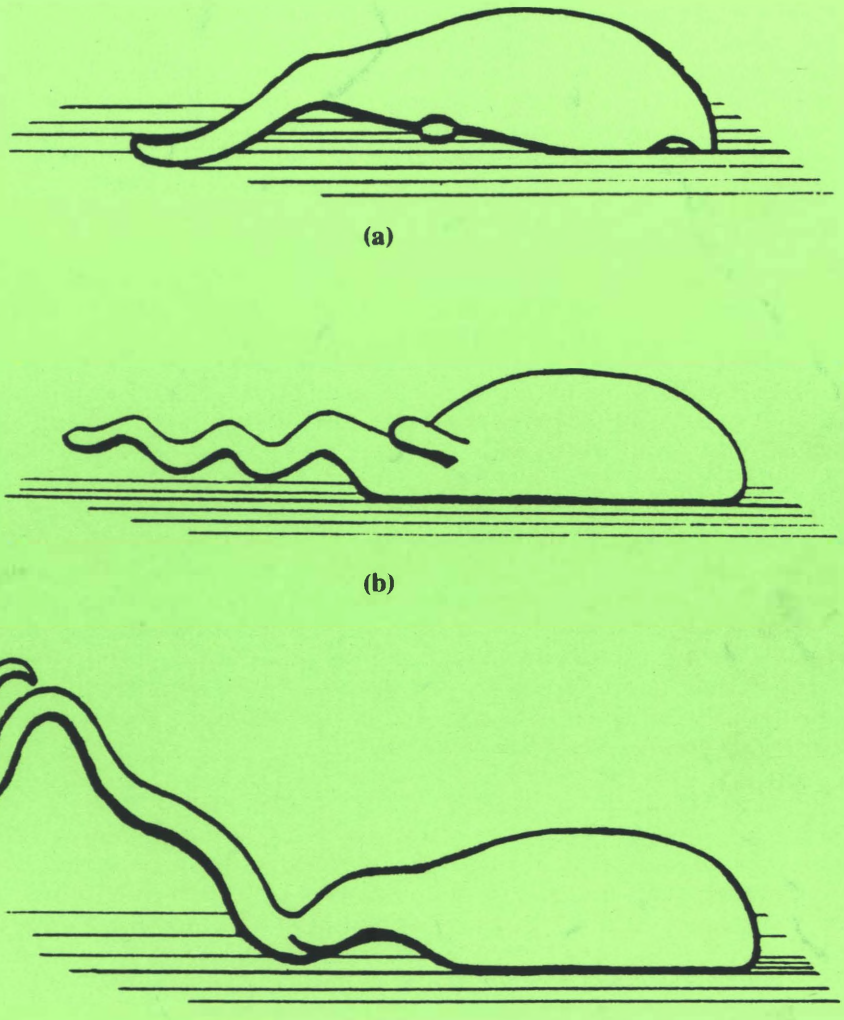
Pursuit

'Science is the Pursuit of the Unexplained'



(a)

(b)

(c)

Three sketches drawn by Ivan T. Sanderson from his book, *Investigating the Unexplained*, of three slug-like creatures in reference to John Patterson's article "Legends At The Doorstep of Discovery — Another Look at Water Monsters" on page 78. (See contents page for description of above drawings).

Journal of SITU
The
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The Unexplained

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The Society For The Investigation Of The Unexplained

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SITU (pronounced *sit'you)* is a Latin word meaning "place." SITU is also an acronym referring to THE SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED.

SITU exists for the purpose of collecting data on unexplaineds, promoting proper investigation of individual reports and general subjects, and reporting significant data to its members. The Society studies unexplained events and "things" of a tangible nature that orthodox science, for one reason or another, does not or will not study.

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The Society's journal *PURSUIT* is published quarterly. In each year the issues are numbered respectively from 1 through 4 and constitute a volume, Volume I being for 1968 and before, Volume 2 for 1969, and so on. Reduced-rate subscriptions to *PURSUIT* without membership benefits, are available to public libraries and libraries of colleges, universities and high schools at $10 for the calendar year.

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THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE

Pursuit®

SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

'SCIENCE IS THE PURSUIT OF THE UNEXPLAINED'

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Cover Picture: The slug-like or other invertebrate form of longneck: (a) sketch of an animate object photographed by a Mr. Hugh Gray in Loch Ness in 1933: (b) the creature reported by a Mr. and Mrs. Spicer to have crossed a road and plunged into Loch Ness, on the 22nd of July, 1933: (c) an Echiuroid (Bonellia), 18 inches long with a three-foot extensive proboscis. The minute males live as parasites inside the females. (Taken from Ivan T. Sanderson's book *Investigating the Unexplained*. Chapter two entitled 'The Great Orm', page 26.)

On Swarms and Hordes — and Collections of Data

One of our closest members who keeps an objective and critical eye on our publication, ***PURSUIT***, asked the other day, "what do plagues or invasions or whatever you want to call a suddenly appearing horde of insects, animals, etc.,have to do with the unexplained?"

Well, I pulled out Charles Fort's books and showed him how many times this gentleman wrote about these things when, of course, no one knew exactly why these creatures should appear in such mass in one area at one time.

Biological cycles, sunspots, coincidences are often the standard reasons given to explain away the collections but still, as our readers will see in the SITUations pages of ***PURSUIT*** as in the Fort Notes, these events do continue to occur, obviously for an assortment of reasons,and people continue to enjoy reading about them. We are not only reporting them but we are looking for an answer, too. And, just maybe, someday someone will be able to predict a swarm or plague before it forms.

And while we are on the subject of anomalous data we give our sincere thanks to Ray Nelke founder of COUD-I for his generous assistance to ***PURSUIT's*** SITUation pages. You may contact Ray in care of COUD-I (Collectors Of Unusual Data-International) at this address:

COUD-I
Raymond T. Nelke
2312 Shields Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63136 USA

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Charles Berlitz: An Inquiry in Journalistic Credibility - Part II

by David Robson

SUBSTANTIATING INDIRECT EVIDENCE:

Scientific American, April 29, 1882, p. unrecorded:

Earthquake at Sea.

Capt. Horner, of the German ship *Stella*, from Bremen to Baltimore, arriving April 15, reports that on the morning of March 18, in latitude 37°21' north, longitude 23°51' west **[NOTE DATE AND POSITION]**, his vessel suddenly halted in her course with a shock that gave to those below the impression that the ship had struck a rock. The weather was clear and the sea smooth and calm. Neither the chief mate, who was on the quarter-deck at the time, nor the look-out, could account for the strange occurrence. The captain ordered the heaving of the lead, but found no bottom at 100 fathoms. The pumps were sounded and the ship found to be tight. The shock lasted only half a minute, after which the ship went on as before. Capt. Horner himself went aloft, but could discover no signs of any obstructions.

The date and position of the seaquake reported by the *Stella* put the ship approximately 12 degrees due north of the mystery island's reported position, three days before the *Westbourne* hove to for 28 hours to ride out the storm which overtook her at approximately 43°N, 44°W, or 20 degrees northwest of the mystery island.

Two related reports of rough voyages during the period concern the steamship *Ayrshire*.

New York Sun, April 3, 1882, p. 1:

Stormy Passage Across the Atlantic

HALIFAX, N.S., April 2 — The steamer *Ayrshire*, from Montrose, Scotland, for New York, with a cargo of potatoes, put into this port to-day short of coal after an extremely severe passage of twenty-six days. Soon after leaving port **[DEPARTED ON OR ABOUT MARCH 8, 1882]** the ship was struck by a tremendous sea. Capt. Ross, who was at the wheel, was knocked down and had one of his arms broken, and the wheel chains were smashed. The crew then refused to work, wanting to return, and the Captain and officers had to manage the ship for a time alone. The storm continued to rage for several days, heavy waves frequently breaking over the steamer. The men were continually in peril of losing their lives. Some of the crew sustained injuries, the most serious of which were the breaking of the carpenter's leg and the dislocating of the boatswain's shoulder. On the 22nd a heavier wave than any preceding **[ONE DAY AFTER A SIMILAR WAVE STRUCK WESTBOURNE]** swept the deck and carried away everything movable, including two lifeboats, two hatches, and the companionway, and the foretopsail yard was lost. The second officer was washed overboard by the deluge of water, but a succeeding wave brought him back. Capt. Ross says that the voyage was the hardest ever made by him. On the steamer's arrival here five of her crew deserted. After coaling she will proceed to New York.

New York Tribune originator; paper, date, page unrecorded:

Washed Overboard and Back Again

The long overdue steamship *Ayrshire*, which put into Halifax on Sunday last short of coal, arrived yesterday and anchored in the bay near Bedloe's Island. She sailed from Montrose, England, on March 6 **[DATE OF DEPARTURE NOTED, ALSO DATE OF FIRST STORM AS MARCH 10, 1882]**, with a cargo of potatoes, and on the fourth day out encountered a violent storm. The seas ran high and frequently broke over the vessel with crushing force. A tremendous wave broke over the rail, doing great damage to everything about the decks. Capt. Ross, who was standing at the wheel, was thrown with such force on the deck that he broke one of his arms. The wheel chains were also broken, and the crew then refused to work and wanted the captain to return to port. Believing that there was no special cause for alarm, the captain refused to put back, and, although partially disabled, with the officers he managed the vessel for two days. The storm continued for several days, and two of the forward hatches were washed away and the fore compartment filled with water. Nearly every person on board was more or less injured; the carpenter had one of his legs broken, and the boatswain his shoulder dislocated.

On March 22 a terrific hurricane was encountered and the heavy seas demolished two of the lifeboats, broke in the cabin companionway, and did great damage about the decks. The foretopsail was lost. The second officer was washed overboard by the sea, and while the crew were throwing out life-buoys, he was washed back again. When the Ayrshire put into Halifax, five of the sailors deserted.

It seems the *Ayrshire* ran into the same storm fronts and rogue wave fronts the *Westbourne* experienced.

Another perhaps substantiating report, which appeared in the New York *Times* of April 4, 1882, stated that the sails of the British bark *Fairmount* were blown away by a "terrible northwesterly squall" on February 28, 1882 at latitude 46°25' N, longitude 25°50' west, the position again being almost due north of the mystery island during its reported period of emergence and subsidence.

Two other earthquakes were reported within the period, one in Costa Rica on March 13, 1882 (New York *Herald*, March 14, 1882, p. 7), and one in Amsterdam, New York, on April 3, 1882. According to later New York *World* reports (March 29, 1882) the *Herald* story, based on wires cleared by the Costa Rican government, was "exaggerated". In any case, the relationship between apparent volcanic activity in the eastern Atlantic and an earthquake in Costa Rica is questionable and probably coincidental, because the two areas are on different, widely separated plates. The quake at Amsterdam, New York (43° N, 74° W, about 30 miles northwest of Schenectady), is noteworthy mainly because New York is an earthquake zone of only moderate risk. Because the report is short and may, perhaps, bear upon the mystery island, it is reproduced below:

New York Sun, April 4, 1882, p. 1:

Earthquake in New York State.

AMSTERDAM, N.Y., April 3 — Two distinct shocks of earthquake were felt in this town yesterday morning, and reports from neighboring places show that they were more severe at other points than here. The houses in this place were considerably shaken and many persons were badly frightened. The first shock occurred between 6 and 7 o'clock, and the second, which was much severer, was at 8:10. The earthquake seemed to cover an area of about ten and a half square miles. It was felt at Fonda at the same time as in this place.

Again, the relationship between an earthquake in New York and possible volcanic activity in the eastern Atlantic is questionable, but it falls within the period.

Perhaps more notable was the widely reported Mississippi flood, particularly since it was the worst flood disaster recorded in the Mississippi Valley as of 1882. Reports of steamers paddling over plantations and railroad lines were commonplace and, according to the map presented in the March 13, 1882 New York *Herald,* entire counties were underwater. The map is reproduced here (see fig. 1) of the present report; since the original shaded areas did not copy well from the microfilm, new shading was added after reduction to the present size. Any errors are mine, and probably tend to "narrow" the overflow rather than exaggerate it.

The Mississippi floods of 1882 may have been an indirect result of significant amounts of moisture suddenly and violently entering the upper atmosphere in the wake of a subsurface volcanic eruption off the coast of Africa, at approximately 25° N, 24° W, but it must be emphasized that such a relationship is speculative; however, it is well documented that temporary effects on climate in distant areas have been associated with volcanic eruptions (the 1985 eruption of Nevado del Ruiz, e.g.).

Some evidence may be found in barometric charts for the period. The chart following was compiled by tracing the weekly weather charts in *The Graphic* (London) for the period February 9, 1882 to April 3, 1882 and records the general barometric pattern for the London area during the period. The low pressures recorded on February 26 and 27 are undoubtedly associated with the squall with blew away the *Fairmount*'s sails on February 28, at latitude 46°25' N, longitude 25°50' W. The lows reported on the 21st may be associated with the storms and heavy wave action which battered the *Westbourne* at approximately 43° N, 44° W, and which battered the *Ayrshire* at an unknown but presumably nearby position a day later.

The barometric readings are plotted in figure 2. The courses of the *Jesmond*, the *Westbourne,* and the *Ayrshire* (as deduced from the information available) are plotted in figure 3, taken from *Scientific American*'s volume, *Continents Adrift* (1972, p. 42). The location of the shoals of dead fish is indicated by a shading of dots. The probable direction of the presumed shock wave associated with the eruption (*if* an eruption took place) is indicated by the cross-hatched cone. The large scale map in figure 4 is copied from Sir C. Wyville Thompson's 1878 book. *The Voyage of the Challenger* (vol. 2), p. 15, plate XV, "The track of the ship from Bermudas to Madeira."

The circumstantial case for an eruption at approximately 25° N, 24° W in late February or early March, 1882 appears reasonable. If an eruption took place, it would have been associated with barometric disturbances, seismic tidal disturbances, storms of exceptional violence upon the sea, and possible disturbances to weather patterns at great distances.

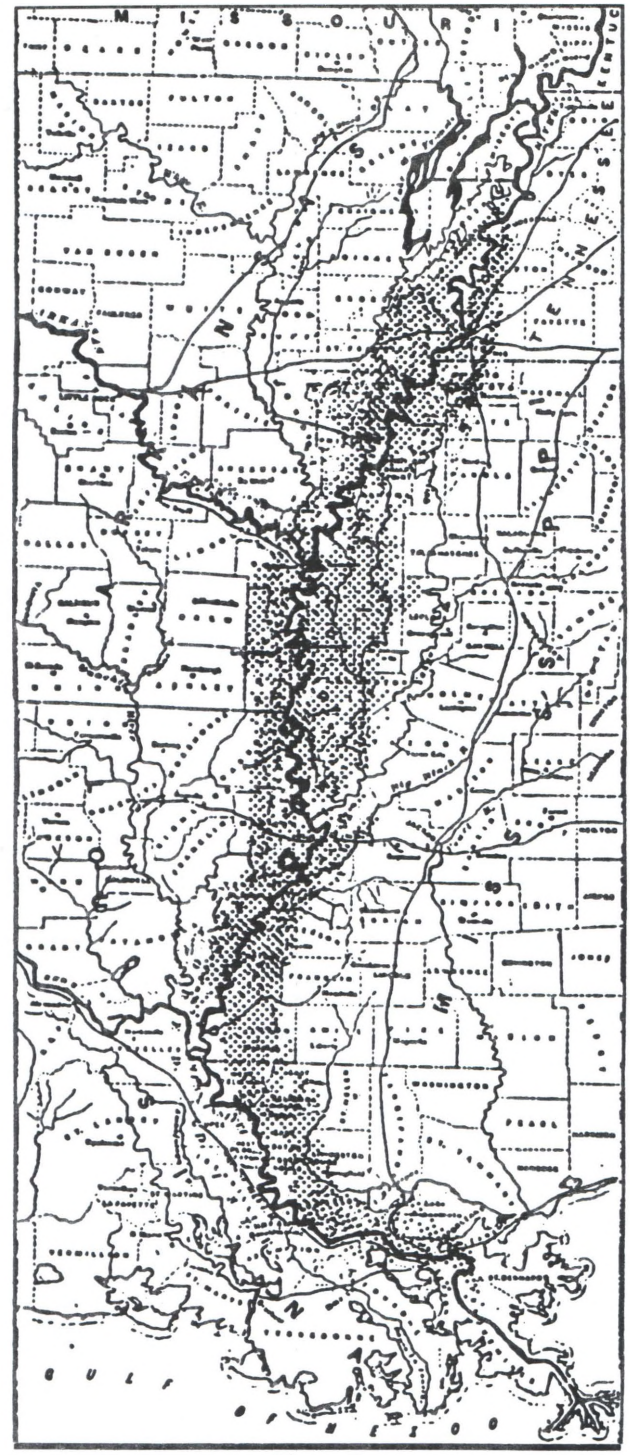


Figure 1

From Cairo to the mouths of the river is nearly 1000 miles. For almost the entire distance, the river banks are surmounted by levees or earthworks to guard against floods. These have given way in numerous places, flooding the entire low-lying countryside on either side. A government official gives it as 68,000 square miles between Memphis and Vicksburg alone. Outside this portion, for a distance of nearly 500 miles, the flooded territory is at least 20,000 square miles. It is probable that the total is much below the sum of the two figures above given, and might not at present exceed 50,000 square miles. The damage to property has been enormous. Entire counties are under water. Towns and villages are completely covered and plantations are swept of buildings and fences for miles. The significant fact that over 60,000 persons are completely deprived of their ordinary sources of subsistence and are dependent upon government aid will best convey an idea of the magnitude of the disaster. (New York *Herald*, Mar 13, 1982.)

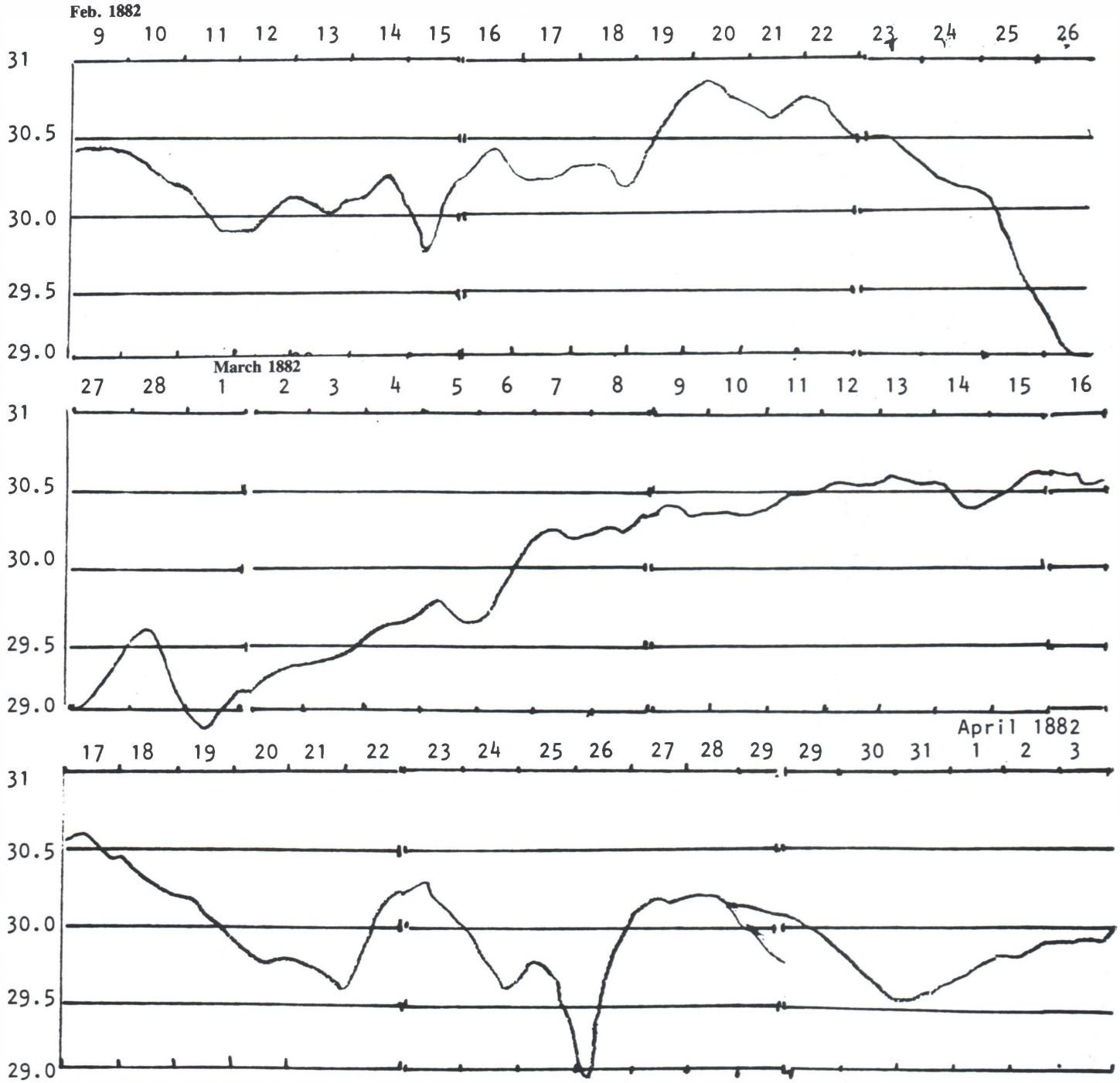


Figure 2

Barometric readings for the British Isles, Feb. 9 — April 3, 1882, from *The Graphic* (London). A slight gale was noted on Sunday morning, Feb. 26, with a strong southerly wind and heavy rain noted on March 1. The depression of March 26 was accompanied by heavy rains across the south of England and storm fronts coming in off the Atlantic.

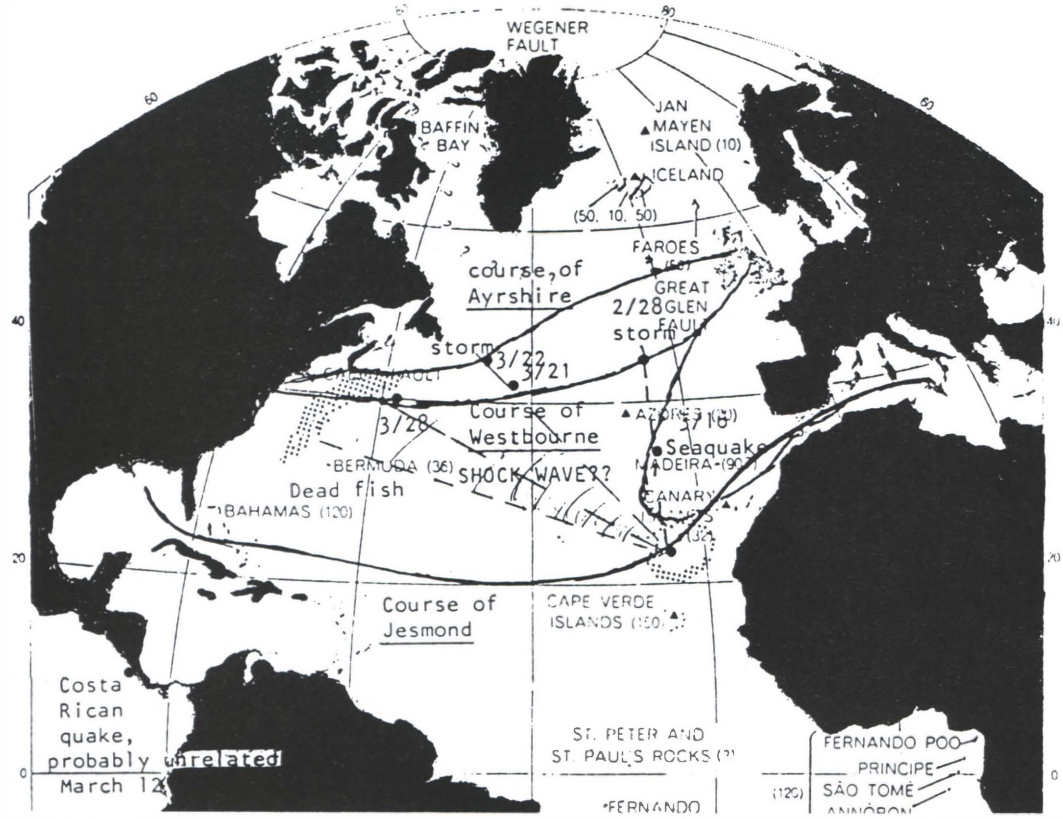


Figure 3

One should note that the map in figure 3 also records the locations of known active volcanoes, such mapping done by the staff of *Scientific American*.

SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT:

The present report concerns a topic in journalism history; also, I have no formal training as a physical scientist. Therefore, it seems the most appropriate course to follow in advancing a scientific conjecture is through the use of scientific journals, now historical. No mention of the mystery island appeared in either British or American scientific journals. However, a rather general article concerning volcanoes appeared in the *Boston Journal of Chemistry and Popular Science Review* (Vol. I, No. 1, p. 1); also, three articles concerning the eruption of Krakatoa in August 1883 appeared in the *Proceedings, Royal Society of London* (Vol. XXXVI, Nov. 1883-April 1884). These articles concerned barometric disturbances noted as far away as Europe, propagation of "super-tidal" waves and their velocity at varying depths, temperatures, and distances, and the log of the steamship *Governor-General Loudon* caught in the vicinity of the eruption. A pertinent excerpt from the general article is presented below:

Boston Journal of Chemistry, January 1882, p. 1-2:

ABOUT VOLCANOES.

...A volcano is not necessarily a mountain, though it often forms a mountain by the heaps of matter it throws forth. Essentially, it is a hole in the earth's crust, an outlet from the interior of our globe. It may exist, and often does, at the bottom of the sea, and in such cases it will not appear above the surface until it has built up an island with the ejected material.

...That which seems to be smoke is really condensing steam or watery vapor...In a great eruption, enormous volumes of steam are poured forth, sometimes rising to the height of twenty thousand feet, or about four miles;...

It is a curious fact that volcanoes, almost without exception, are either on islands or along the shores of continents. All the oceanic islands that are not coral reefs are of volcanic origin, and many of them are still the scenes of volcanic activity. A continuous ridge in the Atlantic, along which lie the islands of Jan Mayen, Iceland, the Azores, Canaries, and West Indies contains forty active volcanoes and many extinct ones....

As noted previous, the mystery island is in the right place for volcanic activity — a known earthquake zone, relatively near the La Palma volcanic complex on the westward end of the Canary islands. In 1882, Captain Robson reported the sea had a dark, muddy look at a distance of approximately one day's sail (200 -240 miles) from the island. At Krakatoa in 1883, half a world away, Captain T. H. Linderman, Master of the *Governor-General Loudon,* recorded a rain of mud and pumice amid "Squalls, storms, and seas as high as the heavens" which lifted the Dutch government steamer *Berouw* from her moorings close to shore and carried her two miles inland, killing "every soul on board." Two paragraphs-and-some of Linderman's log, published in the *Proceedings, Royal Society of London* (Jan. 10, 1884, pp. 201-202), read:

Proceedings, Royal Society of London, Jan. 10, 1884, pp. 201-202:

...The wind was from the westward, and began to increase till it reached the force of a hurricane. So we let down both anchors and kept the screw turning slowly at half speed in order to ride over the terribly high seas which kept suddenly striking us presumably in consequence of a "seaquake;" **[SHOCK WAVE?]** and made us dread being buried under them.

Awnings and curtains from forward right up to the mainmast, three boat covers, and the uppermost awning of the quarterdeck

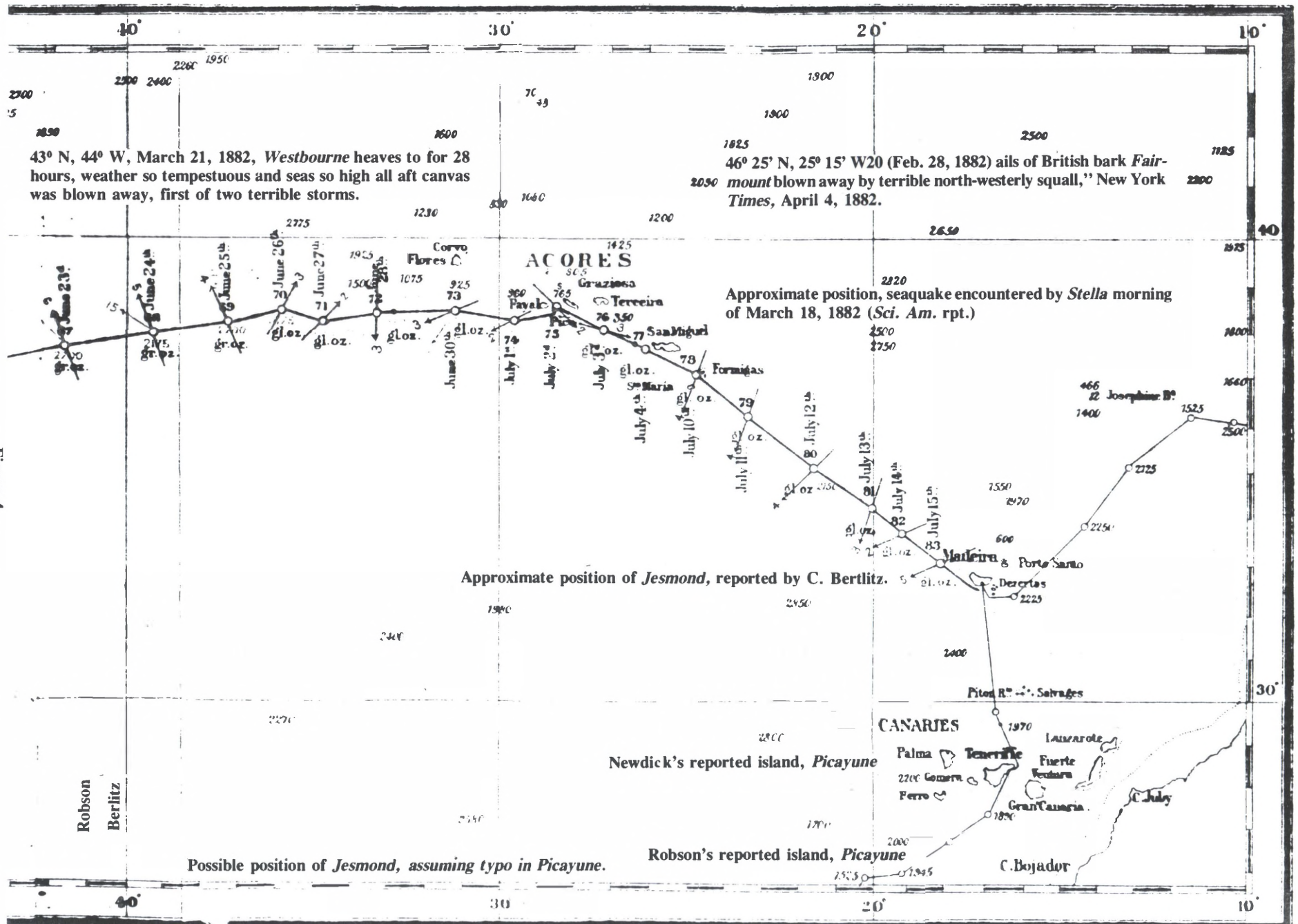


Figure 4

Chart of the *Challenger's* passage, Bermudas to Madeira, pub. 1878 (Harper & Bros., NY).

were blown away in a moment. Some objects on deck which had been lashed down got loose and were carried overboard; the upper deck hatchways and those on the main deck were closed tightly, and the passengers for the most part were sent below. Heavy storms. The lightning struck the mainmast conductor six or seven times, but did no damage. The rain of pumice stones changed to a violent mud rain, and this mud rain was so heavy that in the space of ten minutes the mud lay half a foot deep.

...At 2 PM. the barometer was 763.30. The mud rain **[ABOUT 30 INCHES]** changed to a light ash rain.

As the *Governor-General Loudon* steamed for safety, Linderman encountered a layer of floating mud or pumice "7 or 8 feet thick" (p. 202). In a transmittal note signed by British Consul H. G. Kennedy on September 13, 1883 and presented as "Additional Notes" to the Linderman log, appears the entry below:

Proceedings, Royal Society, "Additional Notes," p. 205:

...The first eruption on Krakatau Island took place about the 23rd of last May, and continued at intervals for a day or two. It is not without interest to note that Captain Gibson, commanding the steam-dredger "Crocodile," on its way to Australia, was, on August 21st, in latitude 7°30' S, and longitude 90°30' E. There he found his vessel amid great quantities of floating pumice-stone, some of which he brought on board and has preserved...

Robson reported unusually muddy seas in the vicinity of the mystery island.

Mud rains were associated with the eruption of Krakatoa.

A "river of mud" was reported by *Time* (Nov. 25, 1985) in connection with the eruption of Nevado del Ruiz, 103 years later.

Robson reported depth soundings surrounding the island not showing regular shoals, but as varying in depth from five to forty fathoms and, in some places, showing no bottom after having anchored the *Jesmond* in seven fathoms of water, having taken previous soundings which brought bottom at 50 fathoms. From this, one can gain an idea of the configuration of the island. With the exception of the "mountains" he reported in the distance, it was evidently low and flat, covered with volcanic ash, and surrounded by a highly irregular coast.

Since the primary use of historical sources is not violated by the use of modern illustrating material, a topographic diagram of a seamount or guyot is presented below *(McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology,* Vol. 12, pp. 154-155, 1977), with copy abridged as caption.

