

DOUBT

THE FORTEAN SOCIETY MAGAZINE
Vol. II Whole Number 52

⁶⁶ *Science does not know*
its debt to imagination ⁹⁹
—EMERSON—



SCIENCE-GODLESS-MONSTER-SUCH
AS-THE-WORLD-HAS-NEVER-BEHELD

EDITED BY

TIFFANY THAYER

35c.

2/— in Great Britain

DOUBT

The Fortean Society Magazine

Edited by TIFFANY THAYER

Secretary of the

FORTEAN SOCIETY

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FIRST PRIZE

Anonymous takes the biscuit with a headline from the Daily Mail, 12-17-55. It reads: "NEW WARNING BY BRITAIN / STOP TROUBLE OR WE CEASE SENDING ARMS" — into the Middle East, that is.

A first class member who does not want credit lines found this in the Buffalo News, 11-9-55: Eugene P. Cronkite, chief of pathology in Long Island's Brookhaven National Laboratory, "recommended a nationwide vaccination program to protect Americans against the deadly complications of atomic radiation injury."

Or, as Fort might have said, "One measures a vicious-circle beginning anywhere."

MFS Oltcher, as usual, sends several rankers. From Newsweek, 11-44-55, the information that virgins may bear without artificial insemination. Dr. Helen Spurway is the authority, and she is the wife of J. B. S. Haldane—a Fortean scientist if there ever was one.

Also from Oltcher, the story of Fiore Pignatoro who bought a painting at auction and found a piece of newspaper wedged into the frame. It was from the Providence Journal, 1-1-1897, and a story in it stated that "earth men were in touch with Mars men through a kind of Morse code". Pittsburgh Press, 1-8-56.

Anonymous and undated, save for the year '55, comes an AP dispatch from Salisbury, England. A "fieldgun" of unstated weight, but large enough to be used by the Royal Artillery, and to be "lost" by them, was "found perched on the highest ledge of Stonehenge, the ancient Druid monument in Salisbury Plain. There was no sign of how it had been lifted to the 15-foot high stone ledge."

From another Anonymous, who found it in the Cleveland News, 10-18-55: The ambition of Mrs. Sally Moody is to have the City of Los Angeles assess a \$500 fine upon persons who breed dogs without a license. As INS phrases it, "indiscriminate canine love affairs must stop."

MFS Millar, that steady performer, clipped this from the Albertan, 1-25-56: In Marlborough, England, John Sainsbury became ill when he took a stomach powder mixed by druggist, Miss Verna Crewe. To prove the powder harmless Miss Crewe made one for herself, swallowed it and died.



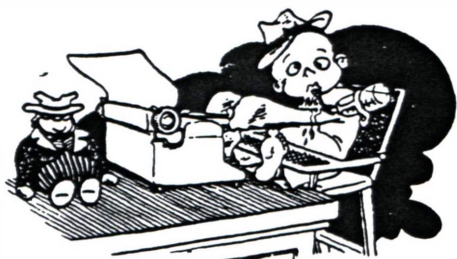
MFS Gustine has turned up an Oriental Kaspar Hauser in Annapolis. He was captured on the Naval Academy grounds Christmas day and turned over to local police. A Korean doctor spoke to him in the lingos of North and then South Korea but got nowhere. A laundryman "vowed" the stranger

was of Chinese extraction, but neither could he communicate in any of the dialects he knew. Baffled police called in the FBI. *Baltimore News-Post*, 12-29-55. Gustine writes: "No follow up."

Bob Steinberg sends two gems: In the laboratory of the Agra Division, Beckman Instruments, Inc., South Pasadena, Calif., where he was working on top secret Army stuff, one Dr. Robert J. Dwyer "went on a rampage", wounding four colleagues with a pocket knife and then plunging it into his own body 14 times. He was in "serious" condition. *N.Y. Times*, 1-12-56.

"A heavy object, described as a booster unit for a guided missile, shot out of the sky and dropped on a major natural gas pipeline . . . ruptured a ten foot section. . . . It apparently came from a missile from White Sands Proving Grounds." *N. Y. Times*, 1-13-56. Almagardo, N. M. dateline.

The International Press Institute, meeting in Zurich, Switzerland, issued a report which found only four countries in the world where the press has "full" freedom. They are, Britain, Belgium, Denmark and Sweden. The reason for excluding the USA is because—"restrictions considerably impede free access to official information." *London Daily Express*, 1-16-56. cr Essenhigh.



We are still trying to find space for some solid chunks of correspondence from MFS Markham, but this must be noted here:

Dr. George Gerard, assistant director of research at the N. Y. U. College of Engineering issued a prediction in *Ordinance*, official publication of the American Ordnance Ass'n. "Aircraft of the future may have to be designed to last for only a few hours, and then be scrapped." *Rocky Mountain News*, 11-29-55.



MITCHELL'S BEST

Seven members of the U.S. Weather Bureau were being assigned to regional Civil Defense offices "to offer technical services", as of Nov. 30. *N. Y. Times* 12-1-55. That was all the Civil Defense program needed, lads. If you have thought the program was zany before—watch what the weather men do with it!

The *Times* cites the National Geographic Society as noting that "Biologists are mystified by the lowly ice worms . . . of the family Enchytraeidae (which) lie dark and threadlike on the ice and snows of . . . Washington State, each about a quarter inch long. Still unanswered are these questions: Where do they come from? What do they eat? How do they function at such low temperatures? Why do they choose such a weird environment?" *N. Y. Times*, 10-6-55.

Mitchell suggests that we send the Geog Soc a copy of THE BOOKS.

When the Swarthmore College expedition set out to see an eclipse at Bangkok, Thailand, one John D. McCrumm, "engineer", was quoted as saying: "the last time this was done we found that Manila was several feet away from where we thought it was." *N. Y. Times*, 12-5-55.

It would be perfectly natural for an astronomical engineer to alter the surface of Earth to fit the mathematics of his long-held heliocentric dogmas and orthodox theory of eclipses, but it must be apparent to any child of six that the likelihood of error is just as great in either (a) the theory, or (b) the mathematics, as in our maps.

YS is willing to go along with brother McClumm in changing the position of Manila, however, if the pundit will grant that Manila has *moved*. This Fortean generosity is inspired by the circumstance that the datum fits into the famous Thayer Theory of a constantly growing Earth. See DOUBT #1, and others.

One U of Chicago archaeologist, unnamed, is called "baffled" by what he found in Neptune's temple at Isthmia near Corinth. On a stone slab floor 30 feet by 6, is a "mysterious geometrical design". From a cavity at one end of the floor eight lines are traced, varying in length from 6 to 30 feet.

"Each has a bronze hook embedded in lead at each end." Called "a true riddle". *N. Y. Times*, 12-26-55.

Russell supplies the Prof's name from the Liverpool *Echo* of 11-30-55. He is Oscar Bronner.

The Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Indians are to receive \$2,067,000, at long last, from the Government, for lands taken from them 55 years ago. *N. Y. Times*, 12-14-55.

Among persons who had received Salk injections, as of this date, 1,085 "accepted" cases of polio were on record, 310 of them paralytic. *N. Y. Times*, 11-25-55.



Rep. Oren Harris (D. Ark.) and seven other "legislators" visiting Moscow, "hoped to discuss with Soviet officials the question of making Salk polio vaccine available to Russia." *N. Y. Times*, 10-10-55.

They'll have a hard time denying that germ-warfare offensive!

An associated datum comes from MFS E. S. Anderson. Edward Walsh, 15, one of ten children in the family who had polio, was reported turning green of skin, and his blood too "was greenish in color, instead of the normal red." Four other children in the family had not contracted the disease, but both parents had "slight infections". Sioux City (Ia) *Journal*, 1-7-56.

