



PURSUIT[®]

"SCIENCE IS THE PURSUIT OF THE UNEXPLAINED"

VOL. 6, NO. 2

APRIL, 1973

SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

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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; two Vice-Presidents; a Treasurer; and a Secretary. General policy is supervised by a Governing Board, consisting of the five Trustees, and four other members elected for one year terms. General administration and management is handled by an Executive Board, listed on the inside back cover of this publication. The Editorial Board is listed on the masthead of this journal. Finally, our Society is counselled by a number of prominent scientists, as also listed on the inside back cover of this journal. These are designated as our Scientific Advisory Board.

PARTICIPATION

Participation in the activities of the Society is solicited. Memberships run from the 1st of January to the 31st of December; but those joining after the 1st of October are granted the final quarter of that year gratis. The annual subscription is U.S. \$10, which includes four issues of the Journal PURSUIT for the year, as well as access to the Society's library and files, through correspondence or on visitation. The annual subscription rate for the journal PURSUIT (alone, and without membership benefits) is \$5, including postage. (PURSUIT is also distributed, on a reciprocal basis, to other societies and institutions.) The Society contracts-- with individuals, and institutional and official organizations for specific projects -- as a consultative body. Terms are negotiated in each case in advance. Fellowship in the Society is bestowed (only by unanimous vote of the Trustees) on those who are adjudged to have made an outstanding contribution to the aims of the Society.

NOTICES

In view of the increase in resident staff and the non-completion, as yet, of additional living quarters, there is no longer over-night accomodation for visitors. Members are welcome to visit to consult our files, but we ask that they make application at least a week in advance to prevent 'pile-ups' of members who, as a result of the simple lack of facilities, as of now, cannot be properly accomodated.

The Society is unable to offer or render any services whatsoever to non-members. Further, the Society does not hold or express any corporate views, and any opinions expressed by any members in its publications are those of the authors alone. No opinions expressed or statements made by any members by word of mouth or in print may be construed as those of the Society.

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.

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 an annual report on Society affairs to members. The Society further issues Occasional Papers on certain projects, and Special Reports on the request of Fellows only.

RECORD: From its establishment in July, 1965, until the end of March 1968, the Society issued only a newsletter, on an irregular basis. The last two publications of that were, however, entitled PURSUIT-- Vol. 1, No. 3 and No. 4, dated June and September, 1968. Beginning with Vol. 2, No. 1, PURSUIT has been issued on a regular quarterly basis: dated January, April, July, and October. Back issues, some available only as Xerox copies, are available; those wishing to acquire any or all of these should request an order form.

Vol. 6, No. 2
April, 1973

PURSUIT®

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE
INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

DEVOTED TO THE INVESTIGATION OF "THINGS"
THAT ARE CUSTOMARILY DISCOUNTED

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IN MEMORIAM — IVAN T. SANDERSON

30-31 January 1911 to 19-20 February 1973

From letters we have received, it is clear that many of you may not yet have heard that Ivan T. Sanderson died of cancer on the 19th of February, 1973. It was perhaps like Ivan to have an uncertain date of birth and death. He popped out on the 30th of January, took one horrified look and popped back in; he was hauled out with forceps after midnight. And, actually, he died in his sleep on the night of the 19th of February, but he was not "officially pronounced dead" until after midnight. I understand, though I was spared seeing it, that one obituary gave the impression that he was "found dead at his home". For those of his 'fans' and friends who may have seen this and been distressed by it, Ivan died in his sleep, in his own bed, and I held his hand until the end. It was the way he wanted to go and, though it has been a grievous blow to me and to all those who knew him, it was in fact a blessing. He was found to have cancer shortly after his first wife, Alma, was discovered to have it. He underwent several major operations in 1971 and for many months thereafter seemed to be on

the road to recovery, with the cancer under control. In January 1972 Alma died of cancer of the brain. It was a soul-searing experience for both Ivan and me, and perhaps from that came our 'emotional' love for each other. We had always been very close intellectually. So we were married in May of 1972 and for a time Ivan became almost his old self again. In September he was involved in a minor auto accident and although no one was physically injured, Ivan was never quite the same again. Late in 1972 he was hospitalized for several weeks for double pneumonia and before he had fully recovered from that he was hit by the "London flu". The combination was too much for him. Also, since September 1972 he had been in constant pain and, of course, it was his right shoulder which was affected. Eventually it became impossible for him to type and, finally, impossible to write more than a page or so in longhand per day, and he had to resort to recording on tape. Some of this will appear in Pursuit as we have time to transcribe it. His mind was clear till the end, but the pain and the frustration were taking their toll, and so death came as a blessed relief.

A very old friend who had come to our wedding wrote me that "I am much less shocked by Ivan's death than I would have been had he not, on our wedding day, told me he had cancer... He also added something you no doubt will deem typical: 'There's so much to do I haven't time to be bothered about cancer'." This was Ivan's attitude, but in fact he fought the cancer in every way he could and allowed his doctors to use him as a human guinea pig. He left his body to medical science, hoping thereby perhaps to contribute to the general fight against cancer. And he specifically forbade any type of funeral or 'gloomy' ceremony after his death, asking only that those of us left behind, carry on. Carry on we will.

It is perhaps the greatest tribute to Ivan that many of the cards and letters I have received have come from people who had never met Ivan; they knew him from his books, his radio and TV shows, and they felt his death as a personal loss. I wish I could acknowledge personally all the letters I have received from you, our members, but I cannot—there are too many—and would ask that you accept this as my thanks for your concern and good wishes.

I realize that I have said nothing of what Ivan did during his lifetime. This is in part because I don't know where to begin. Ivan had started work on his autobiography and had four different outlines; even he was puzzled as to how to go about it. A friend wrote that "a pal phoned out here to tell me he'd seen the news in the Paris Edition of the Herald Tribune. A three line head, Associated Press, well displayed, and seventeen lines. God! What lay between those seventeen lines: but I guess Ivan wrote the thing him-



Ivan and Sabina Sanderson.

Photo taken by Frank Brown, Blue Ridge Studios, Blairstown, N. J. January 1973.

self and left all the meat out of his fabulous life since 1911 on this otherwise, largely, boring earth. I laughed. I think you know what I mean." Yes, I do know. Ivan, in seventeen lines! Ivan had, for the benefit of publishers and radio & TV people, mimeographed "Biographical Notes"; seventeen lines gets you as far as the word "Chronology", and that starts with the year 1918. I will not attempt here even an outline of Ivan's life. Hopefully, in the years to come, I will be able to do Ivan justice in a series of books. I cannot now even try to describe his character. Those who met Ivan will have happy memories of time spent and things done together, and these memories they will have to cherish for the rest of their lives. For

those who had not met him, I should like to quote from still another letter:

"And when we talked about it I said that there were empty people and full people. When an empty person dies, we feel extra sad because that person is so totally gone. But when a full person dies, there is another, deeply human happiness mixed with the sadness, because the full person has left us so much to remember. Ivan, was the fullest person I will ever know. He was one of those pivotal persons. He entered my life one day and my life pivoted. He had much to give, and he gave of himself to so many of us. What he was is gone, but what he did is not."

Sabina W. Sanderson.

EDITORIAL

THE SENSIBLE BREAKTHROUGH AT LAST

We've been plugging away at this for some twenty years without, of course, the slightest hope of an assist. But then, realism is not appreciated!

Now, however, comes the following from, of all outlets, Science News (which is backed in part by the AAAS and is the most distinguished "popular" weekly on the progress of science and technology in this country.) And we quote, from page 88 of their issue of the 10th of February, 1973 (Vol. 103, No. 6):—

"Parapsychology might be paraphysics: The parapsychology controversy has usually focused on the existence of extrasensory perception and related intangible phenomena. But that may be a moot question. A questionnaire on parapsychology conducted by the British Publication NEW SCIENTIST shows that only three percent of nearly 1,500 responding readers (the majority of whom are working scientists or technologists) consider ESP an impossibility. The rest hold it to be an established fact or a likely possibility.

"While most respondents hold ESP to be a legitimate area for scientific study, only 30 percent feel that the parapsychologists are attacking the problem in the right way. Only 20 percent feel that it falls within the province of academic psychology. Quite a few, says the magazine in its Jan. 25 issue, suggested that paraphysics might be a more satisfactory word to employ. Accepting the existence of ESP, most respondents said it is now time to get on with finding out how it works."

Funny thing is that, as Science News says, this bit was started by the equally erudite British journal The New Scientist which, while having almost as "official" credentials, has approached the same field from the journalistic point of view and, being British, tends to be a bit more flippant. In other words, caveat American reader!

Actually, it was that publication which started this whole thing off in their issue of the 23 November 1972. They had an editorial on the subject and then a full-page questionnaire. The point they did not make was the place of psychologists in this whole business. That they left to the readers.

Apparently, from the above-quoted piece from Science News, the general run of those who "are working scientists or technologists" agreed with us (i.e. SITU) that psychology has nothing to do with the business.

In fact, as the Russians have been saying for years now (see Psychic Discoveries Behind the Iron Curtain by Shiela Ostrander and Lynn Schroeder, Prentice-Hall, 1970), it is in most cases, simply a para (i.e. "like") normal physical business.

I still think that J. B. Rhine started a "great thing"; but that "psychology" bit has put us back one hundred years. Ethology or even behaviourism perhaps. But let us now leave it to the technologists.

Ivan T. Sanderson.

Editor's Note: The above editorial was the last that Ivan T. Sanderson wrote for Pursuit. He felt, perhaps more strongly than anyone else, that "ESP" and all those 'phenomena' popularly lumped with so-called ESP should be divorced from the field of Intangibles, and studied from the standpoint of physics or even chemistry. There is more and more evidence accumulating that these abilities — "clairvoyance", "mental

telepathy", "precognition" and the like— all have a physical basis. It is, in fact, high time that we stop trying to find out about them by using a "spiritual" method of attack. We may not yet have the instruments needed to detect and define the workings of what we call the "mind", but this should be the direction of our efforts.

S. W. S.

UFOLOGY

A POSSIBLE ALIEN SPACE PROBE

What follows is not strictly ufology and should better come under the heading "Cosmology". However, because of the long and sometimes vehement argument concerning the origin of UFOs—where do they come from?— it seems legitimate to include this extraordinary report here.

Malcolm Balfour, writing in the National Enquirer of the 18th March 1973, reports that the British Interplanetary Society "has just begun an attempt...to make contact with an alien space probe they believe may be circling the Earth, in the same orbit as the moon." The B.I.S. is a highly respected organization and includes some of Britain's top astronomers among its members; this goes a long way toward taking their announcement out of the science fiction class and certainly separates them from the 'kooks'. The basis for their attempt to "talk" with the probe by way of superpowerful radio transmitters is a discovery made recently by a Scottish astronomer, Duncan Lunan, president of the Scottish Association for Technology and Research in Astronautics.

Back in the 1920s Norwegian, Dutch, and French radio researchers picked up some very curious echoes from space. The normal echo bounces back from the ionosphere in 1/7th of a second, and they apparently got plenty of these. But they also got a second set of echoes "which came back after various periods of delay from 3 to 15 seconds long. This suggested that the signals came from an object well beyond the ionosphere—at least as far as the moon." Lunan studied all the delayed echoes that had been recorded and decided that they might constitute some kind of intelligent signal. He told the National Enquirer:

"I recalled that in 1968, the distinguished American astronomer, Prof. R. N. Bracewell of Stanford University in California, predicted that a probe trying to contact us might attempt to send us a map of the star constellations. I therefore made a graph of the delayed echoes which showed the various periods of delay as dots in various positions on the graph paper. To my astonishment, the dots made up a map of an easily-recognized constellation—the constellation of Bootes, in the northern sky.... In all, I plotted six star maps. All the reference lines point to a star called Epsilon Bootes in that constellation—103 light years from Earth. That is the area from which the probe would have originated."

We are not competent to assess Lunan's star maps, but they have been endorsed by the technical manager of the computer division of the British electronic firm E.M.I. which is providing the equipment (something a firm of that size would be unlikely to do unless they were convinced of the validity of the experiment), by Terence Nonweiler, professor of aerodynamics at the University of Glasgow, and by Kenneth Gatland, vice-president of B.I.S. Also, Professor Bracewell at Stanford has at least tacitly given them his approval.

It must be pointed out that they do not expect to encounter any "little green men" but rather a highly sophisticated computer which they hope to 'interrogate' at some length if their attempt to make contact succeeds.

Interestingly enough, in the 14 December 1972 issue of the New Scientist, there is a short piece entitled "Sentinels That May Wait in Space". In part this reads as follows:

"Has the solar system been visited in the past? If so, how often? G.V. Foster has made a straight attempt at calculating this apparent imponderable. He comes up with the staggering result that there may have been as many as 420 visitations to this region of space since the birth of the Earth. This figure leads him to say that sooner or later we shall 'almost certainly' encounter artifacts of another civilization... Foster has kept the statistics simple to produce what he admits is an 'idealistic model.' But the results prompt deeper thought about the possible consequences. Does the surface of the Moon or Mars bear the footmarks or relics of an alien expedition? Such an expedition may well have left behind a marker to commemorate their visit—perhaps in orbit around the largest planet, Jupiter.... There could even be a radio transmitter at work in the solar system, beaming back information—or a 'come and join me' call sign—to civilizations circling distant stars...."

The New Scientist will soon publish a paper by Lunan on his preliminary work, and perhaps E.M.I. will find an answer to their question. If there is another civilization capable of putting a device in orbit around our Earth—and we do not know when this was done—they may have been up to other things as well. But even if the British Interplanetary Society should succeed in contacting such a civilization, this would not necessarily be "the" answer to UFOs. There still may be many answers.

Editor's Note: There seems to be considerable confusion as to exactly what the Interplanetary Society is doing about this. The London Sunday Times of the 24th December 1972 states that "The theory was discussed last week by the British

Interplanetary Society"; whereas the Zodiac News Service, on the 14th March 1973, announces that a meeting is scheduled to take place on the 29th of March. However, it is clear that they are definitely interested.

