

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF
THE SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION
OF THE UNEXPLAINED.
COLUMBIA, NEW JERSEY 07832
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PURSUIT

"SCIENCE IS THE PURSUIT OF THE UNKNOWN"

VOL. 3, NO. 2

APRIL, 1970

SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

Columbia, New Jersey 07832

Telephone: Area Code 201, 496-4366

ORGANIZATION

The legal and financial affairs of the Society are managed by a Board of Trustees in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey. These officers are five in number: a President elected for five years, and four founding members – two Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. The names of the present incumbents of these and all other offices are listed in each issue of the Society's quarterly journal PURSUIT.

General policy and administrative matters are handled by a Governing Board which consists of the Trustees and four other officers elected annually. These are: an Administrative Assistant; a Managing Editor; and two Directors for Publicity and Promotion. The First Vice-President is the Administrative Director, and the Second Vice-President is in charge of the physical establishment. The Administrative Assistant is also the Librarian.

Implementation of decisions taken by the Governing Board is then prosecuted by an Executive Board. This is composed of a Standing Committee of nine officers, and an unlimited number of Regional Officers. The former are:

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- (2) a Deputy Chairman in charge of administration;
- (3) an Executive Secretary who acts as coordinator;
- (4) a Director of Research in Basic Science;
- (5) a Director of Industrial and Technological Relations;
- (6) a Public Relations officer, who also handles press relations;
- (7) a Liaison Officer for governmental and other official relations;
- (8) a Consultant on Scientific and Technical Publications;
- (9) a Supervisor of Regional Representatives.

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- (4) Corresponding (data withdrawal service) \$10 per annum
- (5) Contracting (for individual projects) (By contract)
- (6) Reciprocating (for other societies) (By exchange)

All of these except No. 5 receive all the Society's publications.

PUBLICATIONS

The Society publishes a quarterly journal entitled PURSUIT. This is both a diary of current events and a commentary and critique of reports on these. It also distributes a quarterly newsletter on Society affairs to members in categories (1), (2), (3), and (4) above. The Society further issues Occasional Papers on certain projects, and special reports in limited quantity on the request of Sponsors or Contributing Members. (Subscription to PURSUIT is \$5 per annum, including postage.)

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Vol. 3, No. 2
April, 1970

PURSUIT

JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE
INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

(SITU)

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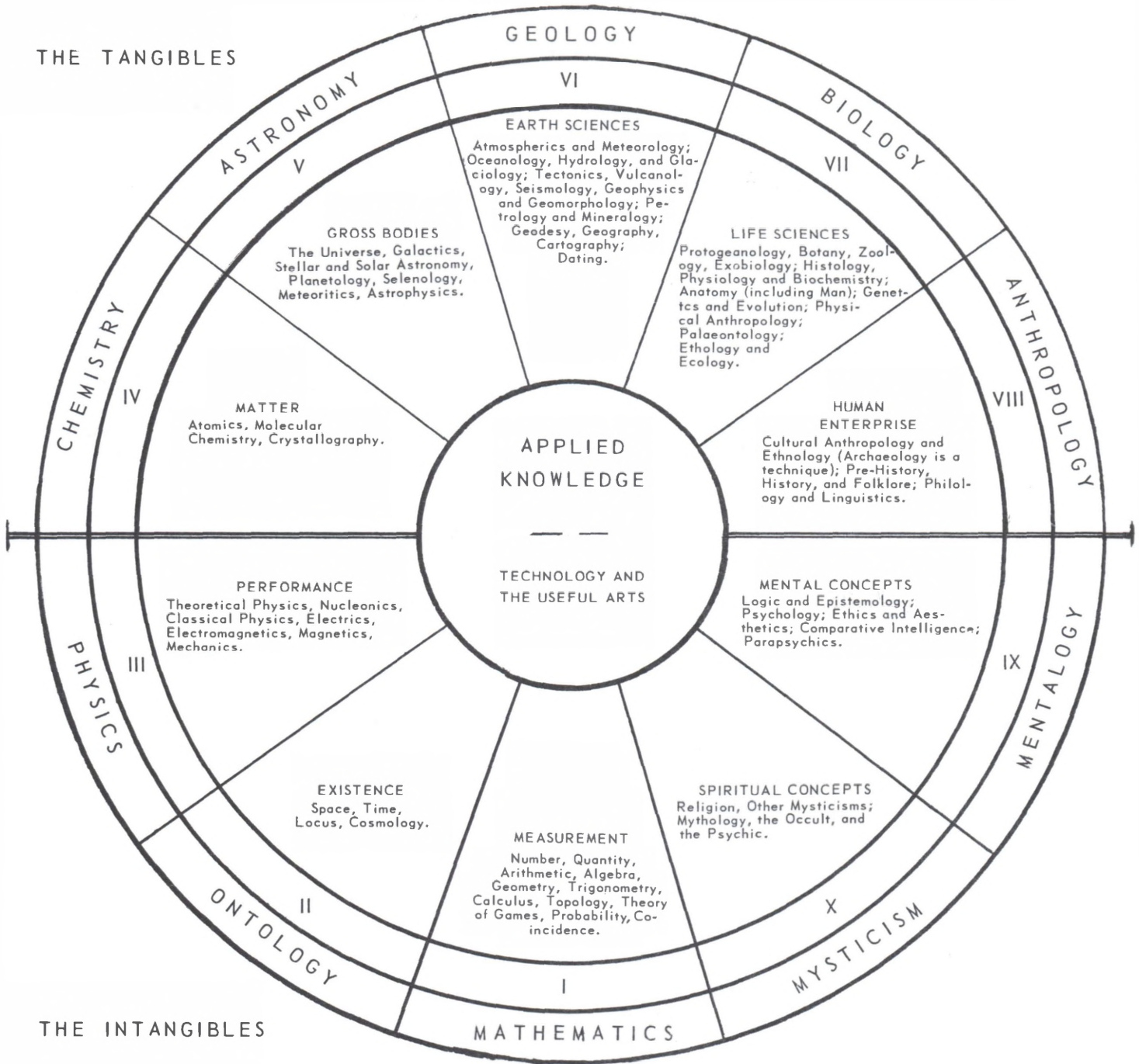
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THE TAXONOMY OF KNOWLEDGE



Everything in existence, including "existence" itself, and thus all of our possible concepts and all knowledge that we possess or will ever possess, is contained within this wheel. Technologies and the useful arts lie within the inner circle, having access to any or all of the ten major departments of organized knowledge.

From the KORAN: "Acquire knowledge. It enables its possessor to know right from wrong; it lights the way to heaven; it is our friend in the desert, our society in solitude; our companion when friendless; it guides us to happiness; it sustains us in misery; it is an ornament among friends, and an armour against enemies." — The Prophet.

EDITORIAL

From time to time something crops up that is of the utmost and most ultimate importance. A something of just such a nature came to our attention a few days ago in the form of a letter from a correspondent in Russia by the name of Dr. Edward K. Naumov, who is officially listed as a biologist currently engaged in "Experimental Parapsychical Research" in Moscow. Note the word underlined in the previous sentence. This is the "something". Let us try to get this business straight, and once and for all.

Centuries ago, thinking people began to question the verity of existence. The pre-Dravidians, then the Sumerians, then the other Mesopotamians, then the Ancient Hebrews, the Egyptians, the Greeks, and finally even the ditch-digging Romans, gave thought to these esoteric matters. Their consensus of opinion was that there is both a material world and a non-material world. Further, it appeared to all of these thinkers that, while there was a world of the physical (science) and of the spiritual, there was also a large body of items left over that did not seem to fit into either. These they tabbed the "meta-physical"; meaning meta, or "like", (but not definitely of) the physical world — and especially that of Aristotle!

Somewhere along the line, however, another concept crept into man's searchings into the ultimates of his life and of existence as a whole. Primitive science gave him some pretty solid stuff to chew on; and stuff, moreover, that he could test. Religion gave him some splendid guidelines for his "soul" and inner feelings; but there was still an awful lot left over that worried him. The classic example is, of course, Ghosts. You can't measure or weigh these damned things; yet ever more people claim that they have seen them. What is more, they don't fit into any expressions of any religion either. In fact, they are, and always have been, a damned nuisance; so they were stuffed into this class of overall "like the physical things but definitely not of them" — i.e. the "metaphysical".

And so it has gone on throughout the ages. Ever more nuisance-value items have kept cropping up — poltergeists; UFOs; abominable persons who are alleged to live in snow but manifestly don't; and, more recently, things like people communicating telepathically with other people they have never seen across oceans; hypnosis; and so forth. So what happened? All these "unpleasantnesses" were shovelled in under this third rug, called the metaphysical; and, for some extraordinary reason, they were dubbed "psychic".

Now, if you look up this word in the dictionaries — and I don't care what dictionaries — you will find that it is defined as follows:—

By Webster: "1. Of or relating to the psyche". (Referring back a few lines, we find this in turn defined as "(a) A beautiful princess of classical mythology loved by Cupid; (b) Soul, Self; also Mind.") Webster then goes on about psychic as follows:— "2. Lying outside the sphere of physical science or knowledge; immaterial, moral, or spiritual in origin or force. 3. sensitive to nonphysical or supernatural forces and influences." (Italics mine). The Oxford dictionary gets to the point more simply and directly, and is much more succinct. It states simply:— "Non-physical force assumed to explain spiritualistic phenomena".

The point here is that none of the things that we customarily call "psychic", today — and which we firmly believe are the basis of so-called psychic phenomena — are included in these definitions; while almost all of them very clearly fall without those definitions. The truth of the matter is that we have no word for these, either individually or collectively. They are matters that are not susceptible to spiritual (i.e. religious) interpretation, and they are not, as of the moment, acceptable to pragmatic scientific investigation by our (Western) way of thinking. Yet, they are not wholly intangibles and they are available for, and amenable to, proper scientific investigation. What is more, they have been so investigated in Russia and in other countries behind what we call the Iron Curtain — such as Bulgaria, Romania, Czechoslovakia, and elsewhere — for several decades. Moreover, the scientists so investigating these matters have come up with some very cogent and definite pieces of practical (and physical) information. If you want to know what these are, read the book we reviewed and advised in our last issue; namely Psychic Research Behind the Iron Curtain by Lynn Schroeder and Sheila Ostrander, to be published this year by Prentice-Hall.

Now, while this book is so titled; said title is totally invalid and most misleading. However, it was the last resort of the authors, the publishers, and just about everybody else, in that we just simply do not have a valid and popularly known word to cover the matters of which they wrote.

Let me take the ridiculous misnomer "ESP" or "Extra-Sensory Perception", which has been solemnly called 'parapsychology'. First, this matter concerns not only 'perception' but also 'transmission', or emanation, by living things. Second, there is nothing "extra" (meaning beyond or out-of) about it. To the contrary, it is activated by super- or supra-sensory proclivities of animated entities. Third, and above all, it could not possibly have anything to do with psychology, and not just because there is really no such thing in the first place. That part of so-called psychology that has any validity is nothing but the recording and analysis of the practical and physical results of ethology and behaviourism. That a college girl in Durham, North Carolina, can read a succession of cards turned over by another student in Liverpool, England, has nothing to do with psychology. It is a purely physical manifestation of a purely physical aptitude, inherent in said

students. The only mysterious thing about the process is that we have not yet pinned down just how it is done, or by what apparatus.

Now comes this very modest note from Russia, from which it appears that they have been calling all this, and all along, just what it is – i.e., e.g., and to wit, the PARAPSYCHIC.

This means simply that these studies are para (i.e. “like”) what used to be called, (and the dictionaries still call) “psychic”; but which are entirely practical and amenable to biologic and other scientific investigation.

Ivan T. Sanderson.

THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES

I. MATHEMATICS; II. ONTOLOGY; III. PHYSICS; IV. CHEMISTRY; V. ASTRONOMY.

These departments of enquiry and recorded knowledge have, on this occasion, to take what is customarily called a “back seat”. We have too great a backlog in other departments to devote space to these matters this time. Of course there are endless matters of both general interest and with fortean overtones cropping up in these sciences all the time but, frankly, the technical journals and even the heavier popular publications that deal with these matters are getting so “fortean” themselves that they appear to be quite capable of taking care of their own for now. Thus, we are making every effort to obtain more space for the neglected sciences such as those of the world of reality and the tangible – to wit, Geological, Biological, and Anthropological matters.

VI. GEOLOGY

A CAVE-TABLE IN AFGHANISTAN

There is a perfectly splendid organization entitled The National Speleological Society, founded some thirty years ago, and which is and always has been a combination of scientists and technologists interested in caves, and what are called somewhat endearingly “spelunkers”, meaning amateurs of all ages, callings, and inclinations who are interested in cave exploration as a hobby or sport. Cave exploration can be highly hazardous and calls for most special training and skills. It has been described as “Mountaineering, upside down, at midnight”. Don’t let yourself be fooled; spelunking is not for sissies and it is not, as a leading editor of one of the world’s greatest newspapers once suggested: “Nothing but a subconscious craving to get back into your mother’s womb”. No: cave exploration constitutes a most serious scientific endeavour; it has contributed immeasurably to hydrological, geological, palaeontological, and archaeological discovery, and a very



great deal of its accomplishment has been due to the spelunkers or so-called amateurs. (We urge all members to write for information on this most excellent society: care of Mr. Donald Cournoyer, 2318 N. Kenmore Street, Arlington, VA 22201.)

