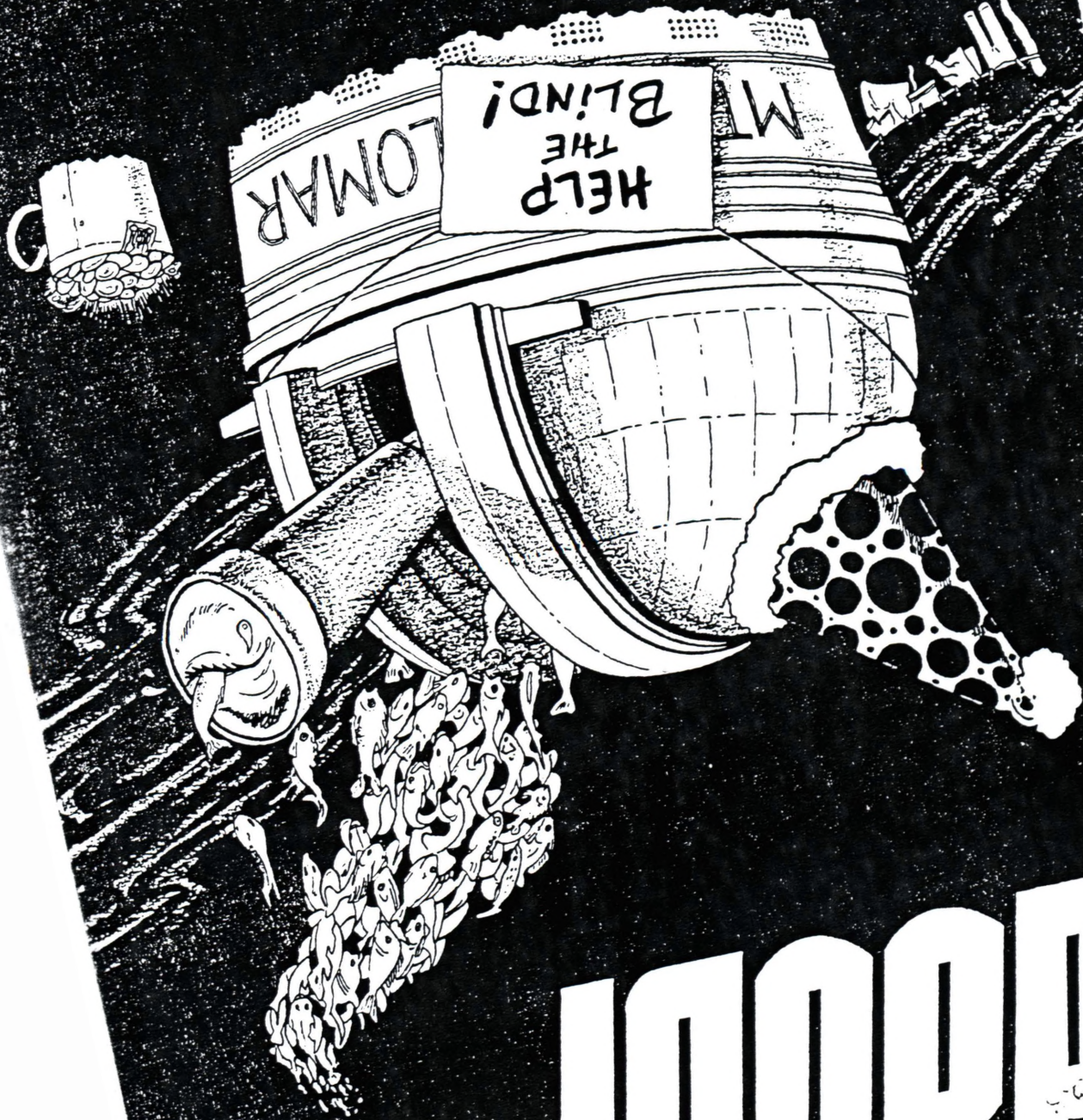


TIFFANY THAYER

EDITED BY

MT CASTILLO



1990P

DOUBT

The Fortean Society Magazine

Edited by TIFFANY THAYER

Secretary of the
FORTEAN SOCIETYBox 192 Grand Central Annex
New York City

1931 A D = the year 1 F S

We use the Fortean 13-month calendar
Membership available to all

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In ENGLAND address

Eric Frank Russell

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and many universities have complete files.Ask us for list of back numbers still
available.

OUR COVER

Art Castillo is the MFS who proposes these changes in the 3c commemorative stamp which the U.S.P.O. has issued to honor the White Elephant of Palomar. We do not think it will do any good, but we're sending a copy to the Bureau of Engraving with a Fortean petition.

The effrontery of the Post Office in issuing any stamp to commemorate that six-to-seven-million-dollar hoax is exceeded only by its stupidity. They'll be putting Al Capone and Yellow-Kid Weil on a stamp before we know it—maybe even Monsignor Sheen!

When FDR turned the P.O. Department into a Stamp-of-the-Month Club, we had no objections. A great many Forteans are stamp collectors, and it's better to spend the tax take on steel engravings than on brass buttons. (If button-collecting members want to make something of that, let us hear from them. We are ready to defend our position.)

However, the stamp-makers have gone much too far on two recent designs: the aforesaid Palomar issue (which we revise), and one called "These IMMORTAL CHAPLAINS". These Immortal Chaplains is the next hunk of hokey to be eliminated by the Fortean Society. We solicit designs showing four heads from some other bunco profession to replace the four in the god-racket.

CHAPTER THREE

The artist who did the cover, Art Castillo, is energetically assembling the Forteans in and near Chicago with a view toward holding meetings. If you are interested, ask for his address.

CASTILLO WRITES

Some questions I would like to have answered once and for all, as such:

1. What about the Shaver Mystery AMAZING STORIES has brought about as if it were a complete novelty?

ANS: *The material mentioned is science-fiction, an art form subject only to literary criticism. Literary criticism is not the function of the Fortean Society. We take no more cognizance of the so-called "Shaver Mystery" than the police department takes of murders alleged in detective stories.*

2. Just what did Fort live on? Don't tell me his books kept him supplied for over ten years?

ANS: *Fort's income from his books was negligible. He was a newspaper reporter and free-lance writer until about 1910 A.D. His income was from a small inheritance in real estate and securities.*

3. What in hell are Petrillo and Lewis doing on the list of nominees for Named Fellowships? They may be defying Authority, but they're not too particular about how they do it.

ANS: *The names were listed because they were sent in by members. Your prejudice against them is inspired by the wipers.*

4. Had Fort ever read Nietzsche or Newbrough and what did he think about them, if so?

ANS: *Fort had read considerable Nietzsche, and admired him greatly, especially as a poet. We never discussed Newbrough. The assumption is that Fort did not know him.*

5. Just how did Fort ever get over to London and for what earthly or un-earthly reason did he go?

ANS: *Fort went by steamer, with his wife, first, for the general reason that any man has for traveling, second, because he felt that his writing was going stale and had met with little success in the United States: he hoped that a change of scene would reinspire his lost urge, and that he might have better luck publishing abroad. When he discovered the British Museum, he stayed.*

6. Isn't it a little confusing using the old style calendar alongside of the daily Gregorian abortion, or am I being too presumptuous? At least, I'm confused, but I suppose, so are calendar makers?

ANS: *Most of the confusion is removed by use of the new Fortean Society Perpetual Thirteen-Month Calendar, illustrated by Iktomi and others, 16 pp. From the Society, \$1.00.*

I was going to put in a bid for the almighty chair of FORT, but I think that my field is more in art and literature, though I do have a strong love for philosophy*. My own nomination for the chair is Philip Wylie. You know, all this time, I'd been laboring under the illusion that Wylie was a Fortean. If anyone deserves it, it's him. (sic)

ANS: *Philip Wylie is not an MFS. He has often been nominated for Fortean honors, but cogent objections are raised*

to naming him a Fellow, among them, that he accepted World Fraud II as a necessity and endorsed the participation of the United States.

I'm getting a little tired of hearing them attack communism for its "godlessness" instead of its "scientific" materialism. Conceivably, I might ignore the poison in a rattlesnake's fangs, but stand there yelling at it because when it dies it won't have the spiritual and divine pleasure of going to a Christian hell.

In the same issue of TIME in which Fort is plebeianly attacked, the pious Prof. Toynbee — who has angelfood crumbs in his bed — is interviewed, and his theory that the decline and fall of "civilization" is merely a stepping stone for the strengthening of religion, is expounded with some unintelligibility of which TIME is such a profound craftsman.

Says the Rev. Mr. Toynbee: "If religion is a chariot, it looks as if the wheels on which it mounts towards Heaven may be the periodic downfalls of civilization on Earth. It looks as if the movement of civilization may be cyclic and recurrent, while the movement of religion may be on a single continuous upward line."

Prof. Toynbee passes through so-called life under the delusion that there ever has been such a myth as "civilization", or any semblance of "culture" under the yoke of a "state." Never once does he realize that religion is a backwash for frightened or egotistical minds, that so long as children have their baubles, so long will the masses have their altars.

Merely because many thinkers regard religion as the cause of the deterioration of empires, pointing out the fanaticism of the Inquisition, Indiction, Holy Wars, etc., the "good" Prof. thinks that his solution is balm in Gilead. Religions like Christianity and Bhudism do not involve fanaticism, and though they may have directly or indirectly inspired many such disintegrations, they cannot be really blamed as infectious to empires. Actually, their repugnance lies in their contagious mental paralysis to otherwise gloriously free thoughts.

Prof. Toynbee is a living example of this debauchery.

Metaphorically—perhaps with a touch of spiritual insight—ahem!—religion and so-called civilization are actually lop-sided wheels on the chariot of Successful Futility progressing around a jellyfish race-track. Maybe empires do corrupt themselves but religion and orthodoxy unlimited sure isn't standing innocently on the sidelines.

"Seek and ye shall find," is one of the most sardonic utterings to ever be mouthed by a human being so frustrated as to overturn bartering tables with such violence as to have it recorded in all four gospels. The eternal empty search of religion, science, and philosophy for a "final"—each believing they have found it and adhering to it with paganish fervor as a man who flits from church to church . . . the theologian searching for a "goal", the scientist for "evidence", and the

philosopher for "proof." The damnable irony that each should seek to see there is nothing to seek . . .

Say!

Whole page devoted to old 666 in this Sunday's American Weekly (APRIL 11, 1948). This is absolutely priceless! This is the funniest thing I think I have ever laid eyes on! Why didn't YS tell about the curse Crowley laid on his physician, a Dr. William Brown Thomson, in DOUBT No. 20?

" . . . you'll die within 24 hours after my death. I swear it by the Great Spirit Taphtatharath!"

The obiescent doctor, willing to go along with a gag, dropped dead eighteen hours after Crowley's death. The superstitious believe he died of "natural causes".

ANS: *The curse was not published because it was a plagiarism on Crowley's part, the same story being told of Louis XI of France. Its fulfillment was not published because the datum had not reached us.*

Why not try to publish his "The Equinox" which Supreme Justice Francis Murphy called, "the most lascivious and libidinous book ever published in the United States.? It must be good . . .