CHAOS AND CONFUSION

EAGLE REQUIEM

by Stanley W. Tyler, Col., USA, Ret.*

After reading the article "A Cat Conclave" in the January 1973 issue of Pursuit I must report an impressive as well as startling event witnessed by myself and my wife in southern Ethiopia in November of 1963.

We had been stationed in Ethiopia during the period 1961 to 1964 while I was on duty with the Military Assistance Advisory Group, Addis Ababa. For recreation we had a small camp on Lake Awasu, south of the city towards the Northern Frontier District of Kenya. The lake abounded in fish and there was quite a variety of wildlife in the area, but most impressive of all were the huge Fish Eagles, whose white-feathered heads made them almost duplicates of our North American Bald Eagle.

This was a beautiful wilderness, broken only by widely scattered native villages with their thatched huts or "Tukuls". We carried firearms, but only for protection in the event a pair of prowling leopards or a rampaging pig decided to try us out for size. Our interest in nature is colored photography of wildlife to capture their beauty in their normal pursuits.

One of our companions, not of our persuasion, wanted a stuffed eagle for a trophy, and shot one. As the eagle was too badly damaged to retrieve for mounting, he left it lying where it fell by the side of the lake.

The next day, my wife decided to ride the horse we had in camp, and I followed about one hundred yards behind in our Land Rover with my gun handy in case there were leopards on the prowl. As we proceeded along the shore of the lake, we noticed about twenty eagles circling above the spot where the dead eagle lay. Lower and lower they came and alighted on the ground. My wife carefully approached and then I saw her raise her hand—our signal for something unusual. I stopped the Land Rover and climbed onto the hood (or "bonnet" as the British would say). I adjusted my binoculars and what I saw will always be etched in my memory.

My wife was not more than twenty feet away from a perfect circle of eagles formed around the dead eagle.

Their wings were outspread and they would move a step or two in a clockwise direction after which they bowed in unison. More steps, another bow, which continued for almost ten minutes. My wife and I hardly moved until, as if by common consent, the whole flock took flight with a series of cries, circled the site twice and flew away, leaving their dead comrade to the jackals and hyaenas.

Unfortunately the distance was too great for my camera to record this spectacular event, and although we watched the area closely, they never returned to their dead comrade. Call it instinct or coincidence, to us it appeared as nothing else than a ceremonial meeting of the eagles to bid farewell to a dead member of their group. It was a stirring and, to some, unexplained event.

UNNATURAL DARKNESS

"All the news that's fit to print" very often does not include things for which there is no 'neat' explanation. An example comes from one of our readers, born in England but now resident in Canada.

"Sometime during the month of November (it must have been November, that being the month for 'pea-soupers' in England) 1925 [possibly 1924 but not 1926], we were in school waiting for the bell to go so that we could go home to lunch. Our school, a 200-year-old house (said to have been visited by Nell Gwyn! and containing an underground passage which passed under the Thames, which was true) on the Upper Mall, Hammersmith, London, England, had tantalizing glimpses of the Thames from its front windows. I confess I was sitting chewing my pen and watching some rowboats going by, so I saw all that was to be seen, which wasn't much. It was about 11:45 a.m. when a yellow glow started in the sky and I thought 'Fog!!' Gradually it got darker and darker and about 11:50 a.m. it suddenly went pitch black, but not as if it were normal darkness because it was so thick with fog that we were told that if it didn't lift soon we'd just have to wait it out. This lasted until about 11:59 a.m. when the whole thing disappeared in a flash and we were able to leave school on time. I was curious enough to wonder if anything would be in the paper about it, but nothing was mentioned at all."

*Those interested in Colonel Tyler's credentials will find him listed in most standard biographical reference works.

London "pea-soupers" can be pretty incredible but it certainly is not usual for one to result in "pitch

black" within five minutes and then vanish in an instant! We have in our files a number of similar occurrences and can only say that when an explanation was given, it was pretty feeble. Don't tell us that it was blown in by wind; fog doesn't form unless the wind is light or calm (at least it is not 'supposed' to), and is most common in the early morning and late evening. We do not have an explanation but we do not doubt our correspondent's story —it must have been most impressive to have remained so clearly in her mind for over forty years. And we will be grateful if other of our members who have experienced similar events will write to us about them.

WHO'S DOWN THERE?

We are indebted to Christopher Bird for sending to us a translation of extracts from an article in the January 1973 issue of the Soviet magazine Khimiya i Zhizn' (Chemistry and Life). This was entitled "Let Us Leave Some Room for Mysteries" and was written by Candidate of Geographical Science I. Belousov who is familiar with but not entirely convinced by Ivan T. Sanderson's book Invisible Residents. (It should be pointed out that all of Mr. Sanderson's books should be read with a close eye for qualifying words.) In the course of discussing the "vile vortices", Mr. Belousov records the following curious story:

"...All day long on the first of September, and then second of September of 1968 the ship was accompanied by pilot whales (Globicephalus melas) —appealing big dolphins with a blunt nose, like the bottom of a bottle. This was in the South-Eastern part of the Pacific Ocean, not far from the coast of South America, during the fourth voyage of the scientific research vessel Academic Kurchatov. During an oceanographic station, in the presence of the curious dolphins, we lowered overboard a series of scientific instruments attached to thick steel cables, including nets for plankton, dredges and bores for extracting core samples. According to their function, these were supposed to reach a certain horizon [i.e. level] or the bottom of the ocean (there some five kilometers deep), obtain samples and return.

"The winches were manned by experienced operators and all proceeded as usual. Then happened the incomprehensible. When the net went down five hundred meters, the cable shifted off to a side and then sagged —the net had broken off. It does happen that the cables part, but almost always during the lifting, from an increase of tension; but here it happen-

ed while the net was being lowered and at small depth. Strange. The cable which carried the core sampler into the deep also broke, also at about five hundred meters. Same thing happened with the dredge. Three devices lost during one station! This was the first such occurrence in more than twenty years of work and over five thousand stations! When the broken cables were lifted on deck, the perturbed oceanologists found a strange sight: the ends of cables were frayed and each one had a two meter long segment near the end polished to a fine gleam. As if they were cut with an enormous file. And the pilot whales were merrily poking their snouts out of the water. Could they have done it? I doubt it. They haven't the equipment for such mischief. Sharks? Perhaps. Sword fish or its close relatives? Possibly..."

But we don't believe he believes that any more than we do. Swordfish have been known to impale boats through rather incredible thicknesses of wood and even metal but nothing has ever been said to suggest that they polish two-meter-long segments of steel cable. Mr. Belousov notes that "We have decided that the most romantic solution was to write this off to the account of the famous sea serpent" (sic). There are accounts of giant fish hooks having been straightened out by something down there, and the frayed ends of the cable could (watch the qualifying word) have been chewed through. But what, again, of a polished segment two meters (roughly 79 inches) long? Explanations please.

WEIGHING THE SOUL

A Dr. Nils-Olof Jacobson has published a book entitled Life After Death, as reported in the San Francisco Chronicle of the 19 December 1972. The major point of interest to us is his statement that the human 'soul' weighs 21 grams —about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an ounce. He placed the beds of terminally ill patients on extremely sensitive scales and noted that at the exact time of death the needle on the scale dropped 21 grams.

This is not the first time that such an experiment has been performed. In 1906 Dr. Duncan MacDougall of the Massachusetts General Hospital studied six patients and reported his findings in the Journal of the American Society for Physical Research in May 1907. The scales used by him were accurate to within 1/10th of an ounce, and he chose patients suffering from diseases that end in profound exhaustion (i.e. tuberculosis) so that there was little or no muscular movement that might cause the scale to move. The

Jacques Monod, Nobel Laureate

From the New Scientist, 12 Oct. 1972: "Sometimes I feel I'd like to write a book that would say the truth about a few things. Few books are really truthful. Truth is so dangerous that I wonder whether it should be done —but it's a temptation."

patients were observed —and weighed continuously for a period of hours before death— and both final exhalation of air from the lungs and loss of weight by evaporation were taken into account and found to be negligible. (It is not clear whether Dr. Jacobson included these in his calculations or not.) Of the six cases reported by Dr. MacDougall, two were ruled out by him as inconclusive (interference by persons not in sympathy with his work) and another because the patient died too soon after being placed in this special bed to permit critical adjustment of the scales. One 'valid' case was a patient dying of tuberculosis.

"Patient was under observation for three hours and 40 minutes before death.... He lost weight slowly at the rate of one ounce per hour, due to evaporation of moisture in sweat. During all three hours and 40 minutes, I kept the beam end (of the scales) slightly above balance near the top limiting bar in order to make the test most decisive if it should come. At the end of three hours and 40 minutes he expired, and suddenly, coincident with death, the beam end dropped with an audible stroke, hitting against the lower limiting bar and remaining there with no rebound. The loss was ascertained to be $\frac{3}{4}$ of an ounce."

Dr. Jacobson's book was published in 1972, Dr. MacDougall's article in 1907; and both come up with the same figure.

A discussion of what is meant by the "soul" (or whatever term may please you) is outside SITU's sphere of interests, but when there is physical evidence —and of course we will want many more such studies before reaching any final conclusions— that 'something' that has weight leaves the human (or any other) body at death, it becomes another of the so-called "psychic" phenomena which are more and more shifting into our bailiwick of the tangible "Unexplaineds".

SPOOK LIGHTS

Lights of unexplained origin that frequent one place seem to be common in this country. We presently know of locations in over half of the fifty states where from one to several globes of light the size of auto headlights reportedly appear, sway or move about, always remaining distant from any observers. These seem to be traditional "spook lights", this name being the most popular and appropriate when taken from "spook" as a verb meaning "to haunt; inhabit or appear in or to as a ghost or specter". While stories of departed persons come back to haunt an area are sometimes locally considered to account for such lights (and these stories should be made part of any permanent record), we think some tangible phenomena that are little known or simply unknown are responsible. Famous examples of these lights are the "Brown Mountain Lights" in North Carolina and the "Tri-State Spook Light" reported near the point where Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma meet. While numerous persons have variously explained these away, their explanations do not satisfy us; and no one has been busy trying even to explain away the lights in Alabama, Texas, North Dakota, Iowa, and so on. These have been ignored.

Mysteriously re-occurring lights have, in fact, long been known in countries all over the world, and we are interested in all of them. We will shortly be investigating one such light as thoroughly as possible and will then offer guidance to any members who will similarly investigate lights in locations near them. This will be a long-term research project, and we ask that our readers write to us about any local (1) reports of lights, (2) of unknown origin, (3) said to re-occur (4) in the same locality. This includes "swamp fire", glows on rocks or near the ground, and anything else that fits these four conditions. This phenomenon may encompass several mysteries, but only the combination of search and re-search will eventually provide us with any solutions.

Little Wooden Airplanes

We have little further to report on this, but a note from the Soaring Society of America, Inc., concerning a particular type of glider, ended with the statement "Many of us have wondered why gliders were not invented millenia ago, since there is nothing inherent in the machine which requires a modern technology to produce."

Lightning Strikes Twice

From the Winnipeg Free Press (23 Feb. 1973), datelined Salisbury, Rhodesia (AP) — "An African farm worker was killed by lightning near Headlands. A later bolt struck a truck removing the body, but no one else was injured."

III. PHYSICS

THE COANDA EFFECT

In "Members' Forum" in the January 1973 issue of Pursuit we asked for references on the Coanda effect for one of our members. We have since received other requests for information as well as references. For the benefit of any other members who may be interested, we list here what information we have.

From Van Nostrand's Scientific Encyclopedia, third edition, Princeton, New Jersey: "COANDA EFFECT. The tendency of a jet of gas to follow the wall contour when discharged adjacent to a surface even when that surface curves away from the jet discharge axis is known as the Coanda effect.

"The effect may be either beneficial or detrimental. In a slotted flap, the tendency of the flow to follow the upper surface of the flap, even when considerably deflected, contributes to the increased lift; in belly-mounted jet engines, the tendency of the exhaust is to follow the bottom fuselage contour, causing glow problems affecting the tail surfaces."

From Member 944: "Actually, it's the COANDA effect [we missed a typo there], after the Roumanian scientist of that name. It all has to do with the science of fluidics and fluidic amplifiers. A fluid such as air or gas, or liquid, flowing close to a surface, entrains molecules of slower moving fluid nearer the surface to flow with it, thus lowering the pressure near the surface, causing the entire flow stream to be pushed over toward the surface or on it

by the now stronger ambient pressures. Coanda was a brilliant man, and sorry to say, passed away only a few months ago. He had a very long obit. in the New York Times, which listed all his numerous achievements along with some explanation of the effect bearing his name."

We do not have the exact date of the Times article but presumably it was in December 1972 or January 1973. Other references given us by Member 944 are as follows:

Angrist: "Fluid Control Devices", Scientific American, 211, No. 6: 80, 1964.

Parker: "Fluidics...", Bio-Med. Engineering, 2, 436, 1967.

Harry Walton: The How and Why of Mechanical Movements, N. Y. The Popular Science Publishing Co., 1968; 297 pp. illustrated by Ray Pioch.

And we are informed by one of our subscribers that the original papers describing the Coanda effect are as follows: "L'Effect Coanda" by A. Mitral, Proceedings of the Fifth International Congress of Applied Mechanics, 1938. In addition, W. E. Gray and Hans Stern of the General Electric Co. wrote a series of articles on Fluid Amplifiers in Control Engineering in 1964, beginning with the February issue.

For those to whom this is all "Greek", the Coanda effect is the reason why water (or tea or whatever) drips back down the spout when you are pouring. So far as we know, there is no cure for it.