A hunter, Ira Marquette, found a roll of blueprints in a ditch about 15 miles from Escanaba, Mich. The blueprints were of U.S. Army installations along the Potomac River near Washington, D. C. *N. Y. Times*, 11-22-55.

A choking smog blanketed New Orleans for two days beginning in the night of Oct 25-26, sending 350 to hospitals, mostly for asthma: patients described their attacks as the worst ever experienced. The smog "marooned hundreds of motorists" in the outskirts of the city. Smog clung to the stretch from the Lake Pontchartrain Bridge to the junction of highways 11 and 90. *N. Y. Times*, 10-28-55.

A "sleeping sickness" epidemic in Korea has killed 675 children. *N. Y. Times* 9-29-55. In the issue of the previous day the *Times* noted 10 deaths from the same disease, no ages of the victims indicated, in a district of Illinois, Kentucky and Indiana, near Evansville. Eight of the 10 died in 3 counties.

A canon with a barrel weighing 100 tons was installed on Malta by Britain in 1896. An underground railway was built to carry its shells. Now it is being scrapped—"without ever having been fired in anger." *N. Y. Times*, 9-12-55.

A large section of land on French's Cove, Lake Zoar, near Oxford, Conn., was sliding into the water, as of 11-23-55, *acta Times* of that date.

Famous stalactites in Waitomo caves, New Zealand, are drying out after dripping "for thousands of years". Theory is that cutting down forests above the caves caused it. *N. Y. Times*, 12-24-55.

At Melbourne, Florida, on 11-2-55, and at Melbourne, Australia, on 12-22-55, schools of pilot whales "committed mass suicide" by swimming ashore. Both in *Times* of the days following. Also *cr Markham*.

A plague of "itinerant" phrenologists in McAllen, Texas, caused the local Solons to pass a law requiring bump feelers to buy a license for \$10, and post a bond of \$1,000, before practicing their science. *N. Y. Times*, 10-25-55.

The Mayor of Providence, R. I., has turned down Joe Lewis' offer of a \$75,000 statue of Tom Paine, even if the Atheists buy a site for a park to put it in, which they offered to do. Mayor Walter H. Reynolds refusal contained only 24 words, of which these were several—that Paine was "a controversial figure and the author of anti-Christian works." *N. Y. Times*, 10-7-55.

Of the 500,000 men wanted for the new German army, only 172,125 had volunteered as of this date, and only 18 per cent of those were "new" soldiers. The other 82 per cent were former Huns. Remember? In words of one syllable, the young fellows in Germany don't want to kill or be killed any more than you do. *N. Y. Times*, 11-8-55.



RUSSELL'S BEST

Three name-astronomers have come up with a new figure for the age of Earth. It is 5,400,000,000 years, and that is based upon the "observation" of stars that cannot be seen. The three seers, or swamis, are Drs. N. U. Mayall of Lick Observatory, A. R. Sandage of Mount Wilson, M. L. Humason of Palomar.

"For seven years they have observed 800 galaxies of stars and 26 clusters of galaxies, analysing the light from them. The most distant cluster they watched (sic) was the Hydra cluster. It was so far away that it could not be seen even with a 200-in telescope."

They admit that they may be wrong by as much as 20 per cent. Liverpool *Echo*, 12-23-55.

In a belt 20 miles across Leicestershire, Rutland, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, the earth rocked at about 8:15 a.m. 1-10-56.

At Cambridge U, Mr. G. Adams, a student of seismology consulted his instruments and said, "There was a slight indication of some movement about 9:30 a.m. but I would not like to associate that with anything that happened at breakfast time."

Mr. E. W. Pollard, at his seismological station at Dorking, Surrey, said "his instruments showed a big earthquake which started at 9:20 a.m. in the Pacific area or even further away." It was still going on at 11:50.

Dr. G. H. Curtis, assistant Prof of Geology at U of California, has corrected the record of the Alaskan eruption of 1912. Mount Katmai has been blamed all these years, but come to find out, most of the violence was committed by Novarupta which is 6 miles away from Mount Katmai. Let us give the devil his due. *Ibid*, 2-10-56.

When two fishermen, brothers, Nikolas and Gerassimos Bottas, of Aitolikon, Greece, saw a ghost and started to investigate, the ghost pegged rocks at them. *Ibid*, 11-25-55.

After 10 years of research at the Annamalai U of South India, Dr. C. T. N. Singh reports that hydrilla, sugar cane, tapioca and sweet potatoes—to name no more—grow better and faster if they are sung to, and show "a marked preference for the female voice". *Ibid*, 2-13-56.

Floods in Australia, 240 miles SW of Brisbane, have driven "scores of death adders" into the town of Goondiwindi. *Ibid*, 1-25-56.

At the U of Minnesota "scientists" have demonstrated that "cows vaccinated for a certain disease (or several diseases) will produce milk that has the power to give protection against those diseases." *Ibid*, 11-9-55.

Near Bologna, Italy, Signor Benatti has an old locomotive engine without wheels hooked up to power a churn on his dairy farm. The state railway authority has forbidden him to make any more butter that way until he obtains an engine driver's certificate. *Ibid*, 12-24-55.

Statistically, in England and Holland, wherever data are available relating to the religion professed by convicted criminals, the proportion of Roman Catholics is highest, and the number who describe themselves as of "no religion" the lowest, acts Mrs. Margaret Knight. *Manchester Guardian*, 12-12-55.



A British Sergeant, James Shipman, on duty in Nicosia, Cyprus, was killed by terrorists. His widow will not receive the usual pension because her husband was on his way home to lunch when it happened and "this could not be regarded as death while on active duty." *Ibid*, 12-2-55.



ELSENDER'S BEST

On 2-3-56 AP reported that "Japan has told the United States it has no objection to proposed H-bomb tests in the Pacific this year" — —

On 2-9-56, the *Newcastle Evening Chronicle* reported: "A resolution expressing the opposition of the people of Japan to continued nuclear tests by the major powers was approved unanimously by the House of Representatives in Tokio."

In Gansbaai, near Cape Town, South Africa, a puff adder bit Pete Hrymphys. Pete sucked the poison from his own wound and bit the snake right back, killing it. *Newcastle Evening Chronicle*, 1-20-56.

The same datum had appeared in the *Manchester Guardian* of 1-11-56. *Cr. Russell*.

A Zulu girl called Monzi was standing in St Lucia Bay washing clothes when a crocodile clamped on to her leg. Monzi bit the crocodile's nose until he let go, then so did she. The *Chronicle* and the *Echo* both printed that of even date, 2-9-56. *Cr Russell* also.

Peking newspapers marked the (AD) New Year "by switching over from the traditional vertical form of printing to the horizontal form, reading from left to right." *Chronicle*, 1-2-56.

At Weymouth, Dorset, part of a plain elm wood coffin was washed ashore. Six days later a man's body washed ashore at Freshwater, Isle of Wight. Its vital organs had been removed as if for burial. On the Saturday before 1-2-56, the rest of the coffin—lacking only a nameplate—washed up at Yarmouth. The police would like to know who was "buried at sea". *Daily Herald*, 1-2-56.

That reminds us of several data in recent issues—a lion washed ashore, and a boat with a bicycle and corpses. Also, this, not printed here before:

Two dead elephants on a New Zealand beach near Wellington. No elephants missing locally, and the nearest land 1200 miles away. *Los Angeles Examiner*, 4-11-55. *Cr Barneson*.