ANS: *It is good—reading—but it is not particularly Fortean. Justice Murphy was referring to volume eleven only, that being the only volume of the Equinox published in the U.S. The preceding ten volumes were published in London. Good second-hand sets of the work are usually available. The Society can always find a set for \$125.00.*

A British justice has commended his works with a suitable degree of praise sufficient to interest me: "I have been engaged in the administration of the law for more than 40 years, and I have never heard such dreadful, horrible, blasphemous and abominable stuff."

The writer of the article, a Warren Hall, doesn't seem to have the usual attitude of the typical Weekly visSECTIONIST. In fact, you'd almost suspect that he was cheering "The Beast" in silent and subtle prose, or that he wished he had been Crowley.

Odd . . .

Say! Are you for Edward Bellamy and that mass indocrination drivell in "Looking Backward" or against him?

ANS: *The Society does not endorse or condemn any political theories. Bellamy is worth reading.*

May I make a recommendation to the august or not-so-august or in-between Fortean Society that you enlighten the other members who do not know about Emil Ludwig's DOCTOR FREUD, an iconoclastic analysis on guess who? Even though Ludwig retains the attitude of a shocked Puritan (the dog!) throughout the book, the debunking is well handled and certainly no comfort to the Freudian circus.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

(Castillo letter continued)

More planks for PPP:

1. Encyclopedia Britannica in every insane asylum in the world.

2. A radioactive cloud over every Weather Bureau.

3. Radar installed on street-car trolleys.

4. Thirty new wings added to the White House for "breathing space".

5. Sepulchres dedicated to the "unknown WAC", "unknown WAVE", "unknown SPAR", "unknown Marine", "unknown seaman", "unknown aviator", "unknown street cleaner", "unknown guinea pig", "unknown carrier pigeon", and "unknown unknown".

6. Fifty copyists employed to rewrite the "Natural History of Nonsense" into what is should be: "The Natural History of Nonsense in The Natural History of Nonsense."

7. Introduction to Congress of the Aid-to-Mercury-Venus-Mars-Jupiter-Saturn-Uranus-Neptune-Pluto-Plan.

8. Inculcations of "See your Psychiatrist Week".

PLAN FOR FORTEAN COAT OF ARMS

(Castillo letter continued)

A shield bordered by question marks and ripe red raspberries divided into four parts. In the first, a reproduction of the drawing on the cover of DOUBT #20 showing Fort's supremacy "on high". In the second, a picture of the Pope reading Shelley's "Necessity of Atheism". In the third, a picture of Einstein selling old puzzle books on a street corner. And in the last, — (you supply this one) — Will be glad to design same free of charge if anyone can think up more original shape than shield . . .

By the way — since organized medical science seems too foul, if I get sick, where shall I go?

ANS: *Go to a Fortean medical doctor, and follow as much of his advice as seems good to you. The mere possession of a medical degree is not completely damning in itself. The trick is to find a Fortean medico while you are in good health. If you can ask a few questions of the man when he is not being consulted professionally, find out where he stands on vaccination, vivisection, sulfa and other "miracle" drugs.*

And how about some comments on Richard M. Weaver's "IDEAS HAVE CONSEQUENCES"?

ANS: *Supply us with the book and we'll comment.*

CHAPTER TWO

The San Francisco group—Kirk Drusai, Moderator—reports larger attendance at each meeting, and no major casualties.

At a recent meeting they heard — at close range — what happened to the Nahanni Expedition to "Headless" Valley. MFS Bristol was one of the leaders of the group, which ran head-on into the Canadian Government and came out second in the tussle. Bristol has now settled in Seattle. No reason for the official opposition to the enterprise is available, but the suggestion is that mem-

bers of a party get so sore at each other, waiting for the Dominion to make up its mind, that they snap each other's heads off. Hence the legend.

At a previous meeting Chapter Two was mystified by Al Rhine, magician and "telepathist". He was so good that not even Fortean could tell how he did it.

ELEPHANT LAYS EGG

The purpose of Palomar has already been achieved. That is to say, the money has been spent, and a group headed by Hubble has a cynosure. The first photos show even less than we expected. Adjustments are necessary. The adjustments are so delicate they cannot be made before "next year", and then only about 24 nights out of 365 will be appropriate for observations.

We suggest that on off-nights the camera be devoted to making 200-inch photographs of all the Kaempfferts, large and small (including *Time*, a magazine), showing them engaged in eating their own verbal spew of the past six years or more. In case any of them have mislaid the clippings, we can supply them. We'll also supply music to cover the awful sound of their chomping — the Whiffenpoof Raspberry Song, "Push Back that Old Frontier!"

FIRST PRIZE

It's Hoernlein, in a photo-finish, with Oltcher, Russell, Woodman, F. McMahon, Wakefield and a large group pushing him hard.

HOERNLEIN — That planes sprayed Kobe with 8,000 gallons of DDT on Fort 12, 18 FS, "in an effort to prevent spread of sleeping sickness".

ELSENDER—That the "Worst sleeping sickness epidemic in Japan's history has affected 1589 people in Tokio alone", as of Fort 9, 18 FS.

(YS asks if the natives of Kobe and Tokio have been forcibly vaccinated — or what other great superiority of the white race has been perpetrated upon them?)

OLTCHER — That on Sunday July 11 old style, in Guildford, England, the Bishop's sermon was interrupted when his crozier conked him on the head. "It slipped," explained the chaplain who was carrying the crozier. He is the Rev. Ed. Gedge — and YS suggests that he is a fit hero to be portrayed on any nation's postage stamps. That is OUR chaplain!

RUSSELL — sends a headline from the Manchester *Guardian*, April 28, 1948 old style: "PEERS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ABOLITION OF HANGING" To which Russell adds — "NATCH!"

F. MCMAHON — The following story from the N.Y. *Herald-Tribune* is printed in its entirety.

CHINESE END HUNGER STRIKE

104 Women Internees Protested Suicide of Bride, 32

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 22 (UP). — A hunger strike by 104 Chinese women interned in the United States Immigration detention building ended today twenty-four hours after they began their "protest" against the suicide of a thirty-two-year-old Chinese bride.

Immigration Chief I. F. Wixon said all the women, had ended their strike by breakfast. "These things never last long," Mr. Wixon said. "Usually they get pretty hungry after one day."

WOODMAN—Apparently the Chamber of Commerce of Alice, Texas, has hired a publicity man. They not only have lights in the sky (see SKY OBJECTS, this issue) but — when a cornerstone was opened, it was found to contain a newspaper dated Sept. 20, 1912, but the record is clear that the stone was sealed on July 25, 1912. "The box was resealed and put back into the cornerstone for later generations to figure out."

WAKEFIELD — Under the headline, "Einstein Jest In Interview", the Oakland (Calif.) *Tribune* quotes the professor as asking a reporter, "What paper are you lying for?" . . . What makes the copy desk of the Oakland *Tribune* think Einstein was jesting?

HOERNLEIN (and an anonymous contrib) — That the "Women's Bureau" (whatever that is), Washington, D.C., discourages women from becoming astronomers because the male professionals already at it "live longer than anybody except ministers. They rarely retire." . . . And, indeed, why should they ever do either?

OLTCHER — That one Dr. Manfred Curry, writing in the Northwestern University's *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* (the issue current on Oct. 15, old style), propounds the theory that "North winds may lead to an epidemic of spontaneous murders".

RUSSELL — sends a squip from the Liverpool *Echo* stating "That the value of a newspaper is not confined to reading matter is indicated by the following list of uses:" and there follows 17 "uses", but the only use they are presently fit for is not mentioned.

RUSSELL also sends the yarn of the radio operator on the SS *William Carson*, who "went overboard during a mutiny in the ship". We treasure this datum because it quotes a certain Dutch ship as having received that message "by blinker signal" on the night after the radio man had sent an "SOS", July 12, old style. Subsequent stories allege that the radio man (whose name has not reached us) went mad before he sent the message about the "mutiny" and "then committed suicide".

The *Seafarers' Log*, as quoted by the IWW paper, *Industrial Worker*, does a

complete job of whitewash on the crew: Probably the subject is much too hot to handle, but this is not the first radio man who has turned up missing after sending an SOS. See DOUBT #4, where a Greek freighter full of scrap iron "for Rotterdam" is cited. It went down off Hatteras . . . Was it Weber and Fields who used to ask: "Did she fall or was she pushed?"

RUSSELL — That an American war-crimes tribunal today (July 29 old style) acquitted all twenty-three former high officials of the I. G. Farben industrial empire of two major war crimes.

RUSSELL — That the N.Y. *Times* stated that Babe Ruth was "one of the first people to be injected" with terofterin, a new drug being touted as effective in cancer treatment. The *Times* is quoted as calling the treatment "one of the most exciting medical investigations of the generation". When the injections began his condition improved and remained stable for several months. Then suddenly he grew worse . . . The next day, saith the Liverpool *Echo*: "A N.Y. *Herald Tribune* report that terofterin was used in the fight to save the life of Babe Ruth . . . was denied by the Memorial Hospital Centre for Cancer and Associated Diseases where Ruth died."

Where's the little pea, boys?

"LOWER" ANIMALS

A parrot outside the Christian Science Church in Oak Park, Ill., screamed, "Quiet! Quiet!" until the worshippers called the cops. 10-9-18 F.S. *Cr Castillo*

A bass near Whiteville, Tennessee, jumped out of the water and socked the fisherman. *Time*, 7-26-48 old style, *Cr Castillo*.

Nine penguins were found walking in the street of North Adelaide, Australia, 12 miles from sea. 7-10-48 old style. *Cr Chibbett*

A Chinese pheasant was found "strolling" in the aisles of a Spokane department store. 11-5-18 FS. *Cr Oltcher*

A black cat was found swimming "feebly" 4 miles from land in Morecambe Bay, 6-29-48 old style. *Cr Elsander*

A lady told police she saw a lion in the street, Washington, D.C., Fort 2, 18 FS. The cops found a starved fox a block away. "It died a few moments later." The lady insisted it was not the same beast she had seen. *Cr Reagan*

Only in passing we note that another Manx cat has turned up, and its owners never saw the like! It was brought to mind because A.C. Joseph of Toronto has "university experts" stumped by something he found on his breakfast table. It has no legs — but it jumps — and the Toronto Evening *Telegram* asks if it's animal, vegetable or mineral. The description is that of a Mexican jumping bean! *Cr Bowie-Reed*

WE BREAK DOWN

Never — or hardly ever — have we thought that a Fortean Law could be formulated on any subject, but that just shows how little we were prepared for Macomb, Illinois, and its fires. After a thorough study of the data, we give you Fort's Law for Explaining Mysterious Fires. It is — *Cherchez la Wonet*.

That is to say that no matter what the real circumstances (which nobody ever knows) and no matter what fictional circumstances the wypers invent. (which is all you or I ever have to go by), sooner or later an adolescent female will be found or invented to "confess" or to "be accused of" or to "explain" the otherwise inexplicable. That is *Wonet*.

The wypers build the fires, and the wypers put them out. Blessed be the Name of the Wypers.

In the Macomb case, the-hysterical rewrite men — probably a hundred miles from the farm — larded their original tale with so much bafflement that not even miracles or magic could have got them out of it. So that even when they sprung *Wonet* nobody believed them.

