



On This Date

1679 – Explorers in present-day Minnesota observed the headwaters of the Mississippi River. Future city of Duluth namesake and expedition leader Daniel Greysolon, Sieur DuLhut also helped establish French fur trading posts in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and other forts in the vicinity.

1698 – In an effort to free mines of water, British inventor Thomas Savery patented the first steam engine. Savery Hydraulics, headquartered in Coventry, to this day manufactures hydraulic systems and components.

1985 – The European Space Agency's *Giotto* spacecraft launched from French Guinea. Less than a year later, it was the first to obtain close-up images of a comet when it visited Halley's Comet. Images revealed that only about 10% of the comet's surface was active, that it had a peanut-shaped nucleus, and that it was composed of roughly 80% dust.

Out-of-this-World Trivia

Jupiter's Great Red Spot is a massive storm that's been raging for more than 400 years.

Joke of the Day

Q: What do you call an alligator who sneaks up on you from behind?

A: A tail-gator!

Happy Birthday!

Robert Ito, born in 1931, is a Canadian actor of Japanese descent best known for standout roles including Sam Fujiyama in *Quincy, M.E.* and Larry Mishima in



the 1980s primetime soap opera *Falcon Crest*. His film roles include *The Terminal*, *Midway*, and the TV movie *Trial at Fortitude Bay*, for which he was nominated for a Gemini Award. The talented Ito also lent his voice to a long list of animated series, such as *The Smurfs*, *Darkwing Duck*, and *Batman: The Animated Series*. A versatile and respected actor in the industry, Ito and his wife, Lucy Akira, have two children and live in Los Angeles. He is the last surviving major cast member of *Quincy, M.E.*