One should note the vertical exaggeration of the elevation shown in the illustrating material in figure 5. If the water were drained from around it the topography *may* have resembled that shown in the *Scientific American* photographs reproduced in figure 5, the difference being that Captain Robson's island was apparently much larger. Tazieff *(Scientific American, Continents Adrift,* 1972, p. 139) also notes the formation of ash rings resulting from secondary steam explosions attributed to volcanic eruptions under water in the Azores (1957) and south of Iceland (1965). That secondary explosions would kill large numbers of fish by concussion and further distribute the associated volcanic mud and ash seems a reasonable conjecture.

The eruption and its secondary steam explosions could also have contributed to the very severe storms experienced by the *Westbourne,* the *Ayrshire,* and evidently (to judge by the press reports) the entire northern section of the Atlantic seaboard. In his "Report on the Tidal Disturbances caused by the Volcanic Eruptions at Java, August 27 and 28, 1883, and the Propagations of the 'Supertidal' Waves," Maj. A. W. Baird observed, in an abstract by Lt. Gen. J. T. Walker, the tidal disturbances noted below:

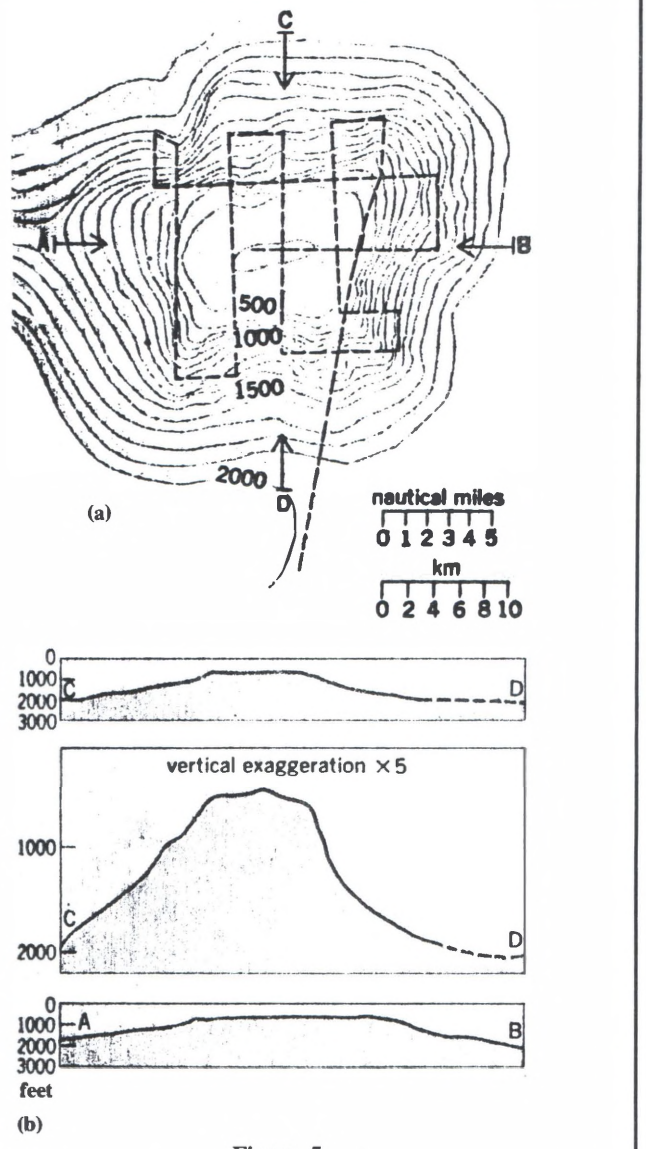


Figure 5

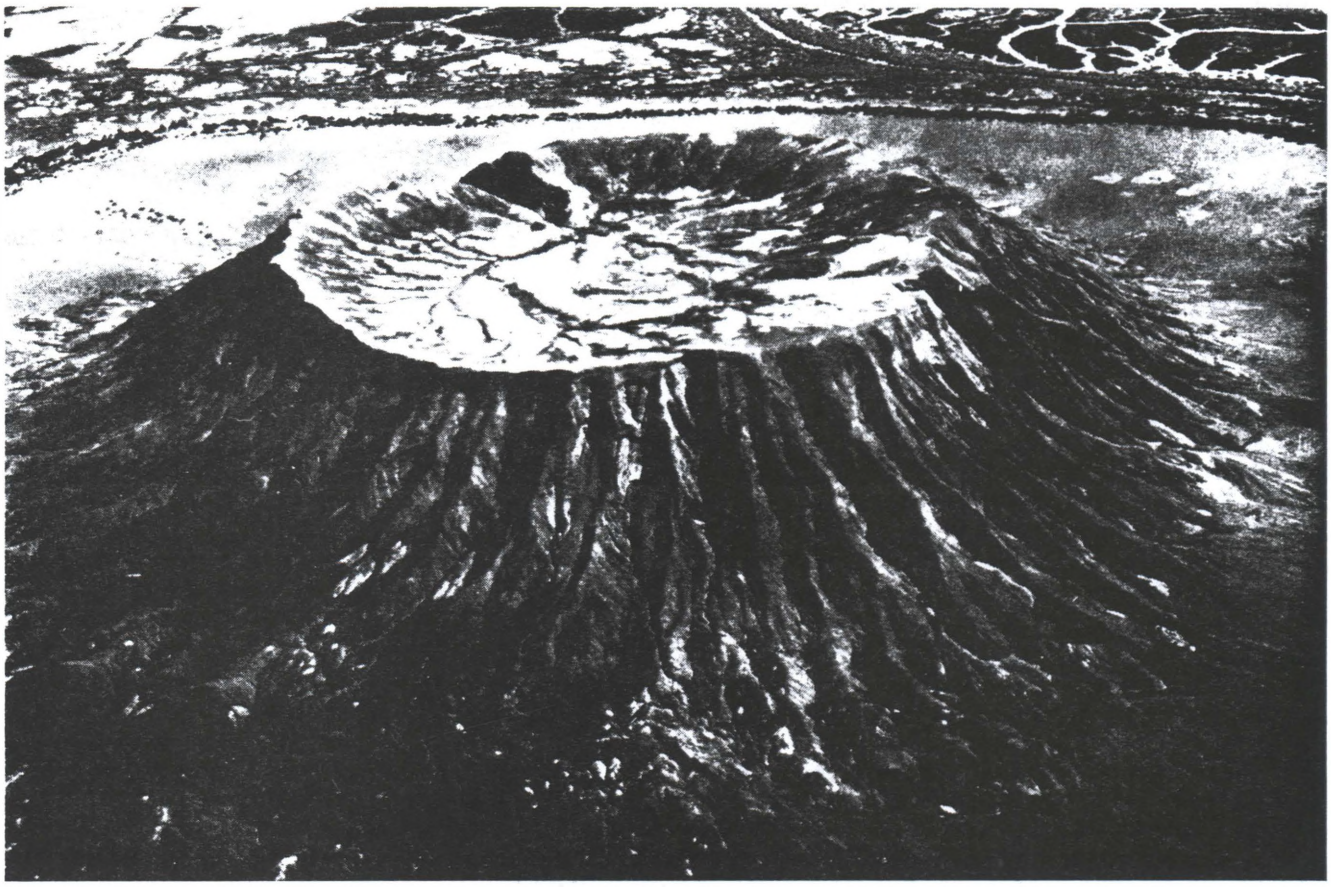
Pratt Seamount, an isolated flat-topped seamount (guyot) in the Gulf of Alaska, 14230'W 56 20'N.
(a) Plan. Contour interval = 100 fathoms. (b) Profiles.

A guyot is an isolated submarine mountain rising 3,000 feet or more above the ocean floor (i.e., 500 fathoms).

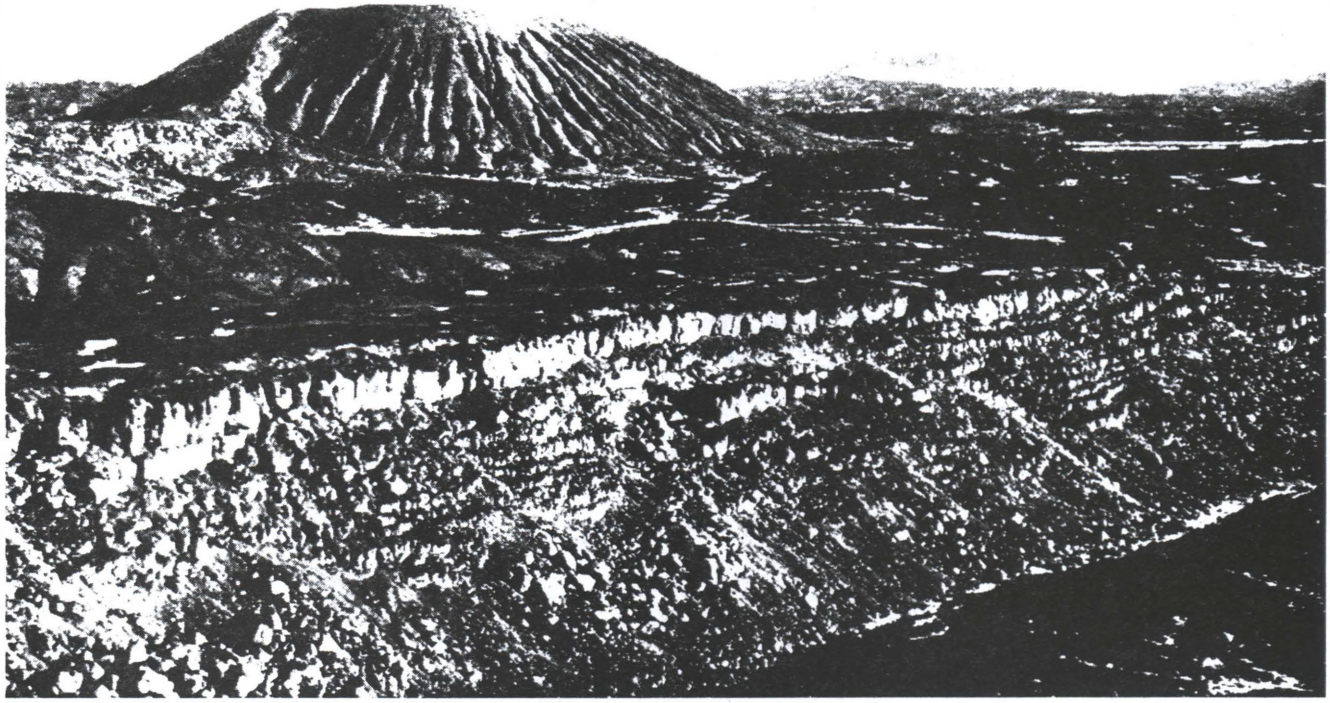
Flat-topped seamounts are called guyots, or tablemounts (shown above). Bottom samples dredged from several guyots indicate the flat-tops were once at sea level though they are now 1,000 to 7,000 feet below the ocean surface. Thus, guyots are ancient islands which were truncated to sea level by erosion.

Although the relative subsidence of guyots, atolls, and seamounts is estabished, the causes of subsidence are still subject to speculation. Among the possible causes are local, regional, or general sinking of the sea floor. Some guyots lie in or near regions of tectonic instability and apparently subsided as the result of large scale faulting.

NOTE: CONTOUR INTERVAL = 100 fathoms.



FLAT-TOPPED VOLCANO Mount Asmara is composed of shards of volcanic glass such as are formed during underwater volcanic explosions. It resembles the numerous guyots, or submerged oceanic mountains, whose level summits are usually attributed to wave erosion. Because Mount Asmara was formed under water, it may be that a flat top is instead a feature common to all such volcanos.



CINDER CONE near Lake Guilietti was built up at a point that overlies one of the innumerable fault lines found in the Afar triangle. A subsequent horizontal shift of one fault block has moved the far half of the cinder cone 100 meters ahead of the near half. (Both photographs from *Scientific American,* Continents Adrift, 1972, p. 138)

Figure 6



Figure 7

Giant sea wave, or tsunami, as sketched in March, 1900, *St. Nicholas* magazine (p. 890). The steamer Berouw, apparently shown here, was carried 2½ km inland and stranded at Telok Belong.



Figure 8

The Steamship Berouw, torn from its mooring in Telok Betong Harbor, was swept inland by the wave and marooned almost intact in the valley of the Koeripan River, 2½ km from the sea. Etching by T. Weber, from a field sketch by M. Korthals from *Cottean*, 1886, p. 125.

Proceedings, Royal Society, "Tidal Disturbances," Jan. 31, 1884, p. 248-253:

The principal facts set forth by Major Baird are the following — 1st. The primary effect of the great eruption at Krakatoa was a marked fall in sea level — or in other words, the formation of a negative supertidal wave — at each of his stations.
2ndly. This negative wave was succeeded by a great positive wave at an interval ranging from seventy-five minutes at Negapatam, the station nearest Krakatoa, to twenty-four minutes at Aden, the most distant station.
3rd. Supertidal wavelets of greater or less magnitude were registered at the whole of the Indian Ocean stations for some hours, more or less, before the effects of the great eruption; they are evidences of antecedent, minor eruptions...
4th. Great supertidal waves of amplitudes ranging from a maximum of 22 inches at Negapatam to a maximum of 9 inches at Aden were registered at all the stations which were in a position to receive the full force of the eruptions at Krakatoa, unobstructed by the configuration of the foreshore...
5th. The secondary great waves were succeeded by wavelets gradually diminishing in size, but continuing for some time;...

These facts show clearly that the terrible eruption at Krakatoa...was preceded for some hours by minor eruptions which...produced effects which were sensible even...at a distance of upwards of 4000 miles.

Now Major Baird shows that the primary effect of the great eruption was to produce a recession or fall of sea level at each of his tidal stations...It seems probable that the initial barometric rise occured at the same time as the initial oceanic fall...

In an appendix to his report, Major Baird gives the respective velocities with which the great primary positive wave travelled to Galle, the Mauritius, the coast of Africa, and three of his own stations...He obtains for the maximum velocity 467 statute miles per hour [over an ocean 15,000 feet deep]...

The August 1883 wave which carried the steamship *Berouw* to its final resting place amid the coconut palms of Telok Betong (above) may have looked something like the one shown in figure 7. Both illustrations are from Simkin and Fiske, *Krakatau 1883* (Smithsonian, 1983, pp.17, 129).

If the *Westbourne* looked even a little like the *Berouw* (see fig. 7) when she pulled into New York after her storm-tossed crossing, it is small wonder her condition excited the press reports (see *PURSUIT* Vol. 19, No. 1). The seas which battered her must have been almost as high as the tsunami shown above, which drove the *Berouw* two miles inland and set her almost intact across a river. However, a tsunami would not harm a ship at sea; in fact, the ship might hardly notice it. Instead, the possibility of a "rogue wave" enters the picture, in combination with severe storms and an underlying tidal wave. For a more complete discussion, see "A Modern Speculation," following.

Atmospheric effects would also be noted:

The observations presented below are extracted from Lt.-Gen. R. Strachey's discussion of Robert Scott's paper, "Note on Series of Barometrical Disturbances which passed over Europe between the 27th and 31st of August, 1883."

Proceedings, Royal Society, "Barometrical Disturbances," pp. 139-151:

The obvious correspondence of the forms and times of occurence of the barometric disturbances...and the great volcanic eruption at Krakatoa...appeared to supply a sufficient probable cause. Any shock of sufficient violence might be expected to produce an atmospheric wave, advancing from the place where it was caused in a circular form round the globe, at first expand-

ing until it had got half round the earth, and then again contracting till it was again concentrated at the antipodes, from which again it would be thrown back, and so pass backwards and forwards till it was obliterated.

It is interesting, although probably not relevant, that the antipodal point of Krakatoa appears to lie very close to Nevado del Ruiz, which erupted in November, 1985. (Chart from Simkin and Fiske, *Krakatau 1883,* p. 372.)

Simkin and Fiske, Krakatau 1883, p. 15:

...Every recording barograph in the world documented the passage of the airwave, some as many as 7 times as the wave bounced back and forth between the eruption site and its antipodes for 5 days after the explosion.

Tide gauges also recorded the sea wave's passage far from Krakatau. The wave "reached Aden in 12 hours, a distance of 3800 nautical miles, usually traversed by a good steamer in 12 days."

Appropos of Captain Robson's island, the first reported sighting of a shoal of dead fish appeared off Newfoundland on March 3, 1882. The dead fish were large, deepwater creatures with an accustomed depth of 450 to 900 feet (75 to 150 fathoms) and an accustomed water temperature of 40 to 50°F. Many of the dead fish reported in the shoals were tropical, such as red snapper, which had never before been reported in northern waters. Smithsonian experts speculated that the fish had been killed by mechanical wave action; evidently, they were right but for one small error. The killing wave originated in the lower depths of the ocean, not the surface storms, and both started off the coast of Africa. Halfway around the world, a year and a half later, a similar phenomenon of waves and fish was noted. Simkin and Fiske report that on the west coast of India, near Bombay, some 4800 km by sea from Krakatau:

Simkin and Fiske, Krakatau 1883, p. 147:

[a]n extraordinary phenomenon of tides was witnessed at Bandora on the morning of Tuesday last (August 28) by those who were at the time on the seashore. The tide came in, at its usual time and in a proper way. After some time, the reflux of the tide went to the sea in an abrupt manner and with great impetus, and the fish, not having sufficient time to retire with the waves, remained scattered on the seashore and dry places, and the fishermen, young and old, had a good and very easy task to perform in capturing goodsized and palatable fish, without the least trouble or difficulty, to their heart's content, being an extraordinary event never seen before by the old men; but lo! suddenly the flux came with a great current of water, more swift than horse's running. The tide was full as before, and this flux and reflux continued two or three times, and at last returned by degrees as usual.

One might speculate that the fish were already dead or dying, killed by the eruption at Krakatoa and delivered by tsunami at a speed in excess of 300 miles per hour. In summarizing the scientific assessment based on historical sources, a number of striking correspondences appear between events following the well-documented and observed eruption of Krakatoa in August 1883 and the events in the Atlantic in March of 1882:

In both cases were experienced storms, squalls, and seas high as the heavens. Further, while the evidence associated with seamount topography tends to confirm in detail Captain Robson's account of what the island looked like and what it was made of, the particular topographical evidence wasn't discovered until the deep ocean surveys approximately 80 years later. The problem is, if a seamount erupts, emerges, then subsides again, it should not go down as far as it was before. Yet of Captain Robson's island, there is no trace. Possible explanations are:

(1) Since the guyot formation itself was undiscovered until about 1960, it is entirely possible the surveys have not mapped it. It really is a very small island in a very large ocean.

(2) Through a combination of secondary eruptions and faulting or earthquake action on the margins of the continental shelf of Africa, the island blew itself to bits and vanished.

(3) Despite the fact that Captain Robson and his crew landed, explored convenient parts of the island, and retrieved artifacts, the island may not have been an island but rather, a giant floating raft of volcanic debris.

These possibilities and others are explored in the section following. Further historical research should, perhaps, be directed to the barographs and tidal charts for the U.S. Atlantic seaboard, the British Isles, and western Europe to develop a more complete barometric and tidal picture of the weather in a time of serious storms and heavy seas. Similar attention should perhaps be given U.S. rain tables for areas inland extending to the Mississippi Valley to determine abnormalities of precipitation and temperature during the great floods. Comparison of such records with those from other years would provide a context to evaluate the evident period of freakishly adverse weather following the unrecorded 1882 eruption.

A MODERN SPECULATION

The purpose of my inquiry, initially, was to determine the credibility of Mr. Berlitz's handling of the press. The pro-Berlitz, pro-Atlantis hypotheses I now embark follow from the establishment of credibility.

The eruption was not recorded in the scientific journals of the time, but that does not mean it did not happen. If it happened, one should be able to construct an explanation consistent with the facts reported then *and* with today's understanding of atmospheric and oceanic wave mechanics. The 1882 eruption of Captain Robson's island evidently resulted in volcanic modification of weather and tides at distant points; however, my reading indicates considerable disagreement about what actually does happen and what the magnitude of effect might be. Thus I venture a hypothesis:

Either the ocean storms and great waves which battered Atlantic shipping, the enormous fish kills reported at a distance of thousands of miles, the local discoloration of the sea at 25°N, 24°W, and the catastrophic Mississippi floods were effects of the eruption, emergence, and subsidence of Captain Robson's island, i.e., mechanics, or they were coincidence.

The mechanical point of view provides an explanation; the coincidental one does not. Also, the mechanical view is subject to modern confirmation or denial, whereas coincidence is not. For example, one might partially confirm or deny the "mechanical effects" hypothesis by study of satellite imagery and weather disturbances following Saint Helen's in 1980 or Nevado del Ruiz in November, 1985. In the two weeks immediately following Nevado del Ruiz, Iowa and the midwestern U.S. generally experienced a few days of 70°F temperatures

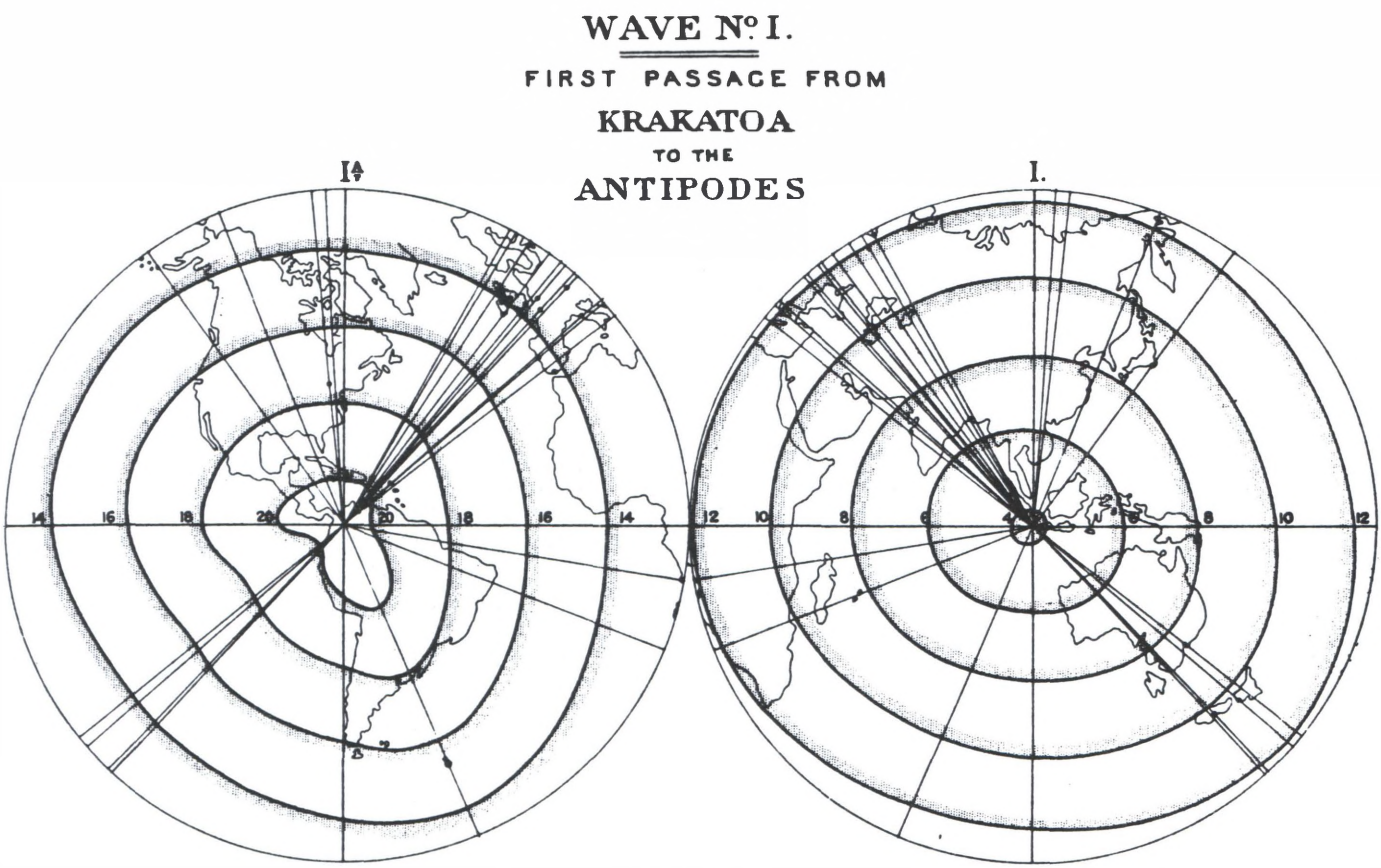


Figure 9

(approximately 30°F above "normal" for that time of year). Within that two week period, flash floods were reported on the Mississippi, as were ice storms, freezing rains, and (by the first of December) a record blizzard.

Using the eruption of Krakatoa in 1883 as a reference point, and the airwave map showing the passage of Wave No. 1 from Krakatoa to the Antipodes to gain a sense of scale (fig. 9), it becomes evident that the eruptions at 25°N, 24°W in 1882 were fairly close by volcanic standards. For example, if one starts with the Colombian center-point (the antipodes) and draws a line northwest through the Mississippi Valley with a similar line northeast through the Canary Islands, direct measurement of the diagonal connecting the ends of either leg of the triangle indicates the 1882 eruption only had to carry its weather modifying effects about twice as far as the Nevado del Ruiz eruption to reach the Mississippi Valley. If the 1882 cloud reached a fairly modest altitude of 32,000 feet, it could have entered a jet stream which passes above the island and diverted that jet to the northwest just as the connecting diagonal does on the map. I think this is exactly what happened, and either caused or aggravated the bad conditions on the North Atlantic and inland to the Mississippi Valley. However, such reasoning proceeds from comparison and certain obvious limits exist. For example, one cannot determine causation by comparative means, only suggest it. Also, the 1985 eruption of Nevado del Ruiz took place at 17,000 feet above sea level, whereas the 1882 eruptions off Africa began at least 1,000 feet below sea level, in 12,000 feet of water. Yet in each event, one evidently sees a pattern of freakishly adverse weather conditions over a large area, within a relatively short time after the volcano. The primary difference appears to be where the eruption took place and whether, or to whom, it was reported.

The previous chronology indicates:

Mystery island emerges **[LAST WEEK FEB. 1882]**
Mississippi floods begin **[FIRST WEEK MAR. 1882]**
Fish kills sighted off Newfoundland **[MAR. 3, 1882]**
Jesmond arrives island **[C. MAR. 5-6, 1882]**
Seaquake at 37°21'N, 23°51'W **[MAR. 18, 1882]**
Severe storms, more fish kills **[LAST TWO WEEKS MAR. 1882]**
Mystery island subsides, floods abate **[THIRD WEEK MAR. 1882]**

The order of occurrence alone strongly suggests causality, even given the large area involved, because the eruption, emergence, and subsidence of the island would have caused or worsened (i.e., affected) existing adverse conditions. However, one might observe that causal criteria are not fully satisfied, in that an eruption is not strictly necessary to account for the other events. Mass fish kills have occurred without volcanic activity; so have March storms on the Atlantic and floods on the Mississippi.

The discussion following is arranged by subheadings for the convenience of the reader.

Local effects: The island, the fish kills, and the water surrounding.

The main facts about the island and its surroundings are:
It appeared on the margins of a continental shelf in an area of known volcanic activity **[LATER SCIENTIFIC SOURCES]**
It reportedly smoked **[*PICAYUNE* REPORT]**
On arrival, a dark muddy sea and shoals of dead fish were observed **[*PICAYUNE* REPORT]**
Fish kills were thought due to volcanic gas **[*PICAYUNE* REPORT]**
The island had a highly irregular shore **[*PICAYUNE* REPORT]**

No mention was made of the seas surrounding the island, but they seem to have been glassy, even slick. Anyway, such was my impression on reading the account. Surface slickness generally gives evidence of internal waves propagated by variations in temperature and salinity. However, very little vertical movement occurs at the water's surface. While their amplitude is much greater than surface waves and is sometimes as great as a 20-story building (meaning the wave itself may be 40 stories between high and low peaks), the internal waves also propagate more slowly because the difference in boundary densities is smaller between adjacent liquids than it is between water and air.

A volcanic explanation for the "singular appearance of the sea" and the fish kills around the island then would have, as Robson reported, the fish killed by escaping volcanic gases (including steam). The gas explosions at depth would also alter the temperature and chemical composition (or "saltiness") of the water, each an independent causal agent for internal wave propagation. Finally, the gas explosions themselves would create a violently churning up-and-down motion (because underwater explosions are vented upwards) which would further agitate thousands or millions of tons of volcanic mud and ash, creating a dark, muddy, slick-looking sea populated by enormous shoals of dead fish immediately surrounding the island.

Thus a local volcanic effects argument which postulates fish kills and internal wave action in the immediate vicinity of the island neatly fits the eyewitness descriptions.

An alternate explanation for the fish kills around the island (and also to the northwest all the way across the Atlantic) might be a "red tide" phenomenon. While a "red tide" would result in both mass fish kills and surface discoloration of the sea, I do not think it represents a correct explanation.

Under the "red tide" argument, the fish kills would be caused by the dinoflagellate *Gonyaulax*, a pellet-shaped microbe having an approximate individual size of 40 microns (40μ). Dinoflagellates are single-celled organisms possessing both plant and animal characteristics. Many such organisms rely on photosynthesis as plants do, but others move and ingest food as animals do. In *Oceanography: An Introduction* (1985, p. 315), Ingmanson and Wallace report that

> Members of the genus *Gonyaulax* sometimes occur in such great numbers that the water turns red, causing red tide. Another species of that genus is responsible for paralytic shellfish poisoning. Filter-feeding molluscs eat the dinoflagellates, and the concentrated toxin poisons anyone who eats the molluscs.

Red tide phenomena have been reported to cause mass kills of fish and other marine animals, presumably including any members of the food chain which ate the toxic fish. In man, symptoms of dinoflagellate poisoning — which would be associated with anyone eating fish killed by a red tide — include mild food poisoning similar to flu, paralysis of the mouth, paralysis of the stomach, and death. While red tides have been reported off the California coast in summer and off the western coast of Florida following heavy rains, the dinoflagellates appear to be warm-water creatures with an accustomed range not exceeding 40°N or 40°S. Also, the dinoflagellate *Gonyaulax* which causes red tides appears to have an accustomed depth of habitat not exceeding 100 meters (328 feet), for reasons of photosynthesis and the penetration of sunlight in water.

The fish kills sighted off the Atlantic coast in 1882 were first encountered off the southern end of Newfoundland, which is from 5° - 10° too far north, in winter rather than summer, and in water which may well have been too cold to support the dinoflagellates. Also, the dead fish had a reported depth of habitat of approximately 100 fathoms (600 feet); this is approximately twice the maximum depth at which a red tide would exist. Finally, sailors who encountered the fish kills reportedly ate the fish with no ill effects, pronouncing them to be "excellent food."

Therefore, even given the possibility that the shoals drifted northwards, a red tide does not efficiently explain the fish kills.

Distant effects: Storms, seas, and fish kills experienced in the northwestern Atlantic. The eruption provides a plausible explanation for how the fish were killed and why they appeared off the American coast, as well as why they appeared in great numbers in the immediate surroundings of the island. (The violent shearing action of internal waves may also help to explain where the island went.) The eruption would also propagate seismic waves and, indirectly, may have propagated "rogue waves" in the north. Therefore, to understand the possible mechanism, we should direct our attention once again to wave propagation.

• Tsunami. If a subsurface eruption occured, a tsunami or seismic wave would follow. However, when given the fact that the total wave amplitude of a tsunami might be only four feet and the crests might be 120 miles apart, there is every possibility that a ship in open ocean would never even notice the wave's passage. The tsunami represents a compression wave which transmits force longitudinally; such waves become dangerous only in shallow water, because the force of the rapidly moving waves behind the slower, already broken, leading waves keep pushing the leading waves ashore. In open water, then, a tsunami which began at substantial depth and slowed as it went towards the surface would represent a plausible means of delivering freshly killed fish from one part of the ocean to another in large numbers.

In connection with the fish kills and Captain Robson's island the vertical force of the internal waves immediately surrounding the island, would provide local shearing action at lower velocity; hence, the wave action would seem to throw dead fish off the crests of nearly spent internal waves. As the fish entered the still water above and floated to the surface, they would undoubtedly shoal thickly. Other fish carried along by the longitudinal or seismic wave might travel for great distances without surfacing until they drifted off the crest or otherwise fell out of the wave as the tsunami slowed and approached the surface. Such wave action could conceivably transport enormous shoals of fish killed in the eruption (or eruptions) all the way across the ocean before the wave played out. Given these conditions, fish killed off the African coast could appear off the American coast a day or so later without difficulty. To illustrate again with the Krakatoa tsunami, when the wave reached Bandora, India a few hours after the eruption it first caused a sudden withdrawal of the sea which left fish flopping on the bare sand. The fishermen had very easy pickings for a few minutes, when a big wave came in "more swift than horses running," as previously reported.

One might summarize the case for and against an Atlantic tsunami as follows:

Even though tsunamis resulting from the eruption at 25°N, 24°W would have provided an efficient if inadvertant means of getting freshly killed fish from one part of the ocean to another quickly, certain problems trouble the scheme. In the first place, Atlantic tsunamis are extremely rare. The only really damaging seismic wave to cross the Atlantic on record followed the 1775 earthquake at Lisbon, Portugal, when the waves reportedly persisted for a week and rolled ashore as far away as the

Caribbean Islands. May one speculate that the Mid-Atlantic Ridge contributes to the rarity of Atlantic tsunami by deflecting and slowing the waves at depth?

If so, a distant effects argument which posits the delivery of freshly killed fish on a tsunami fits the facts, while contradicting none, and explains the presence of tropical fish in northern waters. The argument also suggests a simple ballistic explanation for the fact that only large, deep-water fish seemed to be affected, in that smaller fish may have lost speed sooner, and therefore, fallen out of the wave and surfaced sooner. (Inertia.) From this construction of the evidence, one may plausibly conclude that tsunamis occured in March, 1882, but went unnoticed. Given the existing hurricanes and a nearly invisible, nearly played out wave which had slowed to a speed of 30 miles per hour or less by the time the fish surfaced off Newfoundland, it might be difficult to tell whether a tsunami had happened.