YS recommends that the so-called journalists who concocted this mystery read S.S. Van Dyne's rules for writing whodunits. One cardinal principle of the craft is that no new character shall walk into the plot near the finish and shoulder the blame. The guilty party has to be on the scene at the time the crime is committed or the story isn't kosher.

Well, our coverage of the Macomb yarn is complete — to say the least — and *Wonet* is not mentioned once until she turns up, a scapegoat, complete with horns and rue.

Photographs of the family made early in the case show two young children of Arthur McNeil, a boy named "Art" and a girl labeled "Ethel". No *Wonet*. And neither does "Ethel" of the family group resemble the solo photos of "Wonet" printed later. Neither does any wyper say that *Wonet* used to be called "Ethel" or that she has such a middle name. In fact, the people who "solved" the mystery show no more consideration for the previously published details which want fitting in than a banker feels for a "gold-star" mother.

Contributors to Fort's law were — Royer, Reagan, Bush, Hoernlein, Bennett, D. Carlson, Goeller, Gordes, Willets, Renshaw, Morse, McMahon, Sussman, Leclade, Marble, E.S. Anderson, Small, Marshall, Riggs, Woodman, Pollard, Rayner, Mealy, Castillo, Ransom, Hehr, Bonavia, Roneche, Bump, Giles, Scharpen, Satell, M.A. Ferguson, Morrison, Oltcher, Markham, Martin, J.B. Cornell, Brooks, Spingola, Dundas, Niehuis, Block, Douglas, Sheeley, and many, many more.

Especially fine work was done for the Society throughout the case by MFS Gomer Bath, columnist, who called Fort to witness every day for his readers, and

who scoffs the alleged confession of Wonet, Wanet, Juanet, as fantastically impossible. We agree with Brother Gomer. But — the next time your wallpaper bursts into flame — remember Fort's Law: *Cherchez la Wonet*.

MORE FIRES

Two fires in one day, Fort 24, 18 FS, home of William Owen in Seattle. *Cr* Hoernlein

Two fires in one week in the cosmic ray laboratory of the Melbourne (Aussie) U. The second fire destroyed the results of two year's "work". *Cr* Castillo

Bets will be taken that Palomar has fires sooner or later. How else are they going to get rid of that thing?

SINISTER BARRIER

Russell's book which went out of print because Moloch demanded the paper is again available. Newcomers to the Fortean fold should know that the novel is a fantasy, inspired in part by Fort's suggestion that we are property. Published, now, in the U.S., bound in cloth, \$3.00 from the Society.

CARR'S ROOM BEYOND

MFS Robert Spencer Carr, author of *Morning Star*, which many read in the Saturday Evening Post, has a new book for your Fortean shelf. It is a streamlined approach to the theme of Rider Haggard's *She*. From the Society, \$3.00

NEARING'S REVOLUTION

The second printing of Scott Nearing's *Revolution of Our Time* is ready. You may not like the book's implications or relish the course it points, but if you have lived through the past 20 years you must acknowledge its verity, and if you live through the next 20, you will probably see its projections made into history by the day. Order direct from the publishers. \$1.00. Make checks payable to World Events, and address them, 125 Fifth Street, NE, Washington 2 D.C.

SKY OBJECTS

Those quite consistently unreliable sources, the press services — AP, UP, INS — continue to wish you to believe that the sky is full of menace. They have not permitted "disks" and "saucers" to remain out of the papers more than a

few weeks at a time all year long. (One demi-literate on the AP staff has them guided by sun-beams!)

Especially noticeable in the new crop is the concentration upon INLAND sources for most of these reports. You may recall that cities like Chicago, Detroit and St. Louis could work up no enthusiasm for the half-witted practice of Air-Raid-Wardening in World Fraud II. Only the frustrated, incompetent nincompoops of coastal cities could be induced to run around with their childish whistles during black-outs, in any numbers or with any real zeal. That is now being changed for World Fraud III. The Office of Strategic Services in Washington, or some other purveyor of mind-crippling nonsense, is making sure that everybody, everywhere "believes in" mysteriously guided missiles of limitless range and uncanny maneuverability. The pay-off came when an alleged pilot, over Fargo, North Dakota, reported that in the night of Oct. 11-12 old style something outflew him in a "dog-fight" lasting half an hour.

Before that — on June 26 old style — a "secret" order to U.S. troops "in all portions of the globe" told them to watch for flying discs. This order was so "secret" that it ran in newspapers from Philadelphia to Denver — INLAND, you see.

The membership will please continue to send in data on this subject, but it would be a waste of DOUBT'S limited space to reprint it. Your daily wipers contain every word of it, be assured, and you'll get more and more of the same as time goes on.

The high spots were — April 9 — Flying "snowballs" over Delaware, Ohio.

April 9 — "Huge bird" all over Middle West, Illinois, St. Louis, Mo., etc.

April 10 — Flying "men" over Longview, Wash.

April 12 — "Meteor" over LA.

June 9 — Meteorite in an El Monte, Calif., dooryard.

From July 24 — "Saucers" in Alabama and everywhere else.

A headline in the N.Y. Times, 3-30-48 old style, read: ATOMIC SPACESHIPS SEEN . . . If you stopped reading there, as most people did, your assumption would be that atomic-fueled "space-ships" are a reality. The story below that head is a prediction that somebody will try to build one within 30 years.

On June 20 and thereafter, in East Texas, "phantom lights" were seen. The subsequent explanation was that a man found a satchel with a gun in it — and pulled the trigger. On July 26, over Alice, Texas, a light stood still. It stood still for three days or more. Explanation — the Chamber of Commerce wanted visitors.

In other countries the things seen are not so frequently described as "saucers":

Ghent, Belgium, April 1, "light green or blue" balls of fire, travel toward the coast. No number stated but the inference is plural.

Lake Doiran, Greece, May 7, a "saucer" going South. (UP calls the vision "flying saucer rockets", just like that.)

Saint Sulpice, Switzerland, June 18. Train of fire that wailed "like a siren".

Brisbane, Australia, July 28. "Meteor" exploded over the city, knocking crockery off shelves.

London, Aug. 13, "queer lights" attributed to the so-called Perseides.

Stockholm, Aug. 24. "Sky octopus". INS.

Copenhagen, Aug. 28. "Silver Saucer" simultaneously with "five submarines of unknown nationality" *sic!* This is an unidentified despatch in the LA Times.

Credit—Lannoy, Royer, Block, Willets, Pollard, Humphrey, Burbank, Oltcher, Niehuis, Spingola, Cordes, Raven, Renshaw, Markham, Marshall, Hoernlein, Willis, Morrison, Douglas, Jensen, Woodman, McMahan, Hamel, Satell, Mealy, Bennett, Bush, M.B. Ferguson, Firestone, D. Carlson, Saunders, E.S. Anderson, Marble, Russell, Morse, Bowie-Reed, Giles, Bonavia, Castillo, Sheeley, Williams, Wakefield, Goeller, Herbert, Sowers, Reagan, Brod, Haliburton, Cass, Elsander, Gee.

MFS Herbert's contribution contains reference to the finding of something, July 30 old style, in Los Angeles river bed, "described by sheriff's deputies as probably a Japanese bomb or land mine". That's from the San Bernardino Sun, which apparently does not know the difference between the "war" it has just finished and the one it is helping to start.

EXPLOSIONS ETC

While saucers fly, these noises occur nearer home:

Hazleton, Pa. A "silver ball" rolled down the street in a rainstorm, June 27, "seemed to blow up as the warehouse roof was ripped away."

Altadena, Calif. June 29. A "detonation" — called "another of the mysterious blasts which have been felt in the Pasadena area during the last year."

Roanoke, Va. July 3. "Streak of flame followed by a violent explosion"—called a meteor.

Lone Pine, Calif. July 21. A mountain 30 miles SW, "Split with a resounding roar." Observed by Mrs. Laverne Whiting, a forest ranger's wife.

New York City, July 25. A "tremendous explosion" aboard a vessel in N.Y. Bay. Seen from a plane. When police and others arrived—no evidence of any kind.

New York — in a Brooklyn subway train — Aug. 26. A man was carrying a package. It "exploded and burst into flame". Somebody played an extinguisher on it. The man disappeared in the crowd. That is all.

Seattle, Sept. 8. "Heavy explosion." No clues.

Orleans, near Hyannis, Mass. Sept. 25. "Rumbling" followed by "explosion like an aerial bomb" SIC, SIC, SIC. It was the third such. The others, "in July" and Sept. 6.

TWO YEARS AGO — Oct. 12, 1946 old style — mysterious explosions (un-numbered) had been rattling windows day and night in Fort Erie, (? in Canada near Buffalo, N.Y.) "Some believe . . . caused by subterranean natural-gas pockets."

Fresno, Oct. 12, 1948 old style. Believed to be a meteor, seen to explode "and drop to the ground".

Arizona, Southern California, Nevada, Colorado — Oct. 14. "Flaming object" — exploded. Believed to be a "meteor or fireball".

Cr Pollard, Castillo, Goeller, Bennett, Bloch, Reagan, Hoernlein, Bristol, Hammett, Barneson.

ARACHNEIDS

Stuff which police and other "authorities" describe as spider web, floated over the Pacific coast from Sacramento to San Jose, "like silver scarfs", etc., etc., Oct. 1, 18 FS. Several samples were sent to us by MFS Josephine di Gava. Cr also, Spingola, E.S. Anderson, and Sekavec. It looks like spider web to us.

RED SNOW 1422

"At the corner of the Piazza Caricamento (in Genoa), is the residence of the Adorni family, now a hotel, and over the arches of Sottoripa there are the palaces of Genoa's chief merchants. This is the part which suffered most from the Spaniards (read *Aragonese*) in 1422, an event foreshadowed by a thunderbolt striking the campanile of San Lorenzo and by blood-red snow which fell on the mountains." *The City of Genoa*, by Robert W. Carden, London, 1908. p. 146.

RED RAIN

Houses, roofs, fields and trees in Southern Portugal were covered with reddish "mud" blotches, April 15, old style. Official explanation, "from the Sahara". Cr Elsander

A vast "dust" cloud of yellowish red swept over Hungary two days before. Official explanation, "from the Ukraine". Cr Elsander

Undated . . . A pink fog — "rosy-hued bank" 50 feet by half a mile — covered the harbor of Portland, Me. Official explanation, "peculiar atmospheric conditions". Cr Gould

GREEN RAIN AGAIN

A boy brought a bucket of the Mobile, Ala., green rain to the newspaper office, but it is difficult to state when the rain fell. The story was in the New Bedford *Times* under date of July 6, in the Newark *Star-Ledger* July 9, in the Portland *Express* July 29, all old style. Cr Brooks, Oltcher, Woodman. No pronunciamientos.

In the same town, Aug. 9, Betty Wise *ae* 12, heard a kerplow beside her in a rainstorm — and there was a turtle six inches long. Cr Saunders, Oltcher, Woodman.

Turtles, as you all know, are used by the Air Force as "sea marking" when pilots have exhausted their supplies of resorcinolphthalein.