V. ASTRONOMY

SATURN'S RINGS

Saturn's rings encircle that planet from about 90,000 to 140,000 kilometers out. It has long been the majority opinion that the rings are thin (i.e. unsubstantial) and consist of ice crystals, dust particles, or gas, or a combination of these. However, recent findings indicate that this is not the case.

Dr. Richard M. Goldstein and George A. Morris Jr., radar astronomers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, accomplished the first successful radar probe of Saturn, the longest planetary radar bounce yet attempted (Saturn is 700 million miles away), in December 1972 and January 1973, as reported in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune of the 4th March 1973. They used NASA's 64-meter antenna at Goldstone Station in the Mojave Desert to make a dozen tests during the two-month period. The roundtrip for the radar beams took two hours and fifteen minutes, and the results were not what was expected:

"We received much stronger bounceback signals than we expected from such a distance. From our radar results, the rings can not be made up of tiny ice crystals, dust or gas. Our echoes indicate rough, jagged surfaces, with solid material one meter in diameter or larger. The signals from the rings were five times stronger than Venus would be at that size and distance. The ring chunks certainly have to be closely packed, although not too closely because starlight has been seen shining through them. They cannot be much smaller than one meter in size and may be larger. The rings must be considered an extreme hazard to any spacecraft sent into or near the rings."

The exact composition of the 'chunks' that make up Saturn's rings is, of course, still in doubt. Dr. Carl Sagan was quoted in the New York Times of the 5th March 1973 as stating that earlier optical and near infrared observations indicate that there is ice in the

rings. He suggested that the rocky chunks might be coated with "water frost" (as opposed to frozen ammonia or other compounds), i.e. "something between icy moons and rocky asteroids".

NASA and the JPL plan to send a Mariner spacecraft past Jupiter and Saturn in 1977. If Messrs. Goldstein and Morris are correct, and one assumes

that they probably know what they are talking about, that spacecraft may have a far more difficult journey than had been anticipated. The average citizen has no way of checking on pronouncements by astronomers, but increasingly sophisticated instruments in the hands of technicians should eventually give us some definitive answers, whether the astronomers like them or not.

VI. GEOLOGY

HAS THE EARTH SHIFTED?

Walter Sullivan, in the New York Times of the 28th February 1973, presents a "popularized" account of a theory put forward by G. S. Pawley of Edinburgh University and N. Abrahamsen of Aarhus University in Denmark, originally published in Science. Briefly, these gentlemen point out that the sides of the Great Pyramid of Cheops are oriented almost exactly north, south, east, and west, but the structure as a whole is twisted about four minutes of arc from true north toward the west. This they consider to be too great a deviation to be accidental in view of the extraordinary precision with which the pyramid was built. They point out that a distant reference point —i.e. a star— would have been needed by the surveyors and state that "there is no way of aligning to a point just off true north".

The spin-axis of the earth does shift very slowly but, as currently understood, this shift is not considered adequate to explain the 'twist' in the pyramid. The same is held to be true for the shifting of plates of the Earth's crust, now believed to be pushing Europe and North America apart while nudging Africa into the South Atlantic. Hence we are left with the question of just what did cause the pyramid to twist.

The nearby Chephren Pyramid, believed to have been built at about the same time, is also slightly out of alignment with true north, but apparently no other Egyptian monuments show this deviation. Messrs. Pawley and Abrahamsen suggest that megalithic monuments elsewhere —in Britain and Brittany— and such things as the Nazca Lines might be used to determine whether the spin-axis of the Earth or its geography has changed in some as yet unknown way.

The headlines on the newspaper articles we have

on this inevitably bring to mind Prof. Charles Hapgood's book Earth's Shifting Crust, now long out of print, but brought up to date and revised in his later book The Path of the Pole (Chilton Books, 1970). (READ IT!) In this Prof. Hapgood postulates periodic shifts of the entire crust of the Earth (visualize an orange skin sliding over the fruit inside) to account for many geological (and biological) mysteries and paradoxes. His theory can hardly be called popular but is nonetheless most intriguing. Also, it is not really incompatible with other theories such as plate-shifting. One need think only of slow erosion and violent earthquakes to see that while some changes in the earth's surface may be gradual, others may be rapid and extreme in their results.

Whether the twisting of the pyramids and perhaps other monuments will provide support for Prof. Hapgood's theory, only time and future studies will say.

ERUPTING ROCKS

One of our subscribers, who formerly had a farm near Langley, B.C., Canada, sent us a letter from which we quote the pertinent portions.

"I guess, at some time or other, we've all had to 'pick rocks', and we've had our share of rock-picking. My husband used to (and still does) say they seem to grow out of the ground overnight and I used to agree with him until I noticed something about our North Field... We did very little rockpicking here, mainly just enough to keep large rocks out of the way of the mower, and the only time there seemed a great many was when we'd plowed part of the field. We were there

From Road & Track (January 1973)

"Tourists were enjoying a sunny day at Niagara Falls, Ontario, when their attention was suddenly DIVERTED from the grandeur of the cataracts to an unoccupied car, parked near the Horseshoe Falls. First the car's lights went on, then the lenses shattered. Then the horn began to blow, the engine started, the car burst into flames and the windshield exploded. Firemen blamed the activity on a short-circuit."

All we can say is, Heaven defend us from short-circuits. If that was the true cause of the 'trouble'.

twelve years and gradually I began to notice that it was possible at certain times of the year to walk on that field and find practically no large rocks (over 1½ to 2" in diameter) at all. Now, not finding them didn't (and doesn't) worry me; it's what I found when they were there that's the puzzle. I can't remember why, but one day I turned over one of these rocks and found green grass underneath with only a slight dent in it. I was so surprised that I began turning rocks over all around me. There was only one that was held by the earth and even that had whitish grass roots underneath it, no bare earth; the rest ranged from fresh green grass slightly dented (like the first) to grass turning rusty brown and dying, just as if they [the rocks] were not coming up from below, but going down into the earth."

Mrs. M. notes that her husband "muttered something about the cows kicking them out of the earth, even though some years the cows hadn't been in that field!" Unfortunately we cannot adequately reproduce the color photographs sent as evidence of this peculiar phenomenon; nor can we suggest any definite explanation. Rocks are supposed to work their way gradually toward the surface (this has happened at SITU headquarters) —which brings us to something else

On the 28th February 1973 the Associated Press announced that 30-ton rocks had "erupted" from a previously smooth field on a farm south of Elk City,



Oklahoma, and did so, along with a lot of small rocks, apparently "overnight". Allegedly the farmer had pastured his cattle on this field, which lies along a small creek, on the 16th of February. It is not clear exactly when he returned to find that he had a patch of boulders, but it was apparently either the 24th or 25th of February.

We received a large number of clippings on this, including one from the Daily Oklahoman of the 1st March which stated that the experts could not agree on the cause and that "theories abound". In the meantime we had contacted Dr. Robert O. Fay of the Oklahoma Geological Survey, who had first been placed in charge of the investigation by State officials, and he sent us a copy of the official release as well as answering our immediate questions.

The farm is owned by James Walter who has stated that he first noticed rocks emerging from the earth last fall (probably November 1972) but paid little attention to them since he thought that the Shell Oil Company, which has wells in the area, might be excavating for pipeline construction. The major "eruption", however, must have been fairly sudden and was due to a "gas blow-out" (not an explosion) to move some of the chunks of rock. The exact mechanism is, at the time of writing, still under investigation.

Quoting in part from the press release from the Oklahoma Geological Survey, "the center of the site is a shallow cavity paralleling the creek bed, 30 to 50 feet across and about 15 feet deep. The rocks around the cavity are composed of red siltstone and shale from the Doxey Shale, which crops out at the surface, and have been raised and tilted from their normal horizontal position to angles ranging from 28° to 78°. The largest blocks are 3 feet thick, up to 20 feet high, and weigh an estimated 30 tons. Trees along the creek have been uprooted and tilted, and smaller chunks and blocks of siltstone have been thrown as far as 75 feet from the cavity. In addition, several fissures are evident, generally paralleling the creek. No faulting, however, was visible at the surface of the vicinity of the blowout."

Some of the fissures were more than a foot in width and as much as 10 to 11 feet deep, and in some cases they are apparently still growing; also, there are indications that the rocks are still emerging. The total area affected measures about 230 feet long and 100 feet wide.

Initial investigations by Dr. Fay and others eliminated the possibility that all this was caused by "meteorite impact, volcanic emergence, an earthquake along an existing fault, and an explosion caused by natural gas leaking from a pipeline or from high-pressure reservoirs at depth". Dr. Charles J. Mankin, director of the O.G.S., stated that:

"...it appears likely that the rupture was a non-explosive blowout caused by the buildup of low-pressure propane gas beneath a relatively weak spot at the surface. The source of the gas was probably a well some 2,000 feet north of the site at Shell Oil Company's natural gas processing plant, where liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), mostly propane, is being

pumped into a small underground storage reservoir which has been dissolved from a salt bed in the Blaine Formation about 1,400 feet beneath the surface."

The Shell Oil Company cooperated fully and their specialists reported to Dr. Fay that they had detected gas in the area (date uncertain—circa 2-3 March) "from analyses which indicated concentrations well above 2 percent—approaching combustible proportions. The gas itself was composed of 85 percent propane." Inasmuch as all nearby pipelines transport methane, this eliminates a pipeline break as the cause. However, a storage cavity in Shell No. 1-LPG Yelton well was completed in January 1954 and was originally designed to hold 16,000 barrels of liquid propane. Since that date its capacity has increased to 17,500 barrels, "presumably because of the further dissolution of salt by the column of water beneath the propane... Shell has reported from its records no loss or significant variation in pressure in the propane storage zone over the past months."

Dr. Mankin said "This leads to the likelihood that the well bore itself is leaking small but constant amounts of propane to surrounding permeable rocks, possibly because of an inadequate cement bond ad-

jacent to the well casing or of a break in the casing itself." Dr. Fay told us that the 'leakage' could amount to anything from 1/10th of a barrel per day to 150 barrels if the propane remained liquid. In a liquid state the propane would 'migrate' horizontally through the siltstone and sandstone beds, though moving upward along any fractures or joints in the rocks, and, when sufficiently 'depressurized', turn to a gas and blow out at the surface—in other words, finally give a monumental "push" rather than exploding.

The site has been closed to visitors because of the continued presence of gas—and an accumulation of cigarette butts that indicate that sightseers are unaware of the still present danger of an explosion; and various State and company specialists are attempting to pinpoint the exact position of the leak and to repair it.

Thus what appeared at first glance to be a rather spectacular unexplained proves to have a mundane explanation, though the phenomenon is rare, to say the least; while the very unspectacular appearance of rocks elsewhere is for the moment unexplained.

And if you are wondering, as we did, why Mr. Walter did not hear anything, his "farm" is a large one—his house is 6 miles from the pasture.

VII. BIOLOGY

MORE NEW CATS?

by Ivan T. Sanderson

During 1940 I made a trip alone from central Sonora, via the west (i.e. southwest) coast of Mexico with the lightest possible equipment. I was collecting certain specified small mammals, all rodents, only once collected before. Copies of the original papers published on them I carried in a small bound book. There were fifteen rats and one squirrel. This last was, of course, a forest animal and had been reported only once from the Pacific coast about 25 miles inland from the unnamed coast of the bay between San Blas in the north and San Marcos in the south of the State of Nayarit. The only way to get to this general area—and I could not find out if there were any villages there—was to walk.

I detrained at Tepic and after making some enquiries found a man with a donkey train who made regular trips over a mountain road to a settlement without, as far as I could ascertain, a name. The Sierras of Nayarit are completely separated from those of the adjoining ranges known collectively as the Sierra Madre Occidentale and which contain, further south, from Colima to Vera Cruz, the great volcanicity of the 20th N. parallel. The vegetation is considerably different and, as I learned, the fauna is rather distinctly different, especially that which is and has obviously for a long time been completely separated from the other ranges.

In the "settlement" I was given quarters in a cubicle at the end of an enormous sort of barracks or warehouse. This was thatched-roofed and raised on an eight-foot earthen platform which was some 220 by 75 feet. This building just stood in a rather dense secondary jungle growth which had been assiduously kept back all around and not permitted to seed in the building or on the roof. There were no outbuildings. In a month I failed to find out what this was for (except as a "depot" for the donkey train) or who had built it.

The locals were friendly though few spoke Spanish, but once I explained what I wanted two or three of them said immediately that they knew the squirrel I wanted and would get some for me. They did. In the meantime they brought along all sorts of things for sale and among these were quite a number of skins of animals from about the size of a cat up. They were simply sun-dried after being pegged, and had been rolled up fur-side in. Not knowing of any animals larger than deer, possibly peccary, puma, and jaguar, I at first assumed these to be the hides of domesticated animals for sale. However, one of the largest had the crudely-skinned feet hanging out, and on some of these were very large, obviously retractile claws. The skin was very tough but I got some men to unroll it for me, fur-side up.

Of course I did not know how much it might have been stretched (or shrunk) while drying, but it measured from nose-tip to the base of the tail just over 6 feet, the tail being only about 18 inches long. The legs appeared to have been rather long compared to,

say, a house-cat or a puma. The paws were very big and splayed and well furred. The claws were bright yellow.

The fur was soft below and rather firm on top and was basically various browns throughout, plain on the head and shoulders but breaking up into light and dark sort of wavy stripes on the flanks and upper legs. The lower limbs were very dark brown almost to black. The tail (and here I am not sure of my memory) was I think plain dark brown like the whole ridge of the spine. The face was very short and there were no facial markings.

The most outstanding feature of this skin was that the hairs from just behind the shoulders appeared to grow forward and form a large ruff around the neck, covering the ears from behind and above.

I was able to purchase another smaller specimen but on which the ruff was just as pronounced. Its stripings were lighter and sharper in outline but it was in bad condition with the limbs folded in. I had these and another animal of quite another species carefully and tightly sewn up in several layers of old sacking. This was about all I could carry and they wanted a much greater price for these skins than for any of the others—and there were dozens. I did not know what I had got but I knew it was “new” in all respects.