The NSS, as it has come to be known, now has worldwide affiliations, and its American members range all over the world on planned speleological expeditions, in the course of their normal business, or even as mere tourists. Some of the things they have discovered underground are utterly astonishing and have set off truly enormous research projects that would otherwise never have been initiated. It was an NSS member who found the first true cave-painting in the New World – ex-president Charles Mohr, then visiting Mexico – and it was a quiet and unassuming member who led the way to the famous archaeological sites in the caves of Mt. Carmel. The monthly publication of this society, named The NSS News, now in its 27th year, is a positive well, or should we say bottomless sinkhole, of cryptic facts and information. In its September 1969 issue (Vol. 27, No. 9) it came up with a real fortean item.

This was written by members Yolanda and John Wallace, who went to Afghanistan on a two-year tour of official duty. Due to lack of space we cannot reproduce their account in full but we submit the adjacent photograph taken from The NSS News with their kind permission. This sets the stage but does not tell the whole story, and this is so enigmatic that we are going to endeavour to point out its significance even if we cannot offer to explain the matter.

Many odd things are found in caves. Many of these are called ‘formations’ in that they grow by accretion of one kind or another therein. There are rimstone

basins, cave-pearls, beautiful translucent flowstone curtains, and so forth but, above all things, things called stalactites that grow down from above and their counterparts called stalagmites that grow upwards beneath these due to the slow deposition of such substances as calcite and aragonite dissolved in dripping water. These formations are basically very 'fragile', despite the fact that some are hundreds of feet long or tall and form veritable mountains, in that they cannot grow if there are disruptive forces in action, such as even constant air-currents, between them. In other words, if there is a constant drip of heavily calcined water from the roof down a growing stalactite, a complementary stalagmite will grow up beneath it — provided only there is no disturbance or interruption below, and no water to carry away the drips. Bearing these facts in mind, take another look at the accompanying photo. Then consider the following.

The floors of caves must, first of all, be of bare rock. Next, they may be carpeted with clay, or other silt, gravel, and/or slabs of rock that fall from the roof above. Sometimes great depths of finely-particulated material called "cave earth" accumulates on them and then there is an earth tremor and another lot of slabs of the roof fall. Later again, the silt may be washed out by an underground river so that these slabs gradually sink to the floor. Now take still another look at this photograph. Should this happen, but something hold one of the slabs aloft, it would look like a table, like this one. However, there is an enigma here. How come the stalagmite protrudes through this rock slab? The only explanation we have heard that seems logical is that it just so happened that there was a hole in said slab, directly under a stalagmite that was active, and that the drips from this slowly gouged a well-like hole in the cave earth below the slab and then slowly built up a stalagmite in its place. Then came a washout which removed the upper layers of said cave earth and left the stalagmite rigidly attached to the cave floor but penetrating the slab.

This incredible oddity was discovered by the Wallaces in company with Mr. Hal Greeney, 60 miles north of Kabul, some 1200 feet into a cave in the usual limestone. The "table-rock" was in a small side gallery which had only a foot-high entrance passage.

POSSIBLE BIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF REVERSAL OF THE EARTH'S POLARITY

The real import of this notice is actually biological but its substance is geological. It is this irksome matter of the change of polarity of our earth's magnetism that everybody now so firmly believes has taken place many times throughout geological history. Frankly, although this would seem to be as 'proven' as anything, we are not yet by any means wholly convinced. There are just too many variable factors that have not been taken into account, such

as the perfectly simple and easily demonstrable plasticity of the surface layers of the lithosphere and the (geologically speaking) incredible speed at which movements of these strata can take place. What's the good of defining "fossil magnetism" in any stratum when the damned thing might be twiddled around overnight; and literally, as in some major earthquakes. And what about the meandering of the magnetic poles themselves?

Nonetheless, it would seem to be firmly established and accepted that the magnetic polarity of the earth has completely reversed every so often. For the evidence of this we can but refer you to a massive outpouring of papers on the subject from all manner of experts in a considerable number of fields. The general idea is that these switches of positive to negative polarity have taken place rather suddenly at considerable intervals and that they were comparatively sudden switches. Now comes Sir Edward Bullard of Cambridge, England, with the modest suggestion that the process entailed first a gradual diminution of the existing polarity, to zero, and then an equally gradual build-up the other way. As he put it: "During a reversal, the intensity of the Earth's dipole field decreases to zero. In this event, the Earth's surface, including the surface layers of the sea where most plankton is found, may have been subjected to a higher incidence of cosmic radiation inducing higher mutation rates."

Our correspondent, David Hemsley, referred us to an article anent all this in the Canadian Geographical Journal on "Sea-Floor Spreading and Continental Drift", which contained the following paragraph:—

"It appears that to reverse its direction, the earth's field first decays to zero and then builds up in the reverse direction rather than rotating through 180°. The change in polarity requires several thousand years to take place so the process can hardly be described as a sudden change." Our correspondent then goes on to say: "It seems to me that with the earth's magnetic field at zero all kinds of particles that come from the sun or elsewhere, and are usually caught and spun to the poles by the magnetic field, would plow straight on through and do some large scale genetic stirring up. Perhaps this periodic 'opening of the window' on these particles has been one of the primary tools of evolution. In come the radioactive particles, genetic change stirs up a whole bunch of 'losers' — then the window shuts again (the magnetic field is back) and under this protection the 'winners' have a chance to capitalize on their mutations."

One of the greatest debates has been how, and why, whole slews of apparently quite competent, productive, and well-integrated life-forms have, from time to time, just vanished from the historical (i.e. the fossil) record. The greatest enigma has always been the demise of the so-called dinosaurs. This did not mean, as is popularly supposed, the extinction

of merely a number of colossal misfits, like brontosaurus and tyrannosaurs, but much more extraordinarily, many whole groups of creatures like mosasaurs, while the crocodilians, tortoises, snakes and lizards, and the little Tuatara of New Zealand survived. The notion that exceptional radiation from super-novae could have caused this was a popular idea some years ago (see PURSUIT, Vol. 2, No. 2) but it was hotly debated and finally more or less 'canned'. This idea about earth magnetism would seem to us to hold much greater promise. That whole

groups of well developed animals did disappear more or less suddenly at several points in geological history can not be denied. For this there must be a cause. When, moreover, such so-called extinctions coincide with what is likewise called a worldwide "unconformity" in the deposition of sediments, one can but assume some truly cosmic event. Biologists have done what they can by way of recording the results. It is up to the astrophysicists and cosmologists, and geophysicists to keep probing the possibilities of the causes.

VII. BIOLOGY

NOW IT'S SHAGGY DEER

A very modest little 'paper' appeared in the December issue of the Journal of Zoology, the official publication of the Zoological Society of London (Volume 159, Part 4, page 537), entitled: "Long haired Fallow Deer at (sic) Mortimer Forest". It is less than a page in length and was a reprint from a publication named simply Deer, by one Mr. G. Springthorpe, which was entitled "A preliminary note on an unusual variety of Fallow Deer (Dama dama)". This, incidentally, is one of our favourite Latin names for anything, and is not beaten even by Lama glama or Glama dama which, in turn, we have always assumed to have been fabricated by the chap who originally supplied the answer to the famous feminine question "What's she got that I ain't got", by observing simply "Glamour, damn her".

The substance of this paper is equally modest. All it says is that in 1956 a couple of Fallow Deer, which are normally short-coated and prettily spotted, turned up in this Mortimer Forest, a sort of game reserve in Shropshire, England, with a thick coat of

hair averaging five inches in length, as opposed to the normal 1½ inches. In 1966 ten such bizarre animals were counted in the herd of 200 in that forest but, by 1969, these long-haired specimens had spread into Herefordshire, and 50 of the original Mortimer Forest herd of 200 were long haired. The average person's reaction to such a thundering pronouncement is naturally "So what? We got shaggy dogs, ain't we?" But wait.

Only an abject idiot would today question what is platitudinously called the "Darwinian Theory", although few people, and even zoologists, any longer know exactly what said theory was originally all about, or just what it included. One of its component features, and the one most often misunderstood and misquoted concerns the catch-phrase "natural selection" which, incidentally, was not coined by Darwin himself. The basis of this was that all life on this planet has come about through evolution, which is to say by "evolving" from and out of other, less complex or perfected types, by a process of perfectly "natural" selection by one of a pair of breeding partners for a specific mate that should result in the best progeny, and best suited to its environment. This catch-phrase unfortunately implied that plants and animals deliberately selected such mates; just as we might pick a leggy blonde in our environment. Darwin never meant to imply any such thing. To the contrary, he meant that, simply by blind mating (or dating, if you will), the most suited off-spring tended to survive. Hence the corollary expression: "Survival of the Fittest" —and, incidentally, our favourite cartoon.

After the initial hubbub created by the publication of Darwin's theses had somewhat, died down, scientists got to work questioning the "How" of his ideas. Various suggestions came to light. There had already been Lamarck, who had suggested that if you kept on bashing in the muzzles of large terrier dogs — as they did once to get what we call Bulldogs — you would eventually get such dogs breeding true to type. This was called "the inheritance of acquired characteristics" but, as a theory, it got soundly clobbered. Next, one Mendel came up with a garden of peas in Austria by which he demonstrated statistically that, simply by crossing two different colored flowers, he



could produce variant offspring. Following him came DeVries of Holland who showed that just such crossing or hybridization occurred naturally in nature and thereby produced entirely new forms of plants. This was all quite satisfactory, or aggravating, according to how you approached the matter, but it didn't really get us anywhere in either the fields of 'natural selection' or 'survival of the fittest'.

So, this was the way that new types could be produced, but what, apart from the differences of the two or more types that could interbreed, brought on these radical changes? So the question was begged and the word "mutation" was coined. This is all very well but it doesn't explain a g-d thing. In fact, it's a pure Gertrude-Steinism just as was that person's famous pronouncement to the effect that "A Rose is a rose, is a Rose". So, OK; plants and animals suddenly "mutate", which means that somewhat or radically different types just appear spontaneously in nature: and to hell with their genes. This is most unsatisfactory; and it can be a real shocker. Take, for instance, the matter of lobsters of the northeastern American seaboard.

Up till about twenty years ago a "left-handed lobster" was not just a rarity but an oddity. These crustaceans, as any gourmet knows, have two claws, one of which is thin and slender, with sort of teeth on its inner sides, and a sharply hooked end, while the other is a heavy, club-shaped device, with blunt ends, huge muscles, and lumpy bosses on the insides of its tines. The former is a grasping and holding organ; the latter a chopping and crushing one. In the old days, the slender holder claw was almost invariably on the left side, and the crusher on the right. However, the lobster farmers of New England, who keep millions of these delicacies in pens, have observed that, over the past two to three decades, ever more left-handed lobsters have been turning up, until today half of them are this way! What natural selection, or other causes has brought about this "mutation" and why?

You can argue the facts of this, and the case of the Fallow Deer, ad infinitum, but you can't explain said facts away. For some benighted reason, lobsters in northeastern North America rather suddenly "decided" to go left-handed, and a bunch of deer in England apparently "got the happy idea" of putting on long glamorous coats. And the pioneers in both cases apparently weren't just unwanted sports or eccentrics. They not only survived; they apparently bred true; and they multiplied. And all this in ten to twenty years. So hadn't we better take another look at evolution and go back and read Charles Darwin more carefully. Next thing you know, we'll have bandy-legged, carbon-monoxide breathers popping up in our so-called Inner Cities. Nature is rather grand.

YES: WE WOULD BELIEVE A "BABOON MAN"

Again from the ETM Log: "Would you believe a baboon-man? Anthropologists in Mozambique have

reports showing that a young man, raised since infancy by baboons, was captured four years ago and 'tamed' by a tribe living in the jungle. Supposedly he has adapted well to tribal life. As the story goes, twenty-two years ago a husband who returned to his hut in the bush found his wife dead and no sign at all of his baby son. He assumed that the boy had been killed by wild animals. Months later, natives saw the strange sight of a female baboon in a pack carrying a human child. Attempts were made in vain to recapture the child who, after some time, became quite strong and ferocious. Wasn't until he was a teen-ager that he was finally snared."