During the weekend before 2-14-56, Victor Huggon pulled a child out of the River Wampool, at Anthorn. This was the second time Mr. Huggon had saved a boy from drowning, and—sure enough—it was the same boy, Craig Stevens, he had fished out of the water on Whit Monday last year. *Chronicle*, 2-14-56.

The worst "killer-fog" (smog) in memory blanketed 30 counties of England. *Daily Herald* and *N. H. Mail*, 1-6-56, 1-7-56.

King Frederick started a clock in Copenhagen which is expected to keep time without a stop for 1,000 years. It may have to be opened for "minor repairs" in the 30th century. *Daily Herald*, 12-16-55. The source of its power is not mentioned.

"Scores" of gold wedding rings in the Midlands are "suddenly turning grey in patches". Tests of detergents tend to exonerate them, and so far the quality of the gold appears to be up to standard, but none of the complainants are willing to have their rings destroyed for the sake of really exhaustive analysis. *Daily Mail*, 1-2-56. Elsender reminds us of the diamonds changing color as noticed in DOUBT #50.

No local member has supplied us with this, but students of Keyhoe may know where it was published in the USA. If you do know, tell us.

In the midst of the talk about launching an artificial satellite, the Major is reported in the *Sunday Dispatch*, 12-25-55, as authority for the assertion that a "satellite"—whether artificial or not—weighing between 10 and 20 tons, is already circling Earth "400 miles above the equator".

The *Dispatch* reporter polishes off his yarn: "There is no British confirmation of the existence of the satellite. One theory is that it may be an experimental rocket fired from America which escaped from the earth's gravity and has gone into its orbit in space accidentally."

"There is reason to believe that one American rocket was lost while it was being tracked by radar at a height of nearly 200 miles."

In Brussels, astronomer M. Fernand Rigaux claimed to have discovered a "new" planet between Mars and Jupiter. *London Times*, 1-7-56.

Whether the same object or not is not clear, but on that same date a Japanese astronomer, Tet-suyasu Mitani, Kyoto U, announced a "new" planet seen Dec 9 "near the Taurus constellation. The Japanese Observatory has applied to the Cincinnati, Ohio, Observatory for a provisional number to be assigned the planet." *Pittsburgh Press*, 1-8-56. *Cr Olcher*.

Just why Harvard, Palomar, *et al*, permit Cincinnati to assign provisional numbers to planets does not appear, but one supposes that this comes under the head of "a fair division of labors".

A new stigmatic is reported in Shieldfield, Newcastle. She is Mrs. A. G. Charles, wife of the Vicar of Christ Church. *Chronicle*, 11-26-55.

Dear friends: the above contribution will be the last we ever will receive from MFS Elsender. The utterly stunning news of his death by pneumonia followed so closely the intelligence from Baltimore concerning Dr. Lindner that YS is still reeling and not at all sure of being coherent.

In the next DOUBT we shall attempt to do justice to Elsender. At the time of writing it is possible only to state the dolorous fact of his passing. MFS Simpson, a neighbor in Newcastle, informs us that Tom was only 53. The rest of us are going to have to work harder to compensate for these severe losses to Forteanism.



FORT IN FRENCH

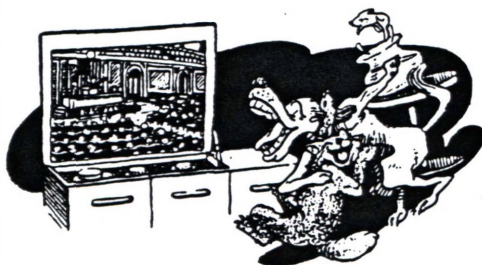
Last December in Paris Louis Pauwels launched a new series of books—in French, of course—under the style of "Collection Lumiere Interdite", and the first book was Charles Fort's Book of the Damned—*Le Livre des Damnés*.

Robert Benayoun made the translation, and I venture that, in this form, Fort's style will be no more confusing to the French than it was to a great many Americans back in AD 1919. M. Benayoun has also written a "presentation" of his work, brilliant, witty and informative. Jacques Bergier has contributed a serious foreword which seeks to establish Charles Fort's place in the history and future of thinking—*La Science a-t-elle Garde L'Esprit Scientifique?*—and even Your Secretary got in two pages which I see they have labelled *Message*. In other words, the book has THREE prefaces.

No report on the native critical reaction to Fort has been received as yet, but now that the barrier of language is down we expect the dissenting minorities of all Gaul to rally around Forteanism and forget forever the juvenile inanities of Sartre and company.

The book sells for 585 francs, which the Society will translate as \$1.75 for anyone who wishes to own this version of the Book of the Damned.

A German translation of Fort is also in progress.



JACK CAMPBELL WRITES

There come up t'other day an idea which as it might be somehow viable I here put on record with you: The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to People. This organization would investigate and publicly deplore and denounce all activities which inflict cruelty upon any human being, and would agitate vigorously for measures to restrain any repetition of such acts. It would have no concern with Human Rights, Civil Liberties, the Dignity of Man, the Freedom of the Individual, or any such stuff as that; it would be solely and belligerently opposed to any practice which involves cruelty, and it would narrow-mindedly reject any excuses whatsoever. The SPCP would, in short, be modeled upon the SPCA and the SPCC, which outfits are not concerned with rights and liberties of animals or children, but only with their ability to feel and their inability to resist such cruelties as may be addressed to them.

If any Fortean wants to print himself up a letter-head and elect himself president of this thing, he has my blessing. I won't take on the job, myself. Negative Reform is not my game; but I think that the SPCP would add a brilliantly picturesque touch to the frequently dull Civil Rights composition.

BATH-TUB SWIRLS ETC

MFS Banner asks if bath water swirls down the drain in the opposite direction South of the alleged Equator. He writes, "Since boyhood I have been interested in the many and diverse phenomena that comprises: Waterspouts, Tornados, Cyclones, Smoke-rings, Whirlpools, the Maelstrom, Undertows, Rip-tides, Sanddevils, Twisters and such. I have never been south of the Equator but from the insufficient data I have I think it very likely that final swirl down the drain is counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere but clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere. (There seems to be an analogous phenomenon connected with the direction of the tendrils of climbing plants and the direction in which they curl around a support, this is probably a form of heliotropism, Darwin in his monograph does not throw much light on the subject.) I once thought of using the idea in an adventure story: My hero after being kidnapped or shanghaid would return to consciousness in a closed room and would deduce that he had been taken south of the Equator by noticing the clockwise swirl of his washbowl outflow. I think the phenomenon may be a geotropic one due to gravitation and the direction of rotation of the Earth (if you believe in that sort of thing!)

"Could we hear from some Fortean living about 45 degrees Southern Latitude? Could they pull a few bath plugs and let us know what they observe as to the direction of the swirls?

"In conducting such experiments the water must be at rest and disturbed as little as possible by pulling the plug. A few specs of cork dust make observation easier."

In complete sympathy with this inquiry, YS adds two other categories, (1) the curl of pigs' tails, and (2) the path a dog travels in bedding down. For that matter do the same dogs always or generally follow the same paths? Let's hear from dog owners.

COMPASS AT THE POLES

Will any member who has himself observed the behavior of a magnetic compass needle at either "pole" please describe what he saw? Failing first-hand observation, will any member who has read such a description by an explorer please supply the reference and quote. MFS Page and MFS Bush are the inquirers.

ROBERT LINDNER

What malicious Fate is aiming her shafts at Baltimore? First, H. L. Mencken, then—in the same 24 hours—a fire that killed ten, and now our Accepted Fellow, Dr. Robert Lindner.