• Storms and rogue waves. The possible tsunami does not (and cannot) explain the ocean storms and rogue waves which apparently battered the *Westbourne* and the *Ayrshire* as they made their northerly transits. However, a case for volcanic weather modification can.

Giant, storm-spawned rogue waves form when the waves from two different storms meet after blowing intensely for several days amid low barometric pressures. The massive, often solitary, waves have an immense crest and a seemingly bottomless trough, and have crushed the superstructures of ships much larger than the *Westbourne*. In fact, a rogue wave (rather than a tsunami) is probably what the writers of "The Poseidon Adventure" had in mind. Does the severity of the storms working westwards provide evidence for volcanic weather modification? Could a "cloud seeding" effect have influenced both the severity of the Atlantic hurricanes and the inland floods on the Mississippi? Again, the evidence seems to confirm the hypothesis.

• Barometric effects? The Royal Society in 1884 found in the "obvious correspondence of the forms and times of occurrence of barometric disturbances [worldwide]...and the great volcanic eruption at Krakatoa" evidence sufficient to adduce causality, hence the conclusion that the airwaves passing from the 1883 eruption in the Sunda Straits were the probable cause of disturbances in London, Vancouver, and elsewhere (fig. 9). By working backwards from the London barograph (fig. 2), one may establish provisional dates not only for the genesis of the storm systems which swept the Atlantic but for the eruption and subsidence of the mystery island, these being February 26-27, March 1, and March 26, 1882. Thus, even given the qualifying factor that the storms might have occurred anyway, they may not have been as severe had the volcanoes which formed and later destroyed Captain Robson's island not erupted at those approximate dates.

Disturbing barometric pressure through the passage of an airwave provides a situation in which severe storms are more likely to develop. Volcanic gases provide the basis for a "cloud-seeding" effect. How? In general, tropospheric winds carry the low-lying part of a cloud a short distance before the particles fall out; stratospheric winds extend the upper part of a volcanic cloud longitudinally around the globe, carrying the whole mass poleward as it slowly settles out. Since the winds would carry volcanic gases in a general northwesterly direction, given the site of eruption, evidence seems to exist for cloud seeding through particle settlement. Thus one may posit volcanic activity as at least a contributing cause for both the severe Atlantic storms and the rains which flooded the Mississippi Valley. A possible explanation follows. See if it fits:

Large numbers of airborne particles settled out of the atmosphere at approximately the correct intervals to match the observed effects. Simple isn't it? If smoke adds particles to the atmosphere, might it not also seed clouds and modify weather? But... were the particles of the right kind and size? Were they at the right height? How were they carried such great distances? Does a case exist for volcanic weather modification? To answer those questions, one might start by comparing the general composition of volcanic gases with the general requirements of cloud-seeding, bearing in mind that the principle objection against cloud-seeding is that results are often inconclusive. Against that objection, one should balance the fact that a silver iodide generator or an airplane with tanks of carbon dioxide is small and its effect may well be insignificant. A volcano isn't small.

• Volcanoes, cloud-seeding, and the jet stream: Effects shown in 1882.

Gases from today's volcanoes — Mauna Loa, for example — contain about 57.8 percent water vapor, 23.5 percent carbon dioxide, 12.6 percent sulfur, and 5.7 percent nitrogen. Without being a chemist, one might expect an eruption underwater to release somewhat more water vapor than one in the atmosphere through steam explosions on contact with magmatic materials. Also, it would be reasonable to expect such compounds as vaporized sea salt, sulfur dioxide and sulfuric acid to form in the volcanic cloud. These chemicals all have one characteristic in common, namely that they are hygroscopic (or "water-loving") chemicals. In other words, they attract water.

Cloud seeding works on the principle that water will condense or freeze upon very small (0.1 to 3 μm diameter) hygroscopic particles called condensation nuclei. A "rainmaker" might induce condensation — or try to — by any of several methods, including cooling warm clouds with dry ice (carbon dioxide) to chill and therefore condense the water vapor, spraying the clouds with water, or dusting them with silver iodide smoke, salt crystals, etc. The crucial elements, however, are: to introduce small particles the water vapor can condense around; to ensure the water likes these particles, so it will; and to change the air temperature enough to make condensation likely.

A volcanic eruption does all of these things.

Condensation nuclei may originate in the oceans, in the hot cloud of dust, gas, and ash which is a volcanic plume, or from smokestacks and other industrial pollutants. Volcanic plumes commonly reach altitudes of 10,000 to 50,000 feet (3 to 15 km), bringing hot gases, superheated steam, ash, and dust with them. A table of residence times for particle pollutants in the atmosphere indicates particles in the lower troposphere may remain airborne for a period of one to three weeks, and particles in the upper troposphere may remain aloft for between two and four weeks. The troposphere is the lowest 10 to 20 km of the earth's atmosphere and is characterized by decreasing temperature with height. In other words, particles from a fairly modest volcanic plume which reached an altitude of 30,000 feet would settle as precipitation of some sort in a period of one to three weeks. The times at which the reported storms occurred on the Atlantic and the times required for particle settlement as rain simply match too closely to support coincidence; therefore, one may speculate, they almost surely must support causation.

Sudden, violent injection of moisture-laden, water-attracting particles into the atmosphere following eruption would cause both barometric and thermal disturbances and may have created some "temporary" jet streams. (Because they lie in the zone of maximum temperature contrast between cold air masses to the north and warm air masses to the south, jet streams are "tempo-

rary'' anyway; their position varies daily.) The jet stream's location usually coincides with the regions of greatest storminess. The *McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology* (1977, vol. 7, p. 344) makes the following observation:

> If the winter circulation pattern on the Northern Hemisphere is averaged with respect to both time and longitude, a westerly jet stream is found at an elevation of about 13 km near latitude (lat) 25°. The speed of the averaged wind at the jet core is about 148 km/hr (80 knots). In summer this jet is displaced poleward to a position near lat 42°. It is found at an elevation of about 12 km with a maximum speed of about 56 km/hr (30 knots). In both seasons a speed equal to one-half the peak value is found approximately 15° of latitude south, 20° of latitude north, and 5-10 km above and below the location of the jet core itself.

Again, the conjecture fits the facts: the eruptions occurred at latitude 25°N in winter; the severe ocean storms occurred only a degree or so north of that particular jet stream's summer location, but within 24 to 48 hours of the most probable dates of eruptions, indicated by the barometric charts.

Evidently, then, the gas cloud from the eruptions penetrated the jet core and diverted it to the northwest. The air following the eruptions would have been warm and moist, laden with particles; of course, the warm, moist, particle-laden air was not where it should have been, but the cold winter air over the upper portions of the Mississippi Valley and the north Atlantic was. When the two air masses met, condensation occurred with rains, storms, waves, and floods following.

Hence one might fairly surmise the storms which battered the Atlantic and the floods which devastated the Mississippi Valley were seeded.

A CONJECTURE ABOUT CAPT. ROBSON'S ISLAND

So, to the really interesting question: What happened to the island? What was it, where did it come from, where did it go? What was the fate of Captain Robson's island? Again, let us begin with the facts:

> The island once held a civilization, so it was once above water. This civilization was destroyed by volcanic eruptions at an unknown date in the past, when the island sunk beneath 12,000 feet of water. Volcanic eruptions occurred in 1882 which brought it once more to the surface before it disappeared, probably forever. **[MY SUMMATIVE CONSTRUCTION OF EVENTS RE THE ISLAND.]**

One might begin with the negative assumption, namely that the island does not exist today because it never existed in the first place. This assumption is contradicted by two facts: the eyewitness accounts existed, and a plausible explanation grounded in atmospheric and oceanic mechanics could be constructed given the assumption that the accounts were accurate. Therefore, the eruptions occurred and the island existed.

So, one might ask, where is it now?

In approaching that question, one also might ask ''where was it before 1882?'' The mapping of the ocean's depths completed by *HMS Challenger* and other ships in the 1870's evidently revealed no ''bulges'' or other sharp rises on the ocean floor but today we know there are several active volcanoes and a ''hot spot'' in the Canary Islands region. *Unless an eruption prior to* 1882 had piled up enough material to form an island, the chance of any passing vessel's notice of it would be remote. Nevertheless, the island may have risen within a thousand feet or so of the surface within a fairly short time. The Paricutin eruption in Mexico, for example, began with the opening of a fissure less than two feet deep on February 20, 1943; within a year, the volcanic cone was more than 1,100 feet high.

Deep subsurface eruptions would create piles of pillow lava around the fissure but, as the eruption neared the surface, steam explosions and ash could deposit. Since the island had once been on the surface, the possibility that the eruptions would stir up clouds of volcanic and non-volcanic sediment from previous eruptions also seems reasonable.

Depending how one approaches the problem (and how vivid one's imagination is), several descriptions of what happened are possible. While I am not sufficiently expert to say whether any of these constructions is more likely than the other, I would begin with the eyewitness accounts.

First of all, Captain Robson reported the rock at the base of the basalt cliffs was ''fractured and twisted as if by some tremendous convulsion.'' The description suggests the island was lifted more or less intact to the surface, and at a fairly low temperature, a supposition that appears consistent with the discovery of artifacts on or near the surface of the volcanic debris.

If the original land surface was made of porous volcanic rock, the heat of a prolonged but cool eruption might be sufficient to expel water from the pores of frothy lava and pumice stone resulting from the island's first eruption. One might speculate that the thick coating of volcanic sediments resulting from previous eruptions and the non-volcanic marine sediments owing to thousands of years of immersion ''insulated'' the island until the rock was heated to a semi-plastic state. However, the changes in temperature resulting from the eruption would be sufficient to initiate violent internal waves which, as they became more agitated, swept away the sediments and permitted the heated materials beneath to come in contact with the water. When this occurred, steam explosions of sufficient violence to blast the island loose from its ''footings'' on the ocean floor may have taken place. Such construction of course assumes the basalt cliffs that showed evidence of fracture ''anchored'' the island in place and that the rest of the land mass was composed of more porous materials.

In other words, the island itself became a kind of ''lighter-than-water'' hot air balloon. Obviously, this presents a highly unstable situation. First, the land mass of the island would become heavier as it went higher, a consequence of both the lower water pressures near the surface and the lower temperatures of the rock. (Buoyancy is relative.) If this is what happened, perhaps a straightforward reversal of surface eruptions occurred; i.e., rather than collapsing into the magma pit, the pumice of the caldera was buoyed upwards and brought with it the attached rock of the island.

A second source of instability centers on how the island surfaced. If it behaved like a normal undersea eruption, an ash rampart and perhaps pumice rafts would have formed but would have broken up through wave action shortly after the eruption ceased. While this is the most conservative and therefore plausible explanation, it contradicts certain elements of Robson's report to the press. First of all, it makes no provision for a chain of mountains in the distance, or high basalt cliffs. More importantly, the artifacts would surely have been melted to slag by the eruption. Since Robson reportedly found bronze swords, the crumbling remains of massive walls, a stone sarcophagus with *what appeared to be a mummy inside, fragments of bone, and a* nearly complete cranium, one can only accept that the report (if true) gives evidence of a relatively low temperature eruption. Otherwise, the stone and bronze would have melted, and the

bone burned.

If the eruption did not act normally and a section of the sea floor was lifted, then it might have come up like an elevator or a cork. Had the island risen like an elevator, one or more pipes or shafts of magmatic materials would have supported it and may have created the chain of mountains Robson saw in the distance. The island would then have been "built" something like a modern off-shore oil platform, the difference being that any of the "legs" supporting it was likely to blow up at any time. In contrast, if it came up like a cork, there would have been nothing supporting it, so the island would have been in a state of constantly diminishing buoyancy. In either situation, the island would have been undercut by vertical shearing waves of great intensity. The vertical movement of these internal waves would undoubtedly scour away ash and other supporting materials almost as rapidly as they were deposited. Since the wave action would continue after the eruptions ceased, it would be only a matter of time until either the waves washed out the supporting magma colums or the island sank into the turbulence.

The difference, so far as I can see, is that the supported island would most likely have blown up whereas the unsupported island would have broken up. Either way, it would have been fragile.

Nevertheless, the island appeared (and vanished) in an area of known volcanic activity and showed evidence of having once held a civilization. Whether this civilization was Phoenician, Egyptian, Etruscan, Carthaginian, "Atlantean," or any of a host of others can only be speculated. In the absence of Captain Robson's artifacts, I would just as soon call them "Atlantean," because it is as good a name as any for a civilization which once existed on the Atlantic and is now buried in a watery grave, thousands of feet below its surface.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Also, I wish to thank the Interlibrary Loan Department, Iowa State University, for obtaining century-old newspapers in a timely manner.

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Most references used were identified and cited within the text; therefore, I see no compelling reason to list them here.

The section, "A Modern Speculation," was compiled from several introductory books in oceanography, meteorology, and volcanology, and from articles which appeared over the course of 10 years in *NOAA Magazine,* selected because, as a government publication, it is in public domain.

The books are: *Elements of Meteorology,* 4th edition, 1983, Miller, Thompson, Peterson, and Haragan; *Atmosphere, Weather, and Climate: An Introduction to Meteorology,* 1979, Navarra; *Meteorology Today,* 1982, Ahrens; *The World Ocean: An Introduction to Oceanography,* 1973, Anikouchine and Sternberg; *Oceanography: An Introduction,* 1985, Ingmanson and Wallace; *Ocean Science,* 1983, Stowe; *Planet Earth: Volcano,* 1982, Time-Life; and *Volcanoes,* 1976, Bullard.

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The construction placed upon the facts reported by the above authors is, of course, my own and I am responsible for any errors of interpretation which may appear. To reference them in the course of the article would have been to attribute any errors I made to them, a situation I had no desire to create.

J. Allen Hynek, Director of Project Blue Book

Dr. Hynek was one of the most active members on SITU's Scientific Advisory Board

Josef Allen Hynek was born in Chicago, Ill., to Czechoslovak parents. He graduated from University of Chicago in 1931 and earned a Ph.D degree there in 1935.

He joined the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Ohio State in 1936.

In World War II, Dr. Hynek was a civilian scientist at the Johns Hopkins Applied Science Laboratory, where he helped to develop the Navy's radio proximity fuse.

After the war he returned to Ohio State University, rising to full professor in 1950.

In 1956 he left to join Prof. Fred Whipple, the Harvard Astonomer, at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, which had combined with the Harvard Observatory at Harvard. Dr. Hynek had the assignment of directing the tracking of an American space satellite, a project for the International Geophysical Year in 1956 and thereafter.

In addition to 247 optical stations around the world, there were to be 12 photographic stations. A special camera was devised for the task and a prototype was built and tested and then stripped apart again when, on Oct. 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched its first satellite, Sputnik.

"We had always assumed that the United States would have the first satellite," Dr. Hynek said ruefully at the time. "If I've ever had a traumatic experience, that was it."

Observations of the Soviet satellite were received, and with twice-daily news conferences. Dr. Hynek and Dr. Whipple began to reassure the public after what Dr. Hynek called "this intellectual Pearl Harbor, a real gutsy sock to the stomach."

Once things in satellite tracking settled down to a routine, Dr. Hynek went back to teaching, taking the chairmanship at Northwestern in 1960 of the Department of Astronomy at Northwestern University and director of its Dearborn Observatory, until he retired in 1978. He was involved in the Air Force U.F.O. research effort from 1948 to 1969, as Director of Project Blue Book.

He long asserted the U.F.O's should be taken seriously and he eventually became displeased with the Air Force approach. He said that its methods were slipshod and that it was not conducting a scientific study. The Air Force, in turn, concluded that there was no evidence of extraterrestial craft and the U.F.O project was abandoned.

In an interview in 1974, Dr. Hynek said that he had remained with the program as long as he did to retain access to Air Force data and to avoid being marked a "U.F.O. nut."

Dr. Hynek founded the Center for U.F.O. Studies in Evanston in 1973 and took it with him when he moved to Scottsdale.

He is credited with coining the phrase "close encounters of the third kind" to describe humans meeting creatures from space. He used the phrase in his 1972 book *"The U.F.O. Experience"* and it became the title of the 1977 Steven Spielberg film, on which he served as technical adviser.

When a reporter once suggested that Dr. Hynek he might be remembered not as an astronomer but as the man who made U.F.O.'s respectable, he replied: "I wouldn't mind. If I can succeed in making the study of U.F.O's scientifically respectable and do something constructive in it, then I think that would be a real contribution."

He resigned from the center he founded a few months ago, for ill health, according to the director, Tina Choate.

Dr. Hynek, who moved to Scottsdale from Evanston, Ill. a year ago, died of a malignant brain tumor April 27 at Memorial Hospital in Scottsdale, Ariz. He was 75 years old.

[Editor's Note]

He was quoted as having said, "I came here with Halley's Comet and probably shall depart with it." So it was.

SOURCE: Joan Cook, N.Y. *Times* May 1, 1986

CREDIT: H. Hollander

The European Yeti

by Ulrich Magin

I believe there is no such animal as the European yeti. In fact, I believe that all the accounts to which I refer in this article can be explained either as known animals, hoaxes, or psychologically caused hallucinations. But, when I say that there is no European yeti, I also mean that I have grouped together a wide variety of different phenomena that may or may not have any relationship to the hairy-monster phenomenon. The reason for this inclusion of obviously unrelated information is that most items presented here have features common in American or Asian hominid reports. And so, an analysis of these European stories could also help readers to understand the other manimal reports.

I will refer to the described creature either as a hominid, meaning some kind of primate, or as a humanoid, meaning the relevant creature is more likely to belong to the "goblin" world rather than the animal kingdom.

This is a very subjective classification, but all information on this topic is so vague that no objective conclusions can be drawn, and therefore I do not claim that I have done so. This is another reason for my including a wide range of reports rather than being limited to obvious primate sightings. Every reader can draw his or her own conclusions without being affected by a subjective assortment that would lead to fixed answers rather than asked questions.

General Traditions

Beginning with the ancient Europeans, we find tales of hairy monsters and giants all over the continent. The Greeks knew Talos, a giant made of stone[1] and Polypem, the one-eyed giant who threw stones at Ulysses. The old Teutons had stories of ice giants, and the Celts had folktales of monstrous human beings in the mountains. Satyrs and fauns (goat-like spirits in human form) haunted deserted places and lovely gardens in Greece, and were generally regarded to be sexually superactive — abducting and raping women. Many pictures of them are found on ancient vases and they always proudly exhibited their male genitals.

I doubt that any Greek, Roman or any other ancient inhabitant of Europe thought that these creatures really existed. Some of the giants belonged to the realm of the gods, while the satyrs and related humanoids clearly were some kind of natural spirit or goblin. Belief in goblins was widespread across the continent, and there was hardly a people who doubted their existence, but they were always thought to belong "to the other side", and no one thought of them as natural (i.e. biological) beings. Even though, while some of them sound very much like yetis or snowmen creatures, their magical side is so strong that there is no chance for a positive identification with relic hominids, we have to look elsewhere for them. Let's look first at the so-called "wild man of the woods" of the Middle Ages.

The belief in this creature was so definite that it was included into Linne's *System of Nature* in 1735 as *Homo ferus*. There are, in fact, only a few actual sightings with which I will deal being under the headings of the different countries where they were reported. There is overwhelming folkloric evidence — paintings, engravings, costumes, plays and legends — depicting them. People from Oberstdorf, Germany used to stage a wildman play using disguises with wooden masks and costumes made of hay. On Fassnacht, a traditional German festival, people in Swabia still dress as wildmen and dance in the streets.

Psychologists regard the wildman as a symbol of fertility, lust and primitivism but he also symbolises, in simple life, craziness or demonization, according to the time and place of origin of the legend. There were not only wildmen, but also wildwomen. For instance, in 1891 a young Swedish man was executed for having sexual intercourse with a wildwoman.

Apart from folktales and legends (which usually tell how a hairy, bad-smelling hominid was encountered in the forest, and after foretelling the future vanished in the undergrowth) the main sources for information concerning this creature are from pictures and sculptures. Wildmen were carved in stone and shown in pictures in churches. Others were painted on Psalters or on coats of arms. These show mainly the image of a green, hairy or feathery human-type with a long beard and clothes made of fur or leaves, occasionally carrying a club or abducting ordinary humans. More information on this topic can be found in three books I know,[2] but I think there must be many other papers and essays on this hominid/humanoid type of creature.

A last group of subhumans in Europe are the so-called feral children. Generally, the story goes like this: Peasants observe a strange being in the nearby woods, and hunt it until they catch it. To their amazement it is a normal child, but with somewhat brute-like features, acting more like an animal than a specimen of *Homo sapiens*. After the creature has learned to speak, little by little, it reveals that as a baby it had been carried away by wolves, or some other animals. These took to it like their own child, and so it grew up eating roots and drinking water — a hybrid among animal friends.

There are several logical reasons for rejecting these stories — beside recent documentation — the strongest being that there is no reason for a wolf to adopt or kidnap a human. Modern theories (and there have been many books on the topic) agree that the most likely explanation is that these unfortunate children were exposed to the forest and managed to survive because they adapted themselves to their surroundings, perhaps relying on other instincts we humans may have.

The best known case involving such a feral child is the "wild boy" of Aveyron, who was caught in France in 1799. The story is well known to motion picture buffs all over the world because François Truffaut made a wonderful film about it in 1970.[3]

With the wildmen reports we could also include an uncertain number of poor people or self-styled hermits who, even today, live in caves or live in self-made homes in total solitude. Such people must have been far more common in the Middle Ages, and may form the real background in the myths of the "wildmen".

We can find several recent stories of such humans in scattered geographical areas. I will begin with Germany, as this is the place where I've found the most reports, though I cannot indicate that this country is the most likely to harbour or to have harboured these creatures. The best and most recent reports come from Great Britain and Spain, though I simply do not believe any relic hominids are still there. Perhaps there is a slight chance that some are alive to the north of Spain, a partly vast and unexplored country with mountains and forests (which, I think, may have a still unidentified large species of lizard or newt), but this is so improbable that I regard it as impossible. However, see for yourself. Here are the data I have found.

German Manimals

In medieval Germany people reported a variety of hominids and humanoids. Every region of Germany has a rich tradition of encounters with wildmen and women. And there were the earth dwarfs, little manlings of tiny proportions with long white beards. Also, there were the heavy and ugly dwarfs who jumped on the backs of humans and stayed there until their heavy weight caused their victim finally to collapse — totally exhausted.

In 1635 Hans Krepel saw a "moss woman" near Saalfeld and had a chat with her.[4] On August 18, 1644, Kürfurst Johann Georg I caught a female dwarf 2 feet in height near Chemnitz (today, Karl Marx Stadt in East Germany).[5] An earthwoman tried to steal a human child and replace it with her own near Saalfeld in 1662.[6] A strange and tiny humanoid creature dwelled in a cellar in Lutzen, and was observed several times in 1665.[7] A year before, an earthdwarf was observed near Dresden.[8] Another dwarf was seen in Torgau in March 1669.[9] And finally something described as several wild women, were frequently seen near Grödisch around 1735. The description of these females sounds like the 19th century concept of apemen.[10]

An analysis of these reports, and the many additional folkloric accounts which give no exact date and place, show two main types of creatures: dwarfs that often look like humans, but with some animal features; and large, but not giant, hirsute "wildmen".

The first species is more often regarded as a "nature spirit" and may be classified as such. The second species was more commonplace, and rational explanations such as feral people can be found. But as there is also a lot of symbolism around these reports, we cannot be sure if they ever existed. If they did, and were not feral people, there would be a chance that they were surviving Neanderthal men. This has actually been suggested by several Yeti experts. But if Neanderthal men survived until the Middle Ages, did they continue to survive to the present?

In a German newspaper of the 1930s, the *Neue Mannheimer Zeitung,* I not only found many dragon reports, but also some recent wildmen accounts. The "devil", for example, appeared in August 1936 near Husum, and the witnesses all described good old Satan with all the attributes he usually is depicted as having, but it could never be established what had been walking around there.[11] In June 1937, a "man-of-the-woods" was reported to be living in the forests around Osnabruck. Police investigating the reports found that the man really did exist, and that he was a hermit.[12] The next case is the most enigmatic sighting I have found of this type of unidentified from Germany: In November 1938, two apes or monkeys (the report is not clear on this point) were observed several times around Neu Brandenburg, in Mechlenburg, now East Germany. No such animals were missing in any zoo of the region, but many people saw them play in the local trees nevertheless.[13]

And finally there were some recent German ones, the first being the case of Josef G., 49, who lived nine years like a stone-age man in the forests around Regensburg. He had built himself a cave in mud, and only came out at night searching for food in the local garbage dumps. "In 1970 I had enough of mankind," he said, and decided to go to the woods, where he hid for 9 years. He searched the dumps for clothes, shoes and tools. He also got his food the same way, with occasional petty thefts.

The local populace had long suspected the presence of the "forest man", since they had found his excrements in the fields, and his footprints in the snow, and also had discovered his thefts. However, Josef G. had perfectly camouflaged the path to this cave and never used fire or light.

When a dead pig was stolen as well as several cans of food, people began to hunt the "ghost". They eventually caught him. On February 2, 1979, he gave up his solitary life and reported to the police. He led them to his home. He still was properly clothed, washed himself daily, and so his story became a total disappointment to those who believed him to be a hairy forest man.[14]

Perhaps a similar hermit was the victim of a tragic road accident early in May 1986, but it seems we'll never know. The "naked" facts are these: A naked man took a stroll along the Cologne-Koblenz Autobahn late on May 3. He was hit by a car, smashing the windshield and killing a woman in the car by hitting her. All attempts to establish the identity of the man so far have failed, and we can only speculate as to what a naked and unidentified man was doing on the highway. I remember a similar note by Fort about a naked man who mysteriously appeared in New York. Are we dealing here with a teleported man, a lunatic, or just another (and perhaps crazy) hermit?[15]

British Snowmen

As with Germany, there are medieval wildmen reports from the British Isles. They are discussed by Shackley[2] as are the old Celtic traditions of large furry humanoids by the Bords.[16] When Britain was conquered in Roman times, Corineus, the companion of Brutus allegedly had to fight against a 12-cubits-tall giant[17] — a cubit being about 18 inches.

Britain also has some vague reports of sporadic observations of yeti-like monsters, such as the "man-monkey" with great white eyes who appeared near a bridge at Woodcote, Staffordshire, on January 21, 1879.[18] After March 17, 1923, a naked wildman appeared near Newbury, Hampshire, on the estate of Lord Carnavon (of Tut Ankh-amon fame).[19]

But by far the most sightings have come from the Cairngorm mountains in Scotland. (It seems every sort of monster is seen at sometime in Scotland: sea serpents, pumas, pterodactyls and yetis for example.) Ben Macdhui is the highest peak of the Cairngorms (4,296 ft), and is reportedly haunted by a spectre called the Big Grey Man of Ben Macdhui. Norman Collie, a London professor, had climbed the mountain and was on his way back when he heard footsteps behind him in the mist, but he said he saw nothing. This was in 1891, and 13 years later Hugh Welsh heard the footsteps under similar conditions and he, too, could see nothing. In the 1910s A.M. Kellas, an experienced Mt. Everest climber, reported seeing a 10-foot-tall human on the summit. At some unspecified date a certain Richard Frere saw what seemed to be a "great brown creature. It looked like it was covered with short, brownish hair. The creature was at least 20 feet in height." Tom Crowley saw "a huge grey figure" in the early 1920s, but could not discern any other features.

Most witnesses only heard the steps of the giant, and those who saw something strange (or thought they did) could only see a huge figure. I have hints that there have been several other sightings. Though some celebrities are among the witnesses, such as the sheriff of Aberdeen, the psychic Joan Grant, and the naturalist Alexander Tewnion, none of them could give good or useful descriptions of the creature, aside from its being tall, dark and furry.[20] It was usually regarded as phantom, and though some have theorized that it may be a British type of yeti or Abominable Snowman, there is, in fact, little evidence to support that point of view. Others think it is a psychic entity. There is little doubt that it does not exist, and my own opinion is that it could consist of a number of unrelated experiences, labeled under the same frame of interpretation. The footsteps may be

strange echos, the big figures in the mist, examples of broken spectres, and the few remaining detailed observations may be hallucinations fed by arche types that create Big Hairy Monster reports and legends in every likely and unlikely part of the world.

A Spanish Manimal?

To begin with, there have been several recent sightings of humanoid creatures in Spanish territories: On June 22, 1976, for example, mysterious beings of some 3 metres/10 feet tall were observed on the Canary Islands, and on December 1st, 1977, a human-like creature walked through the streets of the Santander hamlet of San Miguel. Both were interpreted (either by the observers, or the reporting newspaper) as extraterrestrials, yet I do not know if they were observed with UFOs being seen nearby or not.[21]

There were several reports of a large snowman-like being seen in the Vilovi district of Barcelona in February 1968. It had "a large hairy body and long arms", but "no gorillas or bears were missing from any zoos or circuses."[22] The Madrid newspaper *ABC* adds that there had been a wave of sightings of a gorilla-like "monstruo", at the border of the provinces, Gerona and Barcelona. After some days, however, the animal was caught and it proved to be an ordinary bear.[23] This was not very strange, since bears do exist in Spain today. So, we'll have to cross this "yeti" from our lists.

In April 1974 several persons reported the presence of a "mountain man" in the province Alicante. An investigation showed that it was a handicapped person living wild in the mountains.[24] Add this one to our category of hermits.

Perhaps a real relic hominid was observed in May 1979, if we can believe a newspaper report (there has been some speculation before that if Neanderthal man had survived in Europe, the most likely place would be the Pyrenees).

"They believe they saw an apeman in the Pyrenees of Huesca. Some workers affirm that it threw a tree trunk after them. A strange being, which could be an apeman, was seen by a group of woodworkers in the Pyrenees of Huesca, according to their own testimony. The workers saw the strange creature, which had a height of 1.70 meters/6 ft and was naked in a tree. It emitted strange sounds that were more like those of an animal than of a human. After it had descended quickly from the tree with the help of its arms and feet, it threw a tree trunk at the workers, and vanished into the undergrowth."

The paper also says that the place of the sighting was rarely visited, in fact, usually only during the boar-hunting season. The workers had noticed the destructions of some equipment before their sighting, and thought the animal to be responsible.[25]

Perhaps it was the same creature that was reported in March 1980. A boy, aged about 13, it was said, lived like a feral child in the forests at the French and Spanish border in the Pyrenees. It looked like an ape, and threw stones at observers who approached it, then fled.[26]

These cases could refer to a feral child, to a real relic hominid, or, what I regard as being most likely, hoaxes.

And the Rest of the Continent

Although the three countries I dealt with above have the highest number of reports, there are some other sightings so few and far between that I will list them chronologically. As with all cases already mentioned, they deal with a wide variety of phenomena!

We begin with a classical reference: Ischia and Procida, two islands to the north of the Bay of Naples, which the Greeks called Pithecusae were, according to the classical myths, the home of ape-like creatures "with long yellow hair". However, as Robert Graves points out,[27] this was a misinterpretation of the place's name, whose ethnological origin had been forgotten.

In 1937 a "wildman-of-the-woods" was observed in France — and it was generally agreed that this was some poor chap whom poverty had forced to live like a primitive.[28] Another feral man was observed in 1938 near Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, and I guess we can explain him in the same way.[29] In 1973 a "wolfchild" haunted the Abruzzi Mountains in Italy, the last of a long line of precursors.[30]

After these more common encounters, a real-life yeti was observed in Switzerland in 1974. In October of that year, a local newspaper reported that a "snowman-like creature, which seems to be related to the Neanderthal Man, who is well known to science," had been seen around the villages of Flims and Falera in the Bundener Oberland. Officials had found giant footprints which led to a dark cave, the paper reported. The mayor of the town of Falera began to investigate and found out that the news report was a hoax. The leader of a scout group had announced the presence of the monster to give some thrill to a planned game, and the paper had taken his funny note for an official announcement![31]

And finally, a wildman was caught in November 1978 in the Praterauen, the city park of Vienna. He was identified as a 41-year-old Austrian who made his home in the branches and leaves of a tree, and had managed to live undetected there for three years, feeding on food he found in garbage. This is hardly credible — a man living hidden in trees in the middle of a city like Vienna, without being found for so long.[32]

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SITUation

UFO Sightings Drop but Debate Continues

Sometime between 8 and 9 p.m. on a cloudy autumn night, newspaper reporter Bill Jackson turned his car onto a deserted Colorado road.

He stared at the northern skies in disbelief. It was 1975, and Bill Jackson was about to have a close encounter of the first kind.

Emerging from the blackness was an enormous airborne craft — "as big or bigger than a football field, with rows upon rows upon rows of lights." The craft drifted slowly and silently over his stopped car, then vanished into the night.

"I really hesitate to use the term UFO," said Jackson, now the agriculture editor of the *Greeley Tribune.*

"But you stand out there on that kind of country night when there's no moon — and all those stars out there — and you just have to wonder, "Who are we to say we're the only intelligent beings in that massive amount of space?"

His is that knotty cosmic question that's been asked since Unidentified Flying Objects first swooshed onto the scene with the Air Force's Project Blue Book in 1947. Since then, the citizenry has seen whirling disks and flying platters. They've told of flying sausages. Winged cigars. Flying yo-yos.

Then, a few years ago, it stopped.

UFOs, it seems, have all but vanished from the celestial landscape.