Yes: we would believe this report; and much more so than items like "Gazelle-Boys" (which turned out to be a plant by a bored newsman in Cairo during W.W. II), and even Wolf-Boys ex India. Many physical anthropologists and primatologists are now coming round to the notion that the so-called Cynocephaloids or Dog-headed Monkeys, and notably those types that we call baboons, were originally much closer to those creatures which gave rise to the anthropoids than were other mere "monkeys". Also, the baboons have been shown to have a remarkably manlike social structure and to display many features of what we call loosely "brains". They have always been and still can be "trained" to perform not unlike human morons. That a female tribalized baboon should adopt a human infant would seem to be quite possible; and that then said human should grow up as a member of an extended family group or subtribe of these creatures. Why not? They can get along very well on the same diet and, provided the youngster minds his manners, he should be quite acceptable to the tribe. Female baboons make darned fine mothers, and the "Old Men" very good fathers, discipliners, and leaders. Life for a growing male human might be a great deal easier, more simple, reliable and gratifying as a baboon than as a member of any human group, even the most primitive with all its taboos and other social complexities.

INDONESIAN WILDLIFE

A report comes out of Indonesia, by a special correspondent of "The Star" (presumably of Kansas City, Mo.) which is duly reproduced in the Kansas City Times of the 27th November, 1969, and which is datelined Jakarta, Java, The Republic of Indonesia. This is a very good piece; one would wish that the original writer could have been identified and his original copy submitted, so that we might give a resounding cheer to the editors of this report who had, in the course of duty, to hash and rehash it since, for once everything seems to have come out almost all right. The story goes as follows: —

One Shri. Madé Taman, who is the Chief of the Departments of Wildlife and Conservation of the Republic of Indonesia, issued some very cogent observations to the foreign press, regarding issues at stake in his country. This is more than just gratify-

ing; it is truly a very great expression, even if it is not to be implemented as so many high-sounding and high-fallutin' schemes proposed and published by that "emerging" nation have been, over the past three decades. Unfortunately, these truly lovely people appear to have placed the immediate dollar ahead of long-term practicality, so that practically nothing but yakk has come out of this country since they managed to divest themselves of the bourgeois Hollanders. This is a sad commentary to have to pen in view of the very real "glory" of this, the third most populous nation in the world, and the one with probably the greatest resources left today. And said resources include what we call "wildlife". Just what the Indonesians have inherited in this respect is apparently neither known to, nor even appreciated by them. Pity!

This statement by Dr. Madé Taman is in two parts, and it goes as follows: — First, on the subject of Orang Utans; and, second, on that of the Oriental, one-horned Rhinoceros, technically called Rhinoceros sondaicus. This is a mixed bag indeed but it is most extremely interesting. First, Dr. Taman points out, and categorically, that the Orang Utans, just like (in his opinion) the Gorillas of Africa, are doomed to eventual extinction, and probably rather soon. The reasons he gives for making this statement are that our species of primate (modern Man or Homo sapiens, that is) has consistently, and throughout the ages, deliberately killed off all competing types within our general family of creatures. And he notes the demise of Chellean Man, the Neanderthalers, and even such poor types as Bushmen, Hottentots, the Oriental Pygmies, the Tasmanians, their Australian relatives the Blackfellows, and even the North American Amerinds, in this category. The Orang Utan is doomed to go, he says, and mostly because it commands a high price in the western animal market, but also because it is in great demand in the Chinese food market because those people believe that the brains of these creatures are not only good to eat but transfer some other valuable properties to their eaters. (The Chinese are a damned nuisance in the whole field of conservation. They are still convinced that powdered rhinoceros horn is an aphrodisiac; so help us!) Incidentally this substance was said to command a price of £ 500 (sterling) per Kilogram on the open market, thus being more valuable than gold.

Biology — Subsection Genetics: An Effing Awful Affair (i.e. An Eing Awul Aair)

(With apologies to the Type-Setters Union). Verbatim quote from a story on drug deaths in New York from the Daily News, 8th January, 1970:— "Of the 15, 13 were wale and two emale, Baden said. 'This fis a preliminary igure that can still rise', Baden explained, 'pending the results o tsts made on other cases'. Baden said that rom 1960 to 1968, 286 deaths were recorded by his oice due to narcotic use in the age group rom 15 to 19. Only one o that totalf was under 16, a 15yearold (sic) girl who died in 1966."

With further apologies to the New Yorker, we would state, and for the record, that we have never seen the coinage of more delicious new words in any one paragraph. "Wales" and "Emales" we will be using; a "totalf" should, in our opinion, be brought to the attention of the Executive Branch of Government. Should you run across similar goodies, please send them to our "oice" at once.

But then Dr. Madé Taman comes up with something much more interesting. This is that the small Oriental rhinoceros, with one horn, which was thought to be just about at the point of final extinction, has turned up in some quantities in Borneo, and in some quantity on a small island west of Java. Dr. Taman goes on as follows: —

"The Giant (sic) Birds-of-Paradise of New Guinea are now numbered in 10s. [(1) This is absolute rubbish.] The prehistoric dragons of Kommodo (sic) up to 20 feet long (2) are dwindling fast. The minia-elephant of Sumatra, the dwarf buffalo of Sulawesi, and the beautiful, miniature Javan tiger are all but extinct. But not all Indonesia's rare animals are on the decline. One, the single-horned rhinoceros, suddenly emerged from supposed extinction last year. Twenty Rhinoceros sondaicus — the oldest species of rhinoceros in the world (3) — have subsequently been discovered on a small island reserve west of Java. Even more exciting is the recent report of unidentified animals, and animal tracks, in the unexplored Kutai forests of East Borneo. 'There have been reports of colossal tortoises and serpents and huge ungulates,' said Madé. 'We have no idea what sort of animals these could be. No scientists ever recorded them before. They could be the remnants of a prehistoric fauna which has somehow survived in the unpopulated and impenetrable rain forests of Eastern Borneo.'" Either Dr. Taman is somewhat uneducated or — and this is much more likely — the newspaper person who interviewed him never had even a smidgin of information on wildlife because, while the basic substance of this statement is very fine, the details are pure rubbish. Let us take these, one at a time, and as numbered above: —

(1) There is no such thing as a "Giant" Bird-of-Paradise. There are two rather large species known as the King and the Great. The former lives only on the Aru Islands; the latter on mainland Papua, where it is still extremely numerous throughout very large tracts of uninhabited and as yet mostly unexplored territory.

(2) The large lizards of Komodo Island (with one "m") and of some associated islets, are nothing more than large Monitor Lizards. They are not dragons (whatever those mythical things might have been), and they are no more "prehistoric" than we are. Prehistory, be it known, is the term properly applied to human activity, from the dawn of the wood, bone, and

horn, primitive tool-making cultures, until human activities were recorded, by men, on stone, bone, papyrus, or some other medium. All animals are thus "prehistoric", unless they mutated or otherwise evolved since about 5000 B.C. And, incidentally, the record Komodo Monitor Lizard so far recorded measured 12'7½".

(3) *Rhinoceros sondaicus* is one of seven species of what we call rhinoceroses, still known to be alive today. There is no possible reason for claiming that this one is the "oldest". To the contrary, it is quite possible that the so-called "White Rhino", which is actually the Weit (Dutch) or Wide-lipped *Ceratothere* of Africa. derives from a much more ancient stock. The point of real interest here is that this little species was thought to be on the point of extinction. But, ten years ago we were informed of a small area in southern Borneo where one man alone counted thirty-five examples of this interesting species! So this is a "remnant of a prehistoric fauna"? Oh yes, indeed; what isn't? We, in this country, still have a few "prehistoric" chaps of vaguely mongoloid appearance, known to the pale-faces as "Indians", but who should be more properly called Amerinds, living in Brooklyn, New York. They are prehistoric all right. Poor "Wild (utan) Men (orangs) of the Woods" (Indonesian). In other words, let's get our facts straight.

"SPOOF" — A SOCIETY FOR COELACANTHS

In 1968 a group of ichthyologists and comparative anatomists got together to try to do something about what they most pertinently called "Old Fishes". This was to say certain very old fishes; to wit, the famous Coelacanth that first turned up just thirty years ago off the southeast coast of Africa. All of such "fishes", which have four fleshy sub-limbs as bases for their pectoral and pelvic fins and which, as known from fossils, had always been thought to be somewhere close to the line of development from the fishy estate to that of the first four-legged creatures that crawled out upon land, had until then been thought to have been totally extinct for at least 70-million years. These scientists therefore founded an organization named the Society for the Protection Of Old Fishes, or "SPOOF" for short.

This outfit, which is headquartered at the College of Fisheries, in Seattle, Washington, has a membership of over fifty, all of them scientifically trained specialists in matters fishy, and ranging from oceanic ecologists to anatomists and histologists. The membership list of this estimable outfit gives the names of these research workers, their titles and places of work, and their individual requirements of bits and pieces of Coelacanth; such as "frozen liver", "pituitary glandular material for serial sectioning", "brain tissue for pesticides(frozen) if possible", and so forth.

Here is an effort thoroughly worth supporting, but will doubtless appear to the majority of our members

that it is quite out of our class. This, however, is not so at all; and for the following reasons. There happen to be in our midst some members who might be able to assist this endeavour in a very practical manner. One of our members, for instance, happens to be the first man to record the whole story of the Coelacanth on film, and who inspected one of the first fresh ones, floating in a sunken canoe, in the Comoro Islands. Some others of our membership happen to be comparative anatomists who have specialized in the fishes, and palaeontologists who have done likewise and with special emphasis on the most primitive forms from which other fishes would appear to have evolved. Further, we have contacts in the area where the Coelacanth has come to light. Would, therefore, these last please step forward and communicate with us specifically on this item. We will transfer any information that you, such members, might deem worthwhile or fitting, to SPOOF.

THEY CAN HAVE SIX LEGS

We reproduce here a photograph taken from SCIENCE DIGEST, of March, 1970, the caption to which reads:— "Six-legged salamander was produced when Dr. Kurt Braendle of the Institute of Zoology in Karlsruhe, Germany, combined portions of bodies of two different embryos. He hoped to prove vertebrates could adapt to new limbs, and those he has experimented with have done just that."

Almost everybody who has not been specifically interested in matters biological or zoological has always asked why terrestrial animals all have only two pair of limbs. Why not three or four, they ask, and they then prod the zoologist into consideration of the insects with three pairs, the spiders with four, the crustaceans with up to 21 pairs, and such things as the millipedes with more than a hundred. Indeed, this constriction does seem to be both an arbitrary and a somewhat 'silly' one, so that trying to suggest that two pair is the most economical construction for efficient terrestrial life does not much impress the non-specialist. There is good engineering, and thus purely mechanical reasoning, for this arrangement but, admittedly, the argument for this is kind of back-handed. If two pairs are the most mechanically efficient but other creatures have more or many more pairs, why not all animals? This is a hard question to answer, especially when one is dealing with ultra-long things. And this inevitably brings to the mind of a fortean that most awful of all enigmas, known as the Acambaro Collection.



In this fabulous and fantastic collection of over 33,000 ceramic figurines, collected by one Herr Waldemar Julsrud, in Acambaro, in the State of Guanajuato, Mexico, over some two decades, there are literally hundreds of monstrous items looking like no known animals but perfectly modelled and having three, or even four or more, pairs of limbs. The Acambaro collection is not up for discussion at this time. It is far too "hairy" and would take several thick volumes even to do credit to its existence. However, in it there appears once again this age-old theme of land animals with three pairs of limbs. Where did the ancients — and more so whoever made the Acambaro things, even if they were as some insist, modern artisans working for the tourist trade — get this idea, and why have they stuck to it so persistently? Is it simply that the concept of 'multiple-axle' animals held as much fascination for them as do 28-wheel trailer trucks for us; or is it that confining backboned animals to but two 'axles' seems illogical? Or, again, did anybody fiddle with animals long ago, grafting either their embryos or even sub-adult specimens onto one another, so making true monsters for the edification of pharaohs and other frightfully important persons? Think this one over quietly sometime, and then go take a long look in some of our great museums that have extensive archaeological collections.

SEXUAL ATTRACTANTS

In our issue of April 1969 (Vol. 2, No. 2) we noted the matter of "barthing" versus "baything" and the effects of the former on the destruction of natural epidermal exudates — i.e. body odors — due to soaps and other unnatural products. Some ten years previously we had stumbled across some scientific reports made by medical investigators in Munich, Germany, that impinged upon this question, but which were designed to explore a related matter; namely, the part played by the various and very numerous natural exudates of the animal body, in this case including saliva, those ejected along with the sperm by males, and the complex of female vaginal fluids. (After very prolonged search, we have been unable to obtain copies of this original work though we once came very near to getting proper references. If any member can lead us to these we would be more than just grateful.) What was done was this.

Body fluids were taken from both male and female volunteers, sterilized, and then incorporated in candies. These candies were then distributed at random to young but mature people both by the original donors and by other unknowing volunteers. Careful and detailed records showed that within very brief periods an (otherwise) inexplicable number of the recipients had paired-off, somehow found each other and often over very considerable distances, and were in bed together for the natural purpose of copulation. No single participant ever could offer an explanation as to just why he or she so behaved. The

conclusion of the experimenters was that reproduction is stimulated by copulation but that the latter is not the same as the former although the same physical organs are used for both. This theory had been put forward twenty years before by Davenport in England as a result of his studies of sex in chickens.