Bob was only 41 years old, the father of three wonderful children by a wife who shared his outlook, his years of labor, his ideals and his all-too-brief success.

Only last month his latest book was published, and we should be reviewing it with praise in this issue, to help spread the dogma-shattering ideas he presents. Certainly this is no place for a book review or advertisement, but the contents of the volume is the very essence of what Bob Lindner lived for, and so YS urges every member to read "Must You Conform?"

The loss is too personal to be stated without emotion, but to the best of my judgment this is a blow to Forteanism and to the progress of rational thinking in the world. So young a man—with so much to say still unsaid. Here, if ever, that word "premature" does truly apply to a man's death.

Even as we go to press comes word of a movement in Baltimore to establish a foundation in his honor for research in the special fields of his interests. By its very nature, the Fortean Society is precluded from participating in that movement, but our memorial to him will be in carrying on his own rebellion against his colleagues insofar as we are able.

It was good to know you, Bob.

FLOOR OF PLATO

The Society has added another bona fide astronomer to its rolls in Robert Weirauch, who writes:

Now I really have a purpose in life as an astronomer . . . to watch the moon as never before. In the April '55 issue of "Sky and Telescope" there appears an article called "The Three Riddles of Plato". Plato is a lunar crater at the northeastern top at the end of the "alps" and above Mare Imbrium. The following phenomena have been observed both visually and photographically by "respectable" astronomers:

- 1) under exact repeated conditions the shadows of the mountains bordering the crater caused by the setting sun have *changed shapes* drastically;
- 2) at times the floor of Plato appears to be *convex*, and at other times *concave*;
- 3) on the floor of the crater appear smaller craters which sometimes number in the seventies, at other times only a dozen are seen, and at still other times, the floor is perfectly *smooth*.

FALLS

3-11-55, *Kolner Stadt Anzeiger*.

Fat rained from the sky on the previous Wednesday above the Italian town of Corsano. "The cloudy sky turned a dirty yellow colour suddenly, and heavy rain began. The police reported that the clothing of people was soon covered with a fatty substance which was streaming down with the rain. After 20 minutes the rain stopped and the yellow colour disappeared. The authorities have, for the time being, no explanation." *Cr Parr* who made the translation from the German.

11-29-55, *N. Y. Times*.

Fish about a foot long, "believed to be a type of small swordfish, were first plastered against the rock shelving by the wind (sic) and then flipped upon the roadway"—called, the Causo Causeway, Port Hastings, N. S. *Cr Mitchell*

12-15-55, *Evening Standard*. (British).

"Pieces of brass-like metal" fell into Rye Lane, Peckham's shopping center, injured a woman and broke a store window. Police said a boy threw it a distance of 100 yards. A man said, impossible to throw it half so far. "Most popular theory . . . from an airplane." No plane seen or heard. *Cr Gee*.

12-23-55, *Pittsburgh Press*.

In Alexandria, Va., a dead frozen fish crashed through the windshield of an auto being driven by William Shannon. Also in the car, George Brinsmaid. No other cars near, no plane overhead, no cover to hide a prankster. *Cr Oltcher*.

12-28-55, Asheville, (N. C.) *Citizen*.

"Several weeks ago" in the night, Mrs. J. A. Padgett, Montreal Rd., Black Mountain, heard something hit the house. Later found two objects called "strange looking stones". Photo of lady with stones in the paper above. "One of them broke open and a garnet and copper colored liquid poured out. You can shake the other one and it sounds like a coconut inside. A Weather Bureau official said the rocks could be rare meteorites from outer space. But . . . not yet examined by a geologist. The intact stone weighs about three pounds." *Cr Wimmer*.

1-4-56, *Pittsburgh Sun*, also *Post-Gazette*.

A ball of honeycombed ice about size of a basketball fell from a clear sky in Jefferson, shortly after 8 p.m. yesterday. Pieces kept in a refrigerator for analysis. *Cr Oltcher*.

1-12-56, *News Tribune*, Beaver Falls, Pa.

A deposit "came down with the rain"—called black and orange-red—stained houses in a small area of the city, not more than two square city blocks. The finger is pointed at a nearby factory. *Cr Patterson*.



PINK FOG

From London to Bridlington, England was covered "for 40 miles" by pink fog, "rosy", lasted half an hour, attributed to setting sun. *Mail, Herald*, etc, 1-30-56. *Cr Elsender*.

DISPLACED RED

A rare bird from Lapland or Arctic Siberia, called a "spotted redshank" turned up in a Rhode Island marsh near Tiverton. First on record act local Audubon Society. Present whereabouts not stated. *N. Y. Times*, 9-8-55. *Cr Mitchell*.

N.Y.C. STINKS

Greater New York—with the exception of the Bronx—was afflicted by a stench from midnight until 9 a.m. 12-18-55. No explanation. Compared to similar foul odor of previous 12-28.



CREDITS

Thanks are due members and non-members also for 59 items in the past quarter relating to lights and other unidentified objects seen in the skies. Keep them coming. *Cr Elsender*, Essenhigh, Sussman, Layne, Oltcher, Eaton, Gee, Parr, Russell, Mitchell, Darling, Crosby, Hibbert, Moseley, Campbell, Tobey, Markham, Mealy.

THANKS TO MEMBERS

MFS Worden Waring supplies the information that the Moberly-Jourdain story, *An Adventure*, was reprinted by Faber and Faber, London, in 1948 old style, with an introduction by Edith Olivier and a note by J. W. Dunne.

MFS Judith Gee supplied a copy of an earlier edition, Macmillan, 1911. The identities of the authors are covered by a note and the pseudonyms, Elizabeth Morrison and Frances Lamont.

Our thanks to both, and to all the others who told us about Rosicrucians at various addresses.



WORLD CITIZENS

Continuing her work toward making the world safe for rationality, even against present appalling odds, Caresse Crosby has undertaken the labors of Counsellor to the Commonwealth of World Citizens, with offices at 1606 - 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

The World Citizens plan to adopt a constitution this coming September, so if you wish to have a finger in the forming of that document, write to the address above.

No registration fee is mentioned in the literature we have here, but send along a dollar or two to help pay their printing bills.

PROSE

This short piece is submitted for the prose laurels the next time an international contest in that category is sponsored in the Olympic Games. It was written by Andre Wurmser, in *L'Humanite*, 12-24-55, and reprinted (?translated?) in the *National Guardian*, 2-13-56:

LET THE LAUGH NOT BE HELD BLASPHEMY

There are, said Rochefort, 36 million subjects in France, not counting those who are discontented. Today France has seven million more subjects and the number of discontented has undergone a very considerable inflation. But that does not mean that to weep, whine, sigh and moan must be the first duty of the citizen.

The belly laugh and the sly smile . . . must not be held as blasphemy. It's the uneasy ones who wear a gloomy look; the stunted ones who have the pasty-face. But we who sing of tomorrows, we laugh—right now and without affectation.

Not that all humorists share with us all our thinking. But how could they be out of place in a paper which each day translates the hope of mankind and its certainty that one day soon France will be such that for each one there will be bread, roses and SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT.

Smile my friends. It is not a photographer bidding you thus. It is a friend, all the more anxious to smooth the wrinkles—just because wrinkles are coming.

DR. FREDERICK A. COOK: AMERICAN DREYFUS?

by Russell W. Gibbons

MFS Gibbons is an Associate of the Arctic Institute of North America and a member of the American Historical Association. His revised monograph entitled *An Historical Evaluation of the Cook-Peary Controversy* is to be published this April.