Frog fall (delayed report) Jan. 25, 1947 old style, between Waldport and Seal Rock, Oregon. "The frogs struck the windshields (of cars) almost preventing the action of the swipes". The frogs called "large". Cr Sheeley

Thousands of little green ones, noticed by *Time* (a magazine), observed in New Bedford, Mass., in the week before July 26, old style. Cr Reagan

Ten acres covered with them near Mudanya, Turkey, Oct. 16, 18 FS. Cr D. Carlson

A 12-inch trout, wet and flopping, found on a street of Boise, Idaho, July 12 old style. Since a point is made of "wet and slick" in the story, the assumption is that the street was dry. Whether the sky was clear or cloudy is not stated. Cr M. Ferguson.

NARROW ESCAPE

Your secretary has had a very narrow escape . . . Read this!

Sent in by Russell. "Author of a Nazi pamphlet entitled *Winston Churchill — the greatest criminal unhung*. Herman Trefez, was sentenced by a denazification court at Cannstadt yesterday (4-24-48 old style) to 150 days of state labour and forbidden to do other than menial labour for six years. He was also ordered to forfeit 10 per cent of his property."

Why, I might have written the book myself.

VASHTI McCOLLUM A.F.

Mrs. Vashti McCollum has Accepted Fellowship in the Fortean Society, being the first woman to do so. We welcome her heartily, and trust that she will be as alert to prevent Science from warping the mind of her son as she was to frustrate the Church's effort

A landslide of new nominations for Garry Davis as Fellow for 18 FS makes his election almost a certainty. The N.Y. *Daily News* headline "Eleanor Chills 'First Citizen' On World Unity" is only one more reason for Naming him. However, you have until Jan. 26 next year to comment or to nominate others.

PRO-SEMITIC NOTE

Ben Hecht's war in Palestine has brought the Society a good deal of critic-

ism, especially in England. The cry is to throw him out and step on him.

We can't do that.

The Fortean Society has no more disciplinary power over its members than Charles Fort has over his readers, and no more inclination to curb individual action and expression than Charles Fort had.

We are happy to point out, however, that the view Ben Hecht has taken is a very narrow one and highly un-Fortean. He has taken sides in a tribal war between the two principal branches of the Semitic race. That we deplore as discriminatory and exclusionistic. Indeed, some of our best friends are Arabs.

MORE RENUNCIATIONS

Because of their public acts subsequent to being honored by the Fortean Society, we take this means of disavowing Fortean support for the published opinions of —

Ben Hecht
James Burnham
Norman Thomas
Taylor Caldwell

ALOHA

After Wonet and the saucers, the next most popular Fortean with the membership this session was the "bangugut" deaths in Hawaii. Only young male Filipinos succumb. Medicos mystified. The record begins June 13 old style, when Dr. Majoska announced that it had been going on for 11 years. More than 83 had died in that time from the same syndrome, 4 since Jan. 1. The story in California wipers June 14. The Toronto *Star* ran the same story June 19.

On July 10, a man *ae* 36 died in Honolulu, bringing the total to 85.

Night of July 24, number 86.

Sept. 8. A Filipino doc attributed the syndrome to nightmare.

Sept. 9. Total now 88. Majoska not convinced of nightmare theory.

MFS Hehr suggests Huna, practiced in revenge. "It might be interesting to trace the illicit relations of the dead Filipinos with Hawaiian women." Cr Pollard, Wakefield, Saunders, Hehr, Raven, Elsander, Marshall, Leclède.

BIRDS CRASH

Eleven species of warbler and one red-eyed vireo crashed by hundreds into the Empire State Building, N.Y.C., early in morning of Fort 28, 18 FS. The INS raised the estimate to "thousands".

Official explanation, "mist".

BUT — "scores fell in the streets of Philadelphia "apparently" after colliding with tall buildings.

AND — "hundreds" fell around Nashville, Tenn., airport where there are no tall buildings. Down there, the explanation was "heat".

Seattle has a "little Capistrano" in an alley. "Thousands" of martins or swallows have been coming to the same hang-out "for at least five years". (Picture in *Seattle Times*. Fort 18, 18 FS)

The same paper, six days earlier had run a story attributing the spread of encephalitis (sleeping sickness) in Japan to the swallows. The birds may carry the "germ" which has made 2400 ill and killed 338. (See, in this issue, FIRST PRIZE) Cr McMahon, E.S. Anderson, Saunders, Oltcher, Squadrilli, Castillo, Bonavia, Gee, Hoernlein

CAN'T SELL CELLS

The fifth dimension cast a pearl before us about July 13, old style, in the iridescent character of John C. Brown and his "Master Cell". In an amazingly short summer, Brown's cell was condemned by Harvard, Johns Hopkins, the Department of Agriculture and the Interstate Commerce Commission. In the face of so much organized opposition, the assumption might be that the cell had merit, but Dr. Joseph Sieberlich, head of the U of New Hampshire's experimental station at Durham refused to say it was worthless. We are scratching Dr. Sieberlich in the hope of finding a Fortean. Cr Marshall, Oltcher, Hoernlein, Bloch, Kerr, Martin, Reagan.

HOW SMUG THE SMOG!

The headline is MFS Hillyer's, and the occasion is a "powdery precipitate" or gray dust said to fall periodically on a section of mid-Manhattan. An instance occurred on the evening of June 19, 1948 old style. ". . . meteorologists have denied that it is true smog."

The real McCoy hit San Francisco about 2:00 p.m., Oct. 6, 18 FS, accto MFS Spingola, and was noticed, stench-wise, first to the Westward and then in the Eastern parts of the city. Still, the official explanation was fumes from oil refineries to the East. No deaths attributed to it in the accounts we have.

A humdinger settled on Donora, Pa., about Oct. 19, 18 FS, stayed five days and is blamed for killing 20 "elderly" persons. . . "reports that chemical fumes from the Donora Zinc works of the American Steel and Wire Company were partially (sic) responsible have not been confirmed". The plant shut down, nevertheless.

On the afternoon of Oct. 28 old style, downtown Pittsburgh had a special stench which disappeared in about 3 hours. Cr Spingola, Hillyer, Oltcher, McMahon, Raven, Bonavia

FORTEAN LOSSES

MFS Russell Maloney, who made the *New Yorker* much funnier than it is likely to be again for some time, died, Fort 20, 18 FS.

Charles A. Beard, historian, often nominated for Fortean honors, died, Fort 18, 18 FS.

Montague Summers, a priest who held out for the reality of witchcraft to the

last, died, Aug. 24, 18 FS. See his books in your local library.

Rupert T. Gould, author of *Oddities, Enigmas, the Loch Ness Monster, the Case for the Sea Serpent*, and other books on Fortean topics, died, about Oct. 1, 18 FS at Canterbury. YS had some interesting correspondence with this Brains Truster in the years 7 and 8 FS, but the Briton could not appreciate Fort's humor and so never became one of us.

DATA ON DATA

Fortean from books, especially text books and so-called scientific reports, are always more welcome than newspaper slippings.

In sending newspaper clippings, please do not use "Scotch tape" . . . Please fold all clippings so the headline is OUTSIDE . . . Please put source, date and other details on the clipping itself — together with your name if you want credit.

GERMAN FORTEANA

We have in hand and in the course of translation several fine pieces of original thinking from Germany. In fact, we have more of this material than we can afford to hire Englished. Volunteer translators, competent to follow heterodox flights in German, who would do it for the Fortean fun of it, please write!

In proximate issues we shall have a critical essay on *Fuhrmann, Wirth, Fort, Das Welbüt treier Anssenseiter*, by Dr. Heinz Kloss of Stuttgart, also some original Fuhrmann, composed in English, also new ideas of Karl Neupert, who has a cellular geocosmos not unlike that of the Noreshans. We have also some exciting theories from Ernst Barthel (Dr. *phil. habil.*) which YS hopes to pass along.

All this material is found through the energies of Heinz Kloss — and more is promised!

TENTATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

OF

CHARLES FORT

1897 AD

?New York Sunday Journal, Comic supplement or other feature sections? (no direct evidence, and contributions would be anonymous if present.)

1904 AD

Youth's Companion, after Oct. 8. (We have an acceptance, of that date, for a "sketch" titled, "The Amateur Life Savers". Fort received \$15.00 for it.)

1904 Ad and After

New York Herald, and other New York newspapers from 1904-1906. (Some pieces may be signed but more will be anonymous. Their existence is certain. We have the following, undated "tear-outs" with no publication named: "The Cow That Passed the Regents'", "His Face Now Another's", "The Day of Two

Sunsets", "Ignatious Cassidy in a Greenhouse", all signed.

1905 AD

Black Cat, after March 4. (We have an acceptance, of that date, for a short story titled, "How the Government lost Sixty-four Dollars". Fort received a check for \$25.)

1905 AD

Popular Magazine, June, Vol. IV, No. 2. Contains, "With the Assistance of Fryhuysen". (The Society has a perfect copy of this magazine, presented by the Secretary in the year 4 FS — 1934 old style — also an undated "tear-out" of the same material contributed to the Society by LMFS Helen Dreiser, in the year 16 FS — 1946 old style, from Fort's own collection.)

1905 AD

Popular Magazine, August. Said to contain a story titled, "The Marooned Campers". (This information supplied by Street & Smith, Sept. 23, 1946 old style. The Society has no copy and no other evidence or record of publication.)

1905 AD

?Judge, Sept. 6? (probable date of publication).

(We have an acceptance dated June 30, mentioning no title, but, later in the year, about Sept. 6, Fort received a check from Judge for \$1.00 in payment for a contribution titled, "Stricly Fresh Eggs". It is assumed that acceptance and check are for the same piece, and that payment was made "upon publication".)

Examination of the pages of *Judge*, however, reveals only two egg jokes used after June 30 in that year: a short one on Nov. 4, "The Pattern Egg", and a longer one, somewhat in Fort's early style, in Nov. 18. The title is "Cruelty to Poultry", and the text follows:

The woman with the short hair and severe steel spectacles walked determinedly into the office of a down-town cold-storage warehouse.

"Sir," she said after a preliminary gesture with a bulky green umbrella, "I came here in the interest of dumb animals — to save them from unnecessary cruelty."

"But, madam," protested the manager, "there is absolutely no animal life in here to be maltreated. See; there are thousands of cases of eggs in cold storage here."

"Well, some one told me that there was cruelty to animals in here," persisted the crusader. "I understand that these are cold-storage eggs, preserved for six months or more in a frigid atmosphere below zero. Now, young man, could you swear that none of these eggs contain young chicks?"

"Why - er - some of them may contain chickens, but -"

"That will do!" snapped the crusader. "You see that every one of those young chickens is provided with a warm overcoat and a pair rubbers in this cold storage or you will hear from me very soon."

The manager promised.

1905 AD

Popular Magazine, September. Contains, "Twenty Campers". (The Society has only undated "tear-out" sheets—incomplete—contributed by LMFS Helen Dreiser, in the year 16 FS—1946 old style, from Fort's own collection. The date was supplied by Street & Smith.)

1905 AD

New York Herald, July 16. Contains "When the Museum Took Boarders". (We have an acceptance, dated October 24, stating that "Mystery in the Museum" would be published "in a few weeks". We also have a "tear-out" of the piece, from the Herald, bearing the title as given first above, with an illustration by Windsor McCay as printed and dated in Fort's hand, as first above. Contributed by LMFS Helen Dreiser in the year 16 FS—1946 old style, from Fort's own collection.)