The theory is basically that reproduction is actually subsidiary to copulation per se and, in a manner of speaking, nothing more than "a convenience" to the natural process of the continuity of the species. The act of copulation, on the other hand, is much more vital, and specifically to the individual, in that, apart from kissing, it is just about the only way by which body fluids may be transferred directly between individuals and predominantly between males and females. Said fluids — and quite apart from the ova and spermatozoa — constitute enormously potent complexes of powerful enzymes and other chemical triggers for metabolism, growth, and so forth. The male absorbs as much from the female during proper prolonged copulation as does the female from the male — hence, among other things, the reason for the histological composition and construction of the prepuce in mammals.

Copulation would, however, be random and highly adventitious without some method of selection and attraction, and it is the thought of such as Professor John H. Law (see below) that this is provided by the body odors of animals, including our species. There can hardly be any argument about this in view of the work of the father and son team of Maastricht, Holland, the Olischlagers, the greatest rat-killers of all time, who achieved their phenomenal success by tracking down chemically the substances exuded by rats that attract the opposite sex. Using this, they brought the rats to poisoned bait, something that those clever creatures had previously learned to avoid in very short order. As a result, sexual attractants have now been developed for a wide variety of vermin and fur-bearing animals that are trapped; and these substances may be bought in stores specializing in hunting equipment. In other words animals can not resist "BOs"!

A final observation on all this must be that the most expensive French perfumes can never be a substitute for what nature built into us as sexual attractants, and this would now seem to be borne out by Professor Law's findings, which go as follows:— "John H. Law, professor of biochemistry at the University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Medicine, bases this hypothesis on the fact that insects and animals often communicate sexual attraction, as well as alarm or the discovery of food, by means of body odors. Law is conducting research on pheromones — organic compounds excreted by animals as a form of communication. 'Olfactory communication,' he says, 'is probably one of the oldest and, in some cases, the most efficient means of communication employed by animals. Among humans, this form of communication may have existed but was dulled by

the evolution of verbal language and civilization.' What the human race may be missing is suggested by the fact that if a woman's perfume was as potent as the pheromone used by the female silkworm moth to attract the male of the species, and if a man's nose were as sensitive as a moth's antennae, one drop would stagger men blocks away."

FIBROUS BALLS IN A CANADIAN LAKE

Here's one to which we are going to devote a lot of space, but on which we will supply little comment. Not only is it, at least as of now, a definitely "unexplained", but it also brings up all kinds of nasty questions and a lot of damnfool "answers". We have tried to get some common sense answers to questions anent this item but regrettably, we have to report that nobody has come up with anything so far that is amenable to correlation with anything else that even the botanists, geologists, or forestry people have to say.

The story first came to our attention in the form of a rather good — though in places horribly facetious — article by one Lynton Blow in the Sunday issue of the 26th October, 1969, of The Daily Colonist, of Victoria, B.C. This led off with a considerably sensational — but perfectly legitimate, from a newsman's point of view — blurb that read:— "It's unwholesome! It repels me", declared my wife, hastily thrusting the huge, hairy, tan-colored ball back into my hands. 'Nonsense', I said, laughing, 'It's just a large fibrous ball. There's nothing unwholesome about it. Lend me your tape measure, and then I'll store it outside if that will make you happier. But, tomorrow when I take it to the museum, they'll identify it in a jiffy as some little known species of aquatic 'coconut' or something."

Said fibrous ball was odorless, had a circumference of 27 inches and had been out of the water for a month. It had been fished from the bottom of a lake named Heydon, along with many others of various sizes, by a friend of author Blow's, named Mr. Robert Davidson. This lake is some five miles long and about one and a half miles wide, and lies in the upper reaches of a glacial fjord on the mainland of B.C., opposite Kelsey Bay, across Johnstone Strait. It is very deep and drains via a small creek named similarly into Loughborough Inlet. The lake is about 200 feet above mean sealevel and is surrounded by 4000-foot mountains. Lynton Blow took this first specimen he had received to Dr. Adam Szczawinski, head of the department of botany at the Provincial Museum of B. C. He then reported as follows:

"He (Dr. Szczawinski) was soon able to tell me I had not brought him any living organism. After superficial examination, he believed it to be a tightly compacted mass of short lengths of some grass and possibly grass roots of a type to be found in swamps and marshes. Although he has seen a very small ball of sedgegrass roots that had been caught on a branch

and rolled by tidal action, he had never seen anything of the size of this queer ball. It was most unusual and definitely interesting, he told me, and asked me if I could get more details from my friends. Without knowing all the facts, and without cutting into one, he could not, of course, definitely commit himself to a firm opinion.

"I showed the ball around a lot, and many people were convinced it was sawdust", Lynton Blow goes on. "Knowing that it was not, nevertheless, I took it to B. C. Forest Products. There, I was immediately assured it has no connection whatsoever with any waste product from a saw or pulp mill. Experts at the B. C. provincial forest research laboratories were greatly interested in it. No one had seen anything like it previously. Why this lake should be the only place in B. C. and probably in all Canada, where these spheres are found has been a puzzle to all the experts who have seen them. My friend's wife, Mrs. Robinson, came down the next weekend with a car load of the balls. She said she had left the biggest one at home, but still most of them dwarfed my original specimen. The largest was 37¼" in circumference, and weighed 16½ lbs."

Mrs. Robinson then made a most astonishing statement to author Lynton Blow. She is recorded as saying: "I don't like them, and I wish Bob (her husband) would dump them back in the lake where they belong... Just handling them has burned my hands". ('Italics' ours) Mr. Blow states that she held out her palms, and it was evident that the skin was peeling, especially around the base of her thumbs. He then goes on to say that he "tested one with some blue litmus paper. It turned slightly pink, indicating some acid present. Possibly this was leeching out from whatever material it is that is compressed into these spheres. Mrs. Robinson now believes some abnormal wind and wave condition at the lake is responsible for their formation. However, as I learn, most were recovered from the western end of the lake. This surprises me, for the prevailing gales are south-westerly, and that portion of the water should remain comparatively unruffled during storms. My personal



opinion is that an enormously powerful, and fast-running underground river feeds Heydon Lake. In the spring, when the snow melts on the surrounding mountains, this becomes a raging torrent. Somewhere en route this river cuts through an ancient, compressed swamp, breaks off large segments (of peat) and rounds them as it tumbles them for miles. Everyone is puzzled by the fact that the short lengths of material on the outside of the ball stick to the sphere as if held there by glue. Even when reasonably well dried out, as my original specimen is, rubbing one's hands smartly over the surface does not dislodge the smallest piece. The experts are more puzzled than ever now that they know such a large number were taken out of the lake in such a short period of time, and that more are lying in up to 26 feet of water."

Comment: So now we have stone balls all over the lot, steel balls elsewhere (that we will be reporting on later), and now apparently balls of vegetable matter. There they are; so they must have been produced somehow. But how? This is the unexplained. Knowing how spherical stone balls can be made in potholes in caves under running water, we incline at the moment to the geologists' suggestions; but time alone will show.

ABOMINABLE JUNGLE-MEN

Several years ago, Dr. Bernard Heuvelmans (58) in his book, On the Track of Unknown Animals, devoted considerable space to a relation of reports of completely wild, fully-haired, sub-hominids in what was then Indochina. In view of reports of similar creatures now established from all over the world — central Asia; northern Scandinavia and the Caucasus in Europe; West, Central, and Southeast Africa; North and South America — it should not be too surprising to be offered some possibly confirmatory evidence from Viet-Nam. This goes as follows: — "Lt. Alan Szpila of Cumberland, R. I., spotted footprints while piloting a 101st Airborne Division helicopter. 'I have been looking at footprints from the air for quite a while now and I noticed the exceptional size (of these) immediately. I landed to get a closer look and sure enough, these tracks were about 18 inches long and eight inches wide.' Someone suggested that they were made by Ho Chi Minh sandals, which are made of car tires. 'They were embedded deeply, indicating a heavy wearer. The stride of whatever made them was about four feet,' he said. Warrant Officer Darryl Santella of Long Beach, Calif., saw the footprints at the same time as Szpila and estimated that, if made by a man, he must have been about eight feet tall."

The whole Indochinese peninsula, which is to say from the end of the eastern Himalayas to the southern border of China on the Pacific, and thence south to Singapore, is a vast complex of mountains with still very extensive tropical forests between them. The territory is not yet properly explored, and despite three millenia of true wars and the more recent warlike outbursts in Burma, Malaysia, and the Viets, a great deal of this territory just goes on as it always

has, unknown and for the most part even unbeknownst to the rest of the world — even the Viets and the Chinese. In little, slim Malaya, for instance, there are very large unexplored areas, while nothing much is really known about the country immediately around old villages, towns, settlements, and estates in the outlands of that country. There have been reports of hairy primitives from this country also, and also for decades. The most recent came to us in a personal communication from Australia and reads as follows:—

"I once confronted the Malayan equivalent of an ABSM at a distance of less than 20 feet. I was stationed at Seleter R.A.F. Base at the time, had bought me a native canoe and, in my spare time, used to paddle as far away from the Base as time would permit. This was the only way to get away without a pass. I enjoyed these little trips immensely as I felt free of restrictions and having to wear regulation dress, as all I wore were a pair of bathers or sometimes a sarong. On this particular day I'd paddled a long way from the Base and had pulled ashore to eat the fruit I brought with me. It was a fairly uninhabited spot and I was enjoying the quietude of my al fresco snack. I became aware of movement in the brush just behind me, of someone coming toward the beach, and felt rather dismayed at not being able to have an intended swim in the nude. Looking round to greet whoever it might be I was amazed to see this thing just as it was about to step out of the brush onto the beach. I'm sure my hair stood on end, I was so shocked, and as Bob Hope once quipped, even my goosepimples had goosepimples. I felt too weak to run, so do not know who was more scared, me or it. After looking at each other for a brief moment the thing uttered a funny little cry, then turned and rushed back into the brush from whence it came. From what I saw, it was as near human as could be, large, ungainly proportioned, white yet pinkish coloured skin which was 'sparsely' covered, even the face, with long fine, silky, fair hair. The facial skin was flabby and loose looking. The eyes seemed watery and sad looking, possibly because the lower lids sagged somewhat, and I swear the eyes were bluey-grey. If it wasn't for all that hair, its cry, and the way it rushed away, I would have supposed the local ugly man was going for a nude swim too. Male? Female? I don't know. It was its sad looking face which got my main attention. It wasn't an ape or anything like that because when it turned, its behind was like a human's except the cheeks of its bottom sagged a little and there was all that silky hair. And it definitely wasn't a human even if we consider the possibility of a human going 'native'. When I think of it now, this being or whatever, would be a ripe candidate for the musical play 'Hair'. But joking aside, I shall never forget the sadness of that face. It took me some time to get over the encounter long after returning to Base, and although it scared the daylight out of me I somehow felt terribly sorry for this 'being' whenever recalling

the sad expression it had. The term 'sad-sack' would be most apt."

It is interesting to note that all reports of ultra-primitive hominids from the Malayan region have been reported to have pale to white skins and light-colored

hair. This is an awfully funny idea for all kinds of different people, over decades, and so widely separated in space and education, to think up spontaneously. Could we, perchance and for once, stop yammering and listen to the facts?