Some of us recall the veritable orgy of public disputation that occurred in the press at the time that old Doc Cook was called a fraud and passer of gold bricks, and held up to public view as a scoundrel by his former exploration mate Robert E. Peary. Some may even have heard him when he stumped the country in 1914-15, speaking on the Chautauqua platform and pleading for a congressional investigation of his claims. In 1923 he was convicted of promoting worthless oil stock and imprisoned for five years, seemingly an appropriate sequel to a man who had his name become synonymous with "fraud".

Yet there are still a few encyclopedias and history books who mention that Frederick A. Cook indeed had support among many notables in his claim to having been the first man to lead a band of his fellow creatures to the geographical top of the earth. There are men today who are prominent in the fields of science, navigation, geography and oceanography who will tell you privately that one day history will exchange the roles which are attached to Dr. Cook and his contemporary rival, "Admiral" Peary. The array of historical geographers and scientists who have delved into the polar controversy in the past is impressive, in that of those distinterested scholars not one has found Peary's claim to be valid.

The American public is strangely apathetic to the national shame of honoring so highly a man whose achievement was never authenticated, as was Peary's. Yet every American history-book, atlas, geography and encyclopedia has for almost fifty years perpetrated one of the greatest fallacies of recorded history, which was soundly proclaimed a myth over three decades ago! To the everlasting discredit of our historical geographers and "authorities" Cook, if he is referred to at all, is recorded as an explorer turned adventurer; one who supposedly without any personal integrity planned, plotted and temporarily succeeded in making the world believe that he achieved something which he actually did not. He is painted as a man who had a higher regard for personal renown and riches than for the truth.

He is recalled to us as Doc Cook, the perpetrator of a great swindle, shorn of any character or reputation.

Any attempt to substantiate the claims of Cook and show up the Peary myth would take much more than the space which I am afforded here; any large library contains all necessary evidence to show that not one of the charges against Cook's attainment of either the North Pole on April 21, 1908 or Mt. McKinley will hold water (the McKinley story demands a volume in itself: his reaching of the summit of this apex of the North American continent was accepted without question during 1906-09, until fraudulent attempts were made to discredit this accomplishment at the height of the Cook-Peary controversy). To the interested reader and potential student of the controversy I suggest the works of half a dozen polar scientists and geographers: Dr. J. Gordon Hayes and his biography *Robert Edwin Peary* (1929) and *The Conquest of the North Pole* (1934); Hayes was a Cambridge scholar who gave incontrovertible proof that Peary and not Cook was the fake; Dr. Edwin Swift Balch, a Philadelphia historical geographer of the Franklin Institute and a scholar of worldwide reputation, in his two books *The North Pole and Bradley Land* (1913) and on McKinley, *Mt. McKinley and Mountain Climbers' Proofs* (1914), as well as numerous papers in scientific journals and national periodicals of the 20s; Walter Henry Lewin, another English geographer and member of the Royal Society, in his *The Great North Pole Fraud* (1935); Captain Thomas F. Hall in his monumental work, a bibliographical bible to the student of the controversy, in *Has the North Pole Been Discovered?* (1917); Professor H. H. Houben, one of the most versatile scholars of modern Germany in *The Call of the North* (1931), and the introduction to Dr. Cook's posthumous volume, *Return From the Pole* (1951) by author-editor Frederick J. Pohl, which gives one of the best reviews of the controversy of recent publication, and an up-to-date bibliography, not at all slanted towards Cook.

A very important reference which should not be ignored is the pages of the *Congressional Record* for 1910-11 and 1916. In Peary's testimony before the subcommittee on Naval Affairs in those former years, when his friends had subscribed \$350,000 to "see Peary through" in retiring him as a Rear Admiral after freeloading on the Navy for twenty eight years. This testimony, a sorry mess which indicts Peary more than the words of his own critics, was not made available to the public until Congressman Halgesan inserted it in the *Record* in 1916.

One could write volumes on Peary as the actual player of the role in which Dr. Cook was cast, and those supposedly staid scientific people around him who propagated Peary's cause. Not only was his polar claim false and impossible, but he never had his data examined by any responsible scientific society, he secured recognition only because his claim was rubber stamped by a publishing house after a shockingly casual examination (in a railroad station)—by three men from the "National Geographic Society" a private group which had a

\$25,000 investment in Peary's expedition and which has been called in Congress as being "not national, not geographic and not even a society") and his negligence and incompetence was responsible for several deaths.

In the number of years that I have been a student of the Cook-Peary controversy I have primarily attempted to make a critique of the acceptance by history and reference works of the claims of both rivals (the results being in my monograph, *On Historical Evaluation of the Cook-Peary Controversy* which is at the New York Public Library). One thing has been paramount to me throughout this time: that no honest scientific or academic attempt is ever made by the savants of the "accepted" Peary version to answer his critics, and they continue to treat Cook as but the same "gold brick" that their idol tagged him with forty-seven years ago. I have experienced brush-offs from some supposedly responsible groups and individuals whose mission is said to be the "increase and diffusion of geographic knowledge." I have written Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor the octogarian grand high mulla of the Society, who was one of the leading Peary cheerleaders and lobbyists during the squabble and outlined points which demanded proofs to the honest researcher, but all I ever got was a beat-up copy of the *Geographic* portraying an anniversary ceremony sponsored by the Society at Peary's resting place.

However, one communication did get a rise from one of Grosvenors' boys by the name of La Gorce. I shall treasure it forever as a part of my classic literature of those who seek to establish science and history via the closed shop:

Dear Mr. Gibbons:

I trust that you will not take offense when I say that the officers of the National Geographic Society have much more of importance to attend to than waste time with this ancient absurdity. It is cowardly yet easy to attack a dead man!

For those who cannot fathom this, Brother La Gorce is simply saying: that Columbus is dead, and if you come up with evidence to prove that he never discovered America, you *can't* mention such proof on account of Chris being dead and unable to defend himself. (This is the same gent mentioned in *Newsweek* last November, as signing up 2 million fellow geographers in fifty years).

Peary's official biographer, Fitzhugh Green, did not fail to mention some of the aspects of his life which we do not usually find in the tradition of schoolboy heroes, but W. H. Hobbs wrote of Peary with almost pathological devotion, and with rose-colored glasses eliminated much of his unsavory activities, which makes him about as inaccurate a biographer as is to be found. In 1936 Hobbs was called on many of his inaccuracies and forced to delete much of his slander against Dr. Cook, to his bitter disappointment. His tie-up with Grosvenor and the *Geographic* crowd of armchair geographers was well known; the inheritor of the Peary the Great White Discoverer legend and Cook the Fake sage fell to Roy Chapman Andrews after Hobbs' death.

In 1951 Dr. Cook's narrative of his journey in the Arctic regions after the attainment of the Pole, was published under the title *Return From the Pole*. It received enthusiastic reviews all over the country and went into English and German editions, and became a Book-of-the-Month selection in the Western Sector in 1954: the scientific-minded Germans hailed it as "positive vindictive proof of Cook's case." In 1952 the foremost American digest magazine bought the condensation rights of Dr. Cook's story, but after the plates had been set up and a reprint scheduled for American and foreign editions which would have fifteen million readers, the editors recanted. George Seldes wrote of the tie-up between Grosvenor and the editor of this digest over a decade ago; obviously such a condensation would do no good to the "reputable standing" of Grosvenor's geographic sugar bowl and its decisions!

