James Burke

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