VIII. ANTHROPOLOGY

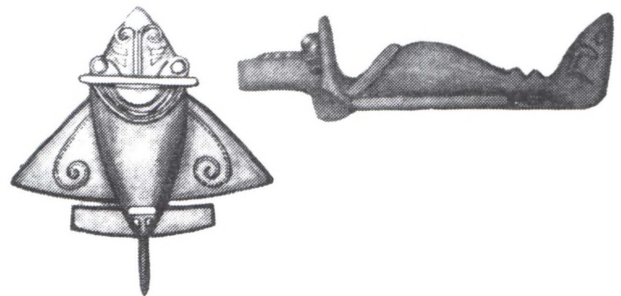
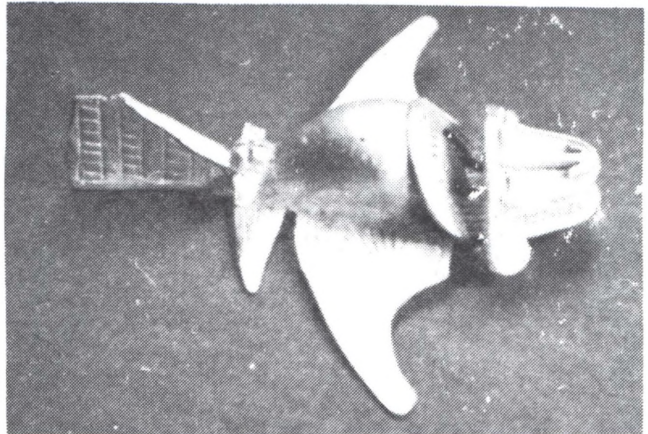
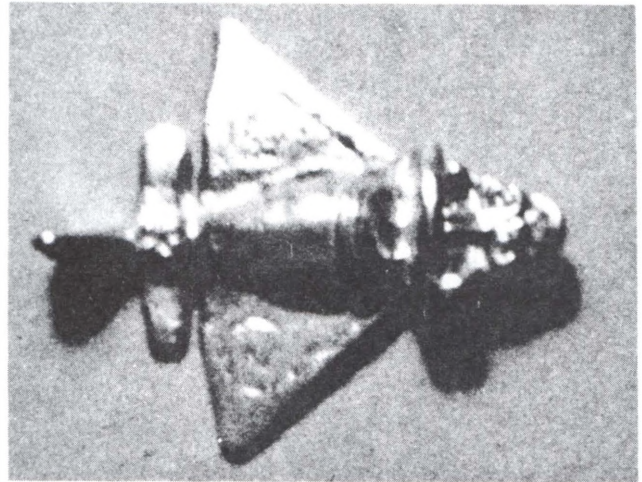
LITTLE GOLD AIRPLANES A THOUSAND YEARS OLD

This fascinating item got kind of lost in the shuffle due to its having been asked for as an article by Argosy Magazine. At the risk of being heavily censured by that publication's editors, we are constrained to observe that the article they produced was lousy; and for the following reasons. First, the photos reproduced did not display the essential points; second, those that they did publish were not only irrelevant but misleading; third, not one of the photos or drawings mentioned in the text were reproduced — and most notably the object as seen from the side; which set at nought the strongest arguments for the thesis developed by aeronautical engineers to explain these remarkable little objects. We now have to add to this the fact that a great deal more has been learned about these items since the publication of that article, and no less than half a dozen more little gold pieces of identical or very similar design have turned up all over the place, and notably in the Chicago Natural History Museum and in the Smithsonian Institution. The whole business has, as a result, become greatly more important.

We reproduce herewith photographs of the original (to us) item from the Columbian National Collection, as found for us by Mannie Staub (117), and of the Chicago specimen that is closest to it. You will note the differences in the outlines of the wings as seen from above which would seem to put the latter into a different class (to which we will refer in a moment). However, when seen from the side, the two are identical but for the design or 'lettering' on their upright tail fins. This "other class" is comprised of two dozen more items of similar size, and in several collections, which appear to display a progressive development from, and/or deterioration of, the original models which are fairly simple and straightforward. These become ever more elaborately ornamented and fantastic. The most interesting point here is, however, that they do not become more naturalistic as they should if later artists and artisans, working from the early plane-like models, had tried to convert them into the form of known animals — which they knew so well and modelled so precisely. To the contrary, they become ever more fantastic, showing, we tend to believe, that they knew the original things from which they made their models were not animals but inanimate things that we would call "out of this world".

It is interesting to note also that the article mentioned above hardly caused a ripple among the

reading public. This puzzled many at first but then it was pointed out that the age of these artefacts had hardly been mentioned and not stressed, and there came then a rather startling discovery. This may sound obnoxious to many when stated flatly. It



Top to bottom: Photo of 'original' from Colombian National Collection; similar model from Chicago Museum; drawings of 'original' from top and side.



Later 'deteriorated' models from the Colombian National Collection.

is simply that a very high percentage of the public today, and notably the younger generations and most of all in this country, labour under the most extraordinary delusions about history. For instance, the notion that Henry Ford invented the automobile is almost universal, just as is the belief that Edison invented electric light, and that just about every other currently used technological development like TV, Radar, and radio-telescopes were first invented in this country. But more alarming is the discovery made recently that youngsters, brought up on these techniques as everyday facts of their lives, have absolutely no concept of their historical background or age. Even a high-school science teacher on a television show, competing for a thousand dollars, gave the answer 1770 A. D. as the year that the Atlantic was first stepped by radio!

As a result of this appalling ignorance — which is not their fault, but that of our so-called educational system and TV for the most part — the idea that some South American Amerindian artists were making little gold models of swept-wing jet planes a thousand years ago means nothing to them. The general attitude, we personally discovered, was a sort of "So what?" comment, and often followed up with "Anyhow, what's so great about that?"

The "discovery" of these little artefacts is probably one of the most pertinent ever made through archaeological enterprise — if it is a true discovery — and it has become much more pertinent since more of these items have come to light and the aerodynamics engineers and designers have had a chance to analyze them. The original notion that they were "zoomorphic fantasies", which was nothing more than a last somewhat desperate resort on the part of archaeologists and historians faced with such an alarming mystery, has now been completely demolished by the zoologists who, with all the will in the world (and they would love to be able to confirm their colleagues in this), simply cannot come up with any animal that has the

features of these items, while so many of those features are exactly and precisely those of airplanes. At least a possibility has therefore to be faced; namely, that somebody had airplanes circa 500 to 800 A. D. in northwestern South America, and that local artists made models of them to the best of their ability, and visibility.

The question as to who made the things that formed the models for these little pendants, presents quite another problem. There are three alternatives. Either there was a highly developed human civilization thereabouts at that time (or earlier); these things came out of the sea and were devices built by some underwater civilization; or they came down out of the skies from space, and were subsidiary craft employed by intelligent entities from elsewhere visiting, surveying, or colonizing this planet. These matters are being taken up elsewhere and will be reported upon herein at a later date.

NOAH'S ARK, AGAIN

Some twenty years ago a group of Turkish military planes reported having spotted an enormous outline of a boat-shaped structure at a high altitude in some unspecified, unmapped mountain territory near their eastern border, while themselves flying at low altitude. In due course, this enormity was relocated and photographed from the air. It was dark brown in color and lying in a small flat valley clothed at that time of the year in short, vivid green new grass growth. In the next decade, the Russians reported having spotted a similar appearing structure but declined to pinpoint its location, probably because it was slightly south of their border. (See below for an earlier Russian report.) Since then, there have been a number of so-called expeditions to the general area, and particularly to Mnt. Ararat itself, by private parties who, while for the most part disclaiming any possible interest in finding Noah's or any other Ark, have nonetheless issued some strange claims.

Now comes this one, which we take verbatim from The ETM Log which goes as follows: — "Scientists have found what is believed to be the remains of Noah's Ark buried deep in a lake near the top of Mount Ararat in eastern Turkey. Pieces of timber preserved by the ice have been carbon dated to at least 4,000 years of age. Though there is disagreement in the scientific community as to whether or not this is really the biblical Ark, those experts who have examined the site agree that the lake holds a large wooden artifact of great antiquity. The 16,873 ft. Ararat is famous for gale force winds and drenching rainstorms that break without a moment's notice.

A Reuters report, datelined London, Feb. 6, reads as follows: "Members of Parliament called today for changes in Britain's race relations law allowing advertisements for people holding special skills because of their nationality. The agitation arose after an elderly doctor, who wanted expertly cooked porridge for his breakfast, was warned that his advertisement for a Scottish cook was illegal under the law banning job discrimination."

These forces of nature plus the twenty to thirty foot ice cap on the lake will make recovery operations hazardous and difficult. Although the Bible (Genesis. viii. 4) names Ararat as the resting place of the Ark after the Great Flood, archaeological research has placed the area of the flood in the lower reaches of the Euphrates which lie some 2,000 * miles from the twin-peaked mountain. Sightings of the Ark in the lake have been reported since 1670, probably during seasons when the ice on the lake was at its thinnest. Russian airmen during the 1914-18 war claimed to have sighted and photographed the vessel. Even if the remains prove to be other than those of the Ark, from an archeologic — engineering standpoint, recovery should be one of the greatest feats of the century."

If you draw a line south from the border of the USSR and Turkey on the Black Sea, at about 45° E. and 45° No., to the junction of the boundaries of Turkey, Syria, and Iraq; thence east to the Caspian Sea at 50° E.; and north again to 45° N.; and thence, in turn, back west to your starting point, thus cutting through the southern Caucasus, you will have encompassed one of the most complex geologic and topographic areas in the world; and just about central to this area, at the junction of the borders of Turkey, Armenian Russia, and Iran, lies the twin-peaked Ararat Massif. This mountain complex, moreover, rises from an elevated area of upland plateaux and lesser mountains. That it is glaciated today is of considerable significance to this Ark business.

At first sight and if taken at face value, the whole biblical story of Noah and his Ark is not just a little, but quite, balmy. If, on the other hand, you read it as history rather than allegory, and remove from it the most probable elaborations and emendations, it boils down to a record of a wealthy landowner and stock farmer who heeded the warning of the high priests ament certain ominous signs noted by their 'scientific' staff, regarding the behavior of the annual flood levels in the plains of Mesopotamia. Importing heavy timber to build a large boat being much less costly than removing his whole family, stock, and other properties to higher ground, even if he could have

* Actually, 500 miles.

done so or found any new place to settle, Noah resolved to do just that, and build, on land, a barge large enough to take his household and a breeding pair of each of his stock animals. Everybody laughed at him, but he had the backing of the priesthood, and the money; and, as he himself is alleged to have said, also faith. The flood duly came to pass, and he alone of all the inhabitants of that low-land area survived, but he ended up five hundred miles away to the north somewhere in the mountains.

Starting with the Sumerians at the latest, very careful records of annual floods were kept by the priesthoods of Mesopotamia. Be it noted that Moses is recorded as having returned to this, the land of his ancestors, for a decade; and, it would seem, that it was there that he became versed in such expertise so that, when he returned to Egypt, he had the Pharaoh over a barrel by applying certain long-term observations (we'd call them statistics) to the Nile. He knew when the next natural dam of red sandstone was about ready to burst way down in Nubia, and that, when blood-red waters appeared, the annual flood would be excessive, and following which there would inevitably be plagues. Moses was a priest, and the priesthood interpreted "the Word of God" — i.e. of the Supreme Being who ordained and regulated all of nature.

The craziest aspect of the Mesopotamian flood, and Noah's little effort, is the flood itself. The valley of the Tigris-Euphrates could not possibly be flooded to a depth of 16,000 feet, which would have been necessary in order to float Noah up to the lake on the top of Ararat, simply because there is not enough water on earth to achieve such. If the "waters", meaning the sea, rose that much they would have to have done so everywhere else. If, on the other hand, the land sank in that area, albeit temporarily, and then rose again rather suddenly, and to unprecedented heights in the northern area, we might well have a monumental "flood", and Noah's barge could have been elevated to whatever "mountain top" that first appeared out of the waters, as the land rose and said waters drained off. What is more, this eminence, upon which it grounded, need not then have been more than a couple of hundred

You will find, from time to time, an item credited to that most excellent publication The ETM Log published by Explorers Trademart, Ltd., of Annapolis, Md. There are other items that give us leads to rankling questions that we are itching to discuss which we find in this journal which may not be specifically credited. This is by the kind permission of their publishers and is a completely reciprocal arrangement. While our combined circulations are not likely to constitute a menace to such publications as Playboy, these items that we bat back and forth are not likely to be found in that estimable magazine though they do have a very serious side and one which is showing distinct signs of true fortuneism. Nonetheless, this interchange will give these items a wider circulation that either of us alone can offer. We have made similar arrangements with some other basically fortune outfits which we consider to be sound. And, oh yes, the current issue of The ETM Log (Vol. III, No. 5) has two articles that we would sorely like to reproduce in full but you will just have to subscribe to this journal and read them. They appear on pages 128 and 144 respectively and are entitled "Archaeological Mysteries of Florida and the Bahamas", by J. Manson Valentine, Ph. D., the man himself when it comes to this subject; and "Tektites and Volcanic Glass", by Erwin F. Lange, Professor of the Department of General Science, Portland State College, Portland, Oregon.

feet above the old valley floor but have continued to rise during the next 4000 years. Note the great belt of volcanic and seismic activity that runs right through the area – as outlined above, and containing Ararat.

Turning the coin of speculation and simple logic, we must ask ourselves: if Noah's story is founded on an actual event, but one which did not follow some course such as that suggested above, how and why did anybody build a vast wooden structure on or in a glaciated lake at an elevation of some tens of thousands of feet in the middle of a mountainous and arid district? Should this turn out to be a boat, or even a building in the likeness of one, what on earth was it for, and why so vast? And why did the historians who contributed to the Bible pick on Mount Ararat? As a matter of fact, we don't even know if they meant the same mountain that we refer to by that name today. If they were not, these repeated reports of an "ark" on the currently so named mountain complex would seem to be stretching even coincidence to the point where the threads of common sense give way.

A CAST OF PALAEOOLITHIC MAN

Again swiped wholesale from The ETM Log: – "The body of a Paleolithic caveman has been found near Santander, Spain, in such a well preserved state that for the first time scientists can get a clear picture of what ancient cave dwellers really looked like. The body was found under seven feet of sediment in Morin Cave and is estimated to have lived nearly 30,000 years before Christ. According to anthropologist Leslie Freeman of the University of Chicago, 'What happened was that as the body decayed, a fine sediment of clay filled the cavities. The clay took the appearance of the original man.' The nature of the burial has also shed light on Stone Age burial practices. The grave held an adult and a child (whose body was not in a well preserved state). Over the feet of the adult were the bones of several game animals, possibly an offering to the dead man or intended as food for his journey into the unknown."