"These things go in significant waves, but I would say that interest in UFOs is at a fairly low ebb right now — probably the lowest ebb in 10 years," said Kendrick Frazier, a freelance science writer living in Albuquerque, N.M. Frazier is editor of *The Skeptical Inquirer,* a quarterly journal of scholarly scientific research.

Some might say that this earth-bound skepticism was born in Boulder, Colo., more typically known for its love of the ethereal. In 1966, the University of Colorado was awarded a pretigious Air Force contract to investigate and evaluate UFO sightings.

The historic and controversial University of Colorado study came to a hard-boiled conclusion: because of a lack of concrete evidence, further scientific investigation of flying saucers was unnecessary. Case closed.

Since then, several major UFO groups — determined to document the phenomenon — have disbanded. One group that remains intact, the Center for UFO Studies in Glenview, Ill., acknowledges that it has received about a third fewer reports of UFO sightings.

So what's the deal, anyway? Have extraterrestrial visitors taken a break from buzzing Earth? Or, have people finally accepted what University of Colorado scientists asserted 20 years ago — that UFOs were not worth pursuing?

"It used to be, 10 or 12 years ago, if you called the *National Enquirer* and said, "Hey, I was abducted by a flying saucer," then they would send somebody to interview you and you'd be featured on the front page," said Philip J. Klass, a journalist and author of three books debunking UFO claims.

Not so anymore, says Klass, who believes the UFO movement is running out of gas. Two reasons, he suggests, are sophistication of the news media and the fading mystique of space travel.

"In the late '40s, it was much more reasonable and rational for a *Denver Post* managing editor to say, "Yeah, you know, gee, they could be extraterrestrial," said Klass.

"But nearly 40 years have gone by, and there's not a single physical artifact. There's not a single, incontestible photo showing a craftlike object that can stand up under scrutiny," he said.

UFO buffs, of course, vehemently disagree with Klass and other spoilsports, who would deign to rain on the astral parade.

Richard Sigismond of Boulder has investigated the UFO phenomenon for more than 30 years, interviewing witnesses throughout the world, often under hypnosis.

His exhaustive research, says Sigismond, makes one thing perfectly clear: there is something out there.

"My conclusion, on the strength of the evidence, is that this country and planet have been under surveillance by a highly advanced society of unknown origin — presumably extraterrestrial," said Sigismond.

"I don't care who says otherwise. There is enough evidence."

For scientists, 1966 was a turning point in the UFO debate.

For a nation hooked on *The Twilight Zone* and *Lost in Space,* the notion of outer-space visitors was enticing. To scientists, it was a challenge.

In October, the Air Force announced its selection of University of Colorado for an exhaustive probe of UFOs. Already, the Air Force had devoted nearly two decades to investigating more than 10,000 UFO reports in its Project Blue Book.

University of Colorado was given the conclusive mission: To find out whether these sightings warranted additional scientific investigation.

Named to head the University of Colorado project was Edward U. Condon, an internationally known physicist and former director of the National Bureau of Standards. Little did Condon and university officials realize that their prestigious, two-year project would be tarnished by a bitter and vitriolic debate that continues even today.

"From the perspective of hindsight, it's perfectly clear that the investigation never was intended to be serious," said David Saunders, a former University of Colorado psychology professor who worked on the project for 15 months before being fired by Condon.

The project was fraught with bad blood; another staff member also was fired, while others resigned. After his firing, Saunders, who now lives in Princeton, N.J. fired off his own version of the investigation in his book, titled *UFOs? Yes.*

"The whole point of the Condon Commission was to give the Air Force an excuse to close the doors on Project Blue Book," said Saunders. "It was costing them money; it was costing them their reputation. It was an embarrassment to them."

Condon was an avowed skeptic, something his harshest critics interpreted as outright bias. But it was Condon's findings that most infuriated the pro-UFO faction.

Released in January 1969, Condon concluded in a 1,465-page report that further study of UFOs wasn't worth it. The $539,740 study uncovered no evidence that "flying saucers" were being flown by beings from outer space.

Not long later, the Air Force snapped shut Project Blue Book: the government was out of the flying saucer business.

To this day, Sigismond and many other UFO buffs insist that the Condon commission was wrong.

Betty Ricigliano, 52, of Golden, Colo., still recalls vividly the spring morning in 1960 when she witnessed what looked like a "submarine floating in the treetops" outside her home in Union City, N.J.

Mrs. Ricigliano rushed to the window for the closer look at the noiseless, cigar-shaped mystery descending on her neighborhood.

"It was a wonderful sight, and it was there," she said. "I know what the Goodyear blimp looks like, and this wasn't it. This is something I've never been able to explain."

Carol Del Duca, formerly of Fort Collins, Colo., still maintains that she, her husband and 4-month-old baby were abducted by aliens in western Kansas and examined by humanoids aboard a spacecraft. The couple had been returning to Fort Collins from Ohio in June 1976 when, about 1 a.m., they were confronted by "balls of light," said Mrs. Del Duca, who was 18 at the time.

Later, she said she and her husband discovered rashes on their bodies. And, she noted, they had "lost" hours of time since they first witnessed the bizarre lights.

Mrs. Del Duca claimed she was able to recall details of the close encounter while under hypnosis with Sigismond. She acknowledges that her artistic rendering of the alien looks remarkably like the "Michelin Man."

Sigismond has interviewed yet another Colorado couple, who claimed to have been brought aboard a spacecraft and medically examined.

In 1980, a Longmont, Colo. couple said they were abducted by aliens 24 miles north of Denver. Under hypnosis, Sigismond said, the Longmont man sketched a series of pictures, including a saucer-shaped craft and the face of a bald humanoid with a high forehead and hollow eyes.

That all this might sound a trifle daffy is precisely the problem, say Sigismond and other UFO supporters, who believe the UFO phenomenon is vastly under-reported.

"People still have that fear of reporting because they're afraid of being laughed at," said Sherman Larsen, a cofounder of the Center for UFO Studies in Illinois. "You might be crazy as a bed bug, but we don't laught at you here."

SOURCE: Houston *Chronicle,* TX 4/28/86

CREDIT: Scott Parker via COUD-I

UFO Intervention — The Possibility

by R. Perry Collins

The effective nullification of our capacity to wage nuclear warfare by the UFO agency or agencies has been shown to be a distinct possibility. There have been numerous incidents involving UFOs which clearly demonstrate that such intervention on a global scale is feasible. There are, in addition to these incidents, many aspects of UFO reports which tend to show that such intervention may be a primary reason for the UFO presence. Although the majority of UFO appearances are as yet mysterious, there have been a significant number of encounters which directly lead to the conclusion that we are being closely monitored and will not be allowed to destroy ourselves. These encounters include communications, usually to isolated individuals, which clearly state the concern of the UFO agents for the survival of our world.

Currently the United States and the Soviet Union, together with several other nations, have ready approximately twelve thousand delivery vehicles for nuclear weapons. Of these, approximately eight thousand are ballistic missiles — ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic missiles), IRBMs (intermediate range ballistic missiles) and SLBMs (submarine launched ballistic missiles). The remainder are delivery systems involving relatively slow jet aircraft (manned bombers and cruise missiles). Should large scale warfare erupt, the quick missile systems would begin detonating on targets within ten to thirty minutes, depending on range, followed within hours by the arrival of cruise missiles and manned bombers. It seems nothing could stop this if ever it began.

Let us look closely, however, at several examples of UFO activities involving military forces. These examples show that it is clearly within the known capabilities of the UFO agency or agencies to significantly interrupt and perhaps even nullify our nuclear warfare machine. All of the examples listed are available in the UFO literature and have been obtained through personal testimony of witnesses to investigators. In some cases, personal testimony has been followed by FOIA (Freedom Of Information Act) requests which have confirmed the reports. (Significantly, very few of these reports have been made public in the national media — the exception to this is an article in the December 10, 1978 issue of *Parade*, the weekly news magazine.) It should be noted that THESE CASES REPRESENT THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG. There have been numerous other incidents of a similar nature. To even briefly relate all those reports available in the literature would require dozens of pages. Again, there is reason to believe many more such incidents have been kept from the public for ostensibly legitimate reasons. In my opinion, this can be self-defeating. It would be to our advantage as a "civilized" world to know more of this possibly tremendous capacity of UFOs to cause physical change or alterations. Here are some cases to look at:

AUGUST, 1966 — MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, NORTH DAKOTA: An Air Force officer in a Minuteman ICBM command post, sixty feet below the surface, reported that his communication with the surface was interrupted. Simultaneously surface personnel and radar reported two UFOs over the area. An armed surface team sighted the objects, but radio communication was lost. Interceptors were launched but no contact was made, and aircraft communications also interrupted. During this incident the missiles in the facility showed a malfunction and were no longer operational.

MARCH, 1967 — CUBA: Detachment A of the 6974th Security Squadron at Homestead Air Force Base, Florida, monitored Cuban air defense communications. Monitoring indicated that their radar had picked up an unknown target over Cuban airspace and two MIG-21 jet aircraft were scrambled to intercept. The jets attempted to make radio contact with the UFO but were unable to do so. Cuban military authorities then ordered the pilots to shoot the object down. This was attempted but the object emitted some kind of "ray" and completely vaporized one of the interceptor aircraft. All tapes of this monitoring activity were delivered to the National Security Agency shortly after the incident. The NSA ordered the squadron to list the cause of the MIG-21's destruction as "equipment malfunction."

MARCH, 1967 — MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE, MONTANA: A UFO was tracked approaching a Minuteman ICBM missile site and jets were scrambled in an interception attempt. Before the jets arrived, an entire flight of missiles became inoperative. The UFO accelerated away at very high speed — the interception attempt failed.

AUGUST, 1973 — KWAJALEIN MISSILE RANGE, SOUTH PACIFIC: A Minuteman missile nose cone, test fired from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, headed for the Kwajalein test range. While being tracked on two separate radar systems and photographed by high resolution cameras, the nosecone was joined in flight by an oval object. The object was a saucer-shaped vehicle ten-feet thick and forty-feet in diameter. It joined the nosecone at a speed of 22,000 feet per second and accompanied it from an altitude of 400,000 feet down to sea level. This meant the nosecone was approached while traveling at 15,000 miles per hour at over 75 miles in altitude and its velocity and trajectory were matched as the UFO followed it down.

OCTOBER, 1974 — BINN, KOREA: A U.S. Army Air Defense Artillary Unit (Hawk antiaircraft missile site) detected a UFO approaching very rapidly from over the sea. The object halted abruptly at approximately eight hundred yards from the missile emplacement and was visually observed. It was reported to be very large, disc-shaped, with red and green counter-rotating lights around its circumference. The commanding officer of the launch facility ordered a missile fired at the object. The missile cleared its pad and the object then emitted a brilliant, white "ray" which literally melted the missile in flight and then proceeded to also destroy the remaining two missiles and launch pad. The object then rapidly departed back over the sea.

NOVEMBER, 1975 — MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE, MONTANA: An alarm at site K-7, one of twenty launch control facilities for Minuteman ICBM missiles, was activated. A Sabotage Alert Team (armed guards) was dispatched to the area. The team approached to within half a mile of the site and stopped, reported a very large glowing disc hovering low over the area. The team was ordered to proceed to the K-7 site. Team members refused to follow the order, citing the presence and size of the disc, reporting it to be as large as a football field. Two F-106 interceptors were launched from Great Falls but were unable to intercept as the UFO accelerated rapidly upwards to 200,000 feet before disappearing from radar. Ground missiles directly under the object had been affected electronically and were found to be malfunctioning. In one missile the computer coordinates in the targeting mechanism were found to have been

changed. Other UFO incidents occured at Malmstrom throughout November of 1975.

AUGUST, 1980 — KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, NEW MEXICO: Several UFO incidents were reported at Kirtland, including some from the Manzano nuclear weapons storage area. Security teams, investigating alarmed buildings, reported having sighted UFOs, and rumors that nuclear devices were missing came to the attention of investigators. On August 9th, a security guard (assigned to the Manzano area) reported a UFO at approximately 2:00 am. He was driving towards a building used to store nuclear weapons to check an activated alarm. As he approached the building he observed an object he at first thought was a helicopter. Upon close approach, he realized that the object was round and disc-shaped. He attempted to radio for a back-up patrol but his radio didn't work. As he approached the object on foot, armed with a shotgun, the object took off vertically and very rapidly. The guard was a former U.S. Army helicopter mechanic and stated that the object he observed was not a helicopter. On August 13, between 4:30 pm and 10:15 pm, Kirtland Air Force Base suffered a total blackout of its entire radar system. Radar back-up systems were also unable to operate, apparently due to jammed signals. Radio frequency monitors of the DNA (Defense Nuclear Agency), which conducts electromagnetic research at Kirtland, traced the interference to the Manzano area. Security search of the area failed to reveal the source of the interference. At 10:16 pm all radar equipment resumed normal functioning. DNA frequency monitors reported that the interference beam was widespread and of a type unknown to their electronic equipment. Investigation concluded that a foreign jamming source could not be ruled out.

JANUARY, 1981 — MORRIS, MINNESOTA: Two F-4 Phantom jet aircraft crashed while in pursuit of a UFO. Witnesses, including local police, reported a UFO hovered at approximately 1000 feet at 11:25 pm. Several witnesses reported being in touch with each other by radio at the time. Suddenly two jets were seen approaching at near treetop level, moving towards the UFO. One jet appeared to fire an air-to-air missile (later revealed to have been a "sidewinder" heat-seeking weapon). Almost immediately the hovering UFO emitted an intense, silent flash, seen over a wide area. A secondary flash, accompanied by an explosion, followed. The object then "falls from the sky," trailing sparks. As the UFO lost altitude, its color changed to a glowing blue-white. It stabilized and then accelerated very rapidly upward at a forty-five degree angle (changed color to red-orange) and disappeared into the northwestern sky. Both F-4s crashed immediately after the flashes. Investigators at the crash site found indications that the fired missile had exploded prematurely and that both aircraft were armed, with missile stanchions evident. All four crew members bailed out and survived but all had suffered retina burns.

DECEMBER, 1981 — RESERVE, NEW MEXICO: Citizens of Reserve watched as Air Force jets chased a huge, cylindrical object in various directions over the town for more than an hour. The object was estimated to be nearly one-half mile in length and was described by witnesses to have been "as large as four 747's linked together." The object stayed just ahead of the jets in level flight and performed abrupt right-angle turns which the jets could not follow.

OCTOBER, 1985 — BRIDGEPORT, FAIRFIELD and BETHEL, CONNECTICUT: At the culmination of a UFO wave over New York and Connecticut dating from 1983, several thousand witnesses, including two prominent police chiefs, watched a UFO of tremendous size move at less than one thousand feet over their towns. One Chief, amazed at the sight, wandered into the woods behind the house of the police lieutenant he was visiting that evening, to watch the object. Upon his return he stated: "It's huge! Where's our defense against such a thing?" Nearly a thousand calls came into police dispatchers in the area that evening.

These cases amply illustrate the activities and capabilities demonstrated by some UFOs. The incidents cited here indicate that UFOs may have purposefully demonstrated exactly what they are capable of doing. Missile and radar systems have been electronically nullified, jets and antiaircraft missiles have been destroyed and flight characteristics have been displayed which would enable the interception of even extremely fast moving re-entry vehicles. Energy weapons of UFOs have been used effectively in such a manner as to show that our technology in this regard is in its infancy. There can be no doubt that UFOs not only have the capability to closely monitor nuclear weapons areas, but they have also demonstrated the ability to destroy or immobilize present nuclear weapons delivery systems.

The logistics of such an operation are also clearly within the known scope of the UFO agency. Assuming the operational vehicles of the UFO agency would have the firepower demonstrated at Binn, Korea, the speed and agility demonstrated over Kwajalein and the ECM (electronics counter measures) characteristics displayed over various Minuteman ICBM sites, we may safely conclude that one such vehicle would have little difficulty nullifying or destroying at least twenty automatic missile systems on, or shortly after, launch. Knowing that the United States, the Soviet Union and other nuclear powers have approximately 8000 such automatic systems, we then must postulate 8000/20 as the number of UFOs needed to stop an attempted war. Are 400 such UFOs available to the UFO agency at any one time? The answer is yes. In August, 1965, a wave of UFO activity moved up through South and Central America and swept over Texas, then over the mid-western states and out over the Atlantic via New England. The number of UFOs simultaneously displayed by this wave was several times four hundred. In October, 1973 more than fifty cities and towns across the United States reported UFOs within one twenty-four hour period. Other intensive UFO waves have shown the agency or agencies involved to have an excessive number of vehicles in this regard.

There are other indications on the part of the UFO agency of their intent to prevent nuclear war on our planet. Often close encounters with UFOs present evidence of this intent. Although not all close encounters follow this pattern, a significant number are similar to the following examples:

AUGUST, 1957 — An Argentine Air Force plane crashed near the town of Quillino. Three soldiers were assigned to guard the wreckage until equipment arrived to take the parts back to its base. On the night of August 20th, two of the men went into town for supplies, leaving the third to pass the time in their tent. He began hearing an unusually high-pitched humming noise and stepped out of the tent to investigate. He was amazed to see a large, glowing, metallic disc hovering above him, and attempted to draw his pistol. For some reason he could not get the gun out of its holster. A soft voice suddenly came from the object and, speaking the soldier's language, advised him to be unafraid. "We intend to help you," continued the voice, "for the misuse of atomic energy threatens to destroy you." The voice went on to explain that the world would soon know more about these disc-shaped craft. The vehicle then rapidly accelerated upwards and disappeared. Greatly upset, the soldier told his com-

manding officer the entire story. His C.O., finding no reason to disbelieve him, relayed the story to the media. The full account was published by *Diaro de Cordoba,* one of Argentina's leading newspapers, two days later.

APRIL, 1959 — PIATA, BRAZIL. On the twenty-fourth of April, Helio Aguiar, a thirty-two year old accountant, was riding a motorcycle near the beach when he observed a silvery, domed disc with windows, moving slowly overhead. He stopped and took three photographs of the object and was winding his camera for the fourth when he began to feel a pressure in his brain, and a state of progressive confusion overtook him. He felt vaguely as though he were being ordered by someone to write something down. It was as though he were being hypnotized. He passed out. Upon waking he found himself slumped over his cycle, a piece of paper clutched in his hand. On it, in his own handwriting, was a message: "Put an absolute stop to all atomic tests for warlike purposes. The balance of the universe is threatened. We shall remain vigilant and ready to intervene." The pictures were developed and clearly show a domed disc moving over the nearby shore.

DECEMBER, 1967 — ASHLAND, NEBRASKA: In the early morning hours of December 3, Officer Herbert Schirmer of the Ashland Police Department experienced a close encounter with a UFO. He approached close to it in his patrol car. Later, upon return to police headquarters he wrote a brief report: "Saw a flying saucer at the junction of highways 6 and 63. Believe it or not!" The report was published in the Lincoln and Omaha newspapers as there had been a large number of UFO reports in the area and interest was high. Subsequently Schirmer was interviewed by several groups of investigators, including some from the University of Colorado UFO project. It was determined that the police officer could not account for a period of time from after the sighting until his report at the police station. After several hypnotic sessions, the story of what apparently happened was revealed: The patrolman described how he was approached by several humanoid beings from the UFO and persuaded to go aboard the craft where he spoke with one of these entities. Among the statements to Schirmer brought out by hypnosis were the following: "This is an observation ship with a four-man crew...there is much to explain" ...They have been observing us for a long time — he didn't know how long — but they put out reports slowly to prepare us...Everyone should believe in them somewhat, but not overly so....He says our people are very hostile...Earth people do not do things in the right way to prepare us for the invasion...not to conquer the world, but just a showing of themselves."

Admittedly, not all close encounters involve such an exchange of information. In evaluating the range of UFO episodes where beings are clearly seen and described, we can make three distinct observations:

A) There are separate "groups" (or agencies) of UFO entities, correlated by entity and craft descriptions.

B) There are several logical paradoxes inherent in the manifestations of these "groups."

C) Those "groups" MOST OFTEN OBSERVED AND REPORTED show ongoing interest in us and seem to have investment in our continued growth and existence as a species.

These three statements are general observations I gleaned from an overall study of the UFO phenomenon, especially those UFO interactions where communication is established with isolated individuals. A book could be written elaborating these statements; in conjunction with the military demonstrations mentioned, they lead directly to the conclusion that UFO intervention is a possibility in our future. We will briefly touch on each statement here in order to give the reader a framework for the understanding of the incidents related at the beginning of the article.

The "grouping" idea of UFO reports is not a new one, however classification systems usually have been based on the actions of the UFO itself, not on the interactions between crew members and individuals involved. The idea of more clearly defined "groupings" was first brought out in the conclusion to a U.S. Air Force Academy textbook section on UFOs (1969-1972):

> "This leaves us with the unpleasant possibility of alien visitors to our planet, or at least of alien control of UFOs. However the data are not well correlated and what questionable data there are suggest the existence of at least three and maybe four different groups of aliens (possibly at different stages of development). This too is difficult to accept. It implies the existence of intelligent life on a majority of the planets in our solar system, or a surprisingly strong interest in Earth by members of other solar systems."

Extrapolating from this statement, and reviewing the many cases of entity reports in UFO encounters, we can establish some descriptive outlines of the "groups of aliens:"

GROUP I — Many reports of UFO entities relate the observation of beings entirely human in appearance. Occasionally such beings are said to have slightly higher foreheads than normal, and higher cheekbones, but usually such distinctions are not made. This group of "aliens" is characterized by their friendly nature, by their contacts only with isolated individuals and by their expressed concern for the well-being of our planet.

GROUP II — Humanoid, but definitely not human-shaped, members of this group are described as short (four to five feet tall), erect, with large chest cavities, thin lips, very small or no noses and very unusual eye openings which seem to extend around the sides of faces that are thinner than our own. These people also contact isolated individuals, but are much more clinical in their approach, often conducting physical examinations of those individuals contacted and suppressing memories of the contactees by amnesia, apparently hypnotically induced.

GROUP III — More of a grouping than a clearly defined group, Group III includes all of the reports of "small humanoids." These beings seem very cautious in their approach to humans, and also are sometimes found to have used hypnotic amnesia to suppress memories of contact. Although several subgroups of small humanoids can be distinguished, one group stands out among these. This group is characterized by very small stature (three to four feet tall), large heads (up to twice human size) and large, oval eyes. They also appear to be more human-like than Group II and have occasionally been reported in association with members of Group I.

GROUP IV — This group or grouping is made up of "unique" descriptions of unusual entities seen in association with UFOs. Very large beings, bird-like beings, bigfoot-type creatures and various other strange entities make up an unusually large percentage of UFO encounter reports. These reports are grouped as "unique" as they very seldom are reported more than once in an area.

The logical paradoxes manifested by these groups are many, but two stand out most prominently. By the standards of our current scientific knowledge, Group I should not exist. Human beings are the evolutionary product of only one planet: Earth. Human beings with exactly similar features to our own would have had to evolve on a planet with the same microbes, the same plants, the same mammals, the same fish and reptiles as our

own. The possibility of such an exact duplicate of "Earthlings" is very close to zero — if the evolutionary procedure is correct.

The large numbers of UFO reports and the variety of beings reported are also considered impossible by our current scientific outlook. Mathematical considerations of the size of our galaxy, the distances between stars, the speed of light as a limiting factor and the probable number of advanced civilizations within reasonable traveling distances give us a much smaller number of visitors. Some scientists have calculated that at most we should be receiving no more than one visit every thirty years.

By the media standards of our current scientific world view, either the totality of UFO reports are nonsense or our scientific paradigm is in its infancy. There is far too much evidence of the reality of the UFO phenomenon to declare it a massive illusion. If we open ourselves to the possibilities of realities other than those we now entertain, the UFO phenomenon becomes much more understandable.

In this light, the groups reported and the seeming paradoxes that accompany an acceptance of the reports go far towards an explanation of why some of them may be interested in our survival and growth, even to the point of intervention. The humans reported may be intimately related to us. The plurality of UFO appearances indicate origins we may not as yet generally understand. Other probable worlds may exist alongside our own. Other dimensions, directly affected by what happens here, could exist. Time travel or movements through time/space in ways we do not understand could be possible. Our future could be intimately linked with the UFO phenomenon. Certainly the evidence of encounters with Groups I and II and with the small humanoids show them to be very interested in our progress. Certainly the large numbers of UFOs reported in recent times show an unusually strong concern with our planet. And certainly those few UFO/military interactions that do come to our attention clearly show that the UFO agencies have the capacity to intervene, should we attempt self-destruction.

Why hasn't there been open contact with our world as a whole? It may be that we are presently far too primitive to survive such contact. The beings representative of the UFO phenomenon could be as far in advance of us as we are of cave dwellers. Certainly a group of cave dwellers would be devastated if brought into contact with our world. In a similar manner, our world could be shocked beyond repair by open contact with a mature galactic federation. We may survive the present follies of our "civilization" and go on to grow into a more reasonable species, exploring our solar system and expanding our knowledge of ourselves and our universe. In such a case we may be openly contacted at a future time in our evolution when such contact would not be an abrupt shock to our culture.

We may also attempt sudden suicide in the form of nuclear warfare. Such an attempt could bring intervention almost as shocking as warfare itself. The persistent low-level waves of UFO appearances over the years may be designed to cushion that shock.

Without openly presenting themselves to established bodies of authority and through large numbers of appearances to people in all walks of life, UFOs over the past four decades have established an almost mythical acceptance of their existence. Without throwing our world into a state of cultural shock, UFOs have established their presence among a majority of the population. At the same time, purposeful demonstrations at military installations have clearly shown the capacity of the UFO agency to intervene in our affairs. The message is clear. Intervention is a distinct possibility.

Editor's Note: *An interesting concept came to our attention recently and we offer it here for consideration by our readers; namely, that the destruction of the U.S. Challenger space shuttle (and several other U.S. rockets following launch, recently), and the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl in the U.S.S.R.* may *not have been due to any human carelessness, accident or sabatoge but to UFO intervention to force both sides to negotiate nuclear weapons testing, placement, quantities, etc.*

We do not know if this concept is based on fact, therefore it does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the author of the above article or the editor.



Chernobyl and the Apocalypse - A Curious Coincidence

by Luis Schoenherr

In the Revelation of Saint John the Divine, there are, in Chapter 8, the following two verses:

verse 10 —

> And the third angel sounded and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of the waters;[1]

verse 11 —

> And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.[1]

Recently a German professor, Gerhard Birkfellner, of Muenster, has drawn the attention to the fact that wormwood is a composite of the species *Artemisia vulgaris*, for which in turn the equivalent Ukrainian word is 'Chernobyl'.

The word 'wormwood' in the Authorized Version stands for the Greek 'Αψινθος'(apsinthos) in the original text. According to a recent textbook,[2] the word apsinthos was applied to the local *Artemisia herbaalba*, because this species of wormwood covers vast stretches of desert in Israel. The reference in the Revelation, to a 'great star, burning as it were a lamp' however, can by no stretch of imagination be read as 'fall-out'. The word 'αστερος' used in the Greek text forbids such an interpretation clearly.

To what degree the statements concerning the waters will prove correct nobody can say now. The damaged reactor core has been sealed with concrete, but how long it will remain so and how long the cooling will work and how long the radioactivity can be kept away from ground-water level, is an open question. In large parts of Europe rainwater has been contaminated by atmospheric fall-out and the warning, not to ingest surface water is still in force, while spring waters are permanently being monitored for radioactivity.

1. *The Holy Bible*, containing the Old and New Testaments, authorized (King James) version, The Gideons International, 212 East Superior Street, Chicago Illinois, 1959 Edition.
2. Michael Zohary, *Plants of the Bible*, Cambridge University Press, page 184.



The Planetary Grid Revisited

by John T. Sinkiewicz

Since my first article on the grid (or world-energy matrix) in ***PURSUIT,*** volume 15, #1, many have written me requesting further information on this subject. Many others have written to the publisher of ***PURSUIT***. This article is then in response to those many friends whose interest is in exploring further the possibilities contained within such a grand system. Any questions that might arise from this article should be addressed to me c/o the publisher and not to me personally.

In the five years since I put the elements for my first article together many new items and a number of errors relative to the original manuscript have been uncovered. Several items of numerical error were induced by my use of a pocket calculator for the original calculations. These have been corrected in this article with the use of my PC level computer. Other aspects of the grid have gone through adjustments in form and concept.

The first concept that must be set aside is that the earth will and has flipped on its axis. Further research has shown me that this is an error in translation of the available data. The earth's magnetic poles do wander and change their polarity with the advent of new cycles within the natural system. This magnetic change does provide the dynamic thrust which throws the axial poles slightly out of true alignment. When the magnetic poles do settle into their correct positions for this system change, the axial poles will return to their proper N1 and S1 positions. I will deal with this in more detail further on in the article.

The available data for my original grid article and the subsequent follow-up article was lacking in its ability to provide me with more than one known point on the grid with which to work. My use of the offset of the pyramid face perpendicularity to true north were my only tools with which to develop the grid alignments. At the time I was very aware of the shortcomings of this approach and endeavored through very meticulous research and mathematical accuracy to compensate for any errors that might creep in. In general it seems that approach did quite well except for a few interpolation errors in calculating the southern hemisphere locations.

Sometime in late 1983 or early 1984 I happened across a most remarkable fellow researcher by the name of A.M. Davie of Alloa, Scotland. This gentleman and I have been interacting and sharing our mutual research efforts ever since. We have, between us, discovered many new and unrealized aspects of the world grid. His lifelong research into what is now known as the "Catastrophe Theory" was centered around the world grid interactions, or dis-harmonics. Through our dialogue, and my playing around with a soccer ball, I discovered that there are six equator-like primary energy bands that form a unique pattern about the earth. Along about the same time period we both worked out that the arrangement outside of Alloa Scotland known as "Gart-Ten-Star Hill" was another major location on the earth's energy makeup. Shortly after this Mr. Davie found that the city proper of Alloa is identical in layout to Jerusalem. He had overlaid a map of Jerusalem and one of Alloa to the same scale and marked on the Alloa map where the markers were on the Jerusalem map. After digging down, in some cases several feet, he indeed found all of the identical ancient markers. Further research disclosed that the city of Alloa (or the original Jerusalem) is at least 15,000 years old.

Mr. Davie has for many years been able to translate any language on earth into the ancient Scottish tongue Gaelic (not Irish as thought by many) which strongly indicates this area to be where all was of one tongue and from which all modern nations grew. When those known as the Hittite nations split away from the main body of this one nation they reconstructed their original homeland's (Scotland) holy city on their new homeland, known today as Jerusalem (City of Light).

The monument located just outside of the original Jerusalem (Alloa) was found to have alignments which strongly indicated that it was on the grid system and also provided the means for all measurements used by ancient man; many of which are still in existence today.

I found through much research and review that the monument Gart-Ten-Star Hill and Alloa have moved only slightly, and then only along its energy band, in the thousands of years since its original alignment. Thus I now had what I did not have at the time of my first two articles on the World Grid, a second major grid junction location, the results of which are contained in the recalculations in figure 1.

Other items that might be of interest also surfaced from this research. For example, it was found that the star Arcturus is the true alignment star for this planet's north magnetic pole, with Sirius holding the same relationship for our south magnetic pole. Likewise, there is strong evidence that there is a sympathetic energy alignment star for each of the grid positions listed in figure 1. Another interesting development was the discovery that there are not just two poles on the earth (i.e...the axial and the magnetic) but three, the entire equator being the third. This kind of interrelationship offers some very interesting possibilities for new energy concepts and devices, with adequte funding.

There is a term which is used to describe the alignment of the many ancient monuments through Malta, Spain, France and Great Britain, it is called the "Crescent Dawn". This mysterious alignment has puzzled many until now. The energy band that connects N1 to N2 inscribes the Crescent Dawn perfectly. Not only that, but if you will also note, it closely parallels the present zero line that establishes Greenwich time. It seems that the ancient surveyors passed on their knowledge to us without our even knowing it.

One other thing that should be passed on to you, my readers, is that these world grid patterns (three in all) do not maintain their static positions over the earth, which would be very convenient but not realistic. Rather, they form standing wave patterns that shift slightly from time to time, but in this shifting they maintain their vortex effect in the original static pattern.

The Earth As A Motor

My research into the earth and it's grid systems has revealed how similar the earth is to an electric motor. In fact, I feel that Hindershot and others who developed what are called "free energy motors" used the earth grid pattern as the basis for their motor windings. The secret to the success of their motors was several times stated (by Hindershot and others) to be in the winding pattern of the field coil.