1905 AD

Popular Magazine, December. Said to contain a story titled, "I Meddled". (This information supplied by Street & Smith, Sept. 23, 1946 old style. The Society has no copy and no other evidence or record of publication.)

1906 AD

Tom Watson's Magazine, January, Vol. III, No. 3. Contains "How Sentiment Was Discouraged in Sim". (The Society has a perfect copy of this magazine, presented by the Secretary in the year 2 FS—1932 old style; also, an acceptance notice dated November 24, 1905.)

1906 AD

Smith's Magazine, February. Contains, "Not Like Mother's". (The Society has only undated "tear-out" sheets, complete, contributed by LMFS Helen Dreiser, in the year 16 FS—1946 old style, from Fort's own collection. The date was supplied by Street & Smith.)

1906 AD

Tom Watson's Magazine, March, Vol. IV, No. 1. Contains, "A Radical Corpuscule". (The Society has a perfect copy of this magazine, presented by the Secretary in the year 2 FS—1932 old style. Probably this is the same story as one titled, "Is This Earth Alive?", referred to in an undated acceptance from Tom Watson's Magazine, which also mentions as accepted another story, titled, "Those That Are Joined Together". The assumption that the title of the MSS, "Is This Earth Alive?", was changed to "A Radical Corpuscule" for publication is based upon the fact that no story by the former title ever appeared in Tom Watson's, and the next Fort story to appear there after "A Radical Corpuscule" was "Those That Are Joined Together", the second MSS named in the undated acceptance.)

1906 AD

Smith's Magazine, March. Contains, "Glenciff's Mysterious Burglar", illustrated by George Herriman (before he invented Krazy Kat, but a funny cat appears in the cartoon illustrations).

(The Society has only undated "tear-out" sheets, complete, contributed by

LMFS Helen Dreiser, in the year 16 FS—1946 old style, from Fort's own collection. The date was supplied by Street & Smith.)

1906 AD

Tom Watson's Magazine, April. Vol. IV, No. 2. Contains, "Those That Are Joined Together", v.s.

(The Society has a perfect copy of this magazine, presented by the Secretary in the year 2 FS—1932 old style.)

1906 AD

Tom Watson's Magazine, after May. (May contain a story titled, "The Landlord Who Was Too Much for Mrs. Bon-ticue". All that we have is an acceptance from Tom Watson's, dated April 20. The story does not appear in the May issue, which is the last of our run, nor do we have "tear-out" sheets, v.i.)

1906 AD

Tom Watson's Magazine, May, Vol. IV, No. 3. Contains, "Ructions" (which cannot be the story accepted under the title just above).

(The Society has a perfect copy of this magazine, presented by the Secretary in the year 2 FS—1932 old style. This is the last issue of Tom Watson's in our run, which is complete to this point from Vol. 1, No. 1. The stories listed above, a total of four, are all that appeared there to this issue.)

1906 AD

Tom Watson's Magazine, after June 15. Contains, "The Fat Lady Who Climbed Fences".

(The Society has only undated "tear-out" sheets—two sets, both complete—contributed by LMFS Helen Dreiser, in the year 16 FS—1946 old style, from Fort's own collection.)

1906 AD

Tom Watson's Magazine, June or after. Contains, "A Great Human Principle".

(The Society has only undated "tear-out" sheets, complete, contributed on the same date as the rest, by LMFS Helen Dreiser, from Fort's own collection. . . . Probability is that Fort never was paid for some—perhaps not for any—of the material printed in Tom Watson's. We have a letter from the editor, apologizing to Fort for the delay in payment; at a later date, Fort enters a memo in his semi-diary to the effect that Tom Watson's had "cheated" him out of \$155.00.)

1906 AD

Smith's Magazine, July. Contains, "In a Newspaper Office", illustrated by George Herriman.

(The Society has only undated "tear-out" sheets, complete, contributed by LMFS Helen Dreiser, same date as the rest, from Fort's own collection. Date supplied by Street & Smith.)

1906 AD

?Broadway Magazine, after June. (We have an acceptance, from the Broadway Magazine, dated June, for a story titled, "The Discomfiture of Uncle McFuddy", but we have not the text in any form.)

1906 AD

Smith's Magazine, October. Contains, "And Now the Old Scow May Slant As

It Pleases", illustrated.

(The Society has only undated "tear-out" sheets, complete, contributed by LMFS Helen Dreiser, same date as the rest, from Fort's own collection. The date was supplied by Street & Smith.)

?1906? (Probably)

Broadway Magazine, probably November. Contains ?, "His Thanksgiving Dinner For Everybody".

(The Society has only undated pasted-up galley-proofs, from Broadway Magazine, which may or may not be the complete text, contributed by LMFS Helen Dreiser, in the year 16 FS—1946 old style. The story almost certainly appeared in a November, or "Thanksgiving" issue, in 1905, 1906, or 1907.)

1907 AD

Smith's Magazine, January. Contains, "Christmas Waifs".

(The Society has only undated "tear-out" sheets, contributed by LMFS Helen Dreiser, same date as the rest, from Fort's own collection. Date supplied by Street & Smith.)

1909

"The Outcast Manufacturers", a book-length fiction, published by B. W. Dodge & Company: 328 pp., blue cloth, full trimmed. Apparently only one edition printed, but three states of the binding are in the Society's possession:

- A. Blue cloth, ribbed surface, stamped in three colors — lettering in gold, sky-line and telephone poles in black, with red high-lights and red moon and stars.
- B. Blue cloth, ribbed surface, stamped in two colors — lettering, high-lights, moon and stars, all in white, sky-line and telephone poles in black.
- C. Blue-cloth. Smooth surface, much inferior to the other two and lighter in color, stamped in red only — lettering, sky-line, telephone poles, high-lights, moon and stars, all in one color—red. Paper and all other details appear to be identical.

1910

1909 Dec 22 (dated letter on Collier's stationery, by J. M. Oskison, solicits MSS from Fort, for a new magazine to be called 1910. Fort told me that he had some material printed in one or two issues of this publication — and that was about as long as it lasted. The others who started it were — writers — J. M. Oskison, A. E. Thomas, Montague Glass, Franklin P. Adams, Louis Evans Shipman; and — artists — C. B. Falls, Henry Reuter Dahl, Boardman Robinson, Julius Sommer, and a fifth whose name I cannot decipher — either "S. Porter" or "Shorter" or "Horter" (examination of Collier's for 1909 should reveal his identity).

1910

Feb (?) "Had to Go Somewhere", a story by Fort, was set in type, probably published, perhaps in the magazine, 1910, mentioned just above. All we have is the MSS, bearing printers' marks and spike-holes from the linotype machine.

Plato's a single portrait) have enough in common to show that they are intended for the same person. In both of them Socrates is presented in the character of a homely figure whose favorite mode of speech is to cast the argument into terms of the activities of the potter or the shoemaker — or the pilot; and in both he seems to stand squarely for the anti-democratic thesis that politics is a scientific profession. Otherwise they might almost be taken for portraits of different persons. Xenophon's picture is that of a pious, sober (if we disregard the gaiety of his conversation with the courtesan Theodota), and generally orthodox citizen; a kind of supremely wise and competent Sir Charles Grandison, eager to help his friends with sound advice and moral suggestion, interested however in the more homely details of practical life. He is neither a scientist, nor a metaphysician, nor a prophet of religion; and there is no special evidence in the picture of genius or imagination. He is simply a "philosopher" in the original homely sense — a "wise man."

The Platonic portrait is made up of elements not so easily fused. At first hearing it seems that the Socratic tone of voice is that of a person fundamentally ironical, critical, sceptical — of one who takes nothing seriously. But presently we hear him speaking, perhaps in the same dialogue (in the Republic, for example), in tones of prophetic earnestness; or of passionate indignation, as in the Gorgias. In the Phaedo and in the Symposium he is presented as a religious mystic. But what is most curious is that, in Plato's portrait, while talking as much as ever about potters and shoemakers, he is evidently little interested in their affairs, least of all in their point of view, or in any point of view which dignifies the details of practical life. The Platonic Socrates is an intellectualist and a theorist; a "high-brow" who wishes to show that a great gulf separates the philosopher from the plain man. He is also — and in view of his poverty, his lack of distinguished antecedents, and his status (evidently retired) of stone-cutter and sculptor, this is again curious — a person of aristocratic sentiments. The Socrates of Xenophon spends his days in the shops about the agora in familiar association with all sorts of men. The Platonic Socrates seems to associate exclusively with the rich and the well-born. In the Apology he states incidentally that the young men who accompanied him for the fun of witnessing the discomfiture of those whom he cross-examined were mostly the sons of wealthy families. It is this combination of characters in the Platonic Socrates — the homely philosopher, aggressively independent; the welcome companion and guest of the upper classes whose shafts of ridicule fall mainly upon the demos — it is this that makes the Platonic Socrates a perplexing and not quite a pleasing figure. The suspicion is suggested that the Socrates was a flatterer and a snob.

Xenophon's portrait is admittedly incomplete — in the sense that it was

painted chiefly for the purpose of defending Socrates against the charge of impiety. But his personal acquaintance had been brief and confined probably to his early youth; and his collection of anecdotes suggests a remoteness from his subject-matter. Plato, however, had been for several years one of the inner circle and his picture of the man is so vivid and real that we are likely to take it without question as the authoritative portrait. It is none the less Plato's picture, painted at a time when the difference between a poetical and a historical biography was yet to be established.

And to my reading clearly an imaginative picture, intended rather to illustrate Plato's conception of the true philosopher than to record the life of Socrates. It is doubtless suggested by fact and full of things actually said by Socrates at one time or another. Yet of no special instance among the conversations recorded need we believe that it ever took place or that, if so, it has been accurately reproduced. Some of them must be given a "dramatic date" before the birth of Plato. The conversation recorded in the Republic must be dated, if we follow Taylor, when Plato was eight years old. Even the speech before the court, recorded in the Apology, can hardly have been reproduced verbatim, if indeed uncolored. At best the dialogues may be said to form a collection of biographical novelettes; and their truth is not much different from that of a biographical novel. One is reminded indeed of the many largely imaginative lives of Christ. We need not doubt that Plato painted Socrates as he saw him; but this is not to say that he saw him as others would have to see him. And that the mind of Socrates was a matter for interpretation may be gathered from the divergence of the several "Socratic schools" which succeeded him (of which Plato's was one), each claiming to represent the master. What we may be sure of is that the Socrates of the dialogues is Plato's true philosopher and that he gives us, if not the mind of Socrates, at least the mind of Plato.

And for liberality of thought and respect for adverse opinions this Socrates is hardly conspicuous. Such a picture of Socrates is derived, I imagine, mainly from the Protagoras, the most genial and delightful, as well as the most colorful, of the Platonic scenes, in which Socrates, then in his thirties, is represented as carefully respectful toward the aged Protagoras. Yet even here one may detect an undertone of patronizing contempt. And elsewhere it seems to depend upon who the other party to the argument happens to be. In the Republic Socrates treats the sceptical amusement of Glaucon with patient good-nature, though he is himself much in earnest; and as a preliminary to the argument both Glaucon and Adeimantus are permitted to state their views at length without caricature and in a fashion that stamps them as reasonable beings. Not so Thrasymachus — whose view that morality reflects the interests of the ruling classes is by no means absurd. Socrates' handling of Thrasy-

machus in the Republic, of Poius in the Gorgias, and of Meletus in the Apology is that of a smart attorney brow-beating a witness. The Euthyphron, despite an underlying question of solid significance, may be described as a comic picture — not altogether lovely: Socrates amusing himself and delighting an audience of readers at the expense of a poor fool of a soothsayer. In these and other disputations there is often little evidence of a search for truth. They are sporting events, like intercollegiate debates, which exhibit Socrates' skill as a sophist.