This is, in every way but one, a most splendid report and will probably go farther towards elucidating many matters of palaeolithic man's existence than all the mere bones found until now. The only tiny injustice to reality concerns this confounded designation "caveman". Caves are not distributed evenly all over the land surface of the earth, or especially in those areas within which the remains and other evidence of truly primitive man have been found. Most caves are formed by dissolution in limestone strata, though there are others caused by gas blisters in lava flows, cracks in rocks like granite, and so-called shelters formed by overhanging cliffs

Anthropology – Subsection History.

We're not sure where this came from – probably "The Ch'in Dynasty, and All That" – "The Great Wall of China was built to keep out the mongrels."

of other rock compositions. One thing is certain, however, and this is that man, and/or the hominids generally, never went through an exclusively "cave man" period in their development simply due to the general absence of caves. To the contrary, the majority of our ancestors must have lived out of doors and in areas where there just were no caves. Further, when caves were available, they seem only comparatively infrequently to have actually been lived in. For the most part, they seem to have been used for shelter and, as one anthropologist has suggested, more to get out of heat than cold, and as sacred places for interring their important dead and for recording important events, as displayed in the marvelous petroglyphs and glyphs and paintings of southwestern Europe, central Europe, India, Africa, and elsewhere.

The matter of casts brings up another whole question. A very high percentage of all fossils are actually casts of objects that have intrinsically and of themselves, completely disappeared. Either their original substance was replaced, molecule by molecule, by some other substance, such as opal in petrified wood, or by finely particulated material that seeped into the spaces created in some coarser medium when the original body disintegrated. These latter, which are properly called casts, are of inestimable value in that they show in fine detail the inside of things. Petrification, of course, gives us the complete outside form and, if sectioned, can supply us with the minutest details of the object's inner construction. Casts do not supply such, but they nonetheless can give us a most startling replica of the object as seen in life – or death. One wonders only if such so-called "fakes" as the famous "Cardiff Giant" just might not have been quite genuine "casts" created by such natural processes. Let us not forget that a very high percentage of the skeletons of extinct animals displayed in all our great museums are actually "plaster casts" of the originals. In other words, there's nothing wrong with a cast, and especially if it can be proved to be of natural origin. Such a thing as the "cast" of a man, dead some 30,000 years, borders on the miraculous.

THE OLDEST MINE

(N.Y. Times-Chicago Tribune Service). JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, Feb. 8, 1970. – "South African archaeologists reported discovery of the world's oldest mine. The mine, in an iron ore mountain in Swaziland near here, goes back 43,000 years, according to expert radio carbon dating. It was discovered by Adrian Boshier, field research officer for the Museum of Man and Science, Johannesburg. Boshier, 30, probed around Bomvu (Red) ridge of the Ngwenya (Crocodile) mountain range in Swaziland, a mountain

of iron ore now being mined by the Swaziland Iron Ore Development Company, part of an Anglo-American group. He discovered caverns extending into the mountain, revealing evidence that stone age man had been there mining haematite — a source of iron. Boshier found in the caverns primitive stone age mining tools. He was joined by another young archaeologist, Peter Beaumont, 30, who excavated deeper. Beaumont found samples of charcoal from old fireplaces which were sent to radio carbon dating laboratories at Yale and Groningen, Holland. The latest samples date the mine as 43,000 years old. International radio carbon experts acknowledged that it is the oldest known mine in the world."

Now just what on earth have we here? So we have radiocarbon dating back to 43,000 B.P., or is it 45-thousand? And these were iron mines sunk by people. OK, so what happens to the textbook contention that metallurgy was invented circa 5000 B.C. (or 7000 B.P.) somewhere around northern Mesopotamia? Perhaps somebody added a zero to this figure so that these mines were only sunk in 4300 B.C.: but that does not wash either. Even 43,000 years ago puts south African miners a minimum of 10,000 years ahead of the later Palaeolithic stoneage people of southern Europe, and damned near forty thousand years before what we have, up till now, called the dawn of the "Iron Age". Somebody's got their figures mixed, or their dating garbled, or just about everybody has been talking plain rubbish. So these frightfully ancient miners in South Africa weren't really looking for iron but for an associated mineral now named specularite because from it could be manufactured a positively thundering pigment used as a cosmetic. Are we then expected to believe that said miners figured this one out first, and then went mining for it without ever noticing that the stuff they got it out of, when melted, as it has to be to so get it out, gave a much more useful stuff in the form of iron? Phui! Modern Man has been around a long time.

THE OLDEST AGRICULTURE

This doesn't seem to have been the happiest of years for the archaeological buffs. Not content with demolishing their whole expressed affirmations as to the origin and date of the discovery of metallurgy, as outlined above, others (and of their own ilk to boot) must needs go and wreck their estimates for the date and place of origin of the earliest agriculture! And, to make matters even worse, bronze popped up with this earliest so-far dated civilization which, as is stated below, was blooming more than a thousand years before the later stoneage people of Mesopotamia settled down and got organized. This should be rather

distressing to the orthodox but considerably cheering to the intelligent.

A story by Bruce Dunford of AP on all this went as follows: "Archaeological discoveries in Thailand are digging holes in the schoolbook (read textbook — Editor) theory that civilization was spawned in the rich Tigris-Euphrates valley. Relics unearthed from two little-known diggings indicate that the Thais were farming long before the ancestors of the Babylonians and the Hebrews. Dr. Wilhelm G. Solheim II, a University of Hawaii archaeologist, said that domestic seeds, found in Spirit Cave near the Burmese border in northern Thailand, are the oldest found by modern man — and that these contradict history book theories that the Near East's 'Fertile Crescent' gave birth to agriculture. 'The real surprise in the finds,' Solheim said, 'is that until now the Southeast Asian area has been regarded as unimportant in civilization's progress. It had been thought that the Thais (i.e. Siamese) and other people of this area borrowed their technology from the Chinese and Indians. Now it looks like it may be just the opposite.' Chester Gorman, then a University of Hawaii graduate student, discovered the Spirit Cave in 1965. In a lower level of the cave-diggings, Gorman found pebble tools, flakes, grinding stones, pottery — and the seeds. The seeds were peas, beans and root plants. Early Near East agriculturalists primarily grew cereal grains, such as wheat and oats. Carbon tests of the seeds proved them to be 11,690 years old. 'The earliest agricultural development in the Fertile Crescent area is about 9,000 years ago,' Gorman said, adding that Spirit Cave is believed to have been occupied as long as 12,500 years ago."

At the same time, graduate student Donn Bayard dug up burial grounds of the prehistoric village of Non-Nok-Thai, in northeast Thailand, and produced concrete evidence therefrom that the primitive villagers grew rice, grains of which were radiocarbon dated as circa 3000 B. C., which is believed to be long before this grain was grown in either China or India. The theory that seed cultivation first developed in Southeast Asia is not, actually, a new one. As Dr. Solheim pointed out to Bruce Dunford: "It was postulated (as far back as) 1931 by Aswaldo Menghin in Europe, and again by geographer Carl Sauer of the University of California in 1952. Both postulated what we are now finding. We're simply bringing in empirical confirmation in the form of observation and experiment to support their theories." Unfortunately, whoever spoke for Mr. Bayard committed the old sin or stupidity, which has marred the history of archeology and made so many fools of so many sincere labourers in this vineyard of discovery, by stating

Technology and the Useful Arts — Subsection Postal Service.

UPI dispatch from London: "Record Claimed For Delay In Postal Service. The following letter, from the Dean of Canterbury, Ian H. White-Thomson, appeared in today's Times of London: 'Sir: A few days ago I received a communication addressed to T. A. Becket, Esq., care of the Dean of Canterbury. This surely must be a record in postal delays.' Thomas A' Becket died in 1170 A.D."

that "The villagers (of Non-Nok-Tha) were the first people in Asia to grow rice." How in the hell does he know? And anyhow, these early Siamese might have learned of the business from somebody else, so they need not have been the first. Why don't these

people say simply that they have found the earliest date for the growing of rice — or making bronze, or what-have-you — so far found; and leave it at that? That-a-way, we might not have to rewrite our textbooks so often.

UFOLOGY

As you may have noticed, this section has now been finally established as a sort of historical record. We are not primarily an ufological outfit, and we never have been. Our policy with regard to these studies is simply to keep a weather eye on the matter, but to record only what takes place on the 'political' — if I may use that word in its correct sense — front. We will not be publishing reports of 'sightings'. There are more than enough individuals and outfits already engaged in this exercise. Their findings and files are inestimably valuable, for the record, and, if only they can keep going, eventually some outfit with the facilities and the money will computerize the lot, and so get us some genuine statistical analysis of the business. Until then SITU has nothing to contribute to, and nothing to gain from, plunging into this field.

What we conceive to be our job is the contemplation and consideration of the hypothetical, theoretical, conceptual, and philosophical aspects of this matter. What is the use of collecting endless examples of anything unless you at least contemplate their implication, and their possible causes, and effects.

There is one outfit in the world that came into existence nearly 200 years ago because of the discovery of this fact. This outfit is today the most powerful force in all civilization and throughout the world. Nobody, and no group of bodies (even governments) makes a final decision on anything until they have consulted this outfit. Its officially listed title is "The International Society of Actuaries", and it is headquartered in Milano, Italy. It is this society that tells the insurance companies, etc., what is going to happen.

The I.S.A. — or S.D.I.A. to give it its right title — was set up to keep records of events in all aspects of human affairs; to analyze these for evidence of causal and effectual trends; and then to extrapolate their findings into the future. There are many outfits that have been set up to do just this which are continuing so to operate, like Wall Street, but none has built into it a factor that is really of the ultimate essence. This is what mathematicians call the improbability factor (as diametrically opposed to the fully recognized probability one). In other words, the S.D.I.A. has always been on the lookout for, and willing to accept, any new aspect of anything; and then to employ it in their formulae. And such factors can sound absolutely wild. Let us give an imaginary possibility.

Messrs Bosh, Bash, and Baloney of Wall Street, after analyzing a particular market record, advise

their bigger clients that there is now a buyer's market therein. Let us be utterly facetious and say that this is in Bird-of-Paradise feathers because the birds have just been taken off the protected list. There will as a result be a concerted rush for this item by club women with money, but the birds will, according to the conservationists, immediately decline in numbers to the point of extinction; whereupon any such feathers that have not become moth-eaten or fallen into bowls of soup at PTA dinners will become museum specimens and worth a lot of money. Fine, say the money-boys; we can't lose.

This is true but for a peasant on the island of Halmahera who discovered that the King Birds-of-Paradise on his island had been eating fruit that had become radioactive due to an atomic-energy test in the southwest Pacific; and that, as a result and quite contrary to all biological thinking, had started to produce bigger litters of outsize offspring, more times a year. Further, said monstrous B-of-Ps were emigrating to all the other islands round about and were there breeding true. In other words: bing go the investments of the speculators in New York, simply because nobody there had ever heard of Halmahera; nobody knew of its local peasantry; and practically nobody had ever conceived of "fallout" doing good

Just such a factor has now been interjected into ufology. This crops up, though almost tangentially, in Dr. Jacques Vallee's book, Passport to Magonia — on page 152, in the American edition.

Herein, Jacques Vallee tackles a problem that has always exercised our minds. This is, simply put, that throughout the ages, the reports of UFOs allegedly encountered by citizens of all stations, and particularly of those UFOs which touch-down or land and out of which personages are alleged to have emerged, seem always to fit exactly and far too neatly into the current culture, customs, and understanding of the human beings who said they encountered them on the ground. Ezekiel's little effort in Mesopotamia was a "fiery chariot"; Moses's was a "luminous cloud"; the thing that grabbed a cow in 1897 in the Midwest was an airship and was loaded with bearded gentlemen who spoke with middle-western accents; modern contactees contacts are almost invariably Little Green Men (Italy), horrible hairy dwarfs (South America), or beautiful blondes sitting on rocks and preaching world peace (North America).

But now Vallee comes up with the first rational concept: to wit, that either all or at least some of these may be 3-dimensional holograms, which have been advanced even to having material substance,

and thus be able to leave bits of metal lying around as proof of their appearance, but which are deliberately "manufactured" by some 'superior' race, in another time or place, just to fool us and guide us in ways that they consider desirable. He ends this consideration by saying "If such (apparitions) were deliberate-

ly 'scenes' designed to be recorded by him (i.e. the witness), and transmitted to us...they (the designers) do not deserve our congratulations".

Would you ufologists kindly consider this expression; read Vallee's book; and then, but only then, get back to work recording your cases?

CHAOS AND CONFUSION

DIMES FROM NEW HEAVEN?