My inquiries into how the energy bands, pyramids (which by

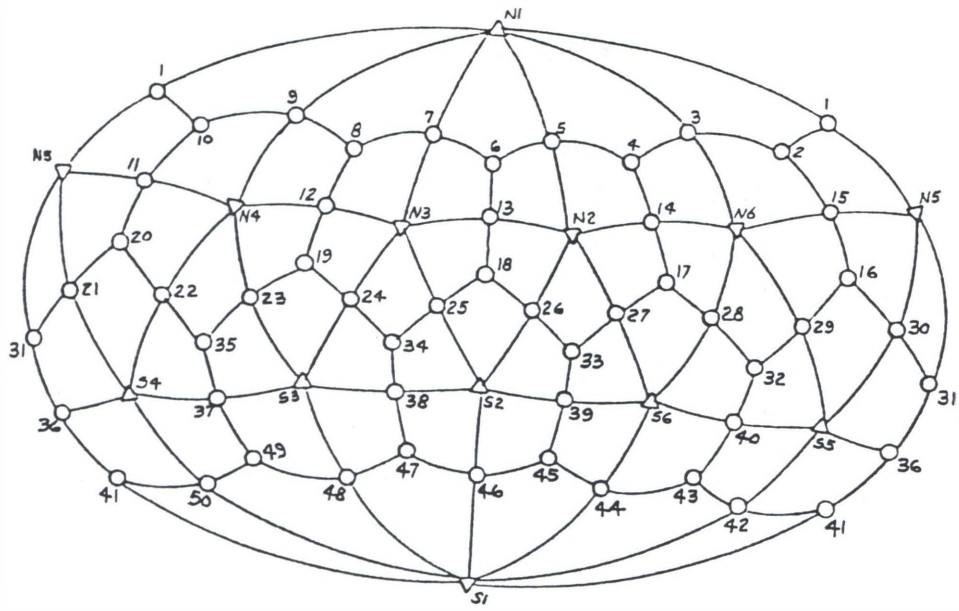


Figure 1

N1-87°56'52.5088"N - 0°43'04.9072"W
N2-24°31'00.0727"N - 4°08'16.3962"W
N3-26°02'00.5331"N - 75°13'01.9718"W
N4-28°17'23.4593"N - 147°37'11.235"W
N5-28°08'28.669"N - 139°07'23.6689"E
N6-25°47'52.7936"N - 66°52'01.868"E
S1-87°56'52.5088"S - 179°16'55.0928"E
S2-28°08'28.669"S - 40°52'36.3311"W
S3-25°47'52.7936"S - 113°07'58.132"W
S4-24°31'00.0727"S - 175°51'43.6038"E
S5-26°02'00.5331"S - 104°46'58.0282"E
S6-28°17'23.4593"S - 32°22'48.765"E
1-59°50'28.1134"N - 137°34'30.2199"E
2-53°05'29.2994"N - 101°09'54.2847"E
3-57°28'51.2197"N - 64°47'34.6944"E
4-50°52'44.6088"N - 30°25'47.4968"E
5-56°14'02.4744"N - 4°00'30.4556"W
6-51°01'12.2892"N - 38°33'58.4813"W
7-57°42'47.5785"N - 73°02'28.2743"W
8-53°19'53.4594"N - 109°38'34.2876"W
9-59°59'40.7228"N - 146°18'10.1903"W
10-54°40'14.6772"N - 175°37'46.8944"E
11-33°45'56.4718"N - 175°43'19.5563"E
12-32°26'56.0236"N - 110°59'41.1966"W
13-30°07'28.7886"N - 39°25'18.2677"W
14-29°58'51"N - 31°09'E
15-32°12'37.8187"N - 102°33'35.8385"E
16-11°19'12.5718"N - 103°24'51.1201"E
17-9°04'48.3793"N - 31°36'36.4969"E
18-9°13'32.5667"N - 39°58'00.9468"W
19-11°33'26.8954"N - 111°49'07.6137"W
20-12°51'38.1194"N - 175°46'36.8759"E
21-1°54'34.2634"N - 157°47'26.9004"E
22-1°59'11.4031"N - 166°11'16.6863"W
23-1°18'16.3206"N - 130°10'43.8814"W
24-0°07'28.1798"N - 94°11'40.8015"W
25-1°06'10.9906"S - 58°12'48.7881"W
26-1°54'34.2528"S - 22°12'33.91"W
27-1°59'11.3958"S - 13°48'44.1241"E
28-1°18'16.2982"S - 49°49'16.9285"E
29-0°07'28.1508"S - 85°48'20.008"E
30-1°06'11.0151"N - 121°47'12.0216"E
31-9°13'32.5667"S - 140°01'59.0532"E
32-11°33'26.8954"S - 68°10'52.3863"E
33-12°51'38.1194"S - 4°13'23.1241"W
34-11°19'12.5718"S - 76°35'08.8799"W
35-9°04'48.3793"S - 148°23'23.5031"W
36-30°07'28.7886"S - 140°34'41.7323"E
37-29°58'51"S - 148°51'W
38-32°12'37.8187"S - 77°26'24.1615"W
39-33°45'56.4718"S - 4°16'40.4437"W
40-32°26'56.0236"S - 69°00'18.8034"E
41-51°01'12.2891"S - 141°26'01.5187"E
42-57°42'47.5785"S - 106°57'31.7257"E
43-53°19'53.4594"S - 70°21'25.7124"E
44-59°59'40.7228"S - 33°41'49.8097"E
45-54°40'14.6772"S - 4°22'13.1056"W
46-59°50'28.1134"S - 42°25'29.7801"W
47-53°05'29.2994"S - 78°50'05.7153"W
48-57°28'51.2197"S - 115°12'25.3056"W
49-50°52'44.6088"S - 149°34'12.5032"W
50-56°14'02.4744"S - 175°59'29.5444"E

NOTE:

N1 is the true north axial pole, (14) is the Giza Pyramid, (5) is the original Jerusalem, (42) is the true south magnetic pole, (7) is the true north magnetic pole.

the way means "fire in the center" pyr-a-mid) and poles interrelate has resulted in my discovering that the earth is indeed a functional DC motor, with each of these elements playing an appropriate role. I do not mean to imply by this that the earth energy is DC in nature for it surely is not *just* that.

Figure 2 shows a straight line diagram of the earth and its main components. This is also the straight line diagram for a stabilized shunt-wound DC motor. This style of motor is a relatively new approach to DC motor design, becoming available commercially only about ten years ago. This design allows for the motor speed, torque and stability to be controllable to a high degree. This design also allows for the stable reversal of the motor's rotation, something that the earth apparently does from time to time. This design also allows the motor to have its speed reduced by changing the flow to the off-phase shunt (the North Magnetic Pole). At the same time the torque of the motor is increased bringing about even greater stability.

Figure 3 shows that the Giza Pyramid in Egypt is located directly on one of the two energy bands that comprise the true North Magnetic Pole location. This allows the pyramid to act as a resistor to the flow to the North Magnetic Pole, thus providing a means to control the speed and stability of this planet. The significance of this recognition could be used to develop many new and useful devices for the advancement of humankind on earth. Therefore I do hope that someone with the financial resources (which I do not have) can take the information presented in this article and do something useful with it.

The Earth As A Symphony of Harmonics

If asked, most of those who do any research into such things will tell you that the natural frequency of this planet is eight (8) cps or Hertz (hz). In actuality, there is not any one particular frequency that is the natural frequency of the planet. There are in fact six such frequencies (one for each energy band), none of which is eight hz. These six frequencies act as carrier waves for the much higher frequencies that are used in the earth's grid matrix. They are, all six, a natural harmonic to the color green at a slightly different phase. The sum of which results in this planets natural green tone (apple green).

I will number the bands one through six as follows; band number one intersects grid nodes around the equator, band number two intersects grid nodes (28), (14), (5), (7), (12), (23) etc., band number three intersects grid nodes (22), (11), (1), (3), (14), (27) etc., band number four intersects grid nodes (21), (11), (9), (7), (13), (26) etc., band number five intersects grid nodes (25), (13), (5), (3), (15), (30) etc., band number six intersects grid nodes (29), (15), (1), (9), (12), (24) etc.

From the above information we can outline the elements that bring organization to the tonal harmonics of this planet. The natural frequency of the bands is the result of dividing the speed of light for this system (186,300 miles/sec.) by the circumference of each band. The circumference of the bands are calculated as follows; band number one 24,774 mi. cir., band number two, 24,385 mi. cir., band number three 24,708 mi. cir., band number four 23,885 mi. cir., band number five 25,176 mi. cir., and band number six is 24,906 miles in circumference. In these figures I have tried to take into account the relative elevations (from sea level to mountain tops) of the bands in their passage around the planet. The natural frequency resulting for each band is; band number one 7.52 hz., band number two 7.64 hz., band number three 7.54 hz., band number four 7.8 hz., band number five 7.4 hz. and band number six is 7.48 hz.

I have outlined here how the tonal harmonics for this planet are arrived at but I feel it to be of value to others who might wish to undertake further research into these areas. There are those who would say that the difference between 7.4 hz., 7.8 hz. and the original common number of 8 hz. is of little consequence. That would be a mistake, for I have calculated sixty octaves for each of these base tones and related them to the 8 hz. reference and there was quite a difference in the upper ranges of human sound audibility let alone the differences incurred in the electromagnetic ranges that result in color to our eyes. My reasons for doing such an exercise were several but the prime reason was to develop a set of natural musical scales that would better suit the several regions that the six bands pass through. I feel that a significant increase in the overall harmony of any given region would be the result of basing the music of the cultures on the natural harmonics of their location rather than any poorly derived universal musical scale. It is also my conclusion that the works of Pythagoras were toward such an end. Another use for this data in an application toward the balancing of the human system, is to build a natural earth room (dodecahedron in shape) with three to six speakers mounted so as to focus to the center of the shape's interior. Then by placing an energy-unbalanced person in the center of this room and hooking up an aura feedback system to read the individuals energy envelope, correctly balanced sine-wave tones from the natural earth harmonics could be directed into the room and bring about system balance in that person. One interesting side effect (which would, by the way, enhance the process) is that the room's atmosphere would spontaneously exhibit the color harmonics of the tones being played. This results from the excitation of the particular energy bands of the atoms which make up their interior atmosphere. Again, there is much room for development here.

For those of you who have an interest in this line of research the following additional data should be useful. My research has resulted in the twelve-tone octave being developed as follows: C - C# = 1.067871094, C# - D = C# x 1.125, D - D# = D x 1.201354981, D# - E = D# x 1.265625, E - F = E x 1.333333, F - F# = F x 1.423828125, F# - G = F# x 1.5, G - G# = G x 1.601806641, G# - A = 1.6875, A - A# = A x 1.802032471, A# - B = A# x 1.8984375, and B on to C2 is C1 x 2. There should also be a comma shift or jump between the seventh octave B and the eighth octave C of an additional 1.013643265, that is to say C8 = (C7 x 2) x 1.013643265. This jump should be carried on throughout the number of octaves being calculated in the same relationship as outlined above. This pattern relates to the work of Pythagoras.

Through my efforts with Mr. Davie we have developed another natural octave relationship that results from natural-grid harmonics. This grid harmonic relationship places the octaves in the following system; 1, 2, 4, 8, 16.5, 33, 66, and 135.275. This system results in two commas or jumps, one of 2.0625 between the fourth and fifth octave and one of 2.0496212121 between the seventh and eighth octave. This system retains the tone-to-tone relationship outlined earlier. Only the octave relationships change somewhat. The colors associated with the several tones are the same as those relating to the octaves, namely octave one = red, octave two = orange, octave three = yellow, octave four = green, octave five = blue, octave six = indigo, octave seven = violet and of course octave eight = red again. I have not developed any names for the five semitones but research has shown them to be the same as the five vowels (A, E, I, O, U). It is this vowel relationship to nature's semitones which has much to do with the phenomenon of human spontaneous combustion. For that action is also a function resulting from certain grid dis-harmonic interactions.

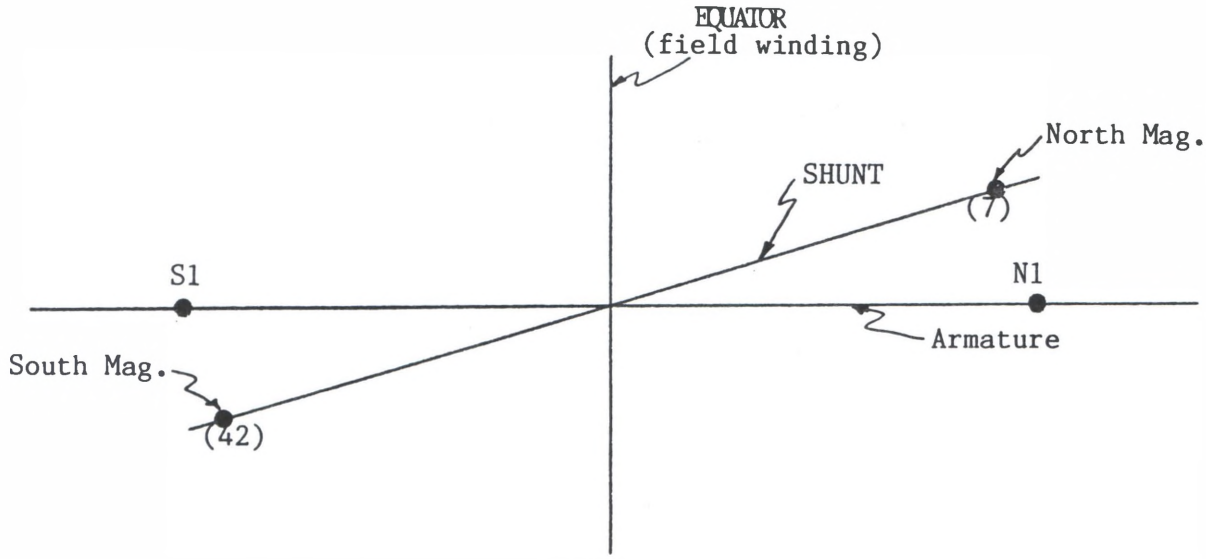


Figure 2

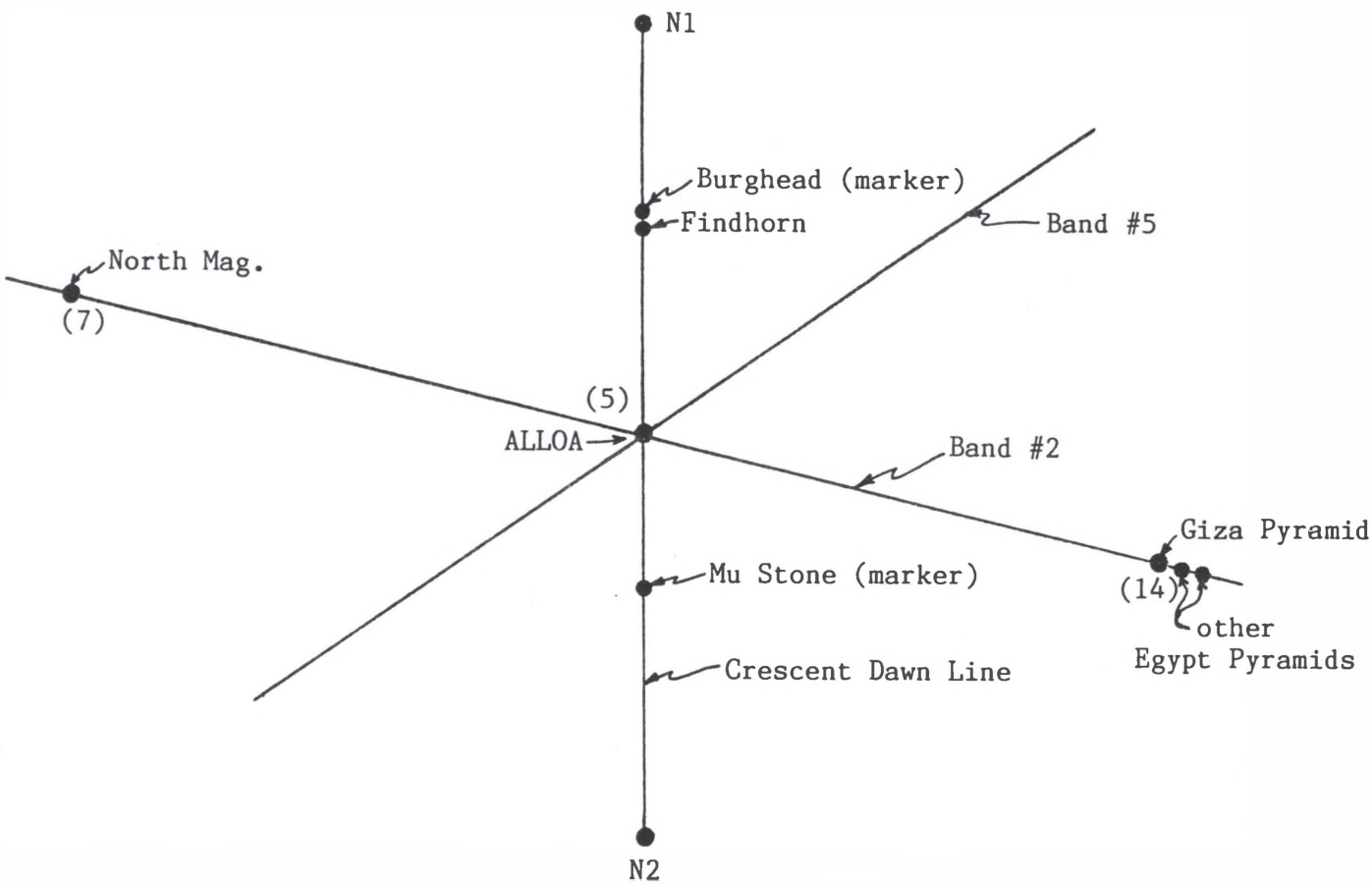


Figure 3

About Mr. Davie

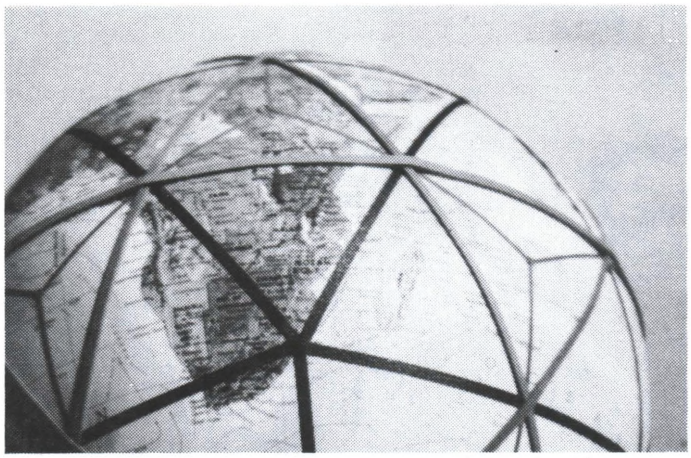
No article on the interrelationships of the grid and its harmonics would be complete by me if I did not include some information on the research and work of my friend and fellow researcher Mr. A. W. Davie.

Mr. Davie has been working on the world grids and their interactions to all aspects of life since he was a young man, about forty years ago. Since then his work has developed into what he terms "The Catastrophe Theory". The formulations that have been developed from this theory are patented by Mr. Davie, which show much in the validity of his work. For the past decade or so, Mr. Davie has been working closely with the officials of the Fire Marshal's Office, the Police Dept., the University of Scotland and other departments to assist in solving the many mysterious fires, crimes, illnesses, earthquakes, and deaths among other things, through the application of the formulas which relate the earth grids to these activities.

His track record is (to those less aware) nothing short of spectacular. He can successfully describe the features, clothing, and colors associated with the perpetrator of any type of crime, simply by evaluating the harmonic relationships of the time and location of the event by direct association to the grid. He is able to go to the site of a large turbine whose main bearing has gone "bad" and through some calculations drive a metal stake into the ground in a particular relationship to the turbine and the sound ceases, never again to be a bother. He has forecasted many earthquakes and their intensity with almost no error in accuracy as to time and location. This work is in conjunction with a major California University that uses its vast computer data base to provide the raw data.

His research into the great fire at the soccer stadium in England (at the request of the authorities) showed that the fire was the result of several people who spontaneously combusted at the same moment. Further review of the video tapes and other data strongly supported this conclusion. I could go on much more concerning Mr. Davie and his work but I feel that this small example shows the scope of his talents.

I have a suggestion for those of you who wish to have a better view of the three world grids and how they interrelate. Get yourself a world globe and some small dots and tape from a chart pack supplier, plus a package of the large diameter narrow red rubber bands sold by various stationery or department stores. I find that two different colors and width tape is the best. I use 1/16th wide green tape for the dodecahedron pattern and



black 1/8th wide tape for the icosahedron. The rubber bands I use for the six energy bands. First I locate the dots to all of the nodes listed in figure 1. Then I connect the dodecahedron pattern, next the icosahedron pattern, and finally the rubber bands for the energy bands. The resulting layout gives one such a clear view of how energy systems interrelate so that for anyone interested in these subjects this simple model will help them in their understanding of the grid systems. (See photo above.)

I do hope that this article will be of interest and value to many of you who find these areas totally fascinating as I do. Good discovering to you all. Write if you wish to interact, but as I said before, through the publisher of *PURSUIT*.

Editor's Note: *The statement that spontaneous combustion was the cause of the stadium fire in Bradford, England, in which 53 persons died on May 11, 1985, seemed so incredible that I questioned the author further about it. He was kind enough to send other material by Mr. Davie regarding that particular incident.*

Briefly, Davie said the fire occurred precisely (time-wise) in a precalculated geophysically hazardous area.

"What appears to happen is that inherent temperature increases, caused by ionization, and [thus] is capable of increased thermo-electrical activity to the point when surrounding materials ignite. ..."

In FIRE *magazine for Nov. 1985, Mr. Davie stated, "It is well-known that some metals can actually produce flames, but until now metals such as iron, copper and aluminum have been considered to be non-combustible.*

Related SITUation

The Sense of Site

In ancient China, even the Emperor would never start a building without first getting the go-ahead from the Feng Shui man.

The practice continues in China today. Feng Shui experts are highly-tuned psychics, brought in to make sure than any new building is in the spiritually correct position.

They also advise on building interiors. Colours and furnishings must harmonise with the psychic mood of the land on which the building stands.

All sites, they say, have a unique "feel," an atmosphere caused by currents of energy that flow through the landscape.

The energy, which they call Ch'i, influences every aspect of a person's life. If you build in harmony with it, you and your house will prosper. If not, you risk ill health and misfortune.

The sacred art of positioning, as it is known, is rather forgotten in the West.

Nevertheless, many people claim to be highly "place sensitive" and insist that you don't need to be a Feng Shui expert to be aware of this ability.

To begin awakening your sense of "feel" for places, try this simple mental exercise. Picture some of the places you pass during the course of your daily life (the shops, the car park, or just a location that springs to mind).

Certain spots will stand out as having good associations while others will be neutral or uncomfortable.

If you now ask a friend or two from the same area for their impressions of local places, you will be surprised to find how often their feelings of easy and uneasy places match up with yours.

In the UK there are groups who believe in the existence of earth currents.

Recently, I received a report from one such organization whose research indicates that earth energies, which for thousands of years have focused on ancient sacred sites such as Stonehenge, are beginning to shift their centers to more modern "profane" places.

Among them are town halls, political headquarters, TV and radio stations, sports grounds and police stations.

The report further suggests that by mentally injecting love down these ancient pathways, members could revitalize all the above institutions.

SOURCE: *Today*, England 5/7/86

CREDIT: David Rossiter via COUD-I

Related SITUation

A Case of Spontaneous Human Combustion?

In 1980, John Heymer attended the scene of a "rather unusual death fire". Here he describes what he saw.

In 1768, some peasants, near Luce in France, heard a thunderclap and saw a large stone fall from the sky. Reports of this strange phenomenon reached the French Academy of Sciences. The Academy asked Lavoisier, the premier chemist, to investigate. Lavoisier knew that stones do not fall out of the sky; so, in his knowledgeable arrogance, he reported that the witnesses were either lying or mistaken. The academy did not accept the fact of meteorites until the following century.

I read recently that scientists deny the possibility of spontaneous human combustion. The article did not explain how human beings are, on occasion, reduced to ashes in the absence of the sustained, extremely high temperatures normally required to effect such a metamorphosis. Having seen the results of spontaneous human combustion, and having observed the reaction of forensic scientists called to the scene, I know that the "Lavoisier Syndrome" is alive and kicking in its blinkers.

I am a retired Scenes of Crime Officer who served 25 years in the Gwent Police. My job involved attending the scenes of serious crimes and sudden deaths to gather evidence for forensic examination. As a result, I am both familiar with death and a trained witness.

On 6 January 1980, I was called to a council house in Gwent, to the scene of what I was told was a rather unusual death by fire.

The house was located on top of a hill and the weather was bitterly cold. On entering the house I was struck by the pleasant warmth. There was no sign of central heating or any other form of heating. The uniformed officers who had requested my presence told me that the fire had occurred in the living room.

I opened the door and stepped into a cooling oven. There was a steamy, sauna-like heat, and the room was bathed in a garish, orange radiance. The orange light emanated from a bare light bulb which was coated on a sticky, orange substance, as was the window. The temperature of the room had recently been extremely high. The walls were radiating heat. Condensation was running down the window. Heat had cracked one of the window panes.

The light bulb was bare because the plastic lampshade had melted, oozed down over the bulb and fallen to the floor. The walls, ceiling and all surfaces were coated with a greasy black soot.

In one wall was an open grate, which contained the dead ashes of a coal fire. The hearth was tidy; there were no signs of any coals having fallen from the fire.

On the floor, about one metre from the hearth, was a pile of ashes. On the perimeter of the ashes, furthest from the hearth, was a partially burnt armchair. Emerging from the ashes were a pair of human feet clothed in socks. The feet were attached to short lengths of lower leg, encased in trouser leg bottoms. The feet and socks were undamaged. Protruding from what was left of the trousers were calcined leg bones which merged into the ashes. The ashes were the incinerated remains of a man.

Of the torso and arms nothing remained but ash. Opposite the feet was a blackened skull. Though the rug and carpet below the ashes were charred, the damage did not extend more than a few centimetres beyond the perimeter of the ashes. Less than a metre away, a settee, fitted with loose covers, was not even scorched. Plastic tiles which covered the floor beneath the carpet were undamaged.

Although extremely high temperatures had developed in the room, nothing had burnt that had not been in contact with the body while it was being consumed. Reason told me that the scene I was viewing was impossible. Everyone at the scene experienced the same sensation of incredulity: a strong urge to deny the evidence of their senses.

I decided to call forensic scientists to the scene so they could examine the evidence *in situ*. I soon discovered that scientists, like policemen, are human, and consequently fallible.

When I suggested spontaneous combustion as the cause of the incineration, the scientists dismissed my proposal with knowing smiles and stated that the fire was entirely explicable. Their "reasoning" was as follows: the deceased had burnt to ashes in a room in which there was a coal fire: human bodies do not burn without the application of an external source of fire, *ergo*, the coal fire was the cause. In support of their supposition, they fixed on some burnt fibrous tissue adhering to the top bar of the grate. They deduced that the deceased had somehow fallen headfirst into the grate thereby setting himself on fire. They were certain that analysis would show the fibrous tissue to be burnt human skin.

Amazingly, the scientists saw nothing wrong in a man falling headfirst into a fire grate, igniting like a wax candle, then somehow picking himself out of the grate and sitting in his armchair to burn himself and most of his armchair to ash. As I said, the grate was tidy. It certainly did not indicate that anyone had fallen into the fire. However, they had their sample of "skin" and went away satisfied.

A week or so later, my superintendent called me to his office and showed me the report on the forensic analysis of the fibrous substance. It was revealed to be "of bovine origin." Despite this difficulty, there was no further investigation into the cause of the fire.

The human body consists of 70 to 80 per cent water, so it is not a readily flammable object. Modern gas-fired crematoria, starting from cold, use up to 30 cubic metres of gas, burnt with 600 cubic metres of air per hour, to incinerate one corpse. A crematorium, using forced draught, oxidises a corpse at 900° C. To achieve the same effect without the forced draught requires a temperature of 1600° C for many hours. How can such heat be achieved in a council-house living room without scorching loose cushion covers within a metre of the incinerated body? Both doors to the room were fitted with draught excluders, so the room was virtually hermetically sealed.

I have never seen a body, even in the fiercest of fires, where the torso burnt away. Even in the hottest of fires, the extremities may burn away but the torso remains. In this case, as in other reported cases of spontaneous human combustion, the opposite had happened. The torso had burnt and the extremities remained.

Scientists have tried to explain human combustion in terms of the "candle effect." This explanation derives its name from tests made about 20 years ago. A few ounces of human fat were wrapped around a test tube and covered with several layers of thin cloth. The test tube was used to provide a bone-like rigidity. The roll of fat was ignited by a bunsen burner after about a minute. The test piece was burnt in the draught of an extractor fan and took about an hour to burn completely.

Any substance requiring the application of a bunsen burner for more than a minute hardly constitutes a fire hazard. If the incineration of a large human body in an airless room can be explained by reference to the burning of a "human fat candle" in a forced draught then you can expect to incinerate a bull by putting a match to its tail.

Human combustion of the kind I have witnessed demands an explanation beyond known laws. Suppose, by some as yet unknown biochemical action, water in the body were to break down into its constituent gases, hydrogen and oxygen. If conversion of the gases occurred at a suitable rate, then the resulting flames would be confined to the body. As it consumed the body, the burning hydrogen would use up all the oxygen, leaving none to support the combustion of other materials. Water can be broken down to its constituent gases with the application of electric current. The living human body can develop a considerable charge of static electricity.

As a layman propounding such a theory, I realise I shall bring down on my head, together with the wrath of "experts," the comment "A little learning is a dangerous thing..." I have not submitted my "theory" for expert consideration. I am of the same mind as Henry Ford "...an expert is a guy who will give me six reasons why it won't work." If scientists are certain that human combustion is explicable by the "candle effect" then let them incinerate to ashes a clothed corpse in an airless room without damaging the furnishings.

SOURCE: *New Scientist*, England 5/15/86

CREDIT: David Rossiter via COUD-I

Legends At The Doorstep of Discovery

– Another Look at Water "Monsters"

by John W. Patterson

Over a quarter of a century ago, a little boy in footed pajamas made a deal that cost him his one and only favorite stuffed animal along with an equally tattered security blanket. What could have prompted such a monumentous decision? In exchange for a box of plastic prehistoric creatures complete with giant ferns, rocks and cavemen...I decided to throw it all away to grow up and all that.

A few years later, in 1960, Tim Dinsdale filmed the hump of *Nessiteras rhombopteryx*, the Loch Ness Monster leaving its wake while gliding through the waters of the 20th century. Dinsdale then made a deal with himself throwing it all away, his engineering career, former plans, and lifestyle, to pursue another glimpse, a better shot of the elusive Nessie. "She" had caught him.

Research, writing books, and countless hours of observation over the years followed for Dinsdale. Yet his story is by no means unique. Others personally encountering Nessie or just enchanted by her "siren song", find themselves lured to the shore, the waves, and the murky depths of the Loch Ness. Scottish local people, highlanders, who have repeatedly seen the beast find Nessie as just "part of the scene" while the tourists and monster-hunters more an atypical intrusion. Many highlanders refrain from discussing Nessie of old legends and/or last week's sighting. Fear of ridicule and I suspect sheer boredom with the whole interview ordeal limits discussions of monsters in the loch. Moreover, in cases where the individual(s) experienced a very close encounter, frequently an underlying trauma complex prevents a casual reliving of the incident for researchers.

Generally speaking, Nessie does not have a record of mayhem. Tales from the days of "knights and damsels and trusty swords" speak of the loch hosting a dangerous and terrible creature that is evil. Modern-day reports have Nessie avoiding contact, accidently bumping into a few boats, and inadvertantly terrifying folks not quite prepared for such a meeting.

Is it all legends and myths? Evidence was strong enough for British naturalist, Sir Peter Scott to give Nessie the above scientific name. Science-fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke observed that as of 1980, Nessie had logged 3,000 eye-witnesses. Much of the activity concerning Nessie began after dynamiting and road construction resulting in a new route around the loch in the 1930's. April 1933 brought the first score of reported sightings. January 1934 gave us the strange twist of Nessie out lumbering on land looking like a Plesiosaur, (supposedly extinct dinosaur of the sea). Stereotypically-famous photos of a graceful long-necked, small-headed Nessie came to us via a London surgeon in April of 1934. Dinsdale's film of a moving object up to 90 feet long in the Loch Ness came in April 1960. Sightings and other photos continued but most were considered inconclusive.

Sophisticated technological additions to the researcher's efforts have only served to heighten frustrations and the usual controversy with new evidence collected. While sonar devices showed the presence of a large moving object nearby, Robert Rines with the American Academy of Applied Science, using underwater cameras obtained the photo of Nessie's diamond-shaped, 6 to 8 foot flipper. NASA's space-age computer enhancement helped these 1972 flipper images come alive. Then in 1975 something smacked Rines' camera rig repeatedly with enough force to cause vertical, angled photos of the boat anchored above. Main camera showing nothing, Rines didn't bother checking the back-up camera till later and then came the surprise. Not very clear and definitely not very pretty was the face of Nessie! Bilaterally symmetrical, complete with gaping mouth, tube-like horns on the head, (looking slug-like to this author) an underwater encounter was recorded. Included was the photo of a long-necked body making its way back into the depths almost out of the range of the strobelight's flash. It can be argued that the photographic evidence is still inconclusive but something big did upset the camera rig twice during that night.

Nessie's abode is a freshwater lake 24 miles long, 1.5 miles wide, 450 feet overall depth with some places nearing 1000 feet deep. Situated in Scotland, the geologic history of the lake allows it to be an old finger of the North Sea. Today the river Ness is the only known connection to the sea. Sonar studies in 1976 indicate Loch Ness has sides that are deep ridges with undercuts or possible lairs for Nessie.

Reports of creatures like Nessie go back for centuries, next door in Ireland as well as around the world. Freshwater, deep-lake creatures of the head-above-water, dinosaurish, prehistoric monster-type are reported in such countries as Canada, the United States, Russia, Iceland, Japan, Sweden and 16 others. Nessie's relatives have stimulated research in lakes around the globe. West of the British Isles come the tales of Iceland's 46 foot long lake monster know as skrimsl. Canada's Lake Okanagan is home for Na-ha-ha-itkh or Natiaka so named by the Okanakane Indians. Recently, the media used the name Ogopogo for this critter and it stuck. Old Indian cliff drawings, (petroglyphs) are similar to the 20th-century sightings of these creatures. Natiaka is reportedly 30-75 feet long, serpent-like, with a dog-like head, sheep-like face, with Doberman pinscher "ears" or projections on the head. It was filmed in 1968. A woman water-skiing in 1977 nearly collided with it. Groups as large as 50-60 have seen it splashing about. 40-mph boat chases have failed to catch it!