Eventually this collection and some others made later were stored in the government jail in Belize, British Honduras, which was our real headquarters; but this was at sea-level and was completely flooded for two days by a hurricane while we were away. By the time my assistant got back there, everything that was not in bottles was completely ruined, the skins having been sodden for two or three weeks. What was saved went to the Field Museum in Chicago. These skins were not worth sending.

I don't know what this large cat might have been but I saw several native-cured skins of animals in the Grand Sierra that I know are “not in the book”. Without even a skin, however, any description is worthless. I saw other skins, including another of these cats, for sale in a sort of tourist store in the big market in Colima, but the proprietor wanted tourist prices which were quite beyond me! Colima is at the south end of the Nayarit mountain block. All I can say is that the number of skins of animals I did not know that I saw down the southwest side of Mexico and, later, on into Guatemala and Nicaragua, was positively bewildering.

Needless to say, if any of our members visit Mexico—and particularly those with training in zoology—we hope they will at least pay a visit to the market in Colima. They may still have unknown cat skins for sale.

CURRENT SEARCH AND RESEARCH OF ABSMS

Unfortunately we do not have space in this issue to do more than make these two brief announcements. The Hominid creatures of our Northwest and Canada that are widely known by the names “Bigfoot” and “Sasquatch” are now amply covered by two organizations: Peter Byrne's field outfit, to be addressed at P. O. Box 632, The Dalles, Oregon 97058; and a publication entitled Manimals Newsletter put out by Jim McClarin of 4717 Florin-Perkins Road, Sacramento, California 95826. However, for over a century reports of similar-appearing creatures have been turning up from all over the rest of this country (and Canada) and down even to Florida. In fact, since one of our members, Loren E. Coleman, started investigating these reports that sounded serious from those areas, starting just ten years ago, they seem now to have been alleged from just about every state in the Union, including Hawaii! Anyone having reports of such creatures outside the Pacific Northwest should please send them to Mr. Coleman at 308 West Green Street, Urbana, Illinois 61801. You will be reading more about these creatures in future issues of Pursuit.

The matter of the Yeti is at long last receiving proper attention in Nepal. A team of five Americans, all of them professional biologists, set out in October 1972 to do an ecological survey of the Arun Valley in the northeastern part of that country. Their work is sponsored by the Association for the Conservation of Wildlife, based in Bangkok, Thailand. Before starting out, they pointed out that “the Arun Valley is said by Sherpas to be the habitat of several large mammals unknown to science, including the famous Yeti.”

In January of this year the group's joint leader and zoologist, Jeffery McNeely, announced their support for the existence of the Yeti. He said three plaster casts had been made one morning from a set of tracks that passed as close as one foot from a tent where two team members were sleeping soundly. The zoologist observed that “they seem to be the tracks of a primate, and monkeys (both langurs and macaques) have been seen in the area. However, the footprints are considerably larger than those of any monkey and are much wider in relation to the length than are tracks of monkeys. It seems quite clear that the tracks belong to an animal which is still unknown to science.” While we have not seen photographs of the casts, McNeely's more detailed description of the track indicates the creature was indeed one of the rock-climbing pongids (i.e. apes!) that are known to us as Yeti. The casts have been secured in safety lockers at the U. S. Embassy in Katmandu, Nepal's capital, until December

SAGA Magazine Was 'Had'

Those of you who saw the February 1973 issue of SAGA with the photograph of an animal alleged to come from Mars, should take a peek at the January 1972 issue of Pursuit. The animal shown is plainly a Tardigrade or “Bear Animalcule” (see Ivan T. Sanderson's book “Things” for further information.)

1973 when the survey is completed. The team of Americans continues to study plant and animal life in the Arun Valley, and this now definitely includes at least one animal that is "still unknown to science".

BEWARE AN ALLEGED 'BIGFOOT' SKELETON

There is an organization calling itself the "Wonders of the World Museum" in Port Costa, California. Its director is one Clayton Bailey. We do not know Mr. Bailey personally, but some time ago we received a newspaper clipping from a chap who wished to know whether we felt there was any validity to the pronouncements made therein by said Mr. Bailey. Frankly, we were astonished that he felt it necessary to ask. One of the "finds" made by Wonders of the World was an enormous skeleton of a sea monster of some sort; 'unfortunately' it was taken apart by beach-combers before the proper authorities could be notified. It was 'found' by a group of ceramics-hobbyists who took with them 1,000 pounds of Georgia clay.

Another of this group's 'discoveries' was a "complete skeleton of the North American ape-man 'Giganticus Erectus Gladstonii'" (named after its discoverer, Dr. George Gladstone, one of Mr. Bailey's associates). This is on display at the Wonders of the World Museum, and we have seen a photograph of the "skeleton". One of our members has viewed it in person and states that it certainly is not composed of bone and is probably either plastic or ceramic. In view of Mr. Bailey's past history, we would vote for clay though it is impossible to tell from the photograph. (We do not have permission to reproduce this.) One must agree with the statement that Wonders of the World is composed of amateur palaeontologists: the skull most closely resembles a Halloween pumpkin, and words fail us when we come to the hands and feet.

Astonishingly enough, we are informed that another "skeleton" from the Wonders of the World Museum is on permanent exhibit at the San Francisco Museum at Van Ness and McAllister in San Francisco. We know nothing of this museum or of what label they may

have put on this atrocity, but this is the kind of thing that can set back serious search or even research.

FLORIDA'S WILD WILDLIFE

One of our interests is "out-of-place animals", i.e. animals found in locations where they do not normally exist. However, we will have to be exceedingly careful in screening such cases in the future. The problem is Florida, which has given up even trying to eliminate the hoards of exotic animals which have established themselves in southern Florida (and in some cases all the way north into Georgia) and is concentrating on keeping new ones out. An article in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune of the 12th March 1973, by AP writer Eric Sharp, listed some of the 'imports': giant toads, African snails, armadillos, North American elk, jaguars, electric eels, the walking catfish, blacktailed jackrabbits, the jaguarundi, nutria, the canary-winged parakeet, the Chinese mynah bird, the rose-winged parrot, and even piranha fish.

Florida has relatively few native animals, and thus has plenty of ecological niches where new animals may fit in. Also, it is one of the major centers for the importation of animals, and animals do escape from cages on occasion —sometimes through carelessness on the part of their 'keepers', sometimes apparently by what may be called unconventional means (see the article on Nomeus by Craig Phillips). Once loose in Florida with its complex water system and extensive swamp and forested areas, the animals have a very good chance of surviving.

One animal that Mr. Sharp failed to mention is the Rhesus Monkey. Two packs of these monkeys, believed to number some 200 in all, are to be found along the banks of the Silver River in north-central Florida. They are descended from two pairs brought into the area in the early 1930s when a series of Tarzan films were made there. Some of them live partly on handouts from tourists and partly by foraging, but others are believed to be totally self-sufficient. (Incidentally, if you visit Florida and happen to see these monkeys, do not try to feed them; they can be extremely dangerous,

A sign on a boarded-up building near downtown Portland, Oregon, reads "No Admittance — No Trespassing — Survivors Will Be Prosecuted." The National Enquirer, which published a photograph of the sign, noted that their reporter did not linger or try to find out how many survivors has been prosecuted!

"Change the Rules"

From the Winnipeg Free Press, 21 Feb. 1973, date-lined Romeo, Mich. (AP) — "The Romeo school board hit a snag while discussing the purchase of six new buses and federal guidelines for seat belts. Supervisor Chris Holmes said the requirement for three safety belts a seat is based on 'the measurement of a 13-inch rump per student' but 'many of the students surpass federal standards'."

particularly if you run out of food, and are perfectly capable of taking your arm off.)

While it may seem odd indeed to have monkeys thriving in the wild in Florida, we may one day have chimpanzees and/or orangutans living on an island off the coast of Georgia. This, however, will be by plan and not by accident. The Yerkes Regional Primate Center in Atlanta, Georgia, freed four chimpanzees on Bear Island during the summer of 1972 to see whether they might be able to survive there. The chimpanzees were not too happy at first but then settled down and were seen to eat foliage, bugs, crabs, and small rodents in addition to the monkey chow taken them daily. We have no recent report on whether they were able to tolerate winter weather on the island, but the spokesman from Yerkes stated that the experiment might last three years, depending on the chimpanzees' condition. If they survive it, Yerkes plans to experiment next with orangutans. Both animals are threatened with extinction in their native habitats, and the idea generally is to establish a protected breeding colony.

The point is that there have been animals showing up in most unlikely places, but with the advent of jet travel in particular, animal importers have been able to bring in animals that could not be imported before; and pet owners do sometimes simply turn loose the most extraordinary "pets" (e.g. the piranhas in Florida's canals). It has always been our practice to check as thoroughly as we can on this possibility when, for instance, flamingos turn up in a New England backyard, but the acclimatative abilities of animals and a possible 'ordinary' explanation must, of course, be always kept in mind.

NOMEUS — A FISH THAT DISAPPEARS

by Craig Phillips

This is the story of an unusual fish, Nomeus gronovii, that lives for protection among the stinging tentacles of the Portuguese man-of-war along the Florida coast, the Bahamas, and elsewhere in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. Unusual in its own right for its remarkable form and habits, what is particularly uncanny about this little fish is the fact that captive specimens have sometimes disappeared under circumstances that are difficult to explain. While none has ever actually vanished before my eyes, on occasion I have had them turn up missing, much to my exasperation and bafflement, when they should have been there. The fact that on other occasions they have not disappeared is scant consolation.

The Portuguese man-of-war (Physalia pelagica) is a large colonial coelenterate classified as a siphonophore and somewhat resembles but is not closely related to the jellyfish. Although it appears to be and functions as a single individual, the Physalia is actually a colony of closely joined individuals,

various members of which perform the individual functions of feeding, digestion, stinging, reproduction, etc. Surmounting the colony is a remarkable air-filled structure known as the pneumatophore, or float, beautifully colored blue and pink and translucent like a partially deflated toy balloon. This float is provided with a soft muscular sail, crimped at the edges somewhat like a pie crust, by means of which the Physalia is blown along by the wind. From the underside of the colony trail the assorted feeding and reproductive organs and other associated "spaghetti", as well as the trailing stinging tentacles which when relaxed may extend many feet beneath the colony. These tentacles, which resemble dark blue strings, are lavishly provided with nematocysts or stinging cells. The intensity and duration of the sting is considerable (and has accounted for some human deaths), which makes all the more remarkable the fact that the six- to eight-inch Nomeus fish swims among them constantly, apparently possessing some chemical or physiological means for not triggering off the sting (when dipped up in a net along with a man-of-war, the Nomeus may or may not get stung, and those that do appear to die instantly, as do other species of fish that chance to contact the tentacles).

Nomeus are usually seen beneath the man-of-war in small groups, and their average size is four inches or less. The body of the fish is silvery-white with large irregular blue blotches, and the back is solid blue. The paired pelvic fins beneath the breast are enlarged, recalling the appearance of a small flying fish (in the latter case, however, the "wings" are the pectoral fins) and the tail fin is enlarged and deeply forked. The entire fish has a fragile and delicate appearance, and when placed in an aquarium tank away from the protection of the Physalia, is often promptly attacked and devoured by fish of other species.

It was during the early Fifties while taking marine science courses at the University of Miami that I first had an opportunity to observe numbers of Nomeus fish in the wild. It was my custom to spend my vacations with Capt. Wm. B. Gray (now Director of Exhibits at the Miami Seaquarium) aboard his boat assisting with the collection of fishes and other biological specimens in the Florida Keys and along the edge of the Gulf Stream. One day as Gray and I were preparing for a trip to the upper Keys, he mentioned that Marineland (in Florida) was particularly desirous of obtaining some man-of-war fish for their small corridor tanks and that we should be particularly on the lookout for them this trip. He then told me a story I found hard to believe.

Several times previously, Gray said, he had sent Nomeus to Marineland aboard the truck, only to be told that they were gone when the truck arrived. The fish had been placed at first in a compartment containing other assorted and presumably innocuous small fish, but, realizing how vulnerable the Nomeus was, Gray then placed several in a small wooden cage covered with fine screen and floated this in the compartment containing the other small fish. No trace of

them could be found on arrival, although the door of the cage was still wired shut according to the Curator at Marineland.

On the possible theory that the fish had died en route and that their remains might have been "picked" through the wire screen by the other fish, Gray decided to try what seemed to be a foolproof system. The Nomeus were again placed inside the screen cage, and this cage then placed inside a larger one, likewise covered with fine screening. The wooden frames prevented the respective screens from coming into close contact, and both cages were again wired shut. However, on arrival no Nomeus or portions thereof were to be found; and both cages were tightly closed "Isn't that a mystery now?", Gray inquired of me. I admitted that I had never heard of anything like it before.

Several days later we were working the reefs off Angelfish Creek north of Key Largo, when an easterly wind had sprung up, blowing in a few Physalia from the edge of the Gulf Stream. Although we investigated all of these that we could, none seemed to be accompanied by Nomeus. However, near the end of the day we pulled the skiff alongside a large man-of-war, and as we approached, I saw four medium-sized fish drifting in and out of its tentacles. With a quick sweep of a small hand net beneath the Physalia, I managed to net all four fish at once without complicating tentacle fragments, and deposited them in the forward live-well of the skiff. We then left them there for the time being until the next morning when we would decide where to best place them for safe-keeping.

Lifting the lid on the live-well after breakfast, I was dismayed to find that all four fish had vanished during the night without a trace! This was puzzling indeed. After Gray and I talked and speculated for a while we decided that what must have happened was that the fish had died during the night, their bodies had softened, and the pumping action caused by gentle rocking of the skiff on the waves must have sucked out their remains through the small holes used to admit water in the floor of the live-well. Admittedly, we were grasping at conjectural straws here (I know of no other case of this having happened with any other fish specimens, but at the time we couldn't come up with anything better).