The attempt to suppress anything favorable to Cook in the way of documented research available to the public was not without previous counterparts. Dr. Cook's daughter has records of four favorable manuscripts which were bought up or sabotaged during the 1930s, one of which is worthy of mention: In 1935 Professor Andrew Freeman of the School of Journalism of Columbia University was commissioned to write a book on the Cook-Peary affair, and instructed to be "absolutely ruthless". He and his wife spent three years writing it and they were ruthless to the result that they found Cook to be honest all his life and his rival Peary quite otherwise. Anthony Fiala, an old exploration companion of both explorers, was told by Freeman that "Cook was undoubtedly the American Dreyfus". The publisher who had commissioned the book paid Professor Freeman \$2,000 advance royalties, told him the manuscript was "gripping" and they put it in the safe. Apparently they had such a grip on it that it has not seen type these twenty years (see the Waynesburg (Pa.) *Republican* for February 22, 1940).

In the 30s a few popular magazines such as the *American Mercury* came out with the story; no attempt was ever made by the Peary enthusiasts to refute them. In 1935-36 a now defunct monthly called *Real America* published four articles on the Polar Controversy, bringing out all the facts which Freeman did in his manuscript. The author of the series, a man by the name of Ted Leitzell became one of the most ardent champions of Dr. Cook's cause; a few months after the series *Real America* was sold and Leitzell accepted a highly-paid publicity job with Zenith Corporation (which by coincidence had on its board Donald B. McMillan, last of the hardy old troupers of the 1909 Peary expedition). Nothing was heard from the vitriolic pen of Leitzell again on the Cook-Peary epic. Nor does this sort of thing not have its recent occurrences: In 1953 the popular monthly *Bluebook* sent a shaft into the Pearyite temple with publication of an article by one John Euler, titled "The Great North Pole Lie". With a full cover picture of the "indomitable old Peary" captioned "This man was a liar!" it revived the hoax and sent the staid geographers in the Society scurrying for cover.

Two months later *Bluebook* had a new format, new editor and no mention of such "absurd attack on a dead man".

Yet there are still those savants who say that the Cook-Peary squabble is a laid ghost, completely "exposed", expounded and exhausted forty odd years ago!

Who was Fredrick Albert Cook? Could he have done in a "lone wolf" expedition what Peary had failed to do throughout the years with his lavishly equiped and financed attempts? It was said that Fredrick A. Cook (1) was a man who deliberately attempted a hoax in order to achieve unjustly earned glory; (2) that his supposed false claim to having attained the peak of Mt. McKinley was a prelude to his Polar claims; (3) that his story of having attained the Pole was shown to be Robinson Crusoe yarn by conflicting testimony of his Eskimos to Peary, his observations, his food supply and his failure to produce any instruments; (4) The University of Copenhagen, which had investigated Cook's reports, found his claims false; (5) that Dr. Cook had made a public "confession" in 1910 of his "polar delusions"; (6) that he had "run away" from scientific investigation; (7) that he never received any scientific or geographic recognition; (8) that his conviction and imprisonment for supposed oil fraud was an appropriate sequel to one who had perpetrated other frauds. These charges do not stand the searchlight of honest investigation.

Let us consider them one by one: (1) Far from having a background of a professional hoaxer or con man, Fredrick Albert Cook was known in 1909 as a surgeon and explorer of high merit, who had served with Peary on previous Polar explorations. He was knighted by the King of Belgium in 1900 for his services in the *Belegica* expedition to the Antarctic, had been honored by European scientific societies and American societies (among them the National Geographic Society!) for his McKinley attainment; he was the author of two best-selling books, a lecturer in demand and highly praised by his fellow explorers, among them Raold Amundson, General A. W. Greeley and Robert E. Peary! His moral fiber was such that no one but Peary believed that he would have falsified his polar claim after he announced it. (2) Dr. Cook's attainment of Mt. McKinley was a matter of public record previous to the polar controversy, he had never been questioned by his accusers until after the Peary blast at his reputation, in fact those who challenged him were among those who had accordingly honored him; his book was published before he left for the Arctic and subsequent McKinley experts like Captain Herron of West Point, E. S. Balch, E. C. Rost and others proved conclusively that he had reached the summit.

(3) Cook has two volumes which his critics never pay any attention to: *My Attainment of the Pole* (1911) and his posthumous *Return From the Pole* (1951), and yet it is an accepted elementary fact in exploration that the record of the explorer is of utmost importance in analyzing his claims (Captain Hall and Dr. Balch take Cook's book apart in this respect as did Hayes and Lewin with Peary's,

with opposite results). As for the Eskimo stories, Pohl does a splendid job of showing the conflicting versions reported by Peary's boy McMillan at three various instances, in the introduction to *Return*; when Peary hurled the charge in 1909 stalwart old Roald Amundson said "I don't give a damn for the Eskimos, they say what a 'good white man' wants and say it!" Cook's nautical and astronomic observations reported in his books were found perfectly credible by five qualified experts of the Society of Civil Engineers in 1914, as well as university professors and the director of the Brussels Observatory. As for his instruments, here we cannot forget that dauntless old Peary: he refused to let Cook's companions bring them back from the Arctic on his ship *Roosevelt*, and his shipmates testified before the Congressional committee that they buried them among the rocks of northern Greenland!

(4) The University of Copenhagen investigated Cook's records in December 1909, declared them *not sufficient proof* that he had been to the Pole, yet had given him an honorary degree in recognition of the Polar quest; the American explorer Admiral Schley of Sampson-Schley fame suggested that Peary submit his records to Copenhagen also, and was met with cries of an "insult to American Science!"

In 1955 I received a letter from the Chancellor of the University saying that Dr. Cook's degree had never been rescinded by the university, nor the Gold Medal awarded by the Danish geographical society; in 1911 the University Encyclopedia credited Cook with the Discovery and a professor of the University wrote a monograph showing how Peary could not have been accorded as attaining the Pole by his proofs if they were ever submitted.

(5) Dr. Cook never made a "confession" of his Polar claims; this was part of the Peary conspiracy when planned insertions in his story in the defunct *Hampton's* magazine were made while Dr. Cook was lecturing in England, implying that he had Arctic "delusions". This was brought out at the Congressional investigations, *Hampton's* admitted it and O. O. McIntyre the editor, confessed to it, which Driscoll in his biography of that muckracker called "the most dastardly deed in the history of journalism, which killed Dr. Cook as the Discoverer of the North Pole!" (6) On the contrary, Dr. Cook pressed for a congressional investigation of his claims and an international commission of explorers to decide upon the controversy; he lectured extensively before the public and Peary never took up the Chautauquas' offer to appear in a forum with Cook. (7) Dr. Cook was acknowledged as the Discoverer of the Pole by the foremost explorers of the day, including Amundson, General Greeley, Admiral Schley, Otto Sverdrup, Nordenskjold, Cagni, Baldwin and others. He was accordingly honored and recognized for the Discovery of such scientific groups as the Royal Danish Geographical Society (which, significantly, along with the Norwegian and Swedish societies refused to honor Peary in his 1910 tour), the Geographical Institute of Berlin University, the German Geographical Review of Vienna, the International Bureau of Polar Research at Brussels and the Arctic Club of America, among others. Polar scientists in America and

Europe went on record for him: Professor Brewer of Yale, Professor Wright eminent Arctic researcher, Professors Leclercq and Lecoq of the Belgian Royal Observatory, and numerous German, Austrian and Swiss scientists. The world-famous oceanographer Prince Albert of Monaco was reported in the scientific press of 1922 to have written a monograph corroborating Cook, but by the terms of his will *cannot be published until after the death of Peary's immediate family* (see *Chicago Daily News*, April 17, 1936; Peary's widow died last December). (8) Finally the tragic finality of Cook's conviction in 1923 has been shown to have occurred over anxiety over growing demand to vindicate Cook: for this story the researcher should read the Lietzel series in *Real America*, and Pohl's introduction in *Return*. That he was unjustly convicted was the contention of many of those present at the trial.