Somewhat delightfully, this bonanza just might have come from New Haven, since the truck was headed north from that metropolis to Boston and was passing through the outskirts of Worcester, Mass. What happened was succinctly described by the inimitable working press as follows:- "AUBURN, Mass. (AP) - The rear door of an armored truck swung open on the Massachusetts Turnpike early today, spilling \$40,000 in dimes onto the highway. State police said the truck, headed for Boston, contained 40 money bags, each holding \$1,000 in dimes. 'Each of the bags broke open,' said police, spilling dimes over one eighth of a mile section of the road. A truck following the armored vehicle was disabled when it ran into the flying dimes, police said, and had to be towed away. The accident happened at 6:55 a.m., and by late morning the road was still covered with dimes, police said." ('Italics' ours.)

This is all perfectly splendid but for the usual quota of nonsequiters, nonsense, and totally unexplaineds. First, do you know just how big a bag containing a thousand dimes is? A roll of 100 measures just 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " tall, and is only $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide; so that we may say that a roll containing 1000 would be just short of 4-ft tall. You can pack forty such columns (at $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide) into 56 cubic feet; and this is a cube a little less than four feet on each edge. This is not a big load for a Brinks truck. Further, are we to suppose that the bags, each only about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet only, with packing, were just tossed into the

truck loose, and not even in boxes, or something?

No details on the truck - as usual - but, being a bullion hauler, one would suppose that it was at least of metal construction and securely locked even if not armored - and the report specifically stated that it was. Do these transporters just toss 40,000 bucks-worth of coins into the back of a truck and forget to lock the doors? Wonder what the insurance companies might have to say about this. So, if the doors were locked, how come they came unlocked? And how come all the bags burst, even if they were not in any kind of containers; and how (so help us), and why, did they "fly out" and even to the extent of "disabling" a truck (yet) following behind. Since when do dimes "fly" instead of dribbling out of the back of a truck on a smooth highway? Some shower! Just what did this shower of coins do to that truck to actually "disable" it? Did dimes get into the fan, burst the windshield, or what?

The whole thing is utterly balmy and, in our opinion, considerably phoney in that it is manifest that it has not been properly reported and that there would seem to be every implication of skulduggery of some sort. But then, one must not overlook the possibility of a genuine fortean event which would, of course, completely buffalo such simple, hardworking souls as truck drivers and policemen. If a billion small shellfish can rain down out of a clear sky, and limited areas of southern England be bombarded with pennies from on high (see PURSUIT, Vol. 2, No. 2) one must suppose that there is no reason why 40,000 dimes cannot take off in Massachusetts.

CURRENT PURSUITS

This is a new feature, designed to be a continuing report in this journal. It was originally initiated in our SITU NEWS to keep members informed of our activities. That newsletter has now, however, been discontinued, and is to be replaced only by an Annual Report. This was deemed to be the only column from that publication which should continue not only to be published regularly, but which should also be extended to the limit of space available; it being, in point of fact, our principal reason for establishment and continued existence. Herein will be outlined, in as much detail as possible, our current projects. These will be reported - and added to - strictly chronologically, rather than by category. There is quite a backlog, but we fully realize that no projects of these natures can ever be fully con-

cluded. Only if they prove to be utterly without validity will they be dropped.

There is then another aspect to our work that will be included in this department. This is that we initiate many projects either on the say-so or suggestion not only of members but of non-members, and also, which is much more important, at the request of other organizations. Then again, we have contracted with still other bodies - such as the City of Montreal, last year - to organize and implement projects. Finally, there are a whole slew of requests that come to us for film, television, and radio programming, and for reporting in all forms, from topical newsbeats to magazine articles and books. We will be reporting on these also herein.

To these ends, we ask all members to supply us

with any information they might have on any of these projects, full credit for which will be given, while we will endeavour to promote individual contracts, between members offering such help and any organization so contracting with the Society. At the same time, we most urgently appeal for the active help of all members in implementing and then prosecuting these projects.

STONE SPHERES

Three years ago we became interested in the extraordinary stone spheres that litter a small area near the south coast of Costa Rica. Our member, Barney Nashold (87), undertook to investigate these while on a trip through Centroamerica, the primary objective of which was to study stone softening methods allegedly employed by early Central and South American peoples (see below). A small committee was formed including member 165, Basil Hritsko, of California, who had found a very large field of similar stone spheres in that state. Since then, reports and photographs of others have come in from all over this continent and even from the Old World. The pursuit of more is being actively prosecuted, while debate between the archaeologists and the geologists as to the origin of these spheres is being encouraged and data supplied to both parties.

POSSIBLY THE GREATEST LITHIC IMPLEMENT FACTORY IN THE WORLD

For miles along, and for miles to either side of, what is now called "The Old Road", north from the capital, Belize, of the little Central American country still called British Honduras, there is an area of flatland — uninhabited and overgrown with stands of Cohune Palms, which mark ancient Amerindian village sites, and a thorny scrub called generally akalche — that has no natural stones but which is completely covered with nothing but flint spear-heads, arrowheads, scrapers, other finely chipped stone tools, and flakes and chips. This area lies some five to ten miles north of a place called Maskall's, and fifteen miles south of Orange Walk, as measured along this Old Road. So numerous are these artefacts that they were used exclusively as roadbedding for several miles, and after forty years of use by all north-south-bound traffic on that road, one could just step out of a car and fill as many baskets as you wanted with shovelfulls of the stuff. In a bushel basket you would get about 30% perfect specimens, another 20% broken pieces, and the rest flakes and chips.

Flint instrument factories are known from all over the world, notably near natural sources of this material, like the South Downs of England; but there is nothing known anywhere of an extent such as this. What is more, there is no known flint, chert, or other such substance anywhere within some two hundred miles of this place. Since we personally inspected this site in 1939, we have constantly and repeatedly

begged of anybody and everybody we have heard of who might be going to British Honduras to ask for either of the taxi-drivers so well known locally, by the names of Perefitte and Chanona, and request that they drive them to this site, and there collect some specimens. In a forlorn hope, we even appealed to leading archaeologists and ethnologists specializing in Centroamerica to go look at this site and try to at least outline its periphery. But to no avail. Nobody seems to want to take the trouble to go and even look at one of the greatest archaeological wonders and mysteries of the world; and this despite the fact that a round-trip plane fare, plus the cab drive to the site, costs less than \$400! Yet, amateurs, let alone experts, spend tens of thousands of dollars to go dig up a hundredth of a small site, down to a few feet, in areas that are comparatively well known as regards the record of the immediate past. Has nobody the guts or the gumption to go take a look at this?

STONE SOFTENING

This was initiated five years ago as a result of some bibliographical research which brought to light reports of this being accomplished in early times in the Near and Middle East, and Central and South America. It was also found that certain birds, using the leaves of a fairly common tropical American herbaceous plant, also accomplished this, thus making nesting holes even in granite. The project was turned over to Barney Nashold (87) who made a prolonged trip throughout Centroamerica to investigate the allegations that building-stones in some places were moulded rather than trimmed, and that some stone "carvings" were actually modellings in plasticized stone. At the same time, he added to this project the pertinent study of what is called chelation, which is basically the method by which plant roots dissolve (or break up into their component compounds) rocks of all kinds. This led to a study of concrete and its history. He, aided by his committee who continue to supply him with data and leads, has now prepared some valuable reports on these interrelated matters for publication, but the project is by no means completed.

RINGING ROCKS

This project has been reported on rather fully in past issues. It has turned out to be very much wider in scope than at first we supposed, and it has led to the special committee set up to investigate the matter — under the chairmanship of Richard Palladino (200) — into a number of fields, other than the physical and geological, that were never expected. One of these we will not specify at this point because it might cause a stampede of "amateurs" who could very easily destroy the physical evidence we have brought to light. We started with one of the astonishing vegetationless areas near a place called Upper Black Eddy on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River but, within a few weeks, fourteen more such areas were located in that state, two in New Jersey,

and others in other states. Also, rocks that "ring" were reported from all over the world, including some columnar basalts. There are ten on this committee but we need more specialists with laboratory facilities at their disposal.

A CHAIN IN ROCK

Five years ago two of our founding members — Jay Blick (17), and Frank Graves (49) — undertook a five-day investigative trip to upper Pennsylvania to look into an admittedly somewhat balmy business connected with living Thunderbirds. This, needless to say, did not develop into a project but, as so often happens in fortean investigations, something quite else and much more real popped up, and one which has exercised our minds and an awful lot of our time ever since. This item was given to Blick and Graves by the chief of the local fire department in Renovo and was simply that he had found, and could re-find, a large rock in a mountain stream bed some distance to the north, in which was embedded an enormous chain that did not seem to weather or rust and to be made of either bronze or some other non-corrodable metal. This chain is not just attached to the rock but appears to go right into it, like a fossil, and it is alleged that since it was first discovered it has been slowly coming out of said rock as the latter weathers. Similar vast chains are reported from the Lebanese coast of the Mediterranean and from, of all places, the Amazon Basin. The implications of this Pennsylvanian one are startling to say the least. We have tried for five years simply to drive to this location, but for multifarious reasons, the planned effort has always had to be cancelled. The greatest problem is that the thing has to be located just before the leaves bush-out on the trees, or just after they have fallen but before the first snowfall. This limits one's choice but we are planning again.

PADDLE-BUGS

Two summers ago several specimens of a most curious insect were seen around our HQ, and one was captured. These are known popularly as Phantom Crane-Flies and technically as the Ptychopteridae, and are an obscure family of the Two-winged Flies, or Diptera. We were greatly struck by their method of flight and, on consulting the textbooks on this point, discovered that nothing we could find therein conformed to our observations. As a result, patient search was made for more of these insects so that we could film their flight in large glass containers; but, although several were seen, we failed to capture any as they usually stay at some height and can travel at an astonishing speed. We managed to record this speed on some occasions. Meantime, we submitted reports on what we had observed of their flight to our advisers on aerodynamics, with an appeal for some analysis. However, we must obtain the film first. We would be pleased to hear from anybody who might (if, presumably, an entomologist!)

possibly have heard of any work on the flight of these insects having ever been done.

MECHANICAL DOWSING

A few years ago, having become sorely aggravated by certain claims made by many dowzers to the effect that the detection of water, metals, and other items below ground by the use of rods was what they called a psychic phenomenon connected with a human being performing this operation, we set up an experiment. This was a basically simple device but was of considerable extent, and was designed to show that such detection could be accomplished entirely mechanically, and without any humans being present. This fact was proved on a large number of runs over an area under which four pipes (three metal and one ceramic) ran, and the exact locations and directions of which were known. One metal and the ceramic pipe were empty; one was permanently filled with water which could be made to run up hill by turning on the pump in the house; and the fourth was a main bath and sink water outlet that could be filled with water travelling downwards. The rods, which were moved mechanically across these pipes, behaved in precise but different manner every time they passed over all the pipes. We have planned to repeat these experiments, both here at our headquarters and at other places where the locations of pipes, etc. are not known to us. The results obtained will be written up and sent to scientists in various much more distant areas to see if they are reproducible.

"BOZO, THE ICEMAN"

Since the outburst over this item in a Belgian scientific journal and then in Argosy Magazine due to an article therein by the director of SITU, we have been repeatedly asked by members whatever happened and why we do not publish more on it in this journal. There are two points by way of explanation for this. First, this item was never actually a project of the Society; rather, it stemmed from a purely preliminary investigation by the director, acting as a newsman and as science editor of Argosy. It might or might not have been thrown into the SITU bin had it not been for the absolutely unexpected fact that the damned thing proved — at least to the satisfaction of Dr. Bernard Heuvelmans (58) of Belgium who happened to be visiting us, and the director (Ivan T. Sander-son) — to be a genuine corpse of some form of ultra-primitive hominid. The second reason for our not reporting on this case is simply that the material accumulated on it became so voluminous that no progress report would have made any sense unless it were of book length. Further, we (Ivan T. Sander-son) have preferred to keep this out of SITU's aegis for several reasons, and we are very glad that it was never in it, because the business became involved in all kinds of matters for which the Society should not and could not take responsibility. The case, however is still not by any means "dead" and

whether it will ever be resolved is impossible to say. Only one of two things can happen in this respect. Either the specimen examined by Heuvelmans will eventually be made available for scientific study; or it will not. In the latter case, the whole thing will lapse into the class of the Cardiff Giant and similar stories fit only for historical rehashing.

THE LARGEST AND OLDEST PLANT

Near the small community of New Bloomfield, some 25 miles northwest of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, there exists what should perhaps be listed as one of the wonders of the world. This is a Box-Huckleberry Tree (actually a vast bush) that covers three acres. This species proliferates by both latitudinal roots and branches that are underground, and then new bushes pop up all around the original plant. This monster has been thoroughly examined by botanists and declared to be the largest plant (in volume) known, and the oldest, far exceeding the oldest Bristlecone Pines of the west and the *Macrozamia* of Australia. One botanist stated in print that it was considered to be over 12,000 years old. Further, these trained botanists have also stated that they have found the original plant (and thus the oldest stem), and they told the then owner and the mayor of the town that they had done so, but they refused to reveal its exact location. We have been in communication with these good people, have rounded up our botanists in this area, and are planning a thorough investigation on the spot. We had permission from the owner to do some digging and delving for carbon- and other datable material therein, but have learned that the area is now under the jurisdiction of the State Forestry Department.