This incident bothered me so much that I could think of little else except "those damned little disappearers" throughout the day. The Physalia were thinning out now due to a change in the wind direction, and those few that we saw were unaccompanied by fish. The days went by rapidly—and without success—but after we had raised our last trap and were heading the main boat back to our anchorage in Angelfish Creek just before dusk, we sighted a large, solitary Physalia some distance away. Gray suggested that we try our luck and we headed for the man-of-war while I leaned over the bow with my hand net. Under the large float was a solitary seven-inch Nomeus, the largest individual I have seen before or since. It was captured without difficulty, deposited in an empty section of the live-well, and we headed back to the

dock with the skiff containing the Nomeus and other specimens in tow.

In spite of our previous experience with the live well we felt certain that this Nomeus was safe (at least until after supper) due to his large size and excellent condition; besides, we had spent a long, hard day and were welcoming an opportunity to relax for a while. When at length we had finished our evening meal and the sun had set, I climbed into the skiff and raised the live-well lid, flashlight in hand. Our Nomeus was nowhere to be seen. This was too much, I thought, but just as I was recovering from my initial shock, the mystery in this case was abruptly solved. The live-well had contained another inhabitant—an eight-inch Gulf toadfish (Opsanus beta), a stubby creature with a capacious mouth for swallowing things and a baggy stomach in which to store them, resting against a corner on the floor of the well, its dark coloration rendering it almost invisible at the time—and forgotten by me. Noting ruefully that its belly was distended to its "full bagosity", I netted it and with my fingers clearly felt the remains of the Nomeus closely folded within.

Several months went by until another holiday period permitted me to rejoin Gray on a trip to the Keys. I learned at this time that he had seen no Physalia since our last trip, but was still anxious to fill the standing order from Marineland. Luck was with us once again. Shortly after our arrival at Angelfish Creek we found a man-of-war accompanied by four Nomeus, which were netted and placed in the live-well of the skiff. We returned to the main boat at noon for lunch and, after noting with some relief that our fish had not "ectoplasmized" in the interval, I carefully netted them out and placed them in a two-gallon glass aquarium which I set on the engine box in the cabin where we could observe them during our repast. It was at this point that Gray remembered having set a trap near the boat that morning, and suggested that we pull it before lunch. Pulling and tending the trap from the skiff took half an hour to complete—and when we returned to the main boat we found the aquarium empty!

Subsequent and thorough search of the cabin deck revealed absolutely no trace of the fish (and no wet marks), and besides, it seemed impossible that they could have jumped out of the tank in the first place. Since the screen door to the cabin had been left open during our visit to the trap, we wondered if an enterprising seagull might have paid a visit in our absence. However, we had seen no gulls in the area that morning, and besides, it would have had to be a pretty bold individual to actually enter the cabin.

Later on Gray informed me that he had gotten some to Marineland successfully, and I have since also kept Nomeus successfully in aquaria where they thrived without pulling any appetitive cop-outs. And so, here the matter rests—man-of-war fish disappear and they don't! But there is a postscript to this story.

About a year after the last Nomeus incident, while I was employed as a research aide at the University of Miami Marine Laboratory (now the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences), one of

my associates walked into my office one day and startled me with the question: "Say, Craig, have you ever heard of Portuguese man-of-war fish disappearing?" When I asked him for more details, he told me that on the previous day (a Sunday), he and his family were swimming at Crandon Park Beach on Key Biscayne, where they caught some small Nomeus in the surf. These were taken home and placed in a glass bowl on the mantle overnight. In the morning, he said, they had vanished completely, and a thorough search of the fireplace and the surrounding floor failed to reveal the slightest trace of them!

Editor's Note: Several years ago I (SWS) set up two small aquaria (with lids) on the windowsill in my room. They were filled by the simple expedient of dipping a bucket into our marsh. Included in the catch were three baby Blue Gills. Two promptly disappeared. The general 'diagnosis' was that they had died and had been eaten by the snails, etc. I was never convinced; and when the third Blue Gill did die, I left him in the tank. After three weeks I tired of looking at the corpse and removed it. Nomeus may not be the only fish that disappears.

"HORRORS" FROM THE MESOZOIC

by Mark A. Hall

Mysteries turn up to our delight in the most placid surroundings, such as sky-lines found stretched over suburban communities and stray cats that gather in solemn ritual in a Philadelphia back yard. The following "oddity" appears on North America's Great Plains, crossed by well-traveled roads and historic routes of travel, where the only hint of this mystery to a passerby may be the agitated waters of some out-of-the-way pool.

Public attention was focused in the early 1920's on Nebraska's Alkali Lake, on the map in the days prior to the Dust Bowl period, in Cherry County (between King and the town of Spade in Sheridan County). After two years of complaints by residents and visitors alike of some large animal in the lake, local citizens determined to hunt it. This put the matter into the newspapers; I found it reported in the Minneapolis Journal for the 25th and 27th July 1923. Fishing boats had ceased to go out on Alkali Lake after startled fishermen saw one boat pitched into the air, and several days later the lacerated body of the lone fisherman was recovered. The following incident was related by J. A. Johnson, a resident of Hay Springs, who saw the animal while with two friends in the fall of 1922.

"We had camped a short distance from the lake in the night before and all three of us arose early. We started to walk around the lake, when suddenly coming around a slight rise in the ground, we came upon this animal, nearly three fourths out of the water in the shallows near the shore. We were less than 20 yards

from him and he saw us at the same time we came upon him. He lifted his head, made a peculiar hissing sound and disappeared. The animal was probably 40 feet long including tail, and the head, when raised in alarm as when he saw us. In general appearance, the animal was not unlike an alligator, except that the head was stubbier and there seemed to be a projection like a horn between the eyes and nostrils. The animal was built much more heavily throughout than an alligator and was not at all sluggish in its actions. Its color seemed a dull gray or brown, although it was hardly light enough to distinguish color well." The "monster" hunt dissolved in a dispute over leasing of the lake and in ridicule from outside.

Now such an animal cannot appear overnight, and, in fact, the local Amerinds (not further identified) said there had always been such a creature known to inhabit Alkali Lake. And elsewhere on the Great Plains Amerinds have identified certain pools where they are supposed to live. One anthropologist, Stanley Vestal, has recorded that what are known simply as "water monsters" have a reptilian form and horns like a buffalo. They are seen in pools, sinkholes, and rivers. And the late-comers to the Plains have also been seeing them, as one farmer in Brookings County, South Dakota, said he was forced to take a ditch on his tractor when one of these giants crossed his path in 1934. This animal's track was later followed to where it disappeared into Lake Campbell. And then there are the reports of the "White River Monster" from Arkansas that were discussed at length in the October 1971 (Vol. 4 No. 4) issue of PURSUIT.

We can recall the huge crocodile proposed in Bernard Heuvelmans' In the Wake of the Sea-Serpents to explain some accounts of "sea-serpents" in Atlantic waters and even at high latitudes on occasion. Such a "Marine Saurian" could enter our freshwater rivers. And while North America's known alligators and crocodiles are too small to account for the reported giants, the continent's fossil record offers possibilities of additional survivors from the Mesozoic Era. Prime among these is Phobosuchus or "Horror Crocodile" (also called Deinosuchus) that ranks as the largest known crocodile ever, having reached 50 feet in length. Its fossil remains have been found in Texas and Montana. While this "Horror" is known to have lived only into the Upper Cretaceous, 70 million years ago, Gavialosuchus americanus, a crocodile that may have reached 45 feet, inhabited the southeastern United States in the Pliocene Epoch, a few million years ago. During the Paleocene there was even a short-snouted alligator, Ceratosuchus, with enlarged squamosal bones at the rear of its skull that formed a pair of horns!

Which ancient reptile may account for recent reports I will not guess, but I do suggest that large living crocodilians may have been overlooked in our freshwater rivers and lakes. We can all understand how this could happen: the creatures appear where they "ought not to be" and where no one has looked for them!

VIII. ANTHROPOLOGY

THE JULSRUD CERAMIC COLLECTION
IN ACAMBARO, MEXICO

We have a file approximately two inches thick on this most complicated subject, and the following account constitutes, to the best of our ability, the "bare bones".

Waldemar Julsrud was a German national, resident at Acambaro, Guanajuato, Mexico, an educated man and much interested in Amerindian archaeology in that area. With a local priest he had, some time prior to 1945, uncovered a very important Tarascan site at Chupicuaro not far from Acambaro. About 1945 he was riding on horseback along a trail on the side of what is called Bull Mountain on the outskirts of Acambaro when he spotted a peculiar object. He dug it out and found it to be a ceramic figurine totally different in style from anything he knew. He asked the employee who accompanied him at the time, one Odilon Tinajero (present whereabouts unknown), to dig around and bring to him any other similar figurines he could find, which Sr. Tinajero did for years. The collection numbers some 32,000 pieces, all currently stored in Mr. Julsrud's former residence in Acambaro (he died several years ago).

There are two major questions concerning this collection: (1) is it genuine, or a fraud perpetrated on Mr. Julsrud (his integrity and sincerity are attested to by everyone who met him), and (2) how old are the figurines? Neither is a simple question, and there is disagreement among those who have investigated the collection and its origin(s) on even very minor points (e.g., Prof. Charles Hapgood has stated emphatically that Julsrud's son Carlos never signed himself Carlos Fuenlabrada—but we have a letter from Julsrud's son, dated the 3rd July 1948 and signed Carlos J. [ulsrud] Fuenlabrada).

Most archaeologists have, up to this time, branded the collection a fraud and claimed that Odilon Tinajero made the figurines himself, aided by his family. Their objections stem from the size of the collection, all found within a few acres of ground, the condition of the figurines, and the fact that some of these seem to represent 'dinosaurs'. Prof. Hapgood has dealt with

most of this more than adequately in his booklet entitled "Mystery in Acambaro" (available from the author; address Winchester, New Hampshire; but no price noted) but there still remain the question of the 'dinosaurs' and the age of the collection as a whole.

Ivan Sanderson and Wendell Skousen (a geologist and mineralogist and a photographer of professional standing) visited Mr. Julsrud in 1959 and examined the collection very thoroughly. It was their conclusion that there are seven types of material: 1) Crude—small, solid, yellow, semibaked (and almost certainly modern); 2) Julsrud—from very small to one yard, fully baked, no glaze, interior grey, surfacing to yellow, brown, or reddish; many made in parts; none moulded; 3) Grey-Black—mostly solid, some 'excavated', dry, unfinished, grey throughout, rough surface; 4) Horny-Black—fine design with curved and rounded incisions but no holes; hollow but not moulded; black with extremities turning to horn-color; fine patina but not glazed; 5) very finest, beautiful designs, formalized; angular incisions and designs with holes; hollow and apparently all moulded; high polish but not glazed; some solid plaques; 6) Samian-type—a red, glazed, typical Greek samian-ware type; reddish-brown clay, bright golden to ochre-red finish; solid (see below); 7) Imitation Stone—dark gray, even colored, solid, massive items, roughened to imitate stone, and of very distinct Mayan type. Though Prof. Hapgood recognizes that the figurines are made of various types of clay, he lumps them all together as the "Julsrud Collection". In a sense this is perfectly valid, but it makes the problem of dating the artefacts more difficult, since it is not clear which specimens were eventually dated by scientific techniques. We shall return to this later.

The collection is, as noted, enormous, and the variety of objects depicted can be broken down into about twenty basic types, i.e. animals, humans, humanoids, cooking utensils, etc. The "animals" pose a great problem. Ivan Sanderson was a trained zoologist and he stated that "there are practically speaking NO figurines in the whole collection [i.e. Type 2 or Julsrud] that represent either in detail or in major features any known animals either living or extinct, either realistically or in formalized manners

The Winnipeg Free Press of the 31st January 1973 reported a somewhat heated meeting with the chairman of the unemployment insurance commission. "Why", asked William Skoreyko (PC—Edmonton East). 'does a computer advise a man who is 64 years of age that he is not eligible for benefits because he is pregnant?' Mr. Cousineau (the chairman) laughingly conceded that the commission's computers are not infallible. He said that there was a case of a priest who received a similar notice."

Reported in Time, 8 June 1970: British research chemist David E. H. Jones managed to produce an unridable bicycle. He commented "It seems a lot of tortuous effort to produce in the end a machine of absolutely no utility whatsoever, but that sets me firmly in the mainstream of modern technology".

...In fact, with one exception [see later] the only animals that do coincide truthfully with any either existing or extinct (as reconstructed scientifically) animals are found in classes other than (2) the Julsrud. Further, the number that are so found is minute and amounted to only 27 in four days of close search out of tens of thousands of items. All the Julsrud-type animals are not only fabulous but are made up of bits and pieces of known living animals." Prof. Hapgood includes a number of photographs in his booklet and 'identifies' a number of these animals; I must disagree with many of his identifications (e.g. Plates 38 and 39 are stated to be armadillos; I see no resemblance at all to that animal) and am constrained to point out that many other illustrations support Ivan Sanderson's statement. The reptiles have the wrong kind of feet, their necks and tails are grossly out of proportion to the body; human-types have fins (or practically anything else) for hands; one "horse" (also illustrated) has a beak and another has a long rather reptilian head, and the feet are wrong on both. There are, it is true, quite a number of obviously fantastic animals included in the collection and these are easily picked out; it is the apparently "real" animals that are a mishmash. So-called primitive man—all over the world—is 'notorious' for the fidelity with which known animals are reproduced in paintings, carvings, ceramics and the like; when such 'primitive' artists choose to let their imaginations run riot, this is obvious, and is admitted freely by the artist. At Acambaro we are asked to believe that artists never bothered to notice what horses' heads or feet look like. (Prof. Hapgood's insistence on these being horses is apparently based on the discovery among Mr. Julsrud's collection of some teeth definitively identified by George Gaylord Simpson, the "dean" of palaeontology, as those of Equus

conversidans owen, an extinct American horse. Prof. Hapgood also found some objects, still partially buried in a hillside, that appeared to be porous, very decayed "bones"; these he took to Harold B. Anthony at the American Museum of Natural History. He stated that they were not the bones of any animal alive today and finally called them "earthy concretions".)