Revival of the Controversy

Fredrick A. Cook died in 1940 with most of the world hardly taking notice that he had passed on; he was still "Doc Cook the faker". In the sixteen years that have passed attention toward the Arctic regions has been renewed because of the military significance that it holds. Russian observers landed at the Pole in 1936 and ten years later the United States began operations in the Arctic Basin. A new phenomenon, unknown to Cook or Peary forty years previously, was defined and observed: the "Ice Islands". This may well play an important, if not the decisive, element in Dr. Cook's ultimate vindication. Air Force observers landing on "T-3" in 1952 found it to be a fresh-water ice island which was a break-off of the Ellsmire glacier, which at a distance appeared to be an island. It was a description of What Dr. Cook wrote about in 1911 in his book, and which he had seen and called "Bradley Land" forty-eight years ago! The historical significance of this pioneer description was brought out in the *Journal of the Arctic Institute of North America* (July 1952) and members of the American Northeast Command such as Colonel Joe Fletcher, Brendt Balchen and Dr. Kaare Rodahl noted that Cook's 1908 observation was of importance in showing that he was indeed some hundred geographical miles from the Pole when he described it. The Peary crowd has been saying for over four decades that he never went ninety miles into the Polar Sea!

It is doubtful if geographic societies who closed their doors to Cook when he lived will eagerly step forward now and admit that they were wrong and assisted in maintaining one of the most tragic and deliberate miscarriages of recorded history and exploration. His posthumous book was hailed in Europe, relatively ignored here by "scientific" communities; they continue to ignore the recognition accorded Cook in Europe and likewise that the Peary myth was blasted to oblivion there decades ago.

As Fredrick Pohl pointed out, Cook's tragedy paralleled that of Columbus: he was rejected, despised, imprisoned, and died neglected not to know in his lifetime the honor that someday will be accorded him.

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.

1869

Box 3 (Continued)

May

- 25 Description in M. Advertiser is from Birm Daily Gazette May 27th
- 25 in Birm Daily Gazette 26th said that at Wolverhampton there was a general impression that "so called thunderbolts" had fallen
- 25 In Sym Met Mag 4-137 (See also 4-184. TT) that accto Birmingham Gazette after th storm in Wolverhampton large number of small dark stones found in many streets and roads
- 27 Tifis / ext hail / See 1861 / D-291
- 28 The Tuesday before / Met stones of Wolverhampton / Sym Met 4-158
- 29 Met burst at point 10 or 12 degrees below Saturn BA 1969-254
- 31 Repetition of May 19
- 31 Ab 11 p.m. Kent / Met size of moon — detonation shook ground / BA 69-256 / Seen Wales / Devonshire / W to E / In France and Belgium
- 31 Det Met France / BA 69-281
- 31 (Sound) Ab 11 p.m. Met det Hankhurst etc Kent / BA 69/257 (reverse) heard
- 11:5 / In Sussex met seen and heard 11:15 p.b.
- 31 10:57 p.m. Magnificent meteor seen to explode at Norwich no sound / LT June 2
- 31 Met (?) (Fort's ?) close to ground at Herring's Gate form of a tadpole (?) izzled a fiery red (indecipherable) and disappeared / About 30 feet from ground seemed and disap / might have been high but was seen by no one else / Sc.Op. 2/52
- Jun 1 earthquake / sea waves / San Francisco / Rep May 13, 1850
- 5 severe quake Christchurch, N. Zealand / London Standard Aug 9
- 5 LT, p.12 from Manchester Guardian / Crowds about the Feathers Hotel in one of the busiest centers in Manchester / For 5 weeks been ringing of all the bells in the hotel. They were muffled and stopped but began again. Police and other investigation and nothing found out. "An indescribable presence is said to have made itself manifest on the stairs, dressed in most UNghostly habiliments of black / The cook was taken seriously ill and resigned his position

Box 3 (Resumed)

- 6 R. W. Payne writes from (indecipherable and paper cut off) that he saw ab 3:20 in the afternoon luminous obj. leave the neighborhood of Venus and descend slowly / Astro Reg (looks like 7 but could be 9 TT) 185
- 6 small sea shellfish / Chester Penn. (Fell ?TT)
- 6 Afternoon / Chester, Pa. Acto witness Mr. Y.S. Walter, Editor of the Delaware Co. Republican / They were exhibited to the Conchological Section of the Acad of Nat Sciences, Philadelphia — shells — specimens of (?)emma Gemma / Pop. Sci. Rev / 9/223
- 9-10 Cyclone in India (L) Sci Op 2/58
- 10 Tifis / ext hail / D-298 / See May 1867
- 12 etc / Coluna, Mexico. A. J. Sci 3/2/381
- 12-13 eruption Coluna, details / Nature 5-151
- June Italian fireflies. Some near Reading, summer of 1822 / Nature 2-297
- Jun 17-18 Met France / BA 69-281
- Jun 25-Jul 2 (indecipherable) sunspots first seen 4 p.m. by Birmingham / Astro Reg. 7-169 (reverse) Barvas / How far from sea? (Fort's ?)
- Summer Upheavals reported in harbor of Machiasport, Maine / Nature 1-220

