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VISIT OF MAJOR YURI GAGARIN

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ON 13 July during his five-day visit to this country Major Yuri Gagarin, the first man to be placed in orbit round the earth in a space vehicle, was received by the President and Officers of the Society in the Society's apartments. Major Gagarin was accompanied by His Excellency The Soviet Ambassador Mr Soldatov, Lieutenant-General N. P. Kamanin, Colonel N. N. Denisov, Mr Romanov, Mr Pavlov, other members of his party and representatives of the Soviet Embassy.

The President and Officers, having welcomed Major Gagarin, entertained the visitors to lunch at which several other Fellows were present. After a few words of welcome by the President, Major Gagarin responded in a felicitous speech in which he made reference to the interest of Soviet scientists in the Royal Society and the work of the Fellows and in particular recalled the Tercentenary Celebrations. He referred to Isaac Newton's laws of motion as an essential step to his journey in space on 12 April 1961. He expressed the hope that international co-operation in scientific research would continue not only in the exploration of space but in all other scientific fields. He concluded by saying that he would treasure, as a souvenir of a memorable occasion, the books presented to him by the Society, which included two volumes of *The Correspondence of Isaac Newton*.

The lunch party then proceeded to the Library where the visitors were introduced to members of Council and coffee was served. Major Gagarin showed a great deal of interest in Newtonia displayed. These included the reflecting telescope and the manuscript of the *Principia*. Other exhibits were the certificates of election of Mendeleef, Pavlov and other Russian Foreign Members of the Society as well as the gifts presented by the Academies of Sciences of the Soviet Union on the occasion of the Tercentenary Celebrations.

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MAJOR YURI GAGARIN

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