GRAVITY II

This as of now is still for the most part a bibliographical effort, and one which involves extraordinarily complex scientific and technological theories and researches, some of which are of a highly "secured" nature. It all stemmed from our interest in what used to be called (and quite erroneously as it turned out) The Bermuda Triangle. While investigating this, those of us who work in the geomorphological and geophysical worlds of science stumbled across something that might go far to 'explaining' at least some of the oddities of this "triangle", but which far transcended its individual importance because they showed that this phenomenon was not unique but merely one of ten such areas equally distributed around both the northern and southern hemispheres of our planet. Our findings have not yet been written up, and there is a mass of both search and research still to be done before even a preliminary report can be issued. We have a small committee to prosecute this work but we very much need assistance from oceanologists, physical geologists, and other geomorphologists; while specialists in electromagnetics, gravitics, and such expertises as seismology should be profoundly interested.

IK-NISH

This is a fascinating little item, originally brought to our attention by Basil Hritsko (165) who learned of it from some Amerindian friends in California. It is an umbelliferous plant looking not unlike such weeds as are called hemlocks, but it has an enormous root, shaped like a parsnip. The strange thing is that it grows only in certain very limited and widely scattered patches of the coastal ranges, and then only on virtually bare rocky areas where nothing else seems to be able to gain a foothold. Its interest is that from it the Amerinds have since time immemorial made no less than three quite different-smelling but quite delicious herbs. Basil Hritsko obtained for us both seeds and some young growing plants, and we followed instructions given by his Amerindian friends in planting them on a bare rocky hummock at our HQ. Our rainfall and general climatic conditions would seem to be closely equivalent to this plant's native environment, but we regret to have to say that, although the young plants at first took, we have had no success. However, we are going to start again.

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN TV AND AMERINDIAN CIRCUITRY

This may sound like an extraordinary potpourri and, as per the above heading, be almost incomprehensible. It stems from the following. Our president (Hans Stefan Santesson, No. 109) brought to our attention a book on Egyptology by a Swedish writer very well known in his country, in which a wall painting in a temple was shown. This, on analysis by unbiased electromagnetic experts and technicians specializing in television, produced for us a very startling report to the effect that it was their concerted opinion that the scene shown in this depiction was clearly that of two technicians (priests?) holding two large TV tubes attached to dual coaxial cables. This led to the establishment of a fulltime project under the more general heading of "The Knowledge of Electricity by the Ancients". And no sooner had this got going than information began pouring in from all sorts of quarters. First, there were the Mesopotamian and other Near Eastern batteries, specimens of which are in several leading museums and quite officially recognized for what they are. But then came our "agile" member No. 87, Barney Nashold, again, with a series of rubbings from bas-reliefs in Centroatamerica and photographs of designs on South American pottery of great age which he showed might be interpreted as electrical circuitry. One of these he converted into the form of a current modern layout and showed that it could be interpreted as the wiring for a solar battery. Like everything else, there is an enormous amount of work still to be done and Barney, who is heading this investigation would welcome any information or suggestions you might have, including especially leads to possible depictions that could represent the same or similar things from other cultures and other countries.

OUR LIBRARY

We have recently emerged from a prolonged period of reorganization in this department. On completion of a new building, which provided room for expansion, every item in our library was carefully read and assessed. The material so examined was re-catalogued on the basis of the taxonomy displayed on page 26 of this issue. We feel that it may be of interest and use to our members to know, at least in the overall, what we have to offer.

Preliminarily, our records fall into six basic categories; namely: —

- (1) General Reference. Dictionaries, Technical works, etc.
- (2) Scientific Reference. Divided as per the Taxonomy
- (3) Special Reference. Fortean items.
- (4) Art and Architecture. Mostly prehistoric and Ancient.
- (5) Audio-Video. Films, Tapes, Recordings, Photographs and Drawings.
- (6) Cartography. Maps, Charts, and Diagrams.

Material in all these classes consists not only of books but also of supplementary periodicals and several hundred ring-binders of papers, illustrative material, and other files.

Sections 1 and 6 are standard working material and fairly comprehensive. Section No. 5 constitutes records, almost all of which are unique. Sections 2, 3, and 4 are of special value and usefulness; especially No. 3, of which there is not known to be any other such library of this scope in existence. (A special catalogue of this will be published in due course.) Items under No. 4 are limited and selective, with an emphasis on Oriental and African themes.

Section No. 2 constitutes the core of our library. This encompasses the first eight of the subdivisions of our classification as shown on the chart on page 26. In addition, however, there is a fairly extensive medical library. Apart from this, technology and other applied sciences and the useful arts have been transferred to General Reference. This leaves us with the purely scientific reference works. These are classified as shown below.

We do not house works on the Mental and Spiritual Concepts. These are automatically transferred to Walter J. McGraw who maintains an extensive library in these fields. All requests for information in these areas are referred to him.

Donations of books on any and all of the above subjects are solicited. You may have some books that you inherited, have bought or otherwise acquired, but which you do not wish to read again or for which you have no further use. We would very much appreciate your sending them to us — freight paid by us — but provided you grant us permission to sort them and donate those that we cannot use to our local public library. This is a fine little institution, supported entirely by voluntary labor and finance, and one which serves a rather large community, including several large school complexes. To aid this library, even pocketbooks and other paperbacks are most welcome, as they have a system there whereby people may take any such from extensive shelves in the entrance hall, keep them if they want, but bring others back as donations, if they are willing. In other words, anything you donate will be made full use of, either by the Society or by this citizens' organization.

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

- I. Mathematics
- II. Ontology
- III. Physics
- IV. Chemistry
- V. Astronomy

EARTH SCIENCES

- I. General Geology
- II. Regional Geology
- III. Geophysics
- IV. Petrology
- V. Mineralogy
- VI. Crystallography
- VII. Speleology
- VIII. Oceanology
- IX. Glaciology
- X. Geomorphology
- XI. Geography
- XII. Dating

LIFE SCIENCES

- I. General Biology
- II. Histology
- III. Physiology
- IV. Anatomy
- V. Sexology

VI. Evolution

- VII. Botany
 - (1) General
 - (2) Systematic
 - (3) Palaeobotany

VIII. Zoology

- (1) General
- (2) Commercial
- (3) Literary
- (4) Natural History
- (5) Conservation
- (6) Ethology
- (7) Protogeanology
- (8) Invertebrates
- (9) Fishes
- (10) Herpets
- (11) Birds
- (12) Mammals (less Primates)
- (13) Primatology
- (plus Physical Anthropology)
- (14) Palaeozoology

HUMAN SCIENCES

- I. General Anthropology
- II. Cultural Anthropology
- III. Ethnology

IV. Prehistory

- V. History
 - (1) General
 - (2) Specific Countries
 - (3) Ancient
 - (4000 — 400 B. C.)
 - (4) Classical (400 B.C. — 400 A.D.)
 - (5) Mediaeval (400 — 1400 A.D.)
 - (6) Renaissance (1400 — 1800 A.D.)
 - (7) Contemporary (1800 — 2000 A.D.)

MENTAL CONCEPTS

- I. Logic
- II. Epistemology
- III. Psychology
- IV. Ethics
- V. Aesthetics
- VI. Comparative Intelligence
- VII. Parapsychics

SPIRITUAL CONCEPTS

- I. Religion
- II. Other Mysticism
- III. Mythology
- IV. The Occult
- V. Psychics

BOOK REVIEWS

The Peter Principle (1969), by Peter, Dr. Lawrence J., and Hull, Raymond; William Morrow & Co., New York.

This is billed as what we call a "fun-book" and it certainly is of a profoundly humorous nature. But, like such works as 1066 and All That and Laura Was My Camel, it derives its import from its profoundly satirical and deadly critique of humanity. This aspect of the work surfaces gradually and bursts forth in the last three chapters. It is deadly, and it leaves one with a whole new approach to life that transcends even the impact of Stephen Potter; like whom it gives us a new and much needed lexicon comprised of old words but with a new significance. Its theme is the almost universal and ever-increasing incompetence of everything, which must be obvious to everybody; and it lays out both an hypothesis and a set of analytical principles by which this inborn frightfulness of the human race may be recognized and assessed. So absolutely right is this hypothesis that it forces us to contemplate even ourselves, as well as everybody else, and this is of course something that everyone should do. The key question is: "Have you reached your level of incompetence?" If you are successful, this book demonstrates precisely how and why you have become so. Read it and apply said principles to all such persons as Presidents and TV repairmen.

Reincarnation (1969), by Hans Stefan Santesson; Award Books, New York; Tandem Books, London, England.

There is no longer any doubt but that some ingenious and industrious person is going to have to invent, and then immediately put to use on a very massive basis, some cheap method of binding paperback books in durable hard covers. Just too much valuable material is now first appearing — and usually remaining — in the form of pocket- and other-sized paperbacks. While it is indeed praiseworthy that good literature and valuable contributions to knowledge should be made available to the benighted masses — especially now that the mechanical non-think monster that we call television has practically taken over what minds such masses may have — in the form of cheap little books, it is sad indeed that such books should be so crude and impermanent. Even the best bound fall apart in due course, especially in libraries. These thoughts are particularly foremost in our minds when we come to review this work.

Hans Stefan Santesson just happens to be our President, and he is widely known in the publishing world as an editor and anthologist of science-fiction. What people do not know is that he is also a recognized Orientalist and scholar of over forty years standing, being an expert, among other aspects of such studies, in, for instance, Veddic, Hindu, and Thibetan classics, and the novel in the Gupta Period of India. It is this background that makes this book of his so very worthwhile, and which lends to it the authority that its title would not readily indicate. The subject is regarded — if it is at all — by the average person as an advanced piece of kookery, and its advocates and those who have written about it in popular form heretofore have almost to a man been somewhat advanced kooks, krooks, krackpots, and/or mystics (Western style) with a consuming predilection for what they call "Oriental Mysteries". Their ravings indeed put them into the certifiable class.

This, however, is not the case with true Oriental students and scribes, nor with H. S. Santesson. Oh dear me, no! This reviewer happens to have been born into a Buddhist family and was imbued from earliest youth with the basic philosophy of the Gautama, so that we feel justified in commenting upon this book. Herein you will find an entirely new — to you, if you are a Westerner — concept of, and approach to, this venerable belief or, should we say, fact of existence. This is an ontological business basically; and this book is utterly pragmatic in its approach. Do not fail to buy a copy for 75¢, and then read it. You will not be confirmed in your belief that you were Napoleon, George Washington, Thothmes III, Abe Lincoln, Julius Caesar, or any other buffoon, in a previous existence, but you will learn a great deal about what makes you tick and possibly about what you probably call your soul. Here is an up-till-now-non-scientific matter presented in a scientific manner; and an exposition of an intangible matter in a most tangible manner.

Passport to Magonia (1969), by Jacques Vallee; Henry Regnery Company, Chicago.

This book should be read by all forteans and especially by those interested in ufology. To advise that still another book on this now somewhat dreary and so far inconsequential subject is actually worthwhile would at first appear to be almost abysmal. However, this author, for once, says something not only worth saying but which makes both common and scientific sense. Unfortunately, this truly gallant doctor does, however, display distinct signs of premeditated over-caution in that, after he really hits you with a chapter of valid facts and exquisite analysis, he invariably falls back on the old: "Of course this is probably all balls, but...". This is sop, not to the masses, but to his colleagues who have elected to take jobs for which they are paid as a profession but in the fields of what is called science. Professional (i.e. paid) scientists or even technologists cannot go around publishing the fact that they think little green men exist. Along that road lies instant intellectual and financial death. But more power to this gallant doctor; and read the book. Its ultimate pith is further reviewed a couple of pages back under the heading of Ufology.

Chariots of the Gods? by von Daniken has been published in this country by Putnam's, New York.

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PUBLISHING RECORD

Our publishing schedule is four quarterly issues of PURSUIT, dated January, April, July, and October, and numbered as annual volumes – Vol. 1 being 1968 and before; Vol. 2, 1969, and so on.

Vol. 1, No. 3* – June, 1968	Vol. 2, No. 3 – July, 1969
Vol. 1, No. 4* – Sept., 1968	Vol. 2, No. 4 – Oct., 1969*
Vol. 2, No. 1 – Jan., 1969	Vol. 3, No. 1 – Jan., 1970
Vol. 2, No. 2 – April, 1969	Vol. 3, No. 2 – Apr., 1970

*These are out of print and available only in photocopy at applicant's expense.

There have been a number of articles recently on the problem of junk mail and the way in which one's name gets on such a mailing list. We should like to assure our members and subscribers that our mailing list is available only to resident staff at our headquarters.

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