And as for the experimental attitude and the open mind it is quite possible that this was the attitude of mind of the real Socrates and Plato's dialogues are an attempt to take this attitude, at first serious but presently merely formal, on the part of one whose mind was not experimental at all. In the Republic there is scarcely any evidence of open inquiry. In spite of the dialogue-form none of the ideas used in the construction of the city is supplied by Glaucon or Adeimantus nor do they suggest any alternative ideas. Theirs is the rhetorical function of raising questions convenient for passing from one topic to another. The whole of the material for the perfect city is brought to the scene inside the head of Socrates and the argument of the dialogue is the development a priori of a predetermined thesis.

The idea that Socrates was a martyr to free speech must rest mainly upon the Apology. Here it may be said that Plato commits himself to giving us the historical realities by telling us that he was present at the trial. All the more interesting then — and perplexing — is the contrast between the impression intended by the speaker (or the writer) and what the speeches reveal. Socrates begins in a tone of modest reasonableness, almost indeed with a humble plea of helplessness in the face of a divine command; and the tragic earnestness and solemnity of the closing speech, uttered when he has just received the sentence of death, are such as to make criticism difficult. It is nevertheless to be noted that he uses most of the arts of evasion common in Athenian trials. Treating rather casually the charges made against him, he lays the burden of his defense upon his services to the city: "I believe that no greater good ever came to pass in this city than my services to the god." He explains at length how he is the victim of a prejudice. Though he refuses to stoop to the usual practice of defendants of bringing their wives and children into court to weep for them, he is careful to have the refusal placed to his credit and to mention the fact that he has two small sons. And to vindicate his record as a citizen and show his inflexible observance of law he cites two instances when in following the straight path of duty he had risked his life by offending the party in power, at one time "he democracy, at another the oligarchy.

The purpose of these two instances, neatly balanced against one another in

(Plato's report of) the speech, is to show that Socrates was not only without fear but without bias. Democracy or oligarchy, they were both the same to him. And that he did bid defiance to the democracy when as presiding officer (according to Xenophon) he refused to put the motion for a joint trial of the generals accused after the battle of Arginusae — this we need not doubt. But it seems to me that from his own report we may suspect that, in the other case, his defiance of the oligarchy, the party of his friends and associates in the dialogues of Plato, has been exaggerated. He was appointed with four others to arrest an honest citizen, Leon of Salamis, for the purpose of putting him to death. Did he openly refuse? He does not say so. Did he try to dissuade the others, or to prevent them from carrying out what he regarded as the commission of a crime — did he make any effort to save the life of Leon? All that he tells us is that, leaving the others to arrest Leon, "I simply went home". As for what he had to fear, well, we know that Critias, leader and dictator of the Thirty, had been one of his inner circle of friends and in some measure a disciple; and a simple omission could be ignored. But the case illustrates very neatly the special quality of the Platonic morality of rectitude. Rectitude, a pursuit of the straight and narrow path of duty regardless of consequences, is what Socrates claims for himself; and thus far indeed correctly. Leon was put to death but Socrates avoided breaking the law.

The charges named in the indictment are that Socrates fails to respect the gods respected by the city, introducing new and strange divinities (*daimonia*) and that he corrupts the youth. The charge of corrupting the youth is doubtless too general to be met quite directly but the more important charge of "impiety" is specific. And it is not so much a charge of "impiety" in our modern sense as of treason: Socrates' teaching is treasonable in that he fails to respect the gods of the city.

It may well be that the charge was a pretext. Socrates, who opens his speech by explaining that he is a simple-minded person, meets it with another pretext. His accuser Meletus — who seems to have been, like most of the cross-examiners of Socrates as presented in the Platonic dialogues, a person extraordinarily stupid — is quickly decoyed into stating the charge to be that Socrates believes in no gods whatever. This is enough for Socrates. Is it not notorious that throughout his life he has believed himself to be guided by a familiar spirit, or *daimon*? His practice of inquiry and cross-examination — was it not in obedience to the command of the Delphic oracle? And has he not repudiated the materialism of Anaxagoras? The charge of irreligion is thus easily answered. Meanwhile no answer has been given to the charge that Socrates fails to respect the gods respected by the city.

Nothing whatever is said about free speech or free thought. The right of free

speech, let us remember is one of the modern "rights of man," of which the Greeks of that time knew nothing. The only rights within their horizon were the rights of citizens, in any city a narrowly limited class. Socrates does indeed assert his own right to teach; and he declares that if he is released he will continue to teach in the same fashion as before. But what he is standing for is not the rights of man but the rights of superman. The Delphic oracle has named him as the wisest of the Athenians. That gives him, and to him alone, the right to speak and imposes upon others the duty of listening.

In this he is true to the Platonic principle of aristocracy: those who know are entitled to direct those who do not know. The more modern doubt, whether any one is wise enough to decide finally upon the good of other persons — in other words, the possibility of a personal point of view — has not occurred to him.

This claim is presented at first modestly, even deprecatingly. It is not he who is responsible but the god. And his superior wisdom consists only in this, that amidst the universal ignorance he alone knows that he is ignorant. Therefore he alone is really modest. But the irony of this Socratic modesty — a conception of modesty that would have pleased Dean Swift — is self-evident. In the Gorgias Socrates is made to give a prophetic picture of his trial and condemnation, and in terms which so nearly reproduce what we learn from the Apology that the passage may be taken as Plato's own commentary. But here there is no pretence of modesty. Socrates states boldly that he considers himself to be one of the few Athenians, if not the only one, who cultivates the true art of statesmanship and the only one who is trying to put it into practice: in plain terms, that he is the only one of the Athenians who is fit to govern Athens. And he indicates his respect for the Athenian jury by saying that his will be a case of a doctor tried by a bench of children on a charge brought by a cook.

It is not difficult to see that this is also the mind of Socrates in the Apology. The pretence of modesty is soon cast aside and presently he is addressing his judges — the five hundred dicasts or jurors, chosen by lot to try his case — in a tone of supercilious disdain. He is at no pains to conceal his contempt either for them or for the institution which they represent. Actually on trial for his life before a jury representing the law of his city (the "laws" so piously respected in the Crito) his tone suggests that they are on trial before him. To those who have voted against him he administers, after the verdict has been rendered, a moral rebuke. And when he is asked, as required by law, to propose a penalty he replies with the humorous suggestion that they confer upon him the distinguished honor of free meals for life in the Prytaneum; and then adds a note of disdain by offering to pay a fine of a mina. When his friends protest and offer to provide the money

he adds negligently that he will raise it to the respectable sum of thirty minas.

The trial of Socrates affords a splendid exhibition of courage; but he is hardly to be described as a "martyr." A martyr is one who bears witness to a cause, presumably greater than himself. The cause represented by Socrates was not the democratic cause of free speech. As viewed by Plato it was doubtless the greater good of the city. Socrates' defense made it a matter of the superior wisdom of Socrates. It is easy to see that he deliberately provoked the result, at any rate the penalty of death. It was a small majority that voted him guilty, a large majority that voted the death sentence after his contemptuous treatment of the court in reply to the question of penalty. Evidently he was surprised and angered by the verdict of "guilty." We may then sum up his case by saying that his defense put the jury in a position where they had to choose between the condemnation of Socrates and their own humiliation; and that it is therefore hardly a ground for surprise, or indeed for indignation, that he got, not perhaps what he deserved, but certainly what he had a right to expect.

And it seems to me that in the light of the Platonic portrait studies as a whole there should be no mystery about the nature of the animus that inspired the prosecution. For no one seems to think that it was a matter merely of "impiety." The explanations offered are many and various. We are told that it was inspired by "the general hostility to the sophists," of which he was rated as one; that his free-thinking had disturbed the superstitions of the multitude (as Socrates himself was free from superstition); that his exposure of false wisdom had made him many enemies — which was doubtless true enough. And Mr. Taylor goes so far as to attribute the prosecution to the aversion of the Athenian people to the idea of a future life. Meanwhile the more obvious motive, thrust upon us by Plato, is for the most part ignored: namely, the political motive.

Socrates was condemned in the year 399. This was only four years after the Athenian democracy had suffered from the reign of terror imposed by the oligarchy led by the Thirty. The oligarchy has been defeated, but peace had been made on the basis of a general amnesty which made it impossible to bring a political charge openly, if indeed specific grounds for such a charge could have been found. Meanwhile we may well suppose that Socrates was regarded by the Athenian people as an evil influence dangerous to the democracy and that they wanted to be rid of him, though not necessarily to put him to death. Let us remember that among the Athenians mere unpopularity was felt to be a sufficient ground for sending a citizen into exile and that there were no recognized minority-parties and no bill of rights.

They succeeded. So well indeed that the friends of Socrates found it also con-

venient to leave Athens for a while. Plato condemns the popular party in the Gorgias, and in his Seventh Letter, in tones of righteous indignation. But we have only to study the Platonic picture to see that from their own point of view they were justified. The Socrates of the dialogues — the first of which was written probably several years after his death — is presented as the friend and associate of the oligarchs, delighting them with shafts of sarcasm hurled at the Athenian democracy. Critias, leader of the Thirty, had been a sort of pupil. To Charmides, a-

nother of the Thirty, he pays homage as a beautiful and virtuous youth. And his fondness for the rich and well-born is shown by his tender regard for the unscrupulous Alcibiades. In the Republic he is made the spokesman of Plato's aristocracy and represented as the open and bitter enemy of the democracy. In the light of the dialogues it is impossible to view Socrates (as he is made to represent himself) as an impartial spectator of the political situation: his speech before the court is clearly an open challenge to the Athenian democracy. Now it is quite

possible that Plato misinterpreted an attitude really impartial, or that instinctively — as a matter of course — he enlisted Socrates among the foes of the democracy; but if we are to take his picture as a true portrait it will be absurd to say the Socrates died a martyr to free thought and free speech.

The foregoing is Chapter V of the book, *The Platonic Legend*, by Warner Fite. Scribners, 1934, now out of print. It is reproduced here with the kind permission of the author and the publisher.

MORE NOTES of CHARLES FORT

The material on this page and those following comes from the MSS notes of Charles Fort. The notes begin with the year 1800 AD, and we are printing them chronologically, transcribed to the best of our ability. As you have observed from the several we have produced in facsimile — life size — the handwriting is difficult, to say the least; many are written in symbols and code, a personal shorthand. Each date is on a separate scrap of paper. They fill 32 boxes. The boxes are in two series, one numbered, one identified by letters of the alphabet. The numbered boxes contain records of non-human phenomena, the others, records of persons. It is our device to alternate the two series so that the printed record is chronologically consecutive.

The letters BA refer to Reports of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which many US libraries have. The numerals, such as '11 or '64, etc., in connection with BA sometimes refer to volume number, sometimes to year. In applying for this material at your public library, mention that to the attendant and you should have no difficulty.