Another Canadian monster of Lake Manitoba known by the name Manipogo was photographed in 1962. It was tracked by sonar in 1977. The late professor, Dr. McLeod of the University of Manitoba was unsuccessful in obtaining any first hand evidence. A phone conversation last year with authorities at the university showed a very skeptical attitude to the whole subject of Manipogo. It was summarily stated to me, "the frequency of Manipogo sightings is directly proportional to the blood-alcohol level of the witnesses."

I hope to visit Vermont some day and travel to Lake Champlain where Champ resides. This lake monster was photographed in 1977 and in one instance 2 skindivers came face-to-face with a 40 foot long, horse-headed critter that reared its 8 foot neck looking mushroom-gray above the water. Champ was seen as early as 1609 by an explorer. P. T. Barnum offered $50,000 for its carcass!

Go to Newport, Arkansas and you'll hear of the White River monster and what ever became of the thing in Lake Payette in Idaho? A 1980 photo of Issie was taken in Japan at Lake Ikeda. Our Russian comrades have their own long-necked phenomena swishing about, studied, sketched, and still unsolved. 176 square miles of lake houses Sweden's Storsjon animal near the town of Ostersund. I have only mentioned the tip of the iceberg of locations and sightings! Janet and Colin Bord in their book, *Alien Animals*, show 265 different lakes in 22 countries that list lake-monster sightings as of 1981.

How curious it is that old Indian legends and art work have become the white man's sightings. Who drinks more "firewater", eh? Still the sobering truth rears its dark form above the waters somewhere perhaps at this very moment. Unreported encounters may number in the thousands over the years, the miles, and the cultures. Would you believe *me*, fantasizing over the remote possibility of seeing Nessie, if perchance I had a *valid* sighting? Such is the case for many witnesses...intimidated silence. Once when people onshore watched Nessie playing near a boat, the only way to later contact the witnesses in the boat was to track them down using the registration number on the sail. Again, a sighting confirmed by people onshore almost slipped quietly into someone's grey matter rather than the researcher's files. In the summer of '69 two seasoned fishermen on Loch Morar, 70 miles southwest of the Loch Ness, rammed their boat into another long-neck unexpectedly raising its huge form above the surface. They broke an oar trying to pry their boat away from the thing. Unsuccessful in this attempt one of them shot it with a 22-calibre rifle and old "Morag" finally decided to submerge. Their story leaked out and much later they were eventually reached for testimony of the incident. One unidentified woman sent in sequential photos to local authorities of something known as Morgawr spotted in Falmouth Bay on England's coastline in 1976. No one has been able to locate this woman calling herself "Mary F". A short letter Mary included, gave various "slug-like" details which will be brought up later here.

I feel some of the more memorable experiences that humans have had with long-neck water animals are in order. "Come on in! The water's fine," we can almost hear the unknown ones call.

A shallow-water challenge pays off with poor quality yet high-risk photos of Nessie in Foyers Bay. Peter O'Connor stood his ground after wading out to confront Nessie. She came closer and closer and at 25 yards O'Connor could stand it no longer, armed only with his instamatic camera. Escaping harm he got his pictures and his taste of Nessie for the day.

Camera mounted on his head, shutter-release grip modified to be activated by his teeth biting down, H.L. Cockrell sat nightly in a canoe out on the Loch Ness just waiting. An unsettling evening of Nessie playing cat-and-mouse with Cockrell's little canoe was to come. Managing a photo of a submerging hump close to the canoe was the reward and one more shaken man forced to play the "mouse" paddled to shore.

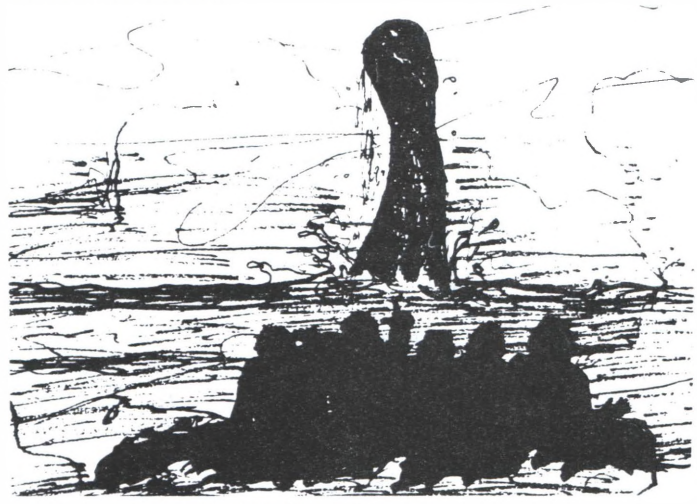
The McLeans had the advantage of witnessing Nessie several times in one day with one incident where Nessie lunged her hulk out of the water to reach for a sea gull passing near her face! The sea gull escaped and Nessie retired beneath the waves after such exhaustive aerobics.

A stopped bus emptied itself of 28 people all busily observing Nessie's aquatic antics. People have watched such browsing-type behavior from opposite sides of the lake for extended periods of up to an hour!

It seems that Nessie has no appreciation for Beethoven, pulling a no-show when Tim Dinsdale once offered a free underwater broadcast of the 6th Pastoral symphony, (all those attending to be photographed).

Divers in 1970 and 1971 encountered something unusual enough to quiet them for days and big enough to rise beneath them simultaneously brushing *both* divers' flippers during their ascent!

As stated previously, to my knowledge, Nessie has not intentionally harmed man. There is one story however concerning Edward Brian McCleary that involves a saltwater long-neck animal that gives me second thoughts about the safety of the Loch Ness waters.



Author/artist concept of McCleary Tragedy

McCleary, the lone survivor of a "skin-diving accident", recounts how on March 24, 1962, off the coast of Pensacola, Florida four friends became victims of the unknown. Originally setting out in an Air Force raft for investigating a sunken ship, they were caught in a storm that left them stranded, lost in a dense fog far from the coast. Distant splashing noises and an intense fish odor were followed by a hissing Nessie-type creature coming into view, diving, surfacing, diving, and nearing the raft each time. McCleary and his friends donned their gear gripped with a terror only they could ever know and abandoned the raft. In the confusion they became separated. McCleary's shouts to his friends were muffled by screams behind him. As he witnessed his last friend going under, he got a close look at the creature. A smooth, brownish-green, 12 foot neck, with the head resembling a sea-turtle but elongated, with "teeth", green eyes and oval pupils, passed him as it dove under one last time. A dorsal fin seemed to follow the neck into the water.

McCleary made it back to the raft staying there to rest through the night and then swam ashore to be found later by a rescue unit. McCleary's tale involving the details of the four deaths was passed off as psychological trauma induced by the tragedy. That McCleary should capitalize on the deaths of his friends with such a story is ludicrous. That the authorities would come up with an ad hoc "delusions of monsteur" story is no surprise. They have to think of the tourist season first not to mention the public's psyche as well. Tim Dinsdale's 1972 book, *Monster Hunt*, goes into more detail about this incident.

Sadly to say, many professionals and informed laymen who get involved in Nessie research and other lake monster studies come under fire from colleagues and cheap-shot media. Funds are nearly impossible to come by and it seems Nessie and her friends are aware of methods to activate "Murphy's Law" once a research project is underway.

If some properly-funded scientists with more grit and imagination and less arm-chair skepticism would come forth, our world would begin to unveil itself to us as it is. Spoon-fed science is not only stifling but causes things to appear more complex and unknowable than they really are.

> "You must realize that the fear of ridicule is just as strong or even stronger among professional scientists, than it is among the general public."
>
> — Dr. Jacques Vallee

Nessiteras rhombopteryx: dinosaur or slug?

Nessiteras rhombopteryx, the Loch Ness monster of Scotland, eluding the prying eyes of man has amassed enough evidence for its existence to be convicted of reality.

To date, the exact identity of what type of beastie she be is only conjecture. Creatures like Nessie reported around the world do not fit into an accepted scheme of classification. Hence, we wind up calling them monsters, cryptozoological critters existing in the files and the mind but not in the museum or zoo.

Is Nessie a dinosaur? Is she an amphibian? Could she be an enormous worm or slug? Some believe her to be a long-necked mammal related to the seal. Others vainly assert she is floating vegetation or gas-filled logs rising from the lake's depths. "Look, the (log) Ness monster!"

In this author's opinion there are two very plausible theories explaining Nessie and animals like her. If we first classify available data, then by percentages rank each type of known animals against the data, we reach some guidelines for speculation. Dr. Mackal of the International Society of Cryptozoology uses this approach concerning Nessie.

This method indicates a high value for Nessie being some sort of unkown amphibious "reptile", maybe a dinosaur. Very close behind in the race is the premise that Nessie is an ancient form of slug-like invertebrate worm capable of gigantic size and variety of morphological manifestations.

Here's my hunch about Nessie. Nessie is one of the few holdouts surviving the millenia of man's encroachment that could be called a dinosaur. She is *not* a "living fossil" for the following reason. Ample evidence has piled up, being available at present, and collected regularly enough to keep special interest groups swamped in anomalous data, to stop using such outdated terminology.

Dinosaur bones are reported found in strata with mammalian bones of "recent" animals such as cattle, sheep and bison. No mixing of bones between strata, no erosion, just reality in situ, defying explanation according to "the state's science" guidelines. Over the past five and a half years, expeditions have repeatedly entered swamp regions of Africa to find *extant* dinosaurs. Now consider this final point. When we dig up human remains and artifacts from geologic strata predating the "age of mammals" and so forth, why don't we call *homo sapiens* a living fossil? Some of us choose instead to dump the brains and technology of our distant ancestors into the ancient astrogods space-fantasy theme. Mankind has indeed interacted with beings of superior abilities, time-transcendant intellects, and dubious intentions. To assume them to be our friends or consider them as the reason for our existence in this world is dangerously naive. Babylonian mythology rises once more!

Let's diverge to this topic of African dinosaurs. Disney thinks the subject is worth movie box-office receipts and I can surely spare a few paragraphs of discussion.

Perilously difficult terrain, snake-infested swamps to be traversed on foot and infectious fevers make these African treks tricky. Perhaps these expeditions will silence the pompous laughter you hear when living dinos are the agenda. Could Scotland as well as other locations hold undiscovered dinosaurs, Nessie-type relics from the assumed eons of time extrapolated ad infinitum behind us? Time now calls for a brief scan over the dinosaur data from Africa and then back to Scotland's Nessie phenomena.

A 20-second tape exists now that records the full raspy roar of what is reported to be an unidentifiable creature. An expedition in 1981 returned with 23 rolls of underexposed film of a Nessie-type animal in a Congolese swamp near Lake Tele. Photographs were taken of its footprints in the area. Old missionary reports have described odd tracks 36 inches in diameter. If one is fortunate enough to meet the natives and have a chat about "mokele mbembe", expect the following. This "head-like-serpent, body-like-elephant, tail-like-crocodile" creature is a long time pest and threat. It disturbs their fishing spots and if you kill and eat it you may die as in a 1959 incident. Show these natives flash-cards with pictures of animals and the brontosaurus-type dinosaur will be recognized as the "culprit". In the area, "trackways" wind through the jungle indicating a large animal with a huge tail and standing very tall. No known animal can account for such trails but "mokele mbembe". Imagine yourself sitting by a swampy bayou and up from the still waters rises the long slick neck and reptilian head of the biggest snake you've ever seen. Now add a hippo body surfacing behind the neck and you could be visualizing either the Loch Ness monster or Africa's "mokele mbembe".

I could go on with stories about "kongamoto", "flying dragon" (*Pterodactylus?*) sightings in Kenya, a lizard with leathery wings like a bat that enjoys diving upon natives in canoes. It boasts a 7 foot wingspan, long snout, and razor-sharp teeth. Explorers may also encounter "chipekwe", 48 feet long moving its "half-elephant, half-dragon" form with great agility and speed. Normal numbers of rhino and hippo in the area were down due to this creature's predation. Reports in the 1930's detailed the sounds of bones snapping and meat being ripped apart, echoing from the marshlands where "chipekwe", (*Tyrannosaurus rex?*) roamed in central Africa.

A letter I received in February 1985 states that a *Triceratops*-type animal killed three elephants in the same area of "mokele mbembe" sightings! Natives reported two large puncture holes in the elephants' sides but the ivory tusks remained. Poachers are unlikely in this case. Let's get back to Scotland.

Considering the wealth of dino data from Africa, why not allow a plesiosaur in the deep dark waters of the Loch Ness? Hopefully, time will clue us in on the nature of the other lake monsters, (detailed previously), around the globe. Dr. Roy Mackal of the University of Chicago believes the Canadian lake monsters to be primitive whales thought long extinct. These zeuglodons were some 70 feet long and assumed to have swam the seas a mere 25 millions years ago. Dr. Mackal feels that Nessie is not a zeuglodon but some other type of animal. For him, dinosaurs in Scotland or another option, yet to be discussed, are not to be ruled out.

Now for the theory championed by F.W. Holiday who has seen Nessie for himself on several occasions. It is the invertebrate concept, suggesting Nessie and creatures like her being monstrous sea worms or "slugs". Holiday's idea is the next best explanation if Nessie is not a dinosaur or amphibian.

Nessie and her neighbors in Scotland and Ireland exhibit an array of characteristics in form and behavior paralleling known patterns for aquatic worms and slug-like animals. Initially, this idea of monstrous amphibious worms with unusual and unclassified features seems grotesquely unthinkable. However

when various odd info, hard to explain if Nessie were dinosaur or mammal, is pieced together the shadow of the slug-like worm looms closer.

Decide for yourself from the pro-worm data now given.

It is known some sea worms remain submerged for extended periods of time and then for short periods will surface. Nessie also obeys such a ritual. It was noted by researchers that Nessie more often surfaces when the loch is calm and the winds near non-existent. You can observe on your own that a slug detests a breeze or human breath currents. Highly sensory-type skin on these creatures cause such behavior.

In a tale some 485 years old, a wormish creature called Frissell's dragon that may have crawled from the Loch Ness or an adjacent river was slain. From its carcass flowed a foul fluid killing the grass and heather. This is reminiscent of the slime that discolors and dissolves the skin on fine garden tomatoes when slugs visit overnight. Eyewitnesses have also described Nessie as "silvery" and some photographs indicate the presence of a film or covering of slime. Can this be the similar mucous substance found as the calling card of slugs crossing sidewalks and porches of our homes?

When you consider what Nessie eats you are faced with few answers. A worm or sea slug could plow through the nutrient-rich sedimentary ooze of organic matter in the loch's depths.

Close encounters with Nessie and other loch shocks detail wave-like, rippling motions in the animals' flesh very similar to contraction/expansion action found in worms and slugs. Witnesses have reported that Nessie, on land, had a body that followed a rapidly moving neck, in jerky fashion. Their overall impression was that of Nessie resembling a huge snail of some long-neck variety.

The alternating absence and presence of appendages or protuberances on Nessie's head seem to indicate an ability to retract these sensory structures. Again, the familiar slug with retractible sensory organs comes to mind.

Lastly, in 1958, the fossils of *Tullimonstrum gregarium* were discovered near Chicago in carboniferous deposits. It was a segmented invertebrate, plump yet streamlined with a thick spade-like tail. A long thin neck emerging from its body carried a small head that bore little jaws and teeth. Two lateral appendages, "flippers", resembled fleshy clubs. Specimens ranged from a few inches to over a foot long. Strangely enough, at first glance, the thing could easily be imagined as a scaled down version of many eyewitness reports of Nessie. Holiday believes the Worm or "orm" of Loch Ness is a monstrous-sized version of a creature along the lines of this ancient invertebrate. I have few reservations with such a belief, when other improbable creatures are found repeatedly in the aquatic regions of our planet. For example, Raleigh, N.C.'s *News and Observer,* Wed., 7-2-86, pg. 11 a, reported that researchers of NOAA found an odd creature living near thermal vents in the Atlantic Ocean. Its nature is unknown except for the fact it was formerly seen only in fossil rocks over 70 million years old. More fossils are yet to come alive in the near future, I feel.

F.W. Holiday has done a fine job in putting this "Orm" or worm concept together and we may one day see how close his ideas were to fact.

To close, bear with me now for the implications of creatures like Nessie swimming into the 20th century. It may be reasoned by some that environmental factors remained stable enough over eons to allow the animal to resist extinction and adaptation urges. On the other hand the genetic structure might be proposed to be amazingly inflexible preventing fluctuation in the species. Will Nessie or some newly described Congo Basin creature be designated the "modern" representative of an extinct species? Has microevolution given us a smaller descendant with minute changes in structure, behavior and physiology?

We are still embroiled in debate about asteroids and wildfires wiping away dinosaurs, detailing global factors of environmental shockwaves. Did Nessie survive under the waves? How did genetic rigidity aid this animal when a whole world of similar individuals perish? Where have all the supposed millions of years of adaptive lane changes carried Nessie? She appears to be ignoring the proposed highway of macroevolution.

If Nessie is a worm-like slug from the carboniferous days then she predates the dinosaurs according to the geology many of us know and some of us trust. Perhaps she buried herself in the primeval ocean ooze during the holocaust(s) only to resurface to a new world. With many ecological niches now open and fresh nutrient sedimenting steadily, Nessie may have expanded her body size over the millenia. While reaching the limits of her genetic variability, she migrated to and flourished in ecosystems that eventually stabilized.

Creatures such as Nessie and the Congo Basin animal serve to only complicate and strain the theories that have already disallowed their existence. A theory that continually fails to predict such anomalies and finds itself wrapped in coils of confusion so repeatedly is invalidated. Typically those who seek data on these animals will find themselves swimming upstream against the current tide of "science".

It is a tragedy when the fundamentalism of many well-meaning defenders of popular theory holds back research into Nessies and African dinosaurs. Just how many other discoveries have passed into extinction because pet theories overshadowed the real world slipping by too quickly? We must risk ridicule and reproach to go on to mature science.

Only the uninformed and unprepared fear the inevitable. A great shaking of much we hold too dear has begun and will intensify over the next few decades. Evangelistic, creationist circles and fundamentalist, evolutionist ranks must live in this world together along with the undecided in between.

What fun it is to sling one more stone of offense into the hornet's nest of skeptics! Thank God for the anomalies in this universe.

"The Universe is not only queerer than we imagine — it is queerer than we can imagine." —J.B.S. Haldane

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The Astounding UFO Invasion of Brazil

by Fred Bobb

"...radar scopes in Sao Paolo became saturated with an enormous number of targets characterizing an invasion of Brazilian airspace!"

— General Octavio Julio Moreira Lima
Minister of Aeronautics
Brazilian Air Defense Command
May 19, 1986

A new wave of UFOs streaked undaunted through the Brazilian skies recently, at speeds of up to 1,350 mph, eluding all attempts at aerial interception and perplexing military officials.

The objects were first sighted Monday night, May 19, 1986, at 2100 by Ozires Silva, head of both Embraer (airplane manufacturer) and the state oil firm, Petrobas.

It seems that the industrialist and pilot Alcir Pereira da Silva, were attempting to land their Xingu aircraft near Sao Jose dos Campos, when Ozires saw three-colored lights in the flight path. The uncanny UFOs appeared like darting ping-pong balls to the Petrobas executive. At this time, pilot Alcir asked permission to chase the objects. Sao Paolo Control consented and the Xingu broke off its approach.

Pilot Alcir Pereira contended, "there were at least two of them in the air. They were red lights, very bright and much different from stars or aircraft. They changed position rapidly."[1]

Descending from an altitude of 12,000 meters to 6,000 meters, the two men quickly sped off in pursuit of the incandescent interlopers. The objects began to appear on the aircraft radar and on radar scopes at the Ferraz de Vasconcelos Radar Station. Eventually, more UFOs began to appear, and the globes "were saturating and interfering with air traffic in Sao Jose dos Campos and nearby Sao Paolo."[2]

Some unidentifieds streaked in the direction of Mogi das Cruzes, Sao Paolo while others flew in the direction of Ubatuba-Caraguatuba. Outnumbered, Silva quickly landed.

At this point, Sao Paolo Control alerted the Comando de Defesea Aérea (Brazilian Air Defense Command) for assistance.

General Octavio Julio Moreira Lima, head of the Fôrca Aérea Brasileira (Brazilian Air Force — FAB), soon ordered three F5E Tiger IIs into the air to intercept the 'bogeys'. The jets of the I Grupo de Aviacão de Caca based at Santa Cruz, scrambled and met the ersatz aerial invaders by 2145. Each fighter, armed with two Pontiac 20mm cannon and AIM 9L Sidewinder missiles, tried in vain to defend the airspace over Sao Paolo, Sao Jose dos Campos and Rio de Janeiro. The minute globes of light easily outdistanced the jets at every turn.

Meanwhile, three Dassault-Breguet Mirage IIIE interceptors of the Ala de Defesea Aérea (1st Air Defense Wing — ALADA) also scrambled to defend the skies over the federal capital of Brasilia. The Mirage IIIEs, each armed with two 30mm DEFA guns, AIM 9L Sidewinder and Matra R530 missiles, also picked up the strange UFOs on their radars. However, these pilots never had visual sightings of the "invaders".

President Jose Sarney was informed of the incidents by both the Integrated Air Defense Command and Sao Paolo Air Traffic Control Center. Sarney was reportedly "interested and curious"[3] about the invasion. As Supreme Commander of the Brazilian Armed Forces, it was up to Sarney to decide if the UFOs should be shot down.

This decision was not necessary. The UFOs finally headed toward the seacoast and were lost when the fighters ran low on fuel and the 20 mile territorial limit at sea and returned.

The Brazilian Aeronautics Ministry held an unprecedented two hour press conference on May 23, in Brasilia. Ministry spokesman, Col. Adalberto de Rezende Rocha stated, "we are just trying to present the whole truth to the press. We have registered a phenomenon of luminous, flashing lights and persistent radar screen blips that we cannot explain."[4]

The Minister of Aeronautics, Moreira Lima, recapped the events of the week for the media. The Minister explained, "Dozens of contacts were made in the region between Rio, Sao Paolo and Sao Jose dos Campos."[5]

"It is not a question of believing or not. This requires technical information and we have neither replies nor technical explanations for what happened. We don't have any explanation,"[6] the Minister continued.

The Chief of the Aeronautics Ministry, Brig. Murillo Santos, also confirmed the sightings and described the color of the objects as "like the flag of Italy".[7] (Note: Italy's national colors are red, white and green.)

Major Ney Antunes Cerquiera, Chief of Operations at the Air Defense Center in Anapolis admitted, "for six years, I have served in this sector and I have never seen anything like it. The last unidentified radar contact we had was in 1982."[8]

Lt. Kleber Caldas Marinho stated, "It was not a star. It couldn't have been another plane. It couldn't be anything now existing. It was green, red and white, mostly white."[9]

The FAB pilot continued by saying his Northrop F5E approached to within 19.6 km of the objects. He also climbed to an altitude of 33,000 m and attained a speed of 1,000 mph before he turned back because of low fuel.

Capt. Marcio Brisolla Jordao, a second F5E pilot asserted that he saw, "a red light that didn't vary, but evidently was moving. I got to within 40 km, but I couldn't go any faster. Visibility was great. There were no clouds or other air traffic."[10]

The third F5E pilot reported his jet was paced by 13 of the UFOs. "Seven on one side and six on the other..."[11]

The ALADA Mirage IIIE pilots all agreed that the UFOs moved in a zig-zag fashion at speeds surpassing 1,350 mph!

Embraer civilian pilot, Otto Nogueira, claimed he had been surrounded and followed by the "colored ping-pong balls" for 460 miles. "...They had their own light, but not like a star, which has rays or points."[12]

Rio de Janeiro eyewitness Sonia Grumbach said she saw a bright light for 15 minutes that travelled at "incredible velocity and seemed to jump."[13]

As the Aeronautics Ministry announced the formation of a commission to study the case, reports of other UFO sightings began to filter in from throughout Brazil.

On May 21st, Fortaleza Air Force Base in the northeastern state of Ceara, received numerous calls from residents about a dark, cigar-shaped object seen in the skies.

Brazilian television showed a film of a glowing, round object in the sky which was alleged to have been taken on the night

of May 22nd, near Maringa, in the southern state of Parana.

Officials refused to say whether any photographs of the UFOs had been taken, in spite of reports and proof to the contrary. The Aeronautics Ministry did not disclose when a report would be released, either. However, what was significant was the open conference and military disclosures toward the entire matter.

"It is an historic happening, because it is the first time any government authority has declared itself on such matters,"[14] proclaimed Carlos Alberto Reis from the Sao Paolo Center for Aerospace Phenomena.



Within days though, self-styled critics began spewing untenable solutions for the incidents. Cries of sundogs, mirages, and St. Elmo's Fire began circulating. One of the more 'unique' solutions came from Astronomer Larry Brown of the Hayden Planetarium in New York. It seems Mr. Brown believes, "It may have something to do with the recent passage of Halley's Comet. There's a lot of dust in the air, and when it hits the Earth's atmosphere it burns brightly."[15]

This theory is interesting, but during past UFO blitzes of similar characteristics (such as the Foo Fighters of WW II and the Washington, DC wave of 1952), Halley's Comet was nowhere in sight.

The coordinator of the National Association of UFOlogists of Brazil, Adilson Machado, reported that his organization was certain that the objects detected were flying discs. He added that the Vale do Paraibo, where Sao Jose dos Campos lies, is a region which includes geomagnetic anomalies in the South Atlantic. These magnetic fields do not behave in a normal way.

There is still no approved hypothesis for the episode. The theory that the objects were electromagnetic phenomena has not been discarded. The extraterrestrial theory also is being considered. Only time and careful study may determine the origin of the "colored ping-pong balls" in the skies over Brazil!

FOOTNOTES

1. "Ozires Came to Follow the Flying Disc," *O. Globo*, May 22, 1986, Hereafter cited as: "Ozires."
2. "Wee Balls of Fire! Brazil Eyes UFOs," New York *Daily News*, May 23, 1986, p. 2. Hereafter cited as: "Wee Balls of Fire!"
3. L. Fawcett and B. Greenwood, ed., *Caus Bulletin #4*, June, 1986, p. 1. Hereafter cited as *Caus Bulletin #4*.
4. "United Press International Dispatch," May 24, 1986.
5. "FAB Records 3 Unidentifieds in the Skies of the Country," *O Globo*, May 22, 1986. Hereafter cited as: "FAB Records 3 Unidentifieds."
6. Harold Emert, "Brazilians Investigate UFO Reports," *USA Today*, May 23, 1986.
7. "FAB Records 3 Unidentifieds."
8. ibid.
9. "Aliens Patrol Our Skies," *Weekly World News*, July 8, 1986.
10. "Pilots Describe Brazilian UFO Chase," *Japan Times*, May 25, 1986.
11. *Caus Bulletin #4*.
12. "UPI Dispatch," May 24, 1986.
13. Harold Emert, "Brazilians Investigate UFO Reports," *USA TODAY*, May 23, 1986.
14. "Reuters Dispatch," May 23, 1986.
15. "Wee Balls of Fire!"

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Related SITUation

UFO Over California

More than a dozen early risers reported seeing a mysterious lighted object darting about the skies near Petaluma yesterday morning [May 22, 1986].

Local law enforcement agencies were besieged with inquiries about the UFO sightings, and were at a loss to explain the weird incident.

"I saw tiny lights in the northeast, hovering along the hilltops," said Arlette Cohen, who was driving north on U.S. 101 to Petaluma at about 4:30 a.m. "At first I thought it was an airplane, but then it came overhead and I saw that it wasn't."

Cohen, a radio news director, said a full moon was still visible above, when she saw the strange object.

She said she got a good look because "it seemed almost to stop over the highway."

Cohen said she rolled down her car window and listened for the sound of a helicopter or some other recognizable flying machine, but heard nothing.

A California Highway Patrol officer, who did not want his name made public, also reported seeing a "large, orange X with white lights on the front" flying east near Petaluma at a high rate of speed about 4:30 a.m.

Various witnesses agreed that the object was shaped like an X, had small green, white and orange lights and was not an airplane.

Sue Hart was driving along Mill Station Road near Sebastopol delivering newspapers when her companion tapped her on the shoulder and told her to look skyward.

"I looked up and saw several orange lights hovering in the sky," Hart said later. "I stared at them and they moved on rapidly several hundred yards, hovered again and took off again to the east. We were kind of joking around about it, but then I started to think and I got scared."

Witnesses said the object appeared to be traveling about 1000 to 1500 feet above the ground.

Bay Area air traffic controllers were unable to explain the episode.

"We have had some calls, but we know nothing about it," said a public relations officer for Beale Air Force Base, located about 50 miles north of Sacramento.

SOURCE: The San Francisco *Chronicle*. CA 5/23/86

CREDIT: Member #432

The 1986 CSICOP Conference

by Michael D. Swords

The time: April 25th and 26th, 1986. The Place: the University of Colorado. The subject: Science and "Pseudoscience". The nation's famous "skeptical" society (the Committee for Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal; CSICOP) held their annual meeting to stick pins into and laugh at certain people and fields of inquiry, that they deem irrational, dangerous and/or absurd.

For any readers who are not familiar with CSICOP and its publication organ, the *Skeptical Inquirer*, it should be briefly remarked that this is a society whose goals as stated on paper are quite admirable (and Fortean), and whose goals are wildly violated several times in almost every issue of the journal. (There *are some* properly scientific and objective contributors to the *SI*, and there are others of such extreme bias that schisms have occurred more than once within the organization on scientific attitudinal and philosophical grounds.) So when you go to a CSICOP convention you do *not* expect a balanced airing of the issues, and this writer was not disappointed in this expectation.

Paul Kurtz, the acknowledged leader in philosophical tone and substance of CSICOP, struck the expected chord in his introductory remarks with a derisive run-down of many of the "pseudosciences" taken on by CSICOP over the years. Pausing for laughter-eliciting punchlines, he completed his ten-year history of the committee with "it is incredible to believe that such beliefs prevail". Well, maybe. But it's also incredible to believe that "objective and impartial inquirers" would ever reduce to talking about some of these topics in this style. He remarked that the paranormal is "amusing" and that "debunking them (the beliefs) is amusing". His statement that "there is one element of the paranormal that is hilarious" was incongruously shortly followed by the solemn assurance that "debunking is not our primary task, but rather careful scrutiny of the evidence".

Sometimes the concerns of CSICOP (and Kurtz) are well taken, as when they worry about the health hazards inflictable by false faith healers, or the thinking hazards nourished by authors and paranormal entrepreneurs who ignore rationality, the need for evidence, and open-mindedness. Unfortunately CSICOP seems often to lapse into the same thinking hazards they are pledged to avoid. This report will try to describe and comment upon the high and low points of the meeting as regards the paranormal.

The first topic of note was Psychokinesis (PK) and its possible linkage to Quantum Mechanics. It was here that we had a high point of considerable elevation. Murray Gell-Mann, Nobel prize winner and a prominent architect of the quark theory, explained some of the rudiments of quantum theory and why any extension of it to allow observers to affect the physical world by "thought-power" alone would *not* be a simple addition to current theory, but rather a major upheaval of current concepts. Since such experiments (alleging to show human mental effects on atomic or random processes) challenge the fundamental basis of our science, they need to be examined and repeated under very stringent conditions. He reminded us that because they challenge fundamental concepts does *not* mean that the experiments are wrong. But, they are going *against* a lot of work in science, and must be closely checked and controlled. All this is proper, laudable, and the mark of an outstanding scientist.

Dr. Gell-Mann also gave other gifts of wisdom to whomever in CSICOP might be listening. He, though a sympathetic newcomer to CSICOP, had already spotted a flaw in the organization's approach. He stated: "The Debunking Process is not a perfectly satisfactory general approach," because some unusual phenomena may be genuine and interesting. He cited several possibilities like fire-walking, which is clearly true and now being explained because it is at last getting an honest examination. He suggested that if Levitation via Transcendental Meditation is bunk, that doesn't mean that all claims for meditation are. If hypnotic regression to past lives is scientifically unsupportable, hypnotic regression itself may still be interesting and valuable. He himself is somewhat intrigued with fish-falls and ball lightning as potentially substantial meteorological anomalies. The beasts of cryptozoology also deserve open-minded investigation. Speaking in the direction of Paul Kurtz, he suggested that the *SI* publish more articles on "crazy things" which turned out to be true, and on "crazy things" which might yet turn out to be true. Well, bravo, Dr. Gell-Mann...but don't hold your breath.

Next up was what the general audience *really* wanted, a paranormal researcher ready for the slaughter, followed by a CSICOP hit man. Helmut Schmidt, the well-known PK-researcher, was the parapsychologist. The hit man was a local physics prof at the University who wasn't officially on the program and who shall be nameless. A subtle sign of the occasion was immediately apparent when Ray Hyman, the moderator, demonstrated that he hadn't even bothered to get the name of Dr. Schmidt's German University where he'd obtained his physics doctorate (this despite a properly glowing and detailed introduction for Dr. Gell-Mann). Nevertheless, Dr. Schmidt dutifully went about his task describing the history of PK research and his own difficulty to explain experiments.

The majority of the audience listened respectfully to the speaker, but a sprinkling of highly educated giggling morons detracted from the "scientific" atmosphere of open-discussion of ideas. Dr. Schmidt's research *is* difficult to swallow, but as Dr. Gell-Mann warned us that doesn't mean that it is wrong. One very odd effect described by Schmidt is as follows:

> Using a randomizing machine to put random signals on identical-twin tapes, these tapes secretly (i.e. without anyone finding out what was on them) were then separated. One twin was placed in a safe. The second was used in a PK-experiment wherein a subject tried to "influence" the pattern of the signals, even though common sense tells us that the signals are already random and in place. Schmidt alleges that the subject *can* still alter the signal on the tape. Later, upon fishing the twin tape from the safe, we find that *it* is altered too! The effect is weak but statistically significant according to Dr. Schmidt. Well, weak or not, if it is true it is stunning since it seems to imply "Retrocausal psychokinesis" (i.e. physical effect going *back in time* to the quantum moment when the twin tapes were first being imprinted!).