- July Great water eruption Colopaxi, Ecuador / Nature 4-212
- Jul 2 Donlevant-le-Chateau / Something in sky, (indecipherable), a whirlwind / Cosmos 3/5/442
- 3 Waterspout burst at Chenoa, acto Bloomington (Ill) papers / Trib 15, p. 2 (Probably N. Y. Tribune, July 15. TT)
- 4 etc Dry fog over a great part of Europe / Maximum on 10th at Palermo / Very noticeable at Paris from 4th to 12th—Rome 7th to 14th / La Sci Pour Tous 15-214
- 4-12 Paris Dry fog maximum / 7-14 Rome / 10 Palermo / 14 Ancone CR 7-1124 / Dry fog and fall of sand and (indecipherable) sun red and astonished people of Europe
- 5 NY Times of, p. 1, also Times of 6th, p. 5 / quakes Tenn / Ill / Ala / Missouri
- 7 India, Nepal / severe quake / BA '11
- 7 5 p.m. and then others / Comrie / scarcely perceptible tremors of earth—sounds like distant thunder / LT July 12, p. 7
- 8 Germany 6 p.m. Det met / Z. M 4/394
- 13 Shock in Peru and eruption of Isluga. Continued / and Cotapaxi and Pichinchi / especially on 23rd and 24th / London Morning Advertiser, Sept. 1, p. 2
- Box A (Resumed)**
- 14 San Francisco Ev Bulletin Aug 4, Miss Susan Caroline Godsey died at her home ab 8 miles from Hickman, Ky. Had been asleep 14 years. At first she awoke regularly twice a day. In later years oftener and her recovery was hoped for. Awake a few minutes and then drop off again to sleep.
- 14 Godsey case / False report of death—see Oct 27, 1873 / see June 25, 1870
- Box 3 (Resumed)**
- 15 8:45 p.m. Met slowly from Eton—brilliant light Vendome (Loir-et-Cher) Chem News 20-71
- 15 Bolide at Fleche. La Sci. P.T. 14-270
- 16 Met London etc / BA 69-264
- 19 LT of, p. 6, also 21st, p. 10, 30th, p. 4 / great met of July 16 (There is just a random chance that these refs are from the NY Times, but the London paper is more likely. TT)
- 20 Dark spot on copernicus
- 20 9 h. 35 m. large meteor N.Y. City / Weekly Budget, Aug. 14
- 24 Near Reading a dozen "Clouded yellow" butterflies. Acto records not taken before in Berkshire. Sci Gos 1869-210
- 31 At Aberdeen / Rain and hail and thunder in final 10 minutes of it the sun shining through cloud / heavy rain / Symons Met Mag 4/112 (There's something else written here I can't make out. Looks like "Hartmilk". TT)
- 31 Lumps of ice 2 inches in diameter great damage at Basle / Bridgeport News, Aug 20
- Summer Animal / Naturalists' Note Book, 1869-255, from Saunders' News-letter — a strange animal caught in a rabbit trap upon the estate of the Marquis Conyng-ham, at Slane, Co. Meeth / Size of a cat—pointed snout—in the mouth four large tusks two protruding upward and two downward. Covered with strong, dark-brown, wiry hair—small mane running down length of back—twelve toes on each foot.
(The next two notes were folded together by Fort. TT)
- Aug. 1 (Flesh) San Francisco Ev Bulletin, Aug 9. That another shower of flesh and blood like that in Santa Clara County, several months before, had been reported as having occurred, on the farm of J. Hudson, in Los Nietos Township / Said that the fall lasted about three minutes, startling about a dozen (p. 2) persons who were in Mr. Hudson's home at the time attending a funeral. Flesh and blood and short, fine hair, came down and covered an area of two acres. Flesh in fine particles and in strips from one to six inches in length. One of the witnesses, Mr. Parker, went to Los Angeles, and told in the Los Angeles News, (p. 3) of the 3rd / showed the Editor, strips of flesh and one of them "the lower part of a heart, in perfect shape, and about one and a half inches long." Said that a large quantity of this flesh had been gathered and preserved. "The day was perfectly clear, and the sun was shining brightly, and there was no perceptible (p. 4) breeze at the time. News of the 4th quoted. Editor writes that he had seen but chosen not to keep the unpleasant specimens, to the regret of persons who had besieged him. "That the meat fell, we cannot doubt. Even the parsons of the neighborhood are willing to vouch for that. Where it came from, we dare not even conjecture."
- Sep 10 Llangollen (Wales) Advertiser of—shower of flesh / At Los Metos, California, upon area of about 200 square feet. Said that the phe was attributed to disgorging vultures. (Not in BO) (By "Not in BO" Fort means that this datum is not to be found in his notes under the category BO—for Body Odor—which he had set up. TT)
- Aug People in Peru before the quake terrified because the German scientist Fulb had predicted that ab 14th of Sept in consequence of sun and moon being closer to each than usual there would be a great quake. Then came the quakes of Aug. LT, Oct. 18. And preceding issues see index / See prediction tidal wave later that came

- Aug insects and drought / 1893
 Aug. birds, squirrels, white ants, slugs, etc /
 See 1907
 Aug Scarcity and abundance summer 1903

Box A (Resumed)

- Aug 1 (The note following is in typescript, obviously cut out of the mss of one of Fort's books, probably before publication. No identification of which book. TT)
 Spon Comb / Paris (?) (Fort's ?)

In *Cosmos*, 3-6-242, is a physician's report upon a case. It is a communication by Dr. Bertholle to the Societe Medico-Chirurgicale: That, upon the first of August, 1869, the police had sent for Dr. Bertholle, in the matter of a woman who had been burned to death. According to Dr. Bertholle, the body was on the floor, between the chimney and the bed—remains of a woman of thirty-seven—a heavy drinker. There was nothing in the room to indicate the origin of the fire. Other dwellers in the house had heard nothing. The floor, under the body, was burned, but bed clothes, mattress, curtains showed not a trace of fire. Dr. Bertholle's report is technical and detailed: left arm totally consumed; right hand gone; no trace of internal organs in the thorax; organs in the abdomen unrecognizable.

- Aug 1 Spon Comb France / Paris ? / *Cosmos*,
 3/6/242

Box 3 (Resumed)

- 3 Destructive whirlwind Venice / 2 days before been one north of Venice / London Morning Advertiser, 16th
 3 Near town of Apaneca, Salvador, the volc of Ahuachapan / LT, Sept. 28, p. 4 / air was heavily charged with electricity. About noon there came from the volc a whirlwind, like a black column, with loud detonations raising large logs. Followed by heavy rain.

Box A (Resumed)

- Aug 1 Ghost at Hampstead
 Aug 5 (BO) D. News of, Steamship Propontis, from Cardiff to Constantinople, July 29. When in Bay of Biscay an explosion heard and deck shattered / 3 members of crew seriously injured. No one aboard could explain except by theory that an explosive had been surreptitiously shipped
 Aug LT Index / Lord Chief Justice / Disap? (Fort's ?)

Box 3 (Resumed)

- Aug 6 Tide at St Vincent ebbed and flowed 15 times between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. / was ascribed to a great quake somewhere. Ayrshire Express, Aug 28
 7 4 observers saw "with the naked eye" a brilliant little object about moon's diameter pass the sun's limb / Nature, 18-663 (reverse) And a Mr. (indecipher-

able) with a small telescope saw crescent-shaped object ab 3 times as far from the sun / Observatory, 3/137 / St Paul's Junction, Iowa

- 7 Ec. of sun / J. Sci, 7-443 (Apparently the objects above were seen at time of eclipse. TT)
 7 NY City / 7:45 p.m. Met as bright as Venus shot from point several degrees west of Arcturus / 9 p.m. met from Vega to point near Antares. NY Trib, 14th, p.2
 7 Pop. Astro, 2/332 / At Shelbyville, Kentucky, Prof Winlock and Alvan G. Clark, Jr / small objects crossing field of the finder, in straight lines / and by Clark and Blake soon after
 7 Pop. Astro, 3/159 / See by Prof Swift at Mattoon, Ill. / saw objects crossing the moon—too improbable that meteors—thinks they were thistledown. (Sweet of swift?TT)
 8 NY Times of, p. 1, also, 7th, p. 4, 11th, p. 8, 12th, p. 4 The eclipse
 10 Perseids considered by Mr. Wood to be approaching maximum / BA 70-101
 10 Perseids below the average / LT 14th, p. 9
 10 146 Perseids counted at Marseilles remarkable for large size / London Ev Star, Aug 25
 10 Capt of vessel bet Bristol and Cork kept watch for Perseids and though clear sky, saw not one / Standard of 17th, p. 5
 12 Standard of, that near Mendrisio, in the Ticino, a plague of black caterpillars which entered houses and crept into beds, causing painful swellings by their touch / Thousands been killed, but no decrease in numbers (sic). In some places public prayers for removal of the scourge
 Summer Gipsy moth / In Sci Gos, Feb, 1870 / Cor writes he had liberated a "largish" number of caterpillars of the gipsy moth. Never able afterward to discover cocoons or moths (Fort's emphasis) / March number, someone else had liberated them in England—never heard from again.
 Summer Gypsy Moth first appear in Amer? (Fort's ?) Said that a French Canadian had brought a caterpillar from Europe in 1869, experimenting upon hybrid silkworms that could withstand climate and then spread. Chicago Tribune, July 15 (From this point until you read a disclaimer, all the notes were within one wire clip affixed by Fort. TT)
 Aug Syrphi, Isle Wight, Aug 14, 1864
 Aug Insect year / 1892
 Aug Insect year / 1886
 Aug Swarms of 1921 / not said insect famine but drought equals this
 Summer Locusts in England / Notes and Queries 2/4/267 and 397, also 5, p. 37
 Aug butterflies in place / ants other place / July 16, 1926

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