Back numbers of DOUBT contain all the notes to the point where we begin below. Subsequent issues will continue them until the 32 boxes are printed.

1848

Box 2 (Resumed)

- Nov 17 A / AM J. Sci. 2/7/127 293
- 17 Parma (It) Aurora / CR 27/560
- 17 9:30 / light as if of a fire towns around Dieppe / also at Orleans (reverse) in Dept of Calvados / in each town thought a neighboring town on fire in the s.-s.w. C. R. 27-529
- 17 Met and aurora / 11:12 p.m. Met exactly along an aurora beam Oxford / Bath — fell from Capella / BA 49/17
- 17 Am. J. Sci. 2/7/127 — 293 Aurora
- 17 Aurora / Cuba, Asia Minor,

- California etc / In Western N Y everywhere in sky except a circular spot south of the zenith toward which ran streamers from N and S (reverse) An Sci Disc 1850-348
- 17 At Pisa / aurora accompanied by a stream of meteors C. R. 49-401
- 17 Red light sky France/ C.R. 27-530/562
- Dec 1 about / Glasgow / det met / 30 minutes later another
- 1 Metite — Fisherton — near Salisbury — Observatory 4/183
- 4 about / appearance great sunspot / on Dec 25 was a N.E. spot (reverse) Galignani's Messenger Jan 2, 1849
- 11 from 5:38 p.m. to 6:50 p.m many large mets with trains at Parma (reverse) BA 51-4
- 13 by Lord Rosse / 3 new stars in neb. y Andromeda / Nature 32/465
- 25 Sunspot / see Dec 4
- 27 LT p. 3 Aurora / Dec alone B.M.
- 27 (F) Shie, Ipogstadt / Norway, metite BA 60

1849

- 1849 Great year for mets in India / BA 50/130
- 1849 Fishes Ceylon / Tennant Hist Ceylon 1/212
- 1849 Famine Ireland
- Box A (Resumed)
- 1849 about/ Started sleeper Susan C Godsey — see Oct 27, 1873
- Jan 4 LT p. 7 Monster snake Mass.
- Box 2 (Resumed)
- Jan Vesuvius active / A. J. Sci. 2/7/437
- Jan 9 Met seen 1/3 diam of moon / Edinburgh / BA 50/96
- 14 Aurora / C.R. 28/89

- 14 Quake and aurora / Liege, Belg ! C et T 8/38
- 24 Larvae / In the Revue et Mag Zool. 1849/72 Count Tyzenhaur writes of phe that had occurred near his home in Wilna, Lithuania (sic) (D-93) Jan 24 — fall of black larvae 7 to 9 millimeters long. (reverse) In vast numbers on the snow — seemed dead but after sunrise crawled around. Great numbers of birds attracted by them / said were larvae of a beetle of the family Telephorus and resembled but with some differences a larvae figured in Mag de Zoolique, "sur la planche" 168, year 1836. Also acto description a little different
- 30 LT p. 5 / Galignani's / Date not given. Land thought bc over an extinct volcano at Honfleur / sinking 1,000 metres by 1,000 metres
- Feb 3 At Sellieres (Jura) smart shock — felt also at Lons-le-Saulnie: / Galignani's Messenger Feb 15
- 5 Two dark bodies seen by Mr. Brown of Deal, crossing sun / (3) Rom Sci / 1-138
- 19 Fireball Bombay / Edin N.P.J. 47/370
- 1849 Red / Wales (22)
- Feb 24 } Mets India BA 50
- Mar 19 } 23
- Ap 4 } 10
- 13 } 30
- May 2 } 6
- Jun 25 } 6
- Mar 6 London 6.8 p.m. Met from a little below and S of moon BA 49/18
- Mar 6 Met from somewhat below and to southward of the moon / BA 1849-38 (reverse) A Jupiter note a little before

- 7 B. Rain / Northampton Herald Feb 2, 1850. John T. Tryon, of Bulwich Rectory, writes of shower at his place other places in Northamptonshire and part of Rutlandshire (reverse) particles harder than gunpowder. About two years before been a shower of black insects like these particles here
Box A (Resumed)
 (The following is Fort's grouping. From this point to another parenthesis all the notes were found within a single wire clip. TT)
- Mar 10 Galignani's Messenger 15-24 "On the 10th, in the evening, a working man named Lecomte, returned to his lodgings on the Rue Traviere Saint Antoine, in a complete state of intoxication / not being seen afterward, (reverse) his apartment was entered yesterday morning when he was found dead in his bed with his face shockingly gnawed and disfigured by his little favorite dog, which had been driven no doubt, by deprivation of food for three days to satisfy its hunger on the body of its master."
- March Myst assault? Galignani's Jan 22-5-2 / A dairy man crossing a Paris bridge — seized by a man of great strength. Both went into the river together. Not known what became of assailant.
- March Galignani's Messenger Jan 6-4-2 / Several days before, the body of the Abbe Denhaygues, Cure of Reyrevignes (Lot) found lying on a road, considerable distance from the (reverse) parsonage / body taken to parsonage, where found that a female servant had been killed. Abbe's body — "His face was much torn by either dogs or wolves."
- March Ripper / Sabine Baring-Gould in "The Book of Were-wolves," tells of a French Infantry officer named Bertrand, who in winter of 1848-49 dug corpses from (reverse) Paris cemeteries, tore them to pieces and rolled in the fragments. In March 1849, a spring gun set for him in the cemetery of St. Parnasse, shot him and he was traced by his wound and a part of his uniform shot away and left behind / he confessed / He mutilated only female corpses.
- March All winter / Dug up the bodies, ripped them in a frenzy / fragments of flesh scattered even up in trees.
- Mar 10 Galignani's Messenger 5-2 / "It will be remembered that several horrible profanations of the dead, consisting chiefly of ripping up the bodies and carrying off the intestines from the graves in the cemeteries (reverse) of Mont Parnasse, took place some time ago. The night before last, a man was seen scaling the wall, probably to repeat this horrible act. He was fired at, but made his escape.
- 23 Galignani's Messenger 2-3 / Bertrand — 25 years old "when in a garrison near Tours, he was caught in a cemetery with the body of a woman, which he had dug up, but this affair (reverse) was hushed up / His strange monomania was displayed only with respect to the bodies of women." / Strange how he had eluded. Cemetery guarded not only by keepers but by dogs.
- March Le Moniteur Universal / May 3, 1849, p. 1654 / *SGD (Library call letters. TT) Again a profanation of (de sepulture au cimetiére de Est) / Most of the tombs are covered with flowers, which friends and relatives kept renewed. They had been (reverse) despoiled by an *ouvrier fondeur* named Bertrand, "qui on a surpris se livrant a de tels larcins" / sentenced to three months in prison / This all I find actio index "Bertrand" in Le Moniteur / Mysterious other Bertrand not in index.
- March (2) Le Moniteur / Anybody looking up Bertrand, "profanation de sepulture" and finding only this, would have the impression that it was only a minor offense.
- March This is a clear case of Possession, but may been by Atavism (reverse) It was not only wolfish / sex must be considered.
- March File of Galignani's incomplete.
- March In Galignani's Messenger, Jan and Feb, I find nothing of the Bertrand Case.
- Feb 15 Galignani's 3-2 / At Lille — a street woman murdered by stabbing by a young man / he disappeared (reverse) They took a room at a lodging house
- Mar 24 Galignani's 2-3 / that at Strasburg, Metz, and Tours, bodies in cemeteries had been violated, while Bertrand was stationed there / Here it is said that the arrest came (reverse) about because a grave digger heard soldiers tell of a sub-officer had been shot by assailants in a field, and wounded with nails and bits of iron and the grave digger knew that the trap-guns had been so loaded.
- 1848-49 Winter / The cemetery ravager of Paris told of by S. Baring-Gould in The Book of Were-wolves.
- March The other Francis Bertrand (make sure of this case) may have been under suggestion by similarity of name.
- March Vampire / The cemetery robber told of by Baring-Gould — Francis Bertrand. In San Francisco Daily Evening Bulletin / June 27-2-2, 1874 / "Bertrand, the Ghoul, is still alive. He is now perfectly cured of his hideous (reverse) disease, and is cited as a model of gentleness, propriety and behavior." Had been sentenced to one year's imprisonment, the maximum that could be made to fit / After his atrocities he would seek shelter in a trench anywhere and fall into a cataleptic trance. Vampire (2) Bertrand was a Sergeant-Major of Infantry / "He bore a good name in his regiment and was accounted a man of gentle disposition and an excellent soldier."
- March Galagnani's not done before last of Feb.
- 1849 I find nothing of Court Martial of Bertrand in Galignani's Messenger up to July 1. (That concludes the contents of the wire clip. It is followed immediately by a second clip load. TT)
- Feb 9 Galignani's Messenger 3-3 / Projectiles ceased, Feb 4, falling on the house in Rue Neuve-Cluny (reverse) Said that the attacks had ceased because boards had been placed over the zinc roof to protect it.
- Jan (AR) in Wallace's Miracles and Modern Spiritualism p. 284, taken from La Gazette des Tribunaux (of Feb 2, 1849), the official organ of the French police (reverse) that a house near the Pantheon, Paris, had

