

Arthur C. Clarke – 1917-2008

■ **Dec 16, 1917:**

Arthur C. Clarke born in Minehead, England, son of a farmer

■ **1945:** Writes memo during RAF service in World War II in which he predicts that geostationary satellites in orbit will make it possible for opposite sides of world to stay in radio contact

Wireless World

October 1945

EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL RELAYS

Can Rocket Stations Give World-wide Radio Coverage?

By ARTHUR C. CLARKE

Orbit now named **Clarke Orbit** by International Astronomical Union



■ **1957:** World's first satellite, **Sputnik**, heralds space age

■ **1960:** **Echo 1**
First communications satellite is launched – giant balloon reflects signals passively

■ **1968:** Clarke co-writes screenplay for **2001: A Space Odyssey** with director **Stanley Kubrick** – one of most important science fiction films ever made



■ **1989:** Clarke's short story, **Dial F for Frankenstein**, inspires British computer guru **Tim Berners-Lee** to invent *World Wide Web*

■ **1994:** Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize. Receives knighthood in 2000

■ **1951-2008:** Clarke writes more than 100 books and 1,000 short stories and essays.

Best-known books include **Childhood's End**, 1953; **The City and The Stars**, 1956; **The Nine Billion Names of God**, 1967; **Rendezvous with Rama**, 1973; **Imperial Earth**, 1975; and **The Songs of Distant Earth**, 1986

■ **2007:** Marking his 90th orbit of the sun in December, Clarke makes three birthday wishes: as well as peace in Sri Lanka, his adopted homeland, he hopes for evidence of extra-terrestrial life and for the world to kick its oil habit

■ **March 19, 2008:** Sir Arthur C. Clarke dies at his home as a result of breathing problems. His final novel, **The Last Theorem**, co-written with American author **Frederik Pohl**, will be published later this year