We come now to the appalling problem of dating these artefacts. In 1968 Prof. Hapgood submitted samples for carbon-14 dating to Isotopes Inc. in New Jersey, the sample consisting of the broken fragments of one figurine. The date reported was 1640B.C., with an attached cautionary note pointing out that if the clay used to make the figurine included older organic matter, the date could be inaccurate. Two further samples were sent for carbon-14 analysis, this time chosen from figurines that seemed not to include 'extra' carbonaceous material. Sample No. 2 yielded a date circa 4530 B.C. and Sample No. 3 circa 1110 B. C.

In 1969 three samples, two from the Julsrud Collection and one sent by Charles Di Peso (an archaeologist who had denounced the whole thing as a fraud), and all representing "monsters", were tested by the thermoluminescence technique at the University of Pennsylvania Museum. This test is based on the fact that the quartz and feldspar particles present in clay acquire a thermoluminescent glow from exposure to rays passing through the earth's atmosphere. This glow is lost when the clay is heated above 500 (other sources say 400) degrees centigrade. Therefore, the date of manufacture of any piece can be pinpointed by measuring the amount of thermoluminescence re-established in these particles after the piece was fired. The pieces examined by the U. of P. Museum all yielded dates in the range of 2400-2700 B. C.



A sampling of figurines from the Julsrud Acambaro collection.

Our problem here is that we do not know which of the seven types was analyzed. Of the collection as a whole, 75-80% are of Type 2 (Julrud); Type 1 is very scarce but contains a high proportion of known and realistic animals —cats, dogs, rabbits; Type 3 is similar in content to Type 2. Type 4 we shall deal with in a moment. Type 5 seems to consist of a few pieces only, a very formalized fish and some plaques, one bearing an incised outline of a swan. Type 6, the “samian-type” ware, is, according to Prof. Hapgood, Tarascan (the suggestion that it resembles Greek ceramics is most intriguing), and includes some bird-shaped whistles, some humanoid plaques, and a number of rather large, very ‘dinosaurian’ figures —but these, while superficially like ‘dinosaurs’, are not accurate representations of such. One has a typed tag stuck on it saying “Diplodocus”, but its hind feet are Theropod, its fore feet mammalian; it has external ears, and its proportions are not those of that genus of extinct reptiles.

Those who claim the collection is a fraud, point out that the artist —and whoever did these was an artist (or a group of artists)— could have obtained his ideas from modern comic books, B-class movies, science fiction, and the burgeoning assortment of popular books on palaeontology. Possibly —if they are all modern. But if the dates thus far obtained are accurate (and the Pennsylvania Museum states that their lab “stands on these dates for the Julrud material, whatever this means in terms of archaeological dating in Mexico, or in terms of fakes versus authentic pieces”), these pieces were made long before such influences were available.

And then there is Type 4: “Horny-Black: very few animals —a non-exaggerated item that could be anything, some perfectly legitimate formalized birds and fish, and the one perfect extinct type. This last is about four inches tall and three and one-half inches long. It is perfectly made, smooth black in color, and covered all over with wavy incisions that are bilaterally symmetrical and seem to indicate a sort of coloring as is found in snakes. It is the only specimen in the whole collection that is exactly and precisely in accord with a known reconstruction, and in every proportion and detail even to small nostrils and the number of toes.” This is *Brachiosaurus*, known from fossils from North America and East Africa. (This is shown on Plate 29 in Prof. Hapgood’s booklet.) If this particular figurine is ancient, the most probable explanation would seem to be that the artist saw the animal alive.

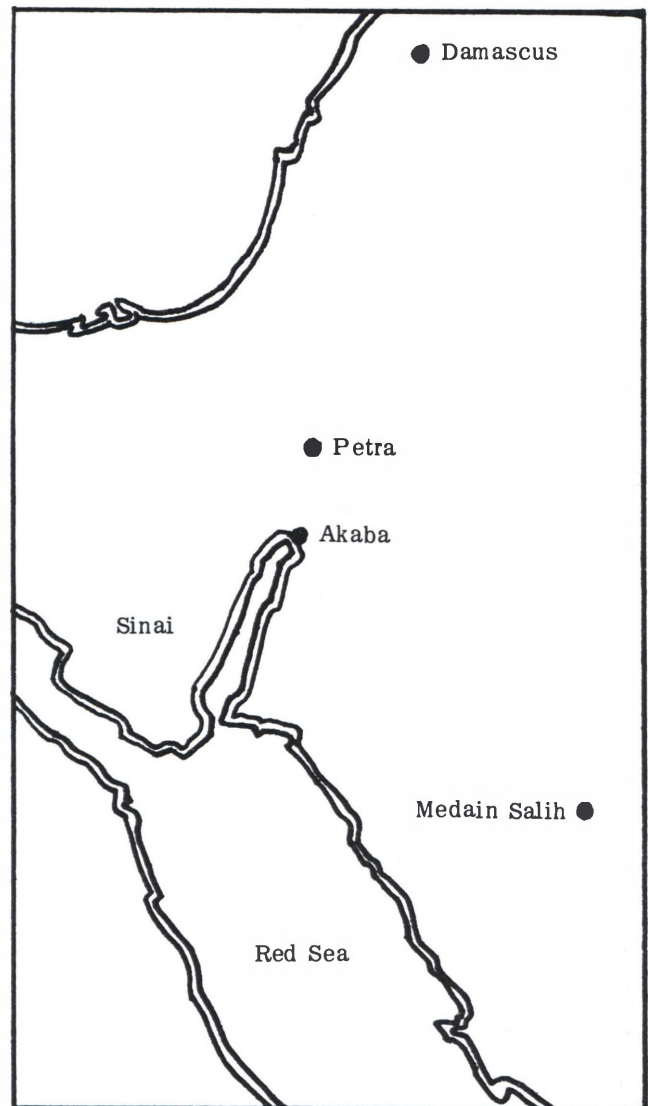
Whatever the final verdict may be, the Julrud Collection requires thorough investigation. Though some of the pieces may be modern copies or pure fakes and there are still many questions concerning their origin, there is now enough evidence to convince all but the most hardened sceptic that the Acambaro site deserves attention.

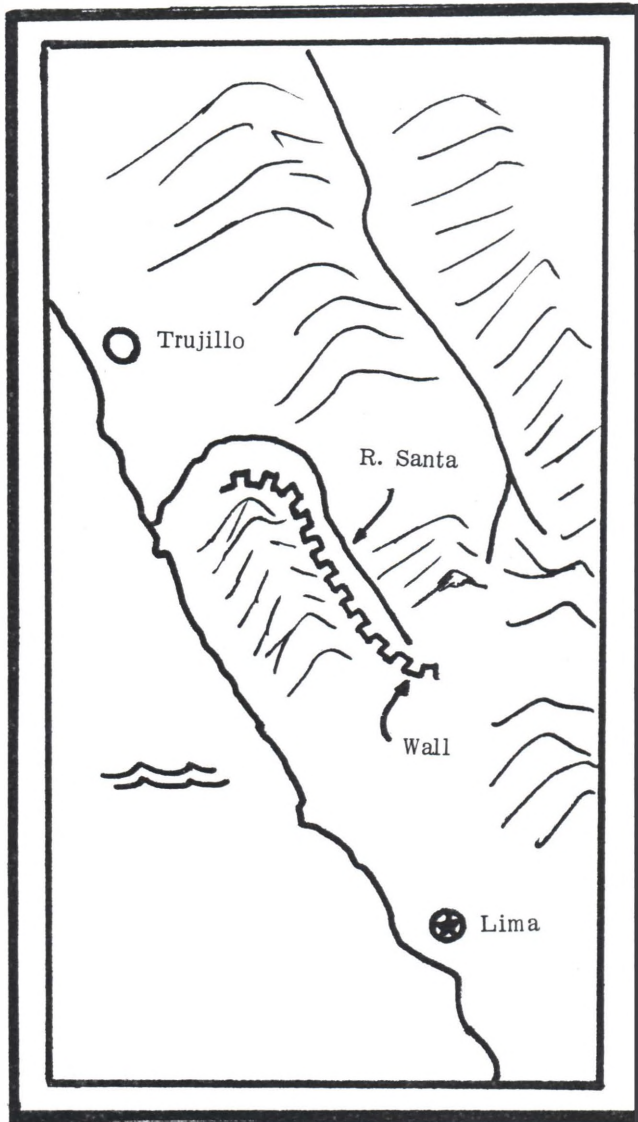
KIRKBRIDE’S WALL AND THE GREAT WALL OF PERU

In the October 1972 issue of *Pursuit* Sibley S. Morrill reported on the mysterious walls found in the Berkeley and Oakland (California) hills. One of our English subscribers has sent us a clipping from the *Daily Telegraph* of London, dated the 27th January 1973—the day on which she received her copy of our October issue! It reads as follows:

“Sir Alec Kirkbride, at 75, one of the last surviving British officers to fight in the Arab revolt with Lawrence, has been telling me about the mystery of the stone wall which runs for 20 miles at a distance of about 12 miles from Petra in Jordan.

“Sir Alec, who was for many years British Resident in Transjordan, and ended his career as our Ambassador in Libya, first spotted the curious wall when he flew over it in a light aeroplane. He was so interested that he returned to take a closer look from horseback.





"Great Wall of Peru"

Redrawn from aerial photo by Aerial Explorations, Inc.

"It was utterly staggering," he tells me, "because it had involved a tremendous amount of labour, being about 10 ft wide and 2 ft tall. But it bore no relation to any boundary or defensive position at all. It's just a great jumble."

"His own theory is that it was built by the Nabateans in the early Christian era, but he is far from certain. Despite much research no one can explain it."

The Nabateans were an Arab people who occupied the northwest corner of Arabia. Originally nomadic, they monopolized the caravan trade and by 100 B.C. held territory from Damascus to Medain Salih and down to the Red Sea with the port of Elath. Their capital was Petra.

The point is that Sir Alec, who certainly knows the area as well as anyone can, states flatly that this wall is not a defensive or boundary wall. In fact, its dimensions make it sound more like a road; but the description suggests that it doesn't "go anywhere". If all this is so, and our figures are correct, it means that some group of (presumably demented) people carefully piled up 2,112,000 cubic feet of rock for no reason whatsoever. We would very much like to have a detailed map of this "wall" and the surrounding area, preferably a topographic map, but so far have been unable to obtain one. It might provide a clue to the purpose of such a structure that is not evident from close examination. One cannot seriously entertain the idea that people lugged stones around for the fun of it, particularly in the inhospitable area around Petra.

A very different wall was reported in the January 1932 issue of Popular Science Monthly. Unfortunately we have only a Xerox copy of this and have been informed by the publisher that "our record keeping does not extend so far back that we could help you in your search for information [on] and photos of Peru's 'Great Wall'. Good luck."* The brief story accompanying the photos is as follows:

"First photographs of the amazing 'Great Wall of Peru', discovered not long ago by the Shippee-Johnson Expedition in South America, dispel all doubts that this world's wonder actually exists.

"By foot and airplane, the two youthful American explorers traced its course from its beginning, near the seacoast town of Chimbote, for forty miles through the Andes until it disappeared in a mass of mountain peaks and ridges. Made of stones cemented with adobe, the barricade rises at some points thirty feet high. It is believed to have been erected at the dawn of the Christian era by the Chimus in a vain attempt to protect their highly cultured civilization. Discovery

*Mark Hall points out that there is a good reproduction of this photograph opposite page 193 of Peter Kolosimo's book Not of This World.

of the wall, resembling China's famous rampart, was the climax of a trip in which the explorers came unscathed through an airplane wreck and a revolution."

Nothing is said about the width of the wall, but from the reproduction of the aerial photograph which we have it would appear to be fairly wide. On the other hand, a photograph of Robert Shippee standing next to a section of the wall gives the impression that it is quite 'thin'. But, again, no details are given.

There are a number of magnificently engineered roads in the Andes, and there are those who contend that this "wall" is actually one of these roads. How-

ever, the aerial photograph shows two sections which appear to go up 'mountainsides' at a really impossible angle—worse than England's famous Porlock Hill (a gradient of 1 in 4, if memory serves). This would seem to preclude the idea that it is a road, and in view of the topography of the Santa River area and the manner in which this structure cuts across all the valleys, it would seem that it was indeed built as a defense against invaders from the south. The "wall" in Jordan, on the basis of the admittedly sparse information we now have, may perhaps have been a road built for the benefit of caravans travelling to Petra. We will hope to report further on this.

The Dishrag Caper

Member #695 has presented us with a copy of this item which we 'advertised' for in a previous issue of Pursuit. It actually appeared in the Philadelphia Bulletin of the 4th October 1966, and is reprinted here for your amusement.

"Dear Philadelphia Lawyer: I am a waitress in a very nice restaurant. A woman customer in here pointed to a fellow sitting at the counter and said she has friends who know him real good, and they all say he was faking it in an Army hospital because he was afraid to go overseas, and although there was nothing wrong with him, he was given a discharge.

"I am not very big, but I have a very strong temper and cannot stand men who are afraid of Army service. I told him I do not serve draft dodgers and hit him in the face with a wet dishcloth, whereupon he stepped behind the counter, picked up a blueberry pie and threw it in my face. The lady who related the crazy story also got it in the face with a large lemon pie. Our 70-year-old cook heard all the yelling and threw a stew-pot from the kitchen door, which hit nobody but went through the front window. The cook was then knocked cold with a large pan of cheesecake.