- been assailed every evening by a hail of projectiles that fell with great violence for 3 weeks / Watchmen engaged but the objects continued / fall as if from a great height.
- Feb 24 Missiles / Galignani's Messenger 4-1 / Windows in shops in the Chaussee D'Anton broken. No trace of depredators.
- March See back for psycho — falling stones in Paris.
- April 24 LT p. 7 Myst outrage Glasgow / 20 bullets fired in house / (and LT apr) 7 p. 5 Elizabeth Hughes Imposter (reverse) April 20, p. 8 / May 22, p. 6. That concludes the contents of the second clip. TT)
- Mar 12 ab. + p.m. Vulcan / Joseph Sidebotha CR 83/622 watch ½ hour / D-192
- 19 Eclipse of moon that failed / See 1848
- 19 Aurungabad, India / Met from a little to South of and above Venus / BA 1849 / cut / (Means there is an illustration in the source. TT)
- 19 Great meteor Bombay Ref Trans Bombay Geog Soc 9-197
- March Red (Rain is implied. TT) / Sicily (22)
- Mar 27 White spots on Jupiter by Lassem (reverse) Jour Roy Soc N. S. Wales 10/88
- March last week / Atmosphere in (?) Saugor and Nerbudda territories, India, so filled with (reverse) fine dust that the sun could be looked at / BA 50-131
- April Black rain reported by Prof Barker to Roy Dublin Soc. See May 14
- Apr 1 Acto E.J.Lowe / At 11:18 a brilliant blue meteor "fell from Jupiter" 1½ minutes later a smaller one "fell from Jupiter" BA 1848-9
- 1 Dry fog in South Russia / Zapiski russk geogr. obsrt. 3-132 (reverse) I got from Fassig pt.1 -p.82
- 4 }
10 } great mets India / BA 50-130
13 }
- Apr 4 7:15 p.m. Delhi / NW-SE / 10th Ahmednuggus / ab time and direction of met of 19th March which was ab 6:30 p.m. and 3 other meteors on at 7:30 p.m. / 13th / ab. 9:15 at Bombay (reverse) Great Meteors / India / BA 1850-130 / See May 6
- 6 Venus greatest brill
- Box A (Resumed)**
- 9 London Times p.3 Ghst
- Box 2 (Resumed)**
- 14 date of the b. rain in Ireland, in Galignani's Messenger May 16, p.4 (reverse) preceded by hail storm and lightning but no thunder
- 14 b. rain of Ireland / Timb's 50-277
- 18 or 19 / lichens appeared near Byzid, not far from Mt. Ararat. Had appeared upon land where they had not appeared the night before. (reverse) and were not indigenous so thought to have fallen. On 19th of June another deposit found in a well-frequented place quantities were very great (Sci Amer, 1/5/66) (D-12)
- 23 (?) Galignani's Messenger (Paris) of May 5, p. 3 / quoting Hull Packet "On night of Monday last (Apr 23?) sloop *George and Mary* near Scarborough (reverse) weather very thick, no wind, slight rain, a fire ball shook vessel no lightning seen before, but afterward several flashes seen, vessel destroyed by fire
- 1850 ab Shower of manna said been lichens at Erzeroum Sci Gos. 1872-60
- Apr 18 In the Gardner's Chronicle September 15 1849 Editor writes that having heard of the fall of manna near Byzid he had appealed for information to Dr Heinig the only European resident of B and had received data and specimens April 18-20 in (?) when been rains and strong winds / shepherds and villager saw in several places near B. lichens scattered over tracts measuring from 5 to 10 miles in circumference / no one had ever seen anything of the kind before, and Dr. Heinig who had often rambled around the region had not. The year before locusts had so greatly injured crops that a famine was threatened and so was confirmed that this substance which was edible was unknown there, or it would have been gathered and sold / On June 19th another quantity discovered "and as the spot was a well frequented one, it seems likely that the fall had occurred only a few days previously. It was made from flour into bread or eaten in the raw state / September 29th said that seemed impossible that a substance eagerly devoured by the natives could exist and not be known / in masses up to an inch in diameter / Here several specimens are figured, and are convoluted like those in Le Nat. This Lecanora esculenta is fibrous.
- 20 54 meteors in an hour at New Haven / Observatory 20/174
- May- Manna Loa / see June, '32
- May 3 Quake Venezuela
- 3 1-2 p m One of the most tremendous thunder storms remembered in Kent, England. Pieces of ice some six inches long, fell (reverse) Gentlemen's Magazine May 7 p 3
- 6 6:45 p m Sunset great met Kurrachee, India BA '50-130 / May 2- Bombay Apr 30- Poona great mets / See Apr 4
- 12 5 h Venus Inferior conjunction Sun
- 14 Black (rain implied) Ireland / see April (D-30)
- 26 10 p m Brest A rolling sound CR 28-743
- June 8 Lond Times p 3 Land water spouts
- 12-18 White mist or smoke enveloped Bermuda J M Jones The Naturalist in Bermuda p 177 / he finds that there were great forest fires in the British North American Colonies and quotes from a newspaper of Prince Edward Island.
- 12 Remarkable hail Bull Ac Sci Brux. 16-307
- 17 Venus greatest brilliancy
- 19 More manna See Apr 18
- 25 Meteor Kurrachee / R-Mar 19 1849
- 30 The rain "as red as blood" at Bonvilstone etc told of in the Cambrian July 13th / No more than told in the Athenaeum (reverse) Swansea Cambrian
- July Substance resembling plaster with crystals and sulphur in it, near Montargis, France. LT July 10, p 7
- July 17 Great met Maryland 9:12 p m Timbs' 50-276
- 23 Many mets polar constellations BA '49/22 (?Highland House?)
- 24 Same as 23
- 27 Meteor Porebunder / R-March 19, 1849
- Aug 4 Red rain / Athenaeum of / Copying from the Cambrian - that recently red rain had fallen in Wales near village of Bonvilstone and (?) over Llantrithyd, Flemingston etc toward Lantwit-Major
- 8 small augs / Switzerland / D-210
- Aug Kumadau / det met acto Dr. Livingston BA 60-88
- Aug 10 5 hours 254 mets at Aix-la-Chapelle / none at Parma BA 51-4
- 10-11-12 about same as July 23/ not one relates to Perseus

- 11 ab 12:15 a.m. Chinese Tartary / S to N great det met / BA 60-88
- 12-13-14 great numbers of meteors as if from Pegasus at Midhurst / CR 29-260
- 13 Ice / Scotland 98 / D-178
- 20 great met Derbyshire BA 50-104
- 21 "Extraordinary and unheard of" flood of Red River / trib. to Mississippi / NY Herald Sep 7, p.1
- 28 to Sept 24 / E.Mec. 51-94 / Acto David Packer, acto a manuscript that had been in possession of R.A.S.Observatory by W.S.Lettsom, F.R.A.S. new star near Alpha Herculis
- 28 Nova near Alpha Herculis discovered by W.S.Lettsom / it gradually diminished / E. Mec. 51/94, 159, 200
- 30 Slight rains in Maryland, but drought unprecedented / NY Herald Aug 31 p.3
- Sept 2 Near Alpine, Chattanooga Co., Georgia / great fall of water said been a waterspout (reverse) made a hole 30 feet deep, 40 or 50 wide / said that not long before another had fallen, making a hole 3 feet deep by 18 or 20. Sci Amer first series, 4-14
- 14 eruption of Merapia in Java, in a hurricane (reverse) lasted till 17th / Athenaeum, 1849-1217
- 17 LT p.7 Waterspouts
- Sept about middle / Floods in Mexico / NY Herald Sept 28, p.2
- 1849 about the latter end of / Weston-Seper-Mare. Somersetshire / augs by C.B.Chalmers / See B.D. / BA '52/237
- Sept 26 Mt. Merapia began erupting / Java / Athenaeum 1849-1217
- 30 Trombe Calvados / CR 29-451
- Oct 14 Schmidt / similar to Oct 11, '47 / Observatory 3/137
- 22 Commander Island, Alaska, violent quake BA 1911-42
- 26 Le Moniteur Universel / In the department of the Ain, between Rosy and Chavannes after lightning without thunder, a luminous globe the size of a little balloon (reverse) - il s'est eleve de la terre masque d'abord a l'observateur par un buisson / It divided into ten or a dozen little ones that sparkled and fell
- 31 3 p.m. Charlotte, N.C. tremendous explosion / rock reported fallen from sky / a "blue, gritty rock bearing marks of recent fracture, blackened as if by smoke and pitted. It had splintered a pine log (reverse) in Cabaras Co. A.J.Sci. 2/9/143 / It would seem that luminous objects had been seen moving toward a common center/ BA 60-88
- 31 3 quick explosions in Charlotte, N. Car. / AM J.Sci / 2/9/143 (reverse) said like of heavy artillery./ said that a stone had fallen at Cabaras 25 miles away / BA 50-92 / 60-88 (F)
- 1850 Sleeper / Susan C. Godsey near Heckman, Ky. See Oct 27, 1873.
- 1850 Waterford, near Troy NY. Polt / 10-year old daughter of Auson Attwood / Mrs. Hardinge / History of Amer. Spiritualism p.77
- Nov 1 "several meteoric explosions and meteors this day (on Oct 31) South Carolina / BA 60-88 / See Silliman's account in Am. J.Sci.
- Jan 1 LT p.5 Spon Comb (This date might just possibly be June 1. instead of Jan 1. TT)
- 1 Brilliant met Tampa, Florida, in the evening / BA 60-88
- 2 5:30 p.m. Swansea met / BA 50/105
- 7-8 Bombay / a large met and all night the air was filled with shooting stars of lesser magnitude / BA 47-107
- 7-8-9 a great met Bombay 7,8 / at Asseerghur 9th / BA 50-107
- 8 Bombay 6:30 p.m. Met in Pleiades which were 20 degrees above horizon / BA 50-107
- 13 (?) Algeria? (Fort's questions.TT) Stones fell in Tunis / Timbs
- 25 ab / 1851-269 (See Jan 25, '50
- 13 (Algiers) Tripoli / Stone fell / seen in Italy BA 60-88
- 15 Near Brazil? 7:30 p.m. Cometan object large as Mars / from a ship lat 13° 22' long 24° 50' W. An. Sci. D. 1851-367
- 16 Meteor / England "Ascending slowly" BA 1852/194
- 19 4:40 a.m. quake Brest / See May 26 / CR 29/638 / Rolling sound
- 27 LT p.5 Volc in Java / see also Nov 19, p.4 / bound one month
- 28 Parma (It) quake / BA '11
- Dec 12 Meteor Shorapore / R- March 19, 1849
- 17 Opposition Mars (Al)
- 19 5:15 p.m. Durham / great met / BA 50/108
- 21 New Haven, Conn. met / BA 60-88
- 1849 latter part / Augs / Weston / Super-Mare
- 1850
- 1850 Slag (Maine)
- 1850 BO ("BO" was Fort's slug for a group of notes he was assembling to treat humorously, as if these data were so offensive the scientists had ostracized them. TT) In the Daily News April 1, 1924, Dr. F.E.Weiss, Prof of Botany, University of Manchester, tells of a Canadian pond weed that infested the canals and slow-moving rivers of England, ab 1850, saying that the spread and exuberant growth had been satisfactorily explained
- Box A (Resumed)
- Box 2 (Resumed)
- 2 Aix and Bruehl / 3:45 a.m. met great light and strong detonation BA '60-102 / In Prussia sound shook earth like a quake
- 6 Meteor / England / "Ascending slowly" / BA 1852/194
- 2 Ice - Australia / Sydney / Mag of Sci 2/166
- 7 Beam for 6 nights Eng / BA 54/410
- 9 LT p.4 Sunspots
- 9 Bonn etc., 3:30 a.m. det met BA 60-88
- 14 Meteor near Bombay / Rep / March 19. 1849
- 15 Meteor at Cherbourg CR 35/353
- 20 Larvae (fell, is implied TT) Warsaw / D-93
- 25 Stones (fell, is implied TT) Tunis / Tripoli (Algeria) An. Sci. Dis. 51-373 / See Nov. 25, '49 (over) (reverse) Seems to me got same under another date.
- Feb 5 Sandwich, Eng. / met stationary 1 1/4 min. exploded and moved on Rec. Sci 1/137
- 5 (br objs the sky) by W.H. Weeks at Sandwich, Kent / BA '51/38 saw a speck of dull light at a point near Orion / It increased though stationary till 1/3 size of moon. A meteor of this size moved away slowly, visible 45 seconds, but a luminous disk remained stationary, ab one degree in diameter then lessening - visible 3 minutes more. See March, 1877
- 6 Meteor Bombay / R-March 19, 1849 (This is probably an error. See 1850 TT)
- 7 Meteor near Northampton / See Feb 11 Northampton Herald
- 7 Vesuvius / AN Sci D. 51-279
- 8 Meteor Bombay (see Feb 6)
- 9 6:30 p.m. and at 11 / Nottingham / many meteors / BA 50-90
- 11 Night / det met Bombay. LT Jan 5, p.11 (Jan 5 of what year is not stated.TT)
- 11 10:41 p.m. great met England / and others some detonating. All from W to E / BA 50/99

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