Since this test so easily allows the participation of external (preferably independent and skeptical) observer-scientists, there is little excuse for this new addition to the protocol of the test not being instituted. The independent scientists could witness

the original tape making, and then take the tapes to places of security until end-of-experiment checking. (Schmidt did something like this but with other sympathetic parapsychologists as the "independents".)

Following the talk, the CSICOP hit-man rose to complain about Schmidt's work in words which showed little solid evidence for the complaints as made, and little apparent familiarity with the array of Schmidt's work. Although doubtless skill-qualified to investigate and critique the work, there was little evidence that he had bothered. Instead a stream of innuendos bordering on character-assassination (ex. "The *best* data is the data which will be *reported*") were strung around a cutesy by-line of "Fudge, Nudge, and Trudge," and were deemed sufficient to dispense with Schmidt's findings. Doubtless this satisfied many in the audience. Two who were obviously *not* satisfied were Susan Blackmore, an extremely rational researcher who was appalled by the last-minute surprise "hit job" on Schmidt, and who defended his careful methodology, and Dr. Gell-Mann, whose body language demonstrated his astonishment at some of the hit-man's comments. Had I been a physicist speaking on science, and had seen a Nobel prize winner in my field occasionally wincing and shaking his head as I spoke, I believe that I would have concluded that it was time to clean up my act. Dr. Gell-Mann tried at last to re-establish some perspective. He said simply:

"This is either right or wrong.
If it's right, it's major; if it's
wrong, it's nothing." Amen.

Concluding the first day's talks on the paranormal were an intellectual and attitudinal "odd couple": Susan Blackmore and Philip Klass. Here was an insightful contrast of the proper and improper "methodological approaches" to the unknown, even though both speakers arrive at largely negative conclusions about their fields.

Dr. Blackmore became interested in parapsychology through a personal "out-of-body experience" (OOBE) which was very vivid and interesting. She has since researched carefully over several years many hypotheses about PSI and OOBEs, all testing of which has turned out statistically not significant. But although she has not been able to support psychic "powers" in the laboratory, and has come to see PSI as an unnecessary hypothesis for OOBEs if not entirely a "red herring," she remains interested in these anomalistic phenomena and defends the necessity of a continued open mind about them. PSI in her view is neither proven nor unproven, and any wishful thinking that it *is* a solved question "just won't wash". She admits the extreme difficulties of a human being keeping an open mind. She claims not to be able to do so herself, but her words and actions contradict this modest comment. Susan Blackmore does an astonishing, encouraging job of being both rational and critical on one hand, while being explorative and open on the other. If the typical member of CSICOP would like a role model of what they should be when they grow up, it could be Dr. Blackmore. In a rare moment of delightfully expanded consciousness, the CSICOP audience gave her a rousing ovation. Maybe there is hope yet.

On the other hand there was Philip Klass, the senior editor of *Aviation Week and Space Technology* and a well-known debunker of the UFO phenomenon. Klass was to comment upon the famous UFO-study known as the "Condon Report". This was an eminently appropriate topic since the study had been conducted at the host institution, the University of Colorado, and headed by two Colorado professors. Well, fine, so far.

Klass took us on a brief historical review of the events leading up to the study, which sequence "unluckily" conspired to interest several members of Congress (including Gerald Ford, a Michigan representative at the time) to push the US Air Force to seek out a university to study UFOs. Thus arose the Colorado Project.

It should be mentioned that the "typical" description of the Colorado Project in the pro-UFO literature is of a study sabotaged from the beginning by the disinterest of the figurehead leader and the negative biases of his lieutenant. This has been pretty strongly documented, especially through an incriminating in-house memorandum which speaks of making the project seem one way to the public while it was actually another to all right-thinking scientists. Klass, to his credit, read the relevant quote accurately. Not to his credit, he attempted to explain it away with the flimsiest of word-games. One can only imagine the crowd reaction to this if he had been one of the "bad-guys" trying this kind of "explanation".

Nevertheless, he went on to point out that biased researchers also existed on the other side (David Saunders, Norman Levine within the project, and James McDonald without), who consistently maneuvered the research toward pro-UFO cases, and who torpedoed the study via confrontations with the anti-forces. According to Klass, the firing of Saunders and Levine by Condon negatively disposed the public and certain congressmen toward the project, and gave an unjustified and undesirable boost to UFOlogy.

Well, what can we say about this? I think that I know what Susan Blackmore might say: Very little of this sounds like science and proper behavior either way. Bias seems rife on all sides. Little or nothing can be said about this boondoggle's evidential quality, and we need keep an open mind about the phenomenon. She would probably also say that just as "PSI" was the wrong place to *start* her OOBE investigations, that "ET's" are the wrong place to *start* UFO investigations. That as OOBEs are certainly real experiences of *some* sort, so, too, UFO experiences are real in some interesting ways. So why not trash the biases and get on with researching them? What did Phil Klass conclude? That the guys were the UFOlogists after all and it's all bunk like he believed all along. What a contrast in intellectual styles!

The Saturday session of paranormal interest comprised a series of four talks on the topic of Reincarnation and the Survival of Death. Congratulations to the moderator, James Alcock, for giving a professionally neutral introduction to the subject. The first speaker was hypnotist and counselor at the University of Wyoming, Leo Sprinkle. Dr. Sprinkle is well-known in UFO circles as one of (if not *the*) most active UFO Abductee hypnotists in the 60's and 70's. He surprised (a little) this current writer with the revelation that he is now heavily involved (outside of his duties at the University) with hypnotic regression to previous lives, as a counseling therapy. To some of the readership this may seem an odd mix — UFOlogy and Reincarnation — but Dr. Sprinkle is one of those UFO researchers who has come to the intuition that there is something essentially *psychic* about the UFO phenomenon.

The talk documented his personal odyssey from accidental (unplanned) emergences of previous lives under hypnosis in some of his clients, to his reading of the famous researcher Ian Stevenson, to self-hypnosis to possible personal past-life memories, to contact with the hypnotic regression practitioner, Helen Wambach, author of two well-known books on Past Lives Therapy. He was very impressed with Wambach, and corresponded and shared data with her until her death last year. His talk was largely anecdotal although hints of more formaliz-

ed data-gathering were present. This was unfortunate in that the major objection to Wambach-like reincarnation studies is that no proper baselines of "knowledge of past time" have been determined to allow us to judge the difference between true past-life recollections and simple hypnotic fantasy-spinning based on common knowledge. Whether or not past-lives existed and are reachable through hypnosis can never be accepted scientifically until better baselines and controlled protocols are established. Dr. Sprinkle, I believe, realizes this, but has neither the funds nor the orientation to do this. Regarding the latter, he, like Wambach, is out of a "personal counseling" mold of vocation, and tends to involve himself in the personal therapy aspects of each case rather than true scientific and statistical research. While this is admirable and important, it does not help much in establishing the reality of any of these intuitions.

After he nervously stood before the CSICOP audience firing squad, deftly side-stepping questions like the former college basketball player he was, the committee wheeled in a big gun to obliterate the hypnosis past-lives idea, Nicholas Spanos. Dr. Spanos is a hypnosis expert at Carleton University in Ottawa. He gave the audience a litany of myths about hypnosis aimed at convincing us that hypnotic subjects are powerfully manipulable even in contradictory ways. The thrust of the talk was to indicate that the power of suggestion wielded by the hypnotist is so great that extreme care must be taken if hypnosis-induced responses are to be judged "real" rather than confabulatory.

Concerning age regression to our youth, tests of reports have shown that reports are accurate in those things which adults generally know accurately already, but in those things which adults don't know well, their reports are inaccurate. For example, regression to "age three" will produce responses wherein the subject can no longer write (because the adult knows accurately that they couldn't write at that age), but on some subtler characteristic (like perhaps figure-drawing) the adult response will be inaccurate, usually over-estimating what they at age three could perform, and acting erroneously like an older child.

Concerning accuracy of memory under time regression, recent court cases have made this a point of some significance to be tested (the idea that police hypnotists can accurately regress crime witnesses to the temporal scene of the crime and thus acquire better evidence). Tests unfortunately don't show this to be defensible. People *do* tend to be more *confident* that their memories are accurate, but the real accuracy of their memory is not improved. Dr. Spanos suspects, therefore, that any regression to alleged *past* lives will produce reports of "confident fantasies in keeping with expectations". He questions the validity of Dr. Wambach's (and, by implication, Dr. Sprinkle's) procedures, and did a pilot test of his own on volunteer psychology students. The students sometimes felt that they had spontaneous and relatively vivid experiences in some past time not associated with their "current self". However, on analysis of the details of their reports (other than the obvious commonplace) they showed woeful historical inaccuracy. Examples: Only one student could name the "current" ruler of the area historically involved (and that was "Harry Truman"), and none could accurately describe the common money forms. Dr. Spanos' work is quite formidable to "get around" by the Regressionists, especially if it can be replicated on a larger scale. But as has been mentioned, therapists are into "one-on-one" and not statistics.

The third speaker was Ronald Siegel, a psychopharmacologist who does his research in association with UCLA. If one didn't know what to expect (and this writer didn't), this was a staggering revelation that this sort of research is even going on. Apparently there is a large cohort of highly trained subjects who take all manner of powerful mind-altering drugs (LSD, marijuana, psilocybin, mescaline, PCP, Ketamine among others) in varying dosages, and then are measured scientifically as to physiological effects, and who give detailed descriptions of their "trips". They are called "the Psychonauts". Wow...right?

So, what does this have to do with After-or-Pre-Life? Siegel described a Huichol Indian Shaman experience using peyote which experiences involve tunnels, white light, and transference of some cosmic knowledge. He mentions that the Egyptian and Tibetan Books of the Dead speak in similar patterns. He claims that it is a common pattern seen across all cultures. His belief is that it is a pattern inherent in the brain, and that the experiences of his psychonauts support this hypothesis.

Under a typical hallucinogenic drug, the psychonauts sometimes pass through a powerful experience which shifts from normal consciousness to a white light which breaks up and colors appear (first from the blue end of the spectrum shifting to the red), then a geometrical matrix appears with recognizable subjects floating in front; multiple copies of the subjects may appear; tunnels and/or lattices exist, and floating and turning motions occur; explosive motions may exist; movement through the tunnel can happen. The knowledgeable reader will recognize this as at least the dynamic beginnings of the classic Near-Death Experience as described by Raymond Moody and Kenneth Ring. Few of the psychonauts had NDE-like experiences on LSD-like hallucinogens except at very high dosages, but on the drug Ketamine the story was different.

Ketamine produces marked respiratory depression and a state called "dissociative anaesthesia," wherein the presence of the body is vaguely sensed tactually, if at all, and the consciousness "sails off" into dream-like fantasies. Eighty-eight percent of the experiences were subjectively "Out-of-Body," and lesser but significant percentages had other prominent NDE-elements. Many other situations also exist which can produce NDE-like dissociations: Pickwickian Syndrome (a condition with chronic respiratory distress and irregular heart rhythms), sleep apnea (occasional cessation of breathing), hostage victims, hypoglycemia, temporal lobe stimulation, tertiary syphilis...the list is probably very long. Dr. Siegel's opinion is that the entirety of the NDE pattern is a property of the pharmacology and structure of the brain, and is not evidence of a true non-physical experience at or near death. Very interesting stuff obviously...also obviously not proof. Whether the environmental, health, or chemical stresses which Dr. Siegel describes trip off a set of embedded physical actions in the brain which subjectively "seem like" an OOBE-mind-trip, or whether they trip off an actual separation of a non-material consciousness from the physical matter of the brain, is not an issue determinable by this data. What we must say is that there currently exists a strong alternative hypothesis for explaining the Near-Death Experience: That is, it *may* be the physical brain's imprinted reaction to certain types of stress.

The fourth speaker was Sarah Grey Thomason, a professor of linguistics at Pittsburgh. Dr. Thomason's talk was a Fortean treat since one rarely if ever gets to hear a critique of the work of the finest reincarnation researcher, Ian Stevenson. Dr. Stevenson has been searching for years for a perfect reincarnation case. He feels that one characteristic of such a case would be "responsive xenoglossy" [roughly speaking an alien (to the subject) language like a native — in a responsive conversational way]. This is to be distinguished from "recessitative xenoglossy," where alien language spews forth in a robotic or rote manner. Dr. Thomason expressed refreshing respect for the thoroughness

and integrity of Stevenson's investigations, but still feels that his evidence is unconvincing.

Dr. Stevenson has published two "responsive xenoglossy" cases, one speaking German and one Swedish. Dr. Thomason analyzed the German case, being more familiar with that language. The case, she says, shows little or no evidence of true knowledge of the language. Any true speaker knows thousands of words and most grammar rules by age four or five. The subject in this case is allegedly sixteen in this past life and yet produces less than two hundred words, rarely uses sentences, uses no helping verbs, and answers the bulk of all questions simply "ja" or "nein". Her real sentences are repetitive statements on her past (a'la *recessitative* xenoglossy). She seems to robotically guess at what's being asked for and often simply repeats words from the questioner, which repetitions often do not make sense.

Dr. Thomason feels that the German case shows such rudimentary language use that it could easily be the result of memory-recessitations and simplistic guess work. The subject admits to having browsed through a German language book once, and her husband is highly enthusiastic about the possibility that she is in touch with a previous life. The fact that he is also the hypnotist makes one wonder. No fraud is evident anywhere in this case, but "hope"-plus-hypnosis make a powerful pair. Dr. Thomason also mentioned that she knows that someone has asked Dr. Stevenson for transcripts of tapes on xenoglossy cases and that Stevenson has not responded. This is, of course, loaded with implications — implications rarely made about Stevenson's integrity. However, this sounds like hearsay or at least fragmentary information and should be discounted as a slur on Stevenson's research. After all, Dr. Thomason got to analyze the German case; and the Swedish case has a 165 page transcript appended to the published account. The only other "interesting" case mentioned by Dr. Thomason was the "Egyptian Princess" case, which probably refers to the so-called "Rosemary mediumship" wherein Egyptian was allegedly spoken. This latter not being Stevenson's case he can't be held accountable for those transcripts either. One last point of Fortean interest: The alien language spoken in certain religious "ectasies," called "glossolalia," has been found to consist of spontaneous gibberish in all analyzed cases.

Overall, that session was a good show...intellectually honest and professional presentations trying to investigate anomalies. No derisive jerkism and little evidence of strutting egos. Thanks to all four speakers. The brunt of the data did not go well for reincarnation hypotheses, but the issue is still open and properly handled as such. Unfortunately that was the last of that attitude we were to experience at the convention. (I bypass the sessions on "Creation Science," as that subject was more political and religious than a concern with anomalies, at least as handled by the presenters.) One comment though: One speaker lapsed into a "lowest common denominator" level of derogation and name-calling, constantly flashing up derisive and unprofessional "turkey" slides in hopes of venting his spleen and eliciting cackles from fellow un-evolved life-forms speckling the auditorium. Bizarrely the following quote was given: "They don't bother gathering data for their own position; they simply content themselves in attacking their opponents' position". One wonders whether some of these people ever look in the mirror. Passing this quote over to his physics colleague (discussed earlier; both were U. Colorado profs) would have provided a real service.

Well, it was too much to expect scientific objectivity to prevail much longer anyway because everyone was warming up for the Awards Banquet. This was a pleasant opportunity to converse with fellow delegates over a reasonably good meal (for banquets) and watch CSICOP leaders give awards to one another. The first speaker (again) was Paul Kurtz. His main concern was the lack of press coverage for the conference. He contrasted the rationality of the conference with certain news stories covered by the *Denver Post*. One of these is instructive. Kurtz griped about, quoted from, and laughed at a story concerning the rash of "possession" cases which have been flourishing in the area of Turin, Italy, and which have been responded to by the Catholic Church in traditional ways, through priestly counseling and, if necessary, the rites of exorcism.

So what? Well, the chuckling presentation of this situation in northern Italy not only assumes without investigation that nothing of any interest is going on there, but demonstrates the insensitivity of the "spirit" which seemed to pervade this conference. "Possession," *whatever* it is, is not a joke. An explosion of satanic cults, of seriously disturbed people, and of human victimization by these people are also not jokes. One might go so far as to say that people trying to help and counsel using old time-honored rituals are not jokes either. If the problem is *entirely* psychiatric, the "ho-ho-ho" reaction is stunning in one who calls himself a "humanist..." (all this beyond the anti-scientific stance "instinctively" taken which assumed absurdity, amusement, and hilarity to be the only content of this phenomenon). For the reader's benefit: The major psychiatric alternative to the "possession" hypothesis is "multiple personality disorder," a syndrome now known to be initiated by severe child abuse. Other alternatives involve anxiety-induced hysteria, schizophrenia, certain forms of epilepsy, Tourette's (the cursing) syndrome, drug effects, and severe forms of sociopathology. Ho-ho-ho, right? It was nice to hear Philip Klass rise immediately thereafter to ask the audience to donate money for "moral" and "spiritual" support of the organization.

After the commercials came the magicians. Most of this was good clean fun and, as always with magic, fascinating. James Randi (the famous, your editor would say "notorious," psychic debunker) was the emcee and was surprisingly on his best behavior...No cheap shots and a healthy humility on his "limited role" in the proper investigation of anomalies. He's still full of pizzazz and dynamite though, and presented a devastating and totally convincing debunking of alleged faith healing preacher, Peter Popoff. Randi and his electronic surveillance team picked up and taped radio messages sent by Popoff's wife to him "on stage" as he apparently picked up names, addresses, and ailments "from God" and shouted them out — naturally stunning the soon-to-be "healed" who knew that there could be no way the healer could have known this information. A faith-healer with a hearing aid is probably a bad combo anyway.

The other magicians, Henry Gordon and Robert Steiner, were slick and funny and non-controversial, giving everyone a good time. The fourth "entertainer" was Douglas Stalker, nicknamed "Captain Ray of Light," an extroverted debunker of everything paranormal in the most sledge-hammer of styles and cut in the mold of the extreme bizarre end of television car salesmen. As I watched him work with his comic buffoonery, clever wit — now hitting a proper note, now a gross insensitive one (as when chuckling about Janis Joplin's death) — and, a total lack of intellectual care, I felt that I was viewing the true heart of CSICOP in the raw. I think I'll send my donation to the Missions instead.



Letters to the Editors

Dear Editor:

My brother, Jeff, saw a UFO when he was hiking with a friend in Orange, CT recently. He is not very interested in science fiction or Fortean material but gave me a detailed report.

I never saw the Westchester Wing [***PURSUIT*** vol. 18, #1 & 4], although I'm from Ardsley, NY originally and I was looking for it as the night sky around my apartment is often quite clear. I also sometimes went UFO hunting while visiting my parents' home in Woodbridge, a wooded suburb of New Haven, CT, but never saw anything.

I did see odd lights at night in Westchester when I was in grade school and high school in various parts of Westchester and occasionally odd metal objects in the sky in daylight over Scarsdale, NY, Ardsley, NY and vicinity but I was unable to calculate size or distance and never reported them officially. One was V shaped over Ardsley high school in daylight, c. 1970 or between 1966-1970. One was shaped like an elongated metal boat (silvery) over Ardsley in daylight. Over Scarsdale, before I graduated high school in 1970, my brothers, father and myself saw two purple lights cavorting over the public library. I never saw any close-up classic disk-shaped UFO's of the type in paperback or newspaper accounts. Once I thought I saw a metal silvery mothership over Yale in daylight slipping out of a cloudbank in the distance but it could have been a dirigible although it lacked markings (c. 1975). While I was still in grade school, I saw a huge diamond-shaped light over Ardlsey one night. When it vanished many planes were suddenly flying over the area!

I enjoyed Hansen's article [***PURSUIT***, vol. 18, #4]. He made a slight error on Leif Ericson, though. Ericson was a Christian since he had been converted (a least nominally) by King Olaf Trygguason of Norway and was sent by him to convert Greenland. Leif's father, a hardcore, remained loyal to the pagan gods while Sweden did not convert until the 1090s. The Shetlands remained pagan or half-pagan until the 1100 or 1200s. The Norse, Christian or Pagan did not change to feudal European ways until after the 1100s. The crews who went to Vinland were a mixture of Christian and Pagan living fairly comfortably alongside each other. (For reference see: *A History of the Vikings* by T. Kendrick and Frederick Pol's *The Viking Settlements of North America*.

—Jon Douglas Singer

Dear Editor:

The significance of a new scientific theory to a long-time Fortean mystery should not go unrecognized.

At the annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union in Baltimore in May, a group of space scientists from the University of Iowa proposed the theory that Earth's atmosphere is constantly intruded upon by small, icy comets. In essence, the scientists feel that such comets were the origin of Earth's water, influenced ice ages, and perhaps introduced life itself.

According to news reports, scientists Louis A. Frank, John D. Craven and John B. Sigwarth have literally put their reputations on the line with this radical approach to the planet's origins.

Of course, the theory should be explored in greater depth than allowable here, but there *is* an aspect that should become immediately intriguing to ***PURSUIT*** readers: Falls of ice [see ***PURSUIT*** editorial, vol. 18, #4].

How many times? How many times over the years have we read reports of multi-sized chunks of ice, sometimes colored, often malodorous, crashing through the rooftops of houses and other structures? Having tired, as we all have, of countless "authorities" who instantly explain away such ice falls as the product of passing airplanes which seldom exist, I find the comet theory more than a little refreshing.

Now, if only somebody could tell us how all sorts of other "damned" things fall from the skies and throw logic into chaos...

—Robert Barrow

Dear Editor:

It's not everyday an author writes in to correct something in his own article, but I felt duty-bound to rectify an ambigious statement in my article, "A Preliminary Study of the Relationship Between So-called UFO Waves, Natural Constants and Planetary Cycles," (***PURSUIT***, 1st quarter 1985, pp. 34-35). On page 35, on the bottom line of the first column the sentence *should* have read, "It may be seen that the opposition of Mars coincided with the waves only in years of low sunspot number (Figure 2)." I draw attention to that because a Mars datum — actually a conjunction, not an opposition — coincides with a UFO wave *at the peak of a sunspot cycle* as seen in that very figure. My apologies for allowing that ambiguity in composition to escape my wary eye-for-error but I owe it to SITU and ***PURSUIT*** to point this out. Thank you for allowing me to bring this correction to the members' attention.

—Keith L. Partain

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed greatly the article by Herman Regusters on his Congo experiences in 1981 searching for Mokele M'bembe. Regusters is to be credited with getting there when others failed, and for getting a photo of the top part of the creature's head as it was going down in the water, which, while not perfect, was at least something to bring back.

Considering his idea that the ouranosaurus dinosaur might be a possible candidate for Mokele M'bembe, let me offer this — first, the ouranosaurus is not a sauropod at all, (such as diplodocus or brontosaurus) but according to Dr. David Norman, Oxford, it is classified as an ornithopod, a sub-division of the order Ornithiscia, which means bird-hipped dinosaurs. What this means for most of us is that the ouranosaurus was bipedal, like an emu or ostrich, while sauropods were quadrupedal, like a rhino or a cow.

The creatures shown in the movie "Baby" were depicted as sauropods, and probably as brontosaurs, but Regusters is now offering the possibility that he may have seen a more bipedal creature which spent much of its time underwater.

Second, I would like to point out that the sketch by Col. Mossedzedi of Mokele M'bembe on page 176 [***PURSUIT***, vol. 18, #4] greatly reminds one of various drawings by witnesses of the Loch Ness Monster that one can see in the books by Tim Dinsdale. According to Regusters, the creature was seen only in the water, (although heard on land) and that it submerged for days at a time, as far as they could see. Such behavior is typical of Nessie, and other lake monsters such as Champ of Lake Champlain. Nessie, it should be noted, has been reported out on land at least four times.

Let me then suggest that the monster of Lake Tele in the Congo is but one more "lake monster" and may be more closely related to a plesiosaur (a marine reptile thought to be extinct) than to any land-based dinosaur.

—Jon Erik Beckjord

SITUations

In this section, mostly contemporary curious and unexplained events are reported. Members are urged to send in newsclippings and reports they deem responsible. Please be sure to include the source of reference (name of newspaper or periodical), city of publication, date of issue in which article appeared, and your first initial and last name (or membership number only, if you prefer to be credited in that way).

Villagers Seek Protection From 'Ghost' Assault

The villagers in Ngoliba settlement, Kenya, stood in small clusters last Tuesday along the half-block stretch of wood and clay storefronts that mark this easy-to-miss hamlet, exchanging rumors and anxiously waiting for the exorcist.

Ghosts, or genies, as the villagers call them, had menaced a family in the settlement since mid-April, and now things were getting out-of-hand.

At first, stones crashed down through roofs without leaving holes; pots and pans took to the air, apparently on their own; tablecloths left on tables in locked houses somehow made their way onto rooftops; mysterious fires engulfed the village water-pump engine but gave off no heat.

But of late, the stones had begun hitting people or following them around and a large tree limb had taken to whumping people indiscriminately.

"We don't know what to make of it, because nobody has actually seen anything doing this," said Solomon Gachau, a resident of the village. "You don't hear or see anything. All of a sudden a stone falls silently near you or flies past you."

Ngoliba seems an unlikely place for a haunting. There are no aging two-story homes with creaking stairs and doors or spooky basements. It is rather a sleeping community of peasant farmers who live in tin-roofed huts made of mud and tree limbs, set on a pleasant green hillside where cows and goats graze in the shadow of Mt. Kilimamlogo.

But the belief in ghosts and witchcraft is widespread in Kenya, and Ngoliba residents are now among the believers.

Florence Wajiro, whose family is the apparent target of the ghostly mischief, said she, her five brothers and sisters and her parents were driven from their six-room home by the flying stones, pots and pans. They tried to stay in the small general store they own on the main street, but the ghosts tormented them there, too. They now stay in a local hotel or with sympathetic friends.

Townspeople followed as Wajiro took visitors to the house where most of the unexplained activity takes place, but none of the villagers would join them inside. Wajiro pointed to about a dozen stones that lay about the floor and to a tree branch that poked out from under the couch. She said these had appeared out of nowhere and begun hitting family members.

Outside, neighbors were asked what time the ghosts were active.

"Three p.m. and 10 a.m.," one replied. Told that it was 3:15 p.m. and there were no signs of supernatural activity, the residents explained that the ghosts had come early that day, around lunchtime.

Wajiro said that when she had tried to make lunch for her visiting grandparents over a fire in a small shed screened with chicken wire, dirt flew into one pot and a stone fell into another.

Teresia Mugure, who lives next door, said she offered them the use of her kitchen but withdrew the offer after a chunk of mud dislodged from her mud-and-stick hut, hitting her in the head, and a stone landed nearby.

"The stone just flew out of the wall," she said, pointing to a chunk of plaster on the floor, then to a hole about the same size in the wall. Several children in the village also had been struck by stones, she said, but none was seriously hurt.

The residents said the occurrences were a first for their village and that their inability to explain them led them to seek the help of the mysterious Professor Naaman, a medicine man from urban Nairobi, 68 miles away, who is said to have expertise in such matters.

The professor came to the settlement last Monday, they said, and suggested that the ghosts were likely the work of a disgruntled former wife whom Wajiro's father had recently divorced. "The professor said she had probably hired a jinx or demon," one resident said.

The explanation sounded plausible, the villagers said, because the former wife was known to travel regularly to Tanzania, believed here to be a center of the occult.

The professor offered to work countermagic on the ghosts, but Wajiro's father refused, saying he is a Christian and does not believe in witchcraft.

Residents of the settlement were supposed to try to change the father's mind before the exorcist who was to be sent arrived at the settlement on Tuesday.

He was to show up at 1:30 p.m. but at almost 5 p.m. there still was no sign of him. Even with generous local allowance for delays in travel, there was concern among residents that he would not show up but that the ghosts would.

SOURCE: Chicago *Tribune,* IL 5/12/86
CREDIT: Eric Helwig via COUD-I

Tombstone Crushes Boy in Visit to Grandma's Grave

In North Riverside, Ill., a 4-year-old boy who was visiting the grave of his grandmother with his parents on Mother's Day was crushed to death when a 500-pound headstone fell on him, police said yesterday.

Brandon Schwartz died dispite a heroic rescue effort by his father, Marvin, who lifted the heavy granite stone off his son, said Sgt. Robert Slak. When police arrived on the scene, it took four officers to move the marker.

"You can imagine what kind of strength it would take for one person to do that," said Slak. "You can also imagine the shock at seeing your son pinned beneath it."

The toppled headstone, which was not that of Brandon's grandmother, was mounted on a concrete base, the back of which apparently had settled into the ground and left the marker listing at an angle.

Sgt. John O'Rourke said Sunday that Jewish Walheim Cemetery "is one of the older cemeteries with high tombstones. No one knew how it fell or why it fell."

According to O'Rourke, the boy was walking behind his parents when Schwartz said he heard a thud and turned and saw his son under the gravestone.

The child was pronounced dead at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood.

SOURCE: AP in the Newark *Star-Ledger,* NJ 5/12/86
CREDIT: Nancy Warth

Ghost of Zeppelin Hindenburg Sighted

Obviously, there's a lot more going on in trans-Atlantic air travel than the mainstream press cares to acknowledge. The Hindenburg, as aviation buffs know, was destroyed by fire while docking in New Jersey in 1937. But according to the *Weekly World News,* Capt. Angelo DeLuca, piloting a chartered cargo jet from New York to Rome, recently encountered a "silver and cigar-shaped" aircraft that he described in a sworn affidavit this way:

"The name Hindenburg" appeared on the side of the airship, and from old photographs I've seen, it was an exact replica. We passed close enough to see faces through the gondola windows."

Shortly thereafter, according to the affidavit, this ghostly Hindenburg entered a cloud bank and never emerged. Capt. DeLuca and his crew were "very shaken" when they finally landed in Rome, said an Italian flight investigator, who added, "We are still trying to come up with a logical explanation for this."

Until then, the *World News* story concludes, "Capt. DeLuca has been suspended with pay."

SOURCE: St. Louis *Post-Dispatch, MO* 6/8/86
CREDIT: Ray Nelke

Airlift Escape

A freak wind which roared through Hami in Western China, sucked 13 children into the air and carried them 12 miles before dumping them unharmed in sand dunes.

SOURCE: *Daily Express,* England 5/30/86
CREDIT: David Rossiter via COUD-I

Chickens Going Afoul Have Town up in Arms

The great chicken caper in Ellwood City, Pa. has been laid to rest, but not before residents took up arms against five belligerent game chickens that had been roaming the neighborhood, leaving droppings in yards and on automobiles.

Janna Kirkwood asked the Franklin Township trustees in Beaver County, about 40 miles north of Pittsburgh, to do something about the birds.

"They roost in trees and swoop down on you as you walk past," Kirkwood said. "But I'm not as concerned about the chickens as I am about the neighbors shooting at them. This is my back yard, and people are shooting both ways across it."

Kirkwood said she was afraid her children would get hurt from BBs in the crossfire from the neighbors' air rifles. "These chickens have been shot, they've been poisoned and they're still running loose."

Kirkwood said she recently found five eggs in her garage and disposed of them "or we'd have five more chickens running around..."

"This is a rural area and it's legal to shoot at them and some people were trying to blow them away," Patrolman Bob Stevenson said.

"Two of them were fighting gamecocks and the fellow said they had fought each other to death Wednesday night. It appears that the chickens have gone to the great chicken house in the sky," Stevenson said.

SOURCE: *Plain Dealer,* Cleveland, OH 4/11/86

CREDIT: Wayne Cermak

Beirut Readies For Plague of Locusts

The death toll passed 100 in the battle for Beirut's refugee camps and the government reported a locust plague, one of the few disasters Lebanon had been spared in 11 years of civil war.

Waves of locusts began arriving Saturday, and by Monday threatened 600 square miles of the Christian-controlled area north and northeast of Beirut.

The radio reported "rapid breeding" of the insects and said foreign experts might be asked to help cope with the first locust invasion of Lebanon in nearly 70 years.

SOURCE: Houston *Chronicle,* TX 6/10/86

CREDIT: Scott Parker via COUD-I

Neighborhood Disgusted by Caterpillar Invasion

Swarms of caterpillars thriving in mild spring temperatures have invaded Dublin, a suburban area of San Francisco, making it nearly impossible for disgusted residents to "interface" in their back yards.

"It's been so gross!" Dola Miller said. "Our neighborhood is straight out of a Stephen King novel. We are talking about millions of caterpillars."

SOURCE: UPI in the Houston *Chronicle,* TX 4/24/86

CREDIT: Scott Parker via COUD-I

Residents Declare War on Cockroaches

Residents of a two-block area declared war Thursday on hundreds of thousands of cockroaches that crawled out of a nearby sewer during the weekend and marched into their homes like an invading army in Roseville, Mich.

The battle lines were drawn when two pest control firms hired by the homeowners began the first of several extermination treatments Thursday in the tree-lined neighborhood northeast of Detroit.

What angers residents of the infested area is that they are being held responsible for exterminating the pests.

"We're not a dirty neighborhood. These are the city's roaches breeding in the city's sewers. We didn't order them and they're not coming from our homes," said one homeowner.

Many of the homeowners are vowing to deduct extermination costs from their water-sewerage bills if the city refuses to pay.

About a dozen residents of the neighborood gathered at City Hall on Wednesday to present City Manager Thomas Van Damme with several bags containing dead roaches, many as long as two inches.

"It's devastating on warm evenings," said Grace Watycha, who lives in the infested neighborhood. "You can't even walk anywhere without stepping on them."

Residents say they have found the roaches inside their homes, on furniture and near drains. One man said he woke up Saturday morning and wondered why it was still dark outside — only to discover to his shock that roaches had covered his bedroom window.

City officials concede they are at a loss to explain the infestation.

"We're still investigating and trying to find the source of the problem," Van Damme said. "So far, we have not found the masses of roaches in the sewers that would have caused such an extensive problem. And we have not found them on any nearby streets."

The owner of one of the pest control firms said it will take at least three treatments over the next three to six months to control the roaches — and even then there is no guarantee.

"Our samples were all identified as Oriental cockroaches. They are filthy, filthy animals that are breeding in the sewers," said Valerie Kirchoff.

SOURCE: UPI in the *North Jersey Advance,* NJ 6/6/86

CREDIT: S. Harrison

Toad Invasion Has Bakersfield Hopping Mad

An invasion of toads has residents of a new neighborhood on the outskirts of Bakersfield, Calif. attacking them with brooms, vacuum cleaners and lawn mowers, but for the moment, it seems in vain.

"We have a thousand toads in the back yard, and there are too many to count in the front yard," said Grace Luong.

"All the rain we've had recently has created more pools for them to breed," explained Marty Overfield, senior animal control officer with the Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Bakersfield.

City officials expect the infestation to end in a few weeks as the growing toads die from human intervention and lack of food.

SOURCE: AP in the Houston *Chronicle,* TX 5/27/86

CREDIT: Scott Parker via COUD-I

Savage Seagulls Terrorising Town's Residents

A flock of vicious seagulls is terrorising the people of a seaside town in a real-life Hitchcock horror story.

The gulls swoop from the sky at Teignmouth, Devon, England and attack anyone.

One woman has been hurt in five separate incidents.

Sheila Wanlass (44) was first attacked two years ago while walking to work early one morning.

She said: "Four or five gulls started to dive-bomb as inthe film 'The Birds.' They go for your eyes first and I had to put my hands up to protect my face."

The latest incident was last Wednesday and Ms. Wanlass had to be treated by her doctors for cuts to the face and hands.

"The whole thing is very frightening."

Margaret Whitlock, of Fourth Avenue, has also suffered. She said: "Several of the seagulls nest in my chimney. Sometimes, when they are worried about their young, they swoop down on you. It is very frightening."

SOURCE: Shropshire *Star,* England 5/5/86

CREDIT: Janet & Colin Bord via COUD-I

Rare Bird Pair Seen in Cuba

A male and possibly two female ivory-billed woodpeckers long thought extinct have been spotted in Cuba, delighting naturalists.

"I thought, My God, I've seen it," said Lester Short, chairman of the orithology department at the American Museum of Natural History. Short, an authority on woodpeckers, led two other scientists on an expedition that made the sightings between April 6 and 16.

They spotted the birds eight times within 2½ miles of Ojita de Agua, a lumber camp about 500 miles east of Havana, the museum said in a statement.

"Everybody is thrilled about it," added Susan R. Drennan, editor of American Birds, a publication of the National Audubon Society.

Short said the Cuban Ministry of Agriculture had ordered an immediate end to all lumbering within four miles of where the rare birds were seen.

SOURCE: AP in the Detroit *News,* MI 5/6/86

CREDIT: Bill Kingsley via COUD-I

Baby has Fire Jinx Rattled

Baby Daniel Eccles's rattle saved his home from the fire curse of the Crying Boy yesterday.

Six-month-old Daniel bashed his rattle to bring his father, Jed, running into his blazing kitchen.

And Jed's fire brigade call saved his home in West Melton, Rotherham, South Yorks, from going up in flames.

The Crying Boy, linked to a series of mystery fires, was unscathed ...until Jed, 25, smashed it to pieces.

"I should have done it ages ago," he said. A chip pan left on a cooker is thought to have started a fire.

SOURCE: *The Sun*, England 6/10/86
CREDIT: David Rossiter Via COUD-I

Dog Pays Debt, Saves Man's Life

Three years ago, Roy Melton saved the life of a neighbor's dog in Hendersonville, N.C., which got its chain caught in a fence and was slowly choking. Earlier this month, the mixed chow and German shepherd named Lucky repaid the debt.

"I'd been feeling faint and had called the doctor, but he wasn't on duty so I'd just decided to wait and go in on Monday," Melton said. "I'd gone down to the store and had started over to play a game of pool with the neighbors when I collapsed."

Joyce Harris, Lucky's owner, said she and her family heard Lucky barking.

"She didn't stop barking until we found him," she said. "The doctor at the emergency told us it was a good thing that we acted so quickly."

SOURCE: AP in the Asbury Park *Press*, NJ 6/1/86
CREDIT: Member #432

Kate Seeks Lost World

A Devon student is to join an expedition to remote mountains in Venezuela, where dinosaurs are reputed to roam, and which inspired Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to write "The Lost World."

Miss Kate Wykes, 22, of Higher Lathy's, Poltimore, Exeter, and third-year language student, is joining seven other people on the scientific adventure.

The 14-week Lost World Forest Resources Expedition 1986, which sets out this month for Gran Sabana in South-East Venezuela, has been given the Royal Geographical Society's official approval and will receive funds from a number of sponsors, including the Duke of Edinburgh.

In Gran Saban lies a range of flat-topped mountains called Tepuis. Their remote location and isolation since prehistoric times has led to speculation about the existence of living fossils — dinosaurs — in their plateaus.

Attempts to reach the summit of the most famous of them, Roraima, in the 19th century, were the source for Conan Doyle's book, which was later made into a successful film.

SOURCE: *The Weekly Morning* News, England 6/3/86
CREDIT: David Rossiter via COUD-I

The Man with no Memory

Clive Wearing is one of Britain's most talented classical musicians.

But his life has become hell on earth.

For Clive — who has produced award-winning Radio 3 programmes and is an expert on the 16th century composer Lassus — is a man with no memory.

He is the worst amnesia case on record...recalling nothing of his past.

His memory lasts just 20 seconds and he says: 'It's like being dead.'

Yet although he has no mental condition, he is forced to live in the acute psychiatric ward of St. Mary's Hospital, West London, because nowhere else will take him.

Clive, 48, lost his memory after running a termperature of 102 degrees and becoming incoherent.

And his wife Deborah became frantic when he was found in a police station after hailing a cab and forgetting his own address in Northwest London.

She said: "He can't even remember his three children."

The hospital found that Clive had enkephalitis, a virus carried latently by most people aged over 40. It becomes active in about 50 people a year, yet doctors don't know why.

The hospital expected Clive to last a few days, then they discovered a drug that could save him.

It *did*, but Deborah said: "When he recovered, he had no memory at all. The room was literally changing before his eyes. He couldn't remember seeing it a few seconds before."

Clive's minute-by-minute diary of his day always ends: "Awake at last! I'm seeing for the first time!"

Memory expert Dr. Alan Baddeley said: "The condition is crippling. Clive is the most densely amnesic patient I've known."

Yet Deborah said: "I've contacted every health organization, but nobody's prepared to look after him. I love Clive but I've often wished he hadn't survived."

SOURCE: The Sunday *Mail*, England 6/15/86
CREDIT: David Rossiter via COUD-I

Scientist Shows Speed of Sound is Slower

A Canadian scientist has discovered that the speed of sound in air is nearly a half mile an hour slower than physicists, acousticians, and aerodynamic engineers have thought for four decades. The finding, confirmed by acousticians who have studied it, reveals a small but significant error in modern calculations of one of nature's most venerable benchmarks.

When Chuck Yeager smashed the sound barrier in 1947 and the Concorde made it a relic of history, the speed of sound was put at 741.5 mph, or 331.45 meters a second. That is the figure given by the standard handbooks and textbooks and used for a wide assortment of engineering calculations.

No one had reason to doubt it. But in the course of trying to calibrate microphones as accurately as possible, Dr. George Wong, a senior research officer of the NationalResearch Council of Canada, discovered that the old figure was off. With the help of refined instrumentation and what he called "a year and a half of detective work," he produced a figure that was slightly but significantly slower: 741.1 mph, or 331.29 meters a second.

Wong said that he had uncovered a 1942 calculation error that steadily worked its way through the scientific literature, never challenged. "It's quite a surprise," he said. "Everybody thought that thing was closed — it died years ago."

Apart from its role in the folklore of aviation, the speed of sound in air is a basic constant in the science of acoustics. It helps to determine the way aircraft and projectiles move through the atmosphere, the way sound waves reverberate in different rooms and the way gases move at high pressure through pipelines. For theorists, the speed of sound and related quantities provide a bridge between substances' behavior at molecular scales and at large scales.

"It's a very fundamental quantity when it comes to the flow and movement of gases, as fundamental a constant for acoustics as the velocity of light is for optics," said Robert Finch, of the University of Houston, a specialist in engineering acoustics. "All sorts of calculations use the speed of sound in air. It's so fundamental that it's hard to avoid."

In practice, engineering problems that rely on the speed of sound — from the reverberation time of concert halls to the onset of turbulence in air rushing over an airplane wing — usually have too much built-up imprecision to be affected by a refinement as small as Wong's. His figure apples to dry air at 0 degrees Centigrade and at standard atmospheric pressure at sea level. Outside a laboratory, the vagaries of temperature, humidity, air pressure and even the composition of air can all raise or lower the effective speed of sound by many miles an hour.

Still, some acoustics specialists suggested that as a precise benchmark,Wong's result might help in the calibration of scientific instruments such as micrometers that use the speed of sound to measure distances to within a thousandth of an inch. The finding may be just a nuance, but it is a nuance with pedigree.

"*A refinement in the speed of sound or the speed of light or anything that fundamental is not trivial*," said Daniel Martin, editor-in-chief of the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America.

SOURCE: St. Paul *Pioneer Press-Dispatch*, MN 5/27/86
CREDIT: Eric Helwig via COUD-1

The Biological Clocks of a Bamboo Forest

A Smithsonian botanist has been trying to figure out why every member of any given species of bamboo — regardless of its location around the world — dies off simultaeously. It's as if all the Douglas firs died at once. Although new shoots appear within several years, this can spell economic disaster for Asian countries that depend on this plant and starvation for pandas that survive on bamboo. The botanist modestly admits that he probably won't find the answer in his lifetime but hopes his work may help others along to the solution.

SOURCE: *Science-84*, January/February 1986 issue
CREDIT: Scott Parker

Geologist Rediscovers Dinosaur Tracks

Dinosaur tracks that are believed to be more than 205 million years old have been rediscovered on the Mavajo Reservation in northeastern Arizona.

The tracks were buried under about 3 inches of soil and sand. The tracks were found recently by Scott Madsen, a geologist at the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff, and Keith Becker, a museum volunteer.

The tracks were first discovered 50 years ago by Barnum Brown, a scientist from the American Museum of Natural History. But Brown died, his notes disappeared and the only clue that remained was a photograph of Brown sweeping out the tracks.

Madsen said he had seen the photo while looking at a book and recalled that he had seen a rock formation similar to that in the photo's background, in an area near Cameron.

He dug into the soil in the area and discovered one of about 300 tracks that Brown had found imbedded in sandstone.

"You can bet that dozens of people walked over them in the 1940s, '50s and '60s without even realizing it," said Madsen. "But then again, they could have been anywhere between here and the Four Corners."

The tracks are 1½ to 2 inches in length and are up to 4 inches deep.

Madsen said the tracks were believed to have been made by large, carnivorous reptiles with three toes.

"They are in a small area, the individual prints are pretty well preserved and there are a lot of track waves — a series of consecutive prints that show the walking pattern of one of the reptiles," Madsen said.

He said one wave of 12 tracks had been discovered and should help scientists determine the gait and speed of the creature.

SOURCE: UPI in the St Louis *Post-Dispatch*. MO 4/20/86
CREDIT: R. Nelke via COUD-I

Rediscovered Stone Thought Life-Giving

"Wheatball stone," a rare mineral lost for 400 years, may be the reason inhabitants of a small village in Inner Mongolia enjoy a lifespan 15 years longer than the national average, China's official Xinhua News Agency in Peking has said.

The properties of the rare mineral, called the "wheatball stone" because of its resemblance to wheat cooked by the villagers, were recorded in 1578 in a Chinese medical book. The exact nature of the stone was lost until "quite recently," Xinhua said.

According to a survey by the China Medical University, the stone can prevent chronic diseases and is good for the metabolism, skin, blood, circulation, stomach and liver, the news agency said, adding that cakes, sweets, soft drinks and cosmetics containing it are already being manufactured.

SOURCE: UPI in the Nashville *Tennessean*, TN 5/5/86
CREDIT: H. Holland

Gifted Psychic

DORIS STOKES is without doubt the most gifted and experienced psychic in Britain today. Descriptions of the paranormal events that have surrounded her life fill five books and, she tells me, there are two more volumes on the way!

I visited her recently at her home, and, looking a little tired, she explained that being a medium made extreme demands on the physical body. The night before at the Barbican Centre, she had given psychic messages to nearly three thousand people. She was drained.

Doris's messages come in the form of voices. These voices sound as real to her as the voices of ordinary people. The information they pass on has, time and time again, proved to be correct in minute detail and is totally above any possibility of fraud. So where do the voices come from?

I suggested to her some sort of telepathy with her audience. Doris looked cross and said most definitely not! Her voices belonged to people who have died, and who now lead perfectly happy lives in another dimension. Doris explained how she once visited this place, and described it as exquisitely beautiful. "You could taste the love in the air," she added.

Love is the keyword for Doris Stokes. She regards love as the single most important qualification for success as a medium. "To keep love you have to give it away," she told me. Her three other watchwords were "humility, honesty and humour."

In this age of "psychic development courses" it was good to hear from an expert that all you need is love!

SOURCE: Bryn Davies, *TODAY*, England 4/26/86
CREDIT: David Rossiter Via COUD-I

Woman Says Noises Predicted Quake

Charlotte King of Sacramento, Calif. says she could feel the earthquakes in the Aleutian Islands coming because of the sounds she hears in her head.

King called *United Press International* on Monday, saying she knew a major quake was about to strike in Canada, Alaska, the Aleutians or Japan.

Three quakes did rock the Aleutian Islands on Wednesday.

King said the strength of the sound in her head Monday, a sound alternating between a noise like a single foghorn and dual tones, indicated to her where the quake might strike.

King said her condition had begun in 1976 "for no apparent reason." She continuously hears 13 tones, which undergo changes when events such as earthquakes or volcanic eruptions are about to occur.

King received widespread attention with a prediction of the eruption of Mount St. Helens in 1980. On April 27, King called UPI to predict an earthquake that shook Mexico three days later.

SOURCE: UPI in the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*, MO 5/9/86
CREDIT: Ray Nelke via COUD-I

Legendary Beasts Haunt the Wilderness

The elusive Beast of Exmoor has certainly captured the public's interest and fired the imagination; but it's not the first strange creature to be reported roaming the wilds, and I doubt it will be the last.

On the lonely Cumbrian fells, for instance, in 1810 something began taking an unhealthy interest in the sheep above Ennerdale Water. It tore great bites from them — often severing their jugulars and leaving them for dead.

Despite all attempts to track down the creature, it covered its trail with almost human cunning, and it was some time before a shepherd caught sight of it returning from a night raid; a massive dog-like animal with grey stripes on its tawny hide — "lionish" said the eyewitness.

After months of these infrequent dawn sightings those farmers in possession of hounds organized hunts in pursuit of the beast, but no dog would approach it. One man actually sighted the creature along his rifle, only for the gun to misfire.

Years later, a party of 12 armed men encircled their prey and began to close in. But the cunning animal simply awaited its chance to bound through a gap, right by an astonished hunter who was so surprised he forgot to pull his trigger.

Happily for the sheep, their killer was eventually cornered in a cornfield in September, 1910. There it was wounded and limped to bathe its injury in a nearby pool, before being chased into woods, flushed out and shot again — enabling hounds to finish the job.

It was, after all, no lion but an unknown variety of dog weighing fully eight stones. Its striped tawny carcass was displayed in Keswick's museum.

So that particular animal was flesh and blood; but there are stories of less substantial creatures. Any Dartmoor dweller can probably tell you chilling tales about its legendary "Black Dogs."

There are Black Dog stories in Moretonhampstead, Torrington and Bridestowe to name but a few places.

Then there are the infamous "Wish Hounds," said to be the jet black hunting dogs of Drewer — the Devil himself. This spectral hunt is claimed to traverse the Moors on moonless, stormy nights in search of unbaptised souls.

An oft-told folktale relates that a Dartmoor farmer, riding one night alone, happened upon the Wish Hunt in full cry. Being the braver for much ale he inquired of "Drewer" as to whether he had met with any success. "Only this," said the Satanic huntsman and, laughing, he tossed the man a cloth bundle.

On reaching home, the farmer unwrapped the bundle to discover inside the body of his own infant.

Such was the conviction of the Wish Hound legend that when the battered body of a man was discovered on the Moors in the 1870s, a coroner's jury decided he had been struck by the phantom hunter.

SOURCE: *Western Morning News*, England 6/11/86
CREDIT: David Rossiter via COUD-I

'Fever' Could Have Burned Image on Shroud of Turin

A human phenomenon known as "post-mortem fever" could have burned the markings of a body on the Shroud of Turin, believed to have covered the body of Jesus Christ after his crucifixion, an archaeologist says.

The process may add credence to theories the shroud was used at the time of Christ's burial and the scorched imprint of a man's body on the cloth was caused by a 'burst of energy' at the time of Christ's resurrection, James Strange of the University of South Florida said Friday.

There have been allegations the image was faked with special photographic and laser techniques.

Strange, an internationally acclaimed archaeologist, said scientists may have found a method of duplicating scientifically the markings on the shroud.

The key to the discovery, Strange said Friday before boarding a plane to Israel, lies in the phenomenon known as 'post-mortem fever.'

"What we found out from morticians and pathologists was that fever actually advances for an hour or two after death, instead of just immediately dropping off," Strange said.

In an experiment this spring in Salt Lake City, Strange and other scientists took a medical mannequin to a first-century tomb in Jerusalem.

"We added enough hot water so that the mannequin's temperature at the time of burial was 115 degrees," Strange said. "We then wrapped the mannequin in cloth and added myrhh and aloes, a customary practice at the time."

One of the scientists with Strange said the "scorching effect" could have been a natural biological reaction caused by death under stressful circumstances.

SOURCE: UPI in the Houston *Chronicle*, TX 6/1/86
CREDIT: Scott Parker via COUD-I

When Fate is just a Matter of Time

A charming girl I use to know had her fortune told when she was 16. The monumental nurd who read her hand told her she would die before she was 40. She often used to joke about it. A few weeks before her 40th birthday she mentioned it again. I said the gods of chance would have to get a move on if the idiotic prophecy were to be fulfilled. They did. The next week the car she was driving collided with a lorry and she was killed instantly. Her husband maintains to this day that in some way we don't quite understand she has willed herself subconciously to fulfill the prediction. Or was it just coincidence?

I thought about this strange business last week when talking to Bob Vaughan, the Stratford bookseller, about JB Priestley's library which he has just bought. Among the 7,000 volumes is a section of J W Dunne and time of theory; a subject which fascinated Priestley and led him to write a group of time plays.

Dunne was an aircraft designer and inventor who gave his close friend H. G. Wells the idea for the tank, which he developed in his novel *The Land Ironclads*. He also wrote the widely-read *Experiment with Time* which suggested that time was not linear by serial. This would account for otherwise inexplicable examples of precognition and prevision in dreams. I hadn't even though about Duanne for years but the same day I was reading a book about trout fishing when, blow me, the same J W Dunne was waxing lyrical about the sport's fascination. A coincidence? Not in Dunne's book.

Yet the most remarkable coincidence of all concerns D-Day. In the run-up to that greatest miliary operation the world has ever known, there were certain most secret code words. One, Utah, appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* crossword puzzle on May 2, a month before the invasion was due. A second, Omaha, appeared in the crossword on May 22. Both were vital beaches where the allies planed to land on June 6. Overlord, code name for the whole gigantic enterprise, was a clue on May 27 and Milberry, code for the huge floating harbour we would use, was a clue on May 30.

Was some secret agent giving our top secrets to the enemy? The compliers were speedily sought out and were revealed as two totally blameless schoolmasters. It was a coincidence; unless, of course, you are a disciple of the extraordinary J W Dunne.

SOURCE: G. Smith, Sunday *Times*, England 6/15/86
CREDIT: D. Rossiter via COUD-I

Medium and the Message

Peter Underwood, president of the Ghost Society who is researching a book on Victorian times, was among guests at Bossiney Books annual luncheon.

Apparently, he says, Queen Victoria was fascinated by ghosts and could often be found contacting an ouija board in search of news of her dear departed Albert.

Indeed, when Disraeli was on his death-bed, he was asked by a courtier if he would like to see Her Majesty one more time before he shuffled off this mortal coil.

"No," he is reported to have replied without a moment's hesitation. "I know she would only want me to pass on a message to Albert."

SOURCE: The *Western Morning News*, England 6/25/86
CREDIT: David Rossiter via COUD-I

Apparition of Virgin Mary

A report of an appearance of the Virgin Mary in a flood of mysterious light is drawing thousands of people to a small church in a working-class neighborhood in northern Cairo, a newspaper with close church connections said Sunday.

The newspaper, Watani, said a fact-finding committee established by Patriarch Shenudah III of the Coptic Orthodox Church had seen the apparition "clad in light" above the Church of St. Demiana before dawn Friday. The appearance began at 3:40 a.m. and continued for 80 minutes, the paper said.

The newspaper said the apparition was first sighted March 25 above the two domes of the St. Demiana church, in the Tera Boulakiya district in northern Cairo.

SOURCE: UPI in the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*, MO 4/14/86
CREDIT: Ray Nelke Via COUD-I

Gaseous Holes Puzzle Oklahoma Authorities

Deep shafts that are filled with churning water and spew odorless natural gas have appeared on Indian trust land in Caddo County, in Carnegie, Okla., and — except for the need to keep sightseers away — nobody is sure what to do about them.

Barriers to keep the public out were erected after a man was burned in an explosion Monday when he struck a match to light his pipe near one of the holes.

Udel Little's hair was burned off his hands, arm and face, and his shirt melted, officials said. He received second-and third-degree burns.

The holes were discovered by children riding motor bikes around the area.

Carnegie Police Chief Bill Reedy on Monday notified the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, local and county civil defense units, the Caddo County Sheriff's Department and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol about the holes.

Officials of the commission, which oversees utilities, conducted tests, but stopped when they learned the land is trust property set aside by the federal government for tribes and is outside their jurisdiction.

The situation also was reported to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Land Management.

Reedy said one of the holes is about 3½ feet wide and 210 feet deep.

SOURCE: AP in the *Capital Times*, WI 6/6/86
CREDIT: Eric Hegwig via COUD-I

Survival Fight Brings Voodoo Out of Closet

It was billed as a historic first. Hundreds gathered for a weekend of drinking, speeches, planning and dancing to African drums in a tiny village of grass-roofed mud huts on the edge of Gonaives, Haiti. Never have so many voodoo priests met so openly.

Some priests carried sticks and knives for protection. A four-man army detachment also was guarding them. They had gathered to talk about their survival.

The Feb. 7 overthrow of Duvalier regime has burst open one of the oldest conflicts in Haiti, the rivalry between voodooism and the Catholic Church. It is more than a theological question; it is a political power struggle in which hundreds have died in the past several months.

Voodoo is a polytheistic African-based religion that evolved in Haiti with gods of both Haitian and African origin. These gods are neither good nor evil but are spirits who, with the help of a priest who is paid for his service, will carry out the request of a follower. These requests are usually medicinal.

Voodooists complain that the church is seeking to exploit voodoo's cultural appeal. "The Catholic Church now uses voodoo music to draw people," protests Aboudia, 32, a voodoo drummer.

SOURCE: Chicago *Tribune*, IL 6/19/86
CREDIT: Eric Helwig via COUD-I

*see Editorial on contents page for COUD-I

The Notes of Charles Fort

Deciphered by Carl J. Pabst

ABBREVIATIONS

*	For some obscure reason, Fort cut a notch on the right side of the note.
**	For some obscure reason, Fort cut a point on the left side of the note.
(+)	exceptional note
ab	about
ac to	according to
adjac.	adjacent
A. J. Sci.	*American Journal of Science*
(A 1)	[? Almanac ?]
Als. Vosges	Alsace Vosges
BA	*Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science*
BCF	*The Books of Charles Fort*
B.D.-176	*The Book of the Damned*, page 176
Belg	Belgium
bet	between
Ciel et T	*Ciel et Terre*
Conn.	Connecticut
D-49	*The Book of the Damned*, page 49
Det met	Detonating meteor
D. News	London *Daily News*
Ext.	Extraordinary
(F)	*Fletcher's List*
Finley's Rept.	*Finley's Report*
(Fr)	France
frgs	frogs
Gelat	Gelatin
(Hun)	Hungary
Inf Conjunction	Inferior Conjunction
Inst of Sci	*Institute of Science*
(It)	Italy
J. des Deb	*Journal des Debats*
Ky.	Kentucky
l b's	ladybirds
LT	London *Times*
Mass.	Massachusetts
met. det.	meteor and detonation
Metite	Meteorite
Mo.	Missouri
M. Notices	*Monthly Notices*
M.W.R.	*Monthly Weather Review*
Myst	Mysterious
(N)	[?]
Niles Nat. Reg	*Niles' National Register*
N.J.	New Jersey
(N.M.)	No More
Nor. Car.	North Carolina
N.Q.	*Notes and Quotes*
N.S.W.	New South Wales
N.Y. Herald	*New York Herald*
obj	object
Oc. Moon	Occultation of Moon
ONOKNEEROR	[?]
Op Mars	Opposition to Mars
Pa.	Pennsylvania
phe.	phenomena
Prince Ed. Island	Prince Edward Island
q	earthquake
q - met	earthquake and meteor
q phe	earthquake and phenomena
Religio-Phil Jour	*Religio-Philosophical Journal*
/// [Reverse side]	probably not related
R.I.	Rhode Island
Sc Am	*Scientific American*
Singular Oc.	Singular Occurrence
S. Italy	Southern Italy
Spon Comb	Spontaneous Combustion
Sup.	Superstition
Symons Met	*Symons' Meteorological Magazine*
Tenn	Tennessee
th. storm	thunderstorm
Timbs	*Timb's Year Book*
Trans Bombay Geog Soc	*Transactions of the Bombay Geological Society*
Trib	*Tribune*
trombe d'eau	[?]
Y.B.	*Year Book of Facts*

(Continued from **PURSUIT** *Vol 19, #1, page 48)*

1842 Aug. 12/9 p.m. / Aosta / Meteor motionless "dizaine" seconds. /
[Reverse side] *Bib. Univ., N.S.*, 42-396.

1842 Aug. 12 / Great meteor at Grand Lemps (Isere) / *C.R.* 15-451 / 9 p.m.
Lemps (Isere) / C.R. 15-451 / 9 p.m.

1842 Aug. 19 / bet. 7 and 9 p.m. / Pitlochry / 3 shocks and sounds / LT. Sept. 1-3-c.

1842 Aug. 22 / bet. 6 and 7 / Bangor, N. Wales, etc. / booming sound and q / LT, Aug. 25-3-f.

1842 Aug. 27 / (psychic) / S. Herefordshire / Man saw glow near a hedge — thought it reflection from some meteor. / BA 52/187.

1842 Sept. 3 / Parma / Fireball / BA 60

1842 Sept. 5 / See Aug. 5. / Harrowgate / huge stone — ½ ton — in th. storm / Mechanics Mag 37/272.

1842 Sept. 6 / [LT], 7-e / Waterspout.

1842 Sept. 9 / (Hun) / q / Gross-Kanischa / BA '11.

1842 Sept. 22 / [LT], 5-f / Strange if true.

1842 Sept. 24 / NM / 5:55 a.m. and ab 7 p.m. / shocks / Comrie / L.T., Oct. 10.

1842 Sept. 25 / (Pax) / ext. magneti[c] disturbance note[d] at Greenwich Ob. / Annals of Electric]ity] 6/112.

1842 Sept. 25 / evening / St. Louis / brilliant meteor detonating like discharges of artillery / Niles Nat. Reg. 63-96.

1842 Sept. 30 / Parma / Fireball / BA 60.

1842 Oct. 2 / bet. 6 and 7 p.m. / at Dinau, in Depart. Calvados / Shock [Reverse side] and sound like thunderclap, but it came distinctly from the ground." / BA-54.

1842 Oct. 4 / Reported by Mr. Glaisher, of the Cambridge Ob — a bright streak of light in Orion and a center about bright as Jupiter, a center from which were coming quick, flickering waves of light,
[Reverse side] lasting 10 seconds. The waving ceased and there was a bright star in the center. It faded and in 2 minutes disappeared. / Timb's Year Book 1843/279.

1842 Oct. 4 / Cambridge / Fireball / BA 60.

1842 Oct. 6 - 7 / night / Shock / Dinau (Calvados) / BA 54-324 / "Accompanied by a hollow sound, which some [Reverse side] persons took for a clap of thunder; but the sky was perfectly free of clouds, and the noise came distinctly from beneath upwards."

1842 Oct. 12 / Meteor / Isere / 13th, on Rhine, q and loud noise / BA 54/324.

1842 Oct. 18 / Hamburg / Fireball / BA '60.

1842 Oct. 23 / Det met heard all over Silesia / BA 60-80.

1842 Oct. 25 / Spout / Scotland / LT. Nov. 24-4-8.

1842 Oct. 28 / 7 p.m. / Comet in Draco / A J. Sci 44/211.

1842 Nov. 4 / 12:30 p.m. / Shock around mouth of Ohio. Two hours later [Reverse side] another, with sound like thunder. / Niles Nat. Register, Nov. 26.

1842 Nov. 8 or 9 / No fall of black matter in Canada recorded, but see 9th in Italy.

1842 Nov. 8 or 9 / Montreal, etc. / "Terrible shocks and explosions like salvos of artillery.
[Reverse side] In Rept. BA, 1845 (Trans) p. 29, date given as 9th.

1842 Nov. 8 / evening / Montreal, Canada, etc. / q "accompanied by explosions like salvos of artillery.
[Reverse side] Ac to another account, was on the 9th. / BA '54/324.

1842 Nov. 9 / (t) (X) / 10:15 a.m. / Distinct shock on southern side of Etna. "The next day
[Reverse side] a kind of volcanic dust covered the roofs, plants, etc., in

Naples. Pozzuoli. Ischia and all the southwestern part of the Kingdom." / [Front side] BA 1854.

1842 Nov. 9 / q / Canada / Montreal. etc. / BA 45/21.

1843 March 20 / Hamburg / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1843 March 25 / Bishopville, S. Car. / Metite. / (*F*).

1843 March 27 / bet. 3 and 4 a.m. / Meteor of great size, from S to N, passed [o]ver, illuminating Savannah. / *Niles Nat. Reg.*, April 8.

1843 March 28 / Fr / (Meurthe) Leuville / q / *BA* '11.

1843 March 31 / 3 large brilliant meteors passed over Detroit. One exploded with sounds like cannon fire. /

[Reverse side] *Niles Nat. Register*, Ap. 15.

1843 Ap. 1 / Great q / Bombay, etc. / *BA* '11.

1843 Ap. 1 / q and loud sound like thunder / Deccan, India /

[Reverse side] At 4:30 a.m. / *Bombay Monthly Times, April, p. 55.*

1843 Ap. 6 / q. / Belg / Ciel et T 8/38.

1843 Ap. 6 / 2 a.m. / shocks in Holland / L.*T.* 14-4-e.

1843 Ap. 14 / Clermont, France / Fireball / W to E / quick / *BA* 60.

1843 April 29-30 / midnight / Perth / ¼ hour, "alarming noise," "unnatural kind of screaming in sky / 22 miles from Comrie /

[Reverse side] Said been an uncommonly numerous flight of wild geese / L.*T.*, May 2, 1843.

1843 May 4 / France / large fireball / light = to sun's / *BA* 60.

1843 May 4 / 2 a.m. / Beauregard (upper Saône) / Cylindrical luminous body in sky.

[Reverse side] Detonations / L.*T.* 13-7-a.

1843 May 6 / Aurora Eng / Meteors followed. / L.*T.* 9-6-a //

[Reverse side] At Brussels / 13-7-a.

1843 May 6 / Great aurora / *C.R.* 16/1091, 1171.

1843 May 6 / England / Aurora at 11:30, having receding to horizon / Capella at vertex / L*T*, May 9-6-a.

1843 May 6 / (Leo) / Aurora or luminous patch in Leo / England / *Timb's* 44/282.

1843 May 6 / Brussels / elliptical, luminous cloud in south — aurora in north / L*T*, 1843, May 13-7-a.

1843 May 17-21 / At Turin, enormous "tombillons degraines". / *C.R.* 17-127.

1843 June / One of the largest sunspots ever seen / *Timbs Y.B.* 1872/260.

1843 - June - / Epidemic influenza / U.S. / *Religio-Phil Jour*, June 24, 1893, p. 1.

1843 ab 1st of June / Eastbourne / storm St. Elmo's / brilliant illumination of a mill / L.*T.*, June 3-6-e.

1843 June 2 / (F) / Utrecht / 8 p.m. / 2 stars fell. / *BA* 60-80 / See May, 1827. /

[Reverse side] *CR* 16-1312 / There said be similar *BA*.

1843 June / One of the largest of sunspots in minimum period / *A.J. Sci* 3/1/275 /

[Reverse side] *Sc Am* 24/272.

1843 June 6 / Op Mars / (A 1).

1843 June 9 / [L*T*], 5-c / 13-8-e / Flood in Wales.

1843 June 15