"When the police arrived they informed us that the woman who told the story in the first place had spent eight years at Byberry and had been released too soon, and also that the man she told it about had been wounded in combat, had an excellent Army record, and gets a disability pension from the VA. The boss made me pay for the pies and the window.

"Has he a legal right to do this? Of course I am sorry about it all, but I was simply trying to run the place on a refined level. It is not my fault if deranged people come in here with crazy stories, is it?—M.W.

"No matter how pure your heart, nor how compelling your aspirations toward refinement, I must tell you that you have no legal right to hit customers in the face with wet dishrags, even if the customers are draft dodgers in fact. So, whether or not the demented lady's story was true, you were at fault, and under the circumstances it is not unreasonable for the boss to ask you to pay. You may be working in the wrong neighborhood. I know a few taverns where a girl can clout the customers—in a refined way—without being fired, but they are all in exotic locations, such as Marseilles, Liverpool, and Gary, Indiana."

A SPECIAL NOTICE TO OUR MEMBERS

There have been those who have expressed concern that the Society might 'fold' with the death of Ivan Sanderson. Please rest assured that this is not, and will not be, the case. The purpose in founding the Society was to preserve and continue the work begun by Ivan T. Sanderson, and we now have the personnel to do just that.

Mark A. Hall joined us as "resident staff" in September of 1972 and quite frankly is largely re-

sponsible for our survival through that rather desperate period. He was unanimously elected Acting Director at a special meeting of the Board on the 10th of March—the "Acting" stems from a somewhat complicated matter of policy that will have to be resolved by the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. Prior to joining us Mark Hall had served with the US Army Security Agency as a Russian linguist with Top Secret Clearance, travelled extensively in Europe, and

attended the University of Minnesota where he majored in physical anthropology. He does not remember when he first became a fortean, but it was some time before he joined SITU in 1968. He has taken over the bulk of the office work and his name should be familiar to many of you.

Robert C. Warth, "The Chemist" at Bendix, has for many months been working on the reorganization of our clipping files. He has come up regularly every other weekend and started with those files most in need of reclassifying. (Pasting up clippings he does at home, and these are up to date!) It is impossible to give any accurate percentage value to the job done thus far, and we must point out that it will never be possible to achieve 100%. We are receiving an increasing number of reports and in many cases the receipt of new information makes necessary an immediate reorganization of old material. We should also like to emphasize that talk of reorganizing should not be taken to mean that our files are in a state of chaos; the majority are already in good order—particularly those on such major topics as ABSMs, "Monsters" (sea, lake, and land), cultural anthropology, etc.—though these will be examined later to make certain that no extraneous material has filtered in that should be filed elsewhere.

Carl J. Pabst is now working full-time on Charles

Fort's notes and has reaffirmed his intention to complete this monumental job. As of the time of writing this, we hope for an article on Fort's notes in time for inclusion in this issue.

We should also like to single out R. Martin (Marty) Wolf who has given us a great deal of help—and usually with such thankless jobs as typing labels, stuffing envelopes, and raking and mowing the lawn. (If your copy of Pursuit is long in arriving, don't blame us: blame the post office.)

We accepted with regret the resignation of Adolph L. Heuer, Jr. from the Board at our January meeting. He felt that personal responsibilities would make it impossible for him to 'pull his weight' as a Board member. However, he remains, in fact, as active as ever. His major point has always been that there are "unexplaineds" in everyone's "back-yard", and that these should be investigated. Some may not be as spectacular as a Loch Ness monster but they nevertheless deserve study. We would ask that you refer to the "Elaboration of Our Interests" for suggestions on the type of thing to look for. As always, please send us any newspaper clippings, magazine articles, or personal reports that you think may be of interest to us—and don't ever assume that someone else probably has already sent us a copy.

Israel Zangwill (1864–1926): ". . . Science as an interpreter of the mysteries of the Universe is a dismal failure."

TRANSLATING CHARLES FORT'S NOTES

by Carl J. Pabst

When the original Fortean Society was formed in January 1931, one of their objectives was "to preserve the notes, data and references assembled by Charles Fort", and this they did (in the person of Tiffany Thayer) though the Notes were stored in shoe boxes until fairly recently. After Thayer's death his widow presented the Notes to the New York Public Library, and they have lain there ever since.

Thayer did publish a number of Fort's Notes in Doubt, the journal of the Fortean Society, but merely "scratched the surface." It is a monumental job; but one that I undertake with increasing enthusiasm despite the labor involved. As Tiffany Thayer remarked in the first issue of Doubt (page 12):

"The notes present many difficult problems of translation. They were written in pencil—over a period of twenty-six years—in a code known only to the author—a sort of personal shorthand. The letters, numbers and symbols are wretchedly formed and many of the tiny scraps of paper are misfiled and disarranged."

Fort wrote on any scrap of paper available, and the Notes are now discolored and crumbling. The accompanying life-size reproduction of one of these* is a good example of the "problems of translation". It reads as follows:

"1875 Dec 11 / (P) [a symbol known only to Fort] / Between Bombay and Aden/5:45 p.m. / [At this point a magnifying glass is essential.] A streak of light reported seen by crew of H.M.S. Crocodile. Roughly formed —

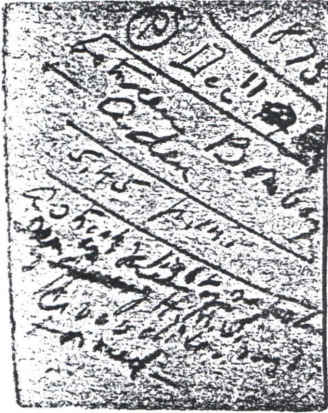
(Reverse side) "ANHIRTY. / Symons' Mo. Met. Mag. XI/10 [the source] / [Please turn to the upper left-hand corner.] The cor [Fort's abbreviation for "correspondent"] says that another vessel [Follow the line up to Fort's insertion.] from Aden had reported a meteor at about the same time [Follow the line out of

*Our printer has done his best with a Xerox copy of this Note.

the corner.] but in daylight. [The punch line is crowded along the edge.] He concludes that had seen a met [Fort's abbreviation for "meteor"] streak."

As you can see, it isn't possible to just sit down and read Fort's Notes. They do require translation. I expect to spend about two years on this project but feel it is more than worthwhile. Sturdy, typed 3 x 5 file cards will last a great deal longer than bits of scrap paper.

For those who are not yet acquainted with the works of Charles Fort, his books are available in paperback: The Book of the Damned, Lo!, Wild Talents, and New Lands.



THE IVAN T. SANDERSON MEMORIAL FUND

For those who wish to make some tangible expression of their support for the work begun by Ivan T. Sanderson, we have set up a Memorial Fund in his honor. All checks should be made payable to SITU but should bear a note stating that they are intended for this Fund. Specifically we hope to buy a 'proper' copying machine, expand Pursuit — and our staff, and increase our field operations. Bear in mind that all contributions to SITU are tax deductible.

DEPARTMENT OF LOOSE ENDS

In our April 1972 issue Robert Durant wrote of an apparent underwater explosion north of Puerto Rico. We had hoped to find corroborative evidence, e.g. high tides or similar phenomena, but thus far have had no success. It may be that it was simply too far away to produce effects at Puerto Rico.

Secondly, in our January 1973 issue there was an article on allegedly fallout-free water. The point here is that the water has not been circulating and therefore is more likely to be free of contamination than water in even the 'clearest' brook.

One of our members who works (at least indirectly) for NASA informs us that Mariner 7 suffered a decrease in velocity, rather than an increase, while passing through the "Great Galactic Ghoul" (see October 1972 Pursuit). The fact remains that 'funny' (peculiar, not

ha ha) things happen to many space vehicles in a particular region between the Earth and Mars, and they are not yet explained.

And the brother of one of our members has dug through Aviation Week for information on "Life on the Moon?" in our January 1973 issue. The micro-organism that was found on a camera from Surveyor III (brought back by the Apollo 12) was Streptococcus mitis. The three types of bacteria that were killed by lunar soil were Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Azotobacter vinelandii, and Staphylococcus aureus. The plants that grew faster in soil "spiked" with "moon dust" included liverworts, sunflowers, and ferns (exact type not known). There are, so far, at least three different theories as to why growth is stimulated; when the experts have made up their minds we will try to let you know.

Again, please let us know of any change of address as long in advance as possible, and include your new zip code.

Anyone interested in miniaturized reproductions of Pursuit should write to University Microfilms, 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

BOOK REVIEWS

by Sabina W. Sanderson

MORE BOOKS IN PAPERBACK

Vincent and Margaret Gaddis. The Curious World of Twins. Warner Paperback Library, 1973. \$1.25.

Shiela Ostrander and Lynn Schroeder. Psychic Discoveries Behind the Iron Curtain. New York: Bantam Books. 1971. \$1.25.

1973 Guinness Book of Records. New York: Bantam Books. 1973. \$1.50.

Tim Dinsdale. Loch Ness Monster. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul. fl.25.

Edward de Bono. The Mechanism of Mind. Pelican Books. UK 40p; also Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Canada.

Edward de Bono. The Five-Day Course in Thinking. Pelican Books. UK 70p; also Australia and New Zealand.

These last three are presumably not available in the U.S., but readers may find American editions—possibly with different titles—by browsing through paperback bookstores.

W. J. Perry. The Children of the Sun: A Study in the Early History of Civilization. London: Methuen & Co. Ltd. 1923. Republished by Scholarly Press, Grosse Pointe, Michigan, in 1968.

and

Cyrus H. Gordon. Before Columbus: Links Between the Old World and Ancient America. New York: Crown Publishers, Inc. 1971. \$6.50.

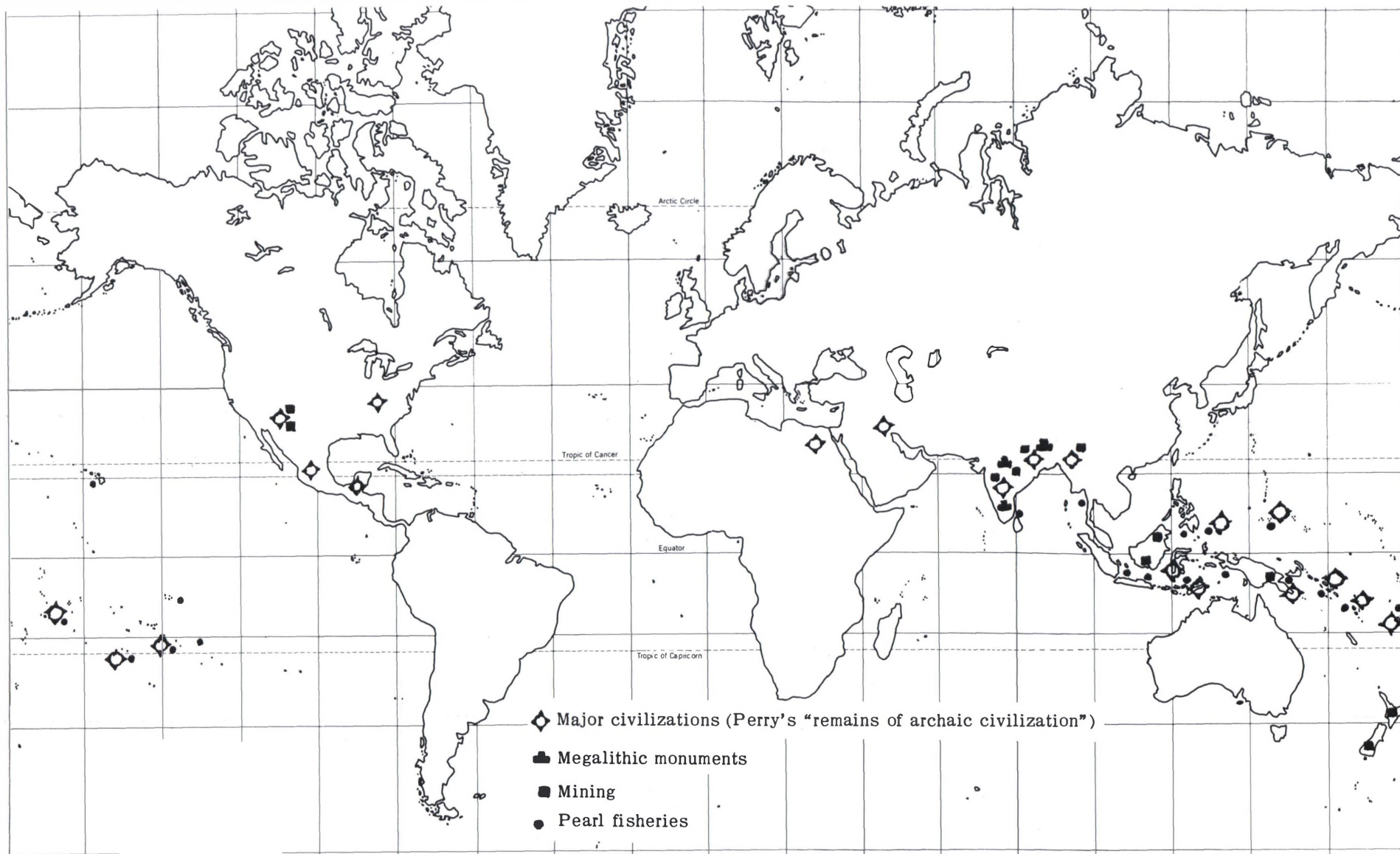
There are two basic schools of thought among anthropologists and archaeologists, one being that the various ancient civilizations developed independently of each other (“independent inventionism”), the other that all civilizations (or cultures) stemmed from a single ancestor, as it were, and resulted from ‘diffusion’ of that original culture. (This is admittedly an oversimplification, but I shall let it stand.) The diffusionist theory has had little support in the past and has been vehemently opposed by many; the objection to diffusionism is summed up in H. J. Spinden’s statement that “Where real similarities exist [between cultures] they probably can be explained by pure chance or by psychic unity”.

