

FOR A SPACE PROBER

*From Time's obscure beginning, the Olympians
Have, moved by pity, anger, sometimes mirth,
Poured an abundant store of missiles down
On the resigned, defenceless sons of Earth.*

*Hailstones and chiding thunderclaps of Jove,
Remote directives from the constellations:
Aye, the celestials have swooped down themselves,
Grim bent on miracles or incarnations.*

*Earth and her offspring patiently endured,
(Having no choice) and as the years rolled by
In trial and toil prepared their counterstroke—
And now 'tis man who dares assault the sky.*

*Fear not, Immortals, we forgive your faults,
And as we come to claim our promised place
Aim only to repay the good you gave
And warm with human love the chill of space.*

Thomas G. Bergin

Thomas Goddard Bergin is Master of Timothy Dwight College at Yale University, Sterling Professor of Romance Languages, and author of two volumes of light verse. The suggestion was made to him by G. F. Pieper, a former Fellow at Timothy Dwight and the author of an accompanying paper, that he write a poem that

would be appropriate to be launched into outer space in a satellite. The thought appealed to Dr. Bergin. His "For a Space Prober" was written and subsequently photoengraved on an aluminum panel of an electronics package in the TRAAC satellite launched on Nov. 15, 1961.