

Certificate

This is to certify that..... *Dave Langford* has been declared an

Honorary Member of the Ancient Society of Martians in Exile

and is entitled to all the privileges accorded to a citizen of the Red Planet.

These privileges include:

1. THE RIGHT TO MEASURE HIS/HER AGE IN MARTIAN YEARS

(A Martian year is equal to 1.88 Earth years, but by interplanetary agreement — and to save too much counting on tentacles or pseudopods — it can be treated as being equal to 2.0 Earth years, which means that a person who is, say, 50 by Earth calendars is entitled to declare to all and sundry that he/she is 25.)

2. THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS HIS/HER WEIGHT IN TERMS OF MARTIAN GRAVITY

(Surface gravity on Mars is slightly less than half that of Earth, which means that a person of sixteen stone would weigh less than eight stone on Mars. In cases where an Honorary Martian does not want to strain listeners' credulity, he/she may decide not to claim the full Martian gravity allowance. In other words, an Honorary Martian can claim to be any weight he/she thinks fit.)

In return for these privileges all Honorary Martians solemnly promise :

- (a) never to take part in or assist invasions of the Earth,
- (b) never to indulge in indiscriminate canal-building,
- (c) never to take the names of Edgar Rice Burroughs, Stanley Weinbaum or Ray Bradbury in vain,
- (d) never to stow away on Mariner space craft or similar vehicles,
- (e) always to take appropriate steps on seeing another Honorary Martian suffering from the complaint which is endemic on the planet of endless deserts, namely — acute thirst.

Signed *Bob Shaw*
(Chief Martian in Exile)