Perry’s book is exceedingly scholarly but on the whole quite readable. One can skip 99% of the footnotes (these are primarily references to works cited in his 24-page bibliography) and some of the middle chapters may be skimmed. These are devoted to detailed accounts of various cultures, and one is inclined after a time to shout “All right, you’ve made your point! Now go on to something else.” However, the initial and the concluding chapters really should be read in full. If you need to refer back to anything, Perry’s book contains a splendid index.

Cyrus Gordon’s book is equally scholarly but in general much easier reading; the ‘average citizen’ will have difficulty only with those sections dealing specifically with linguistics. Again, there are numerous notes (many of which may be skipped), a good bibliography, and an index.

Though Gordon states that he is not committed to either school of thought, both he and Perry are basically diffusionists. Perry, of course, wrote long before such things as carbon-14 dating were ‘invented’, and some of his conclusions may well be wrong, but he presents a powerful argument in favor of his theory; and it is more than interesting to find that many of the factors he cites also crop up in Cyrus Gordon’s book. It is impossible to present a really adequate summary of the material in Perry’s book (the text runs over 500 pages, closely set). In general, his theory is that civilization originated in Egypt and from there spread to India, Indonesia, Oceania (Polynesia), North and Central America, and that it did so because the Egyptians (and others in the Near East, influenced by the Egyptians) were looking for such things as metals (gold in particular but also copper, tin, and iron), pearls, salt, gemstones, and such. (If you think this is an unlikely explanation for ‘expeditions’ so far afield, remember the Klondike gold rush.) His evidence for the transmission of culture is summarized on page 406:

“The discussion of the past twenty-three chapters has been concerned with the elaboration of the theory that the first food-producing civilization in the region was characterised by the following cultural elements:— 1. Agriculture by means of irrigation. 2. The use of stone, typically for pyramids, dolmens, stone circles, and rock-cut tombs. 3. The carving of stone images. 4. Pottery-making. 5. Metal-working and pearl-fishing. 6. The use of polished stone implements. 7. A ruling class in two divisions:— (a) The Children of the Sun, connected with the sky-world, born of theogamies, who practise incestuous unions.



Compiled from maps in Perry's *The Children of the Sun*. For detailed maps, see Perry's book.

(b) A class associated with the underworld, who survive as war-chiefs. 8. The sun-cult. 9. The practice of mummification. 10. The great mother goddess. 11. Human sacrifice, connected with agriculture and the cult of the mother goddess. 12. Mother-right. 13. Totemic clans. 14. The dual organization. 15. Exogamy."

Perry does not contend that all cultures derived from the Egyptian, simply that what might be called the major ones did. The map shown here is a composite of maps in his book (unfortunately, in the reprint edition they are not in two colors, which makes them rather difficult to read), showing the location of major civilizations and cultural elements associated with them (Perry virtually ignores Europe though he does note "the presence, in this country [England], and elsewhere in western Europe, of megalithic monuments and other cultural elements that suggest the presence of the archaic civilization. . . . In one respect the conditions controlling the spread of civilization from the Ancient East to western Europe should be identical with those controlling the distribution of the archaic civilization in the Pacific and elsewhere in the region—the earliest settlements should be situated near sources of raw materials. This, I take it, is a fundamental general principle of human geography that cannot be upset.")

In his introduction Perry states that "Given certain desires, men will do their utmost to satisfy them, and it is to this dynamic attitude that is attributed the development and spread of the archaic civilization. . . . from the days of paleolithic man settlement has been made in certain localities because men chose to live there, and not because they were forced so to do by the climate or some other geographical cause."

Cyrus Gordon, in a way, goes even further than Perry, though he is more selective in attributing cultural elements to diffusionism (or independent invention). He does, of course, have the benefit of nearly fifty years of search and research not available to Perry, together with the advantages of 'absolute' dating by modern methods. His book will not be popular with those who insist that Columbus discovered America (he notes in his Acknowledgments the "irrational hostilities evoked by the topic of this book") but, as Robert Graves points out in a blurb on the back cover, "Columbus, of course, did not even rediscover America: he simply used maps." The fact would seem to be that "before the continental concept of the classical world, there was a maritime view of the world based on the oceanic voyages of ancients such as the Minoans and Phoenicians in the Bronze and Early Iron ages. By Roman times the geographical horizons of mankind were shrinking back to the continental view, which persisted to the time of Columbus." In other words, Gordon believes—and produces evidence to support that belief—that there was a civilization that antedated what we think of as classical civilizations (including the Egyptian) and that the science and technology of those civilizations were 'left-overs' from an earlier civilization of which we, at present, know nothing. Compare the following with Perry's summary.

"The achievements of civilized man in preliterate times, prior to the building of the first cities in Neolithic antiquity [emphasis mine], include a high development of the exact sciences and technologies. Cuneiform literature, notably the Gilgamesh Epic, reflects what the archeology of Neolithic Mesopotamia illustrates: (1) access to raw materials in many far-off areas, (2) development of land and sea travel, (3) domestic, urban and naval architecture, (4) skilled workmanship in ceramics, stone-cutting and metalurgy, (5) the stratification of society into specialized guilds, (6) city planning, (7) an already ancient tradition of science and technology, (8) a system of international morality and law in addition to local regulations of law and order—in brief, an international ecumene."

Gordon lays most stress on the Mediterranean area since this is his major interest, but he does point out that it is not the only "seminal area" though it may be the most important. He does insist, and quite properly from the evidence he produces, that there was communication between the Old World and the New at a very early date, and goes on to point out that "Nowhere is the interdependence of the Old and New Worlds clearer than in the domain of science. Astronomy, mathematics and chronology bridge the two worlds so inextricably that it is impossible to understand the history of science in the one without the other."

As for the "psychic unity" proposed by Spinden to account for similarities between cultures, I should like again to quote Dr. Gordon: "The diffusion of ideas from the Mediterranean to Mesoamerica explains the facts more reasonably than a psychological approach implying that it is so natural for men to conceive of bearded white men who are at the same time feathered serpents [in Mesoamerica and Athens], that the same combination naturally developed independently at the ends of the earth in isolation." So much for "psychic unity" which seems, in any case, to have been dreamed up because of the common, and erroneous, notion that it would have been impossible for early peoples to have crossed either the Pacific or the Atlantic. Aside from the fact that people now cross the Atlantic in vessels little larger than bathtubs, and that Late Bronze Age ships were far larger than any of Columbus's ships, take a globe and turn

it on its side: you will find that you can "cross" both the Pacific and the Atlantic almost without getting out of sight of land!

Both books deserve thorough reading; the material they contain has been little more than hinted at here but should be seriously considered by everyone.

There is just one further point to be made. Both authors suggest considerable scientific and technological expertise in the part of the Ancients (whether just Ancients or ancient Ancients). and Gordon in particular wonders where this knowledge came from. "Mesopotamia cherished a tradition that at the dawn of civilization, long before any period of history known to us, science stood at a level from which historic man has fallen. Oannes brought from the sea knowledge and technology above anything achieved (or, for that matter, achievable) by Sumer, Babylonia, Assyria or classical Greek antiquity." Perhaps the answer lies in Perry's book with those traditions found throughout ancient civilizations that gods came down out of the sky and, like Oannes, brought science and technology, religion, and everything else to the people. These gods mated with mortal women, whose children were the Children of the Sun—the rulers of the ancient world.

Edward J. Kunkel. Pharaoh's Pump. (Order from Mr. Kunkel, 295 W. Market Street, Warren, Ohio 44481). 1967 (revised edition). \$2.08 postpaid.

This little book (74) pages was privately printed, and the printing leaves something to be desired; some of the illustrations in particular are very difficult to make out. However, despite our initial feeling that it must be someone's idea of a joke, it is most thought-provoking—and the author is quite serious. His basic premise is that the Great Pyramid of Cheops was a gigantic pump during its construction, for the purpose of construction.

The book was sent us by an engineer, and we subsequently turned it over to Adolph L. Heuer Jr. for his opinion (his article on the subject will appear in the July issue of Pursuit). Mr. Heuer's primary report is that while the author does do a lot of speculating, he does seem to have "done his homework", has an adequate knowledge of hydraulics, and has built a working model. Mr. Heuer points out that even today we use flotation for moving really massive weights (e.g. drydocks for battleships).

Mr. Kunkel does not claim to have all the answers by any means. However, even non-engineers (who will find some of his material rather difficult to follow) may wish to read this intriguing book.

Gay Gaer Luce. Body Time. New York: Bantam Books. 1973. \$1.50. Also Biological Rhythms in Human and Animal Physiology. New York: Dover Publications. 1971. \$2.50

There has been a great deal of material published in recent years on the subject of "biological rhythms", "bio-cycles", and a host of other names for the same thing. These two books will probably tell you more than you want to know about it, and the author admits that some of it is so technical that the average reader will want to skim some chapters. It is a vitally important subject and one that deserves much more practical attention than it has been getting.

This is a vast over-simplification, but the body 'arranges' its various functions to fit a particular time cycle and cannot 'rearrange' things on even a few days notice. Hence, travellers who fly to Europe from the U.S. for a two-week tour, spend their two weeks trying to (though they may not realize it) rearrange their body rhythm. They then fly back and spend the next month recuperating from the whole business. For those who do this only once a year or perhaps once in a lifetime, there probably are no permanent effects; but for persons such as airline pilots and stewardesses who must make such 'adjustments' at frequent intervals, the results are devastating. No one yet knows exactly how much of an effect is involved. We know from first-hand information that the pilots are, to put it mildly, concerned.

You probably will not want to read straight through either of these books, but they are worth looking at, and probably of far greater value than the sort of "computerized individual cycle predictions" now being hawked by various firms. We have not seen an actual example but believe that you will be better off figuring out your own cycles.

TIME-LIFE Books announces The Emergence of Man.

I have been castigated by one of our members for being so presumptuous as to tell anyone what they ought and ought not to read. However, inasmuch as I think there is nothing more useless than a "book

review" which tells you what the author talked about and who the author is but not whether the book is worth reading, I shall continue to be "presumptuous".

We received in the mail a lavish 'brochure' (with other papers begging us to subscribe at once) on the first volume of a series to be published by Time-Life Books. Ivan Sanderson annotated it: "This thing is a (censored) disgrace". It is. And this despite quite an array of topnotch "consultants". We know of a previous consultant to Time-Life Books, who is reported to foam at the mouth at the mention of their name, since they refused to have anything to do with any possible alternative theories or such, and more or less said "tell it like it is, man".

The 'brochure' is a bit overwhelming and I am a bit at a loss to know where to start. Time-Life states that "THE EMERGENCE OF MAN tells the story of man's beginning as it really was..." —emphasis theirs. Inasmuch as no one really knows what the "story of man's beginning" was, this is pretty presumptuous of Time-Life. In fact, John Hillaby, writing in the New Scientist of the 21 December 1972, notes that when Louis B. Leakey "exhibited Nutcracker Man or whatever he called it at the Royal Academy years ago, Prof Cave [emeritus professor of Anatomy, London and Barts] —who comes from Manchester—muttered 'Well he's got the bloody nasal bones upside down for a start'." This will give you some indication of just how certain we are of "man's beginning"!

There is a 'lovely' illustration entitled "The Face from Fish to Man". The shark and the lizard are OK; the "opossum" may be all right but looks more like a large Oriental insectivore; the "lemur" is not any that we know of —it looks more like a dormouse than anything else; the "monkey" is certainly a baby chimpanzee (which is an ape, not a monkey); the gorilla and man are all right. If they can make so many errors in one illustration, heaven help the rest. And Time-Life points out (at some length) that "You don't just read this new information—you see it. Time-Life Books has commissioned hundreds of special paintings, drawings, panoramas and models (including the unique 'photo-painting' at left) to reconstruct faithfully the latest discoveries on how man looked and lived in the dimness of prehistory. Never before has the story of man's origins been made so vivid, so colorful, so dramatic...." We don't doubt that this book, and the other books to follow, will be vivid, colorful, and dramatic, but we do suggest that anyone buying this book read it with caution and bear in mind that we do not have all the answers yet, flat statements by Time-Life notwithstanding.

Clifford Wilson. Crash Go The Chariots: An Alternative to Chariots of the Gods? New York: Lancer Books. 1972. \$1.25 (Published by arrangement with Word of Truth Productions, Ltd., Mt. Waverly, Victoria, Australia.)

It is obvious that Lancer Books is trying to cash in on Erich von Däniken's current popularity as an author, and we agree in general with anyone who takes a dim view of his books, but I am afraid that Wilson's book is just as bad as von Däniken's, though in the other direction. Clifford Wilson is patently a "fundamentalist", and his attitude is summed up in the last paragraph of the text of his book:

"On this note we conclude. The answer to Erich von Daniken's question on the cover of his book, 'Was God an astronaut?' is easily answered. No. The true God, the Almighty, is the One Whose character is consistently presented in the pages of both Old and New Testaments."

Wilson very rightly accuses von Däniken of leaping to conclusions and presenting speculations as facts, but in many cases is equally guilty of these faults himself. And on page 62 he comes up with a real "eye-popper", as follows:

"So the authority now is the 'Popol Vuh' — which is traditionally accepted as a sacred book of the Mayas of Central America. It is believed that the 'book' became known after the conquest by the Spaniard Cortez, and was published in a Spanish form. However, the only copy today is in Latin. It is thought that the original would have been in pictographic form, somewhat resembling the Mexican codices — IF there was an original in writing. This view is put forward by some scholars (see e.g. 'Sacred Books of the World,' A. C. Bouquet, p. 82). It is possible that an original was destroyed at the time of the Conquest, but the relevant point is that it certainly is not good scholarship to quote such a work as though it were properly established as source material...."

This is an incredible statement from someone who claims to be a scholar. Unfortunately it is rather typical of Dr. Wilson. He is right on some points, but his book is not even "an" answer to von Däniken. We recommend that you read it only if you are in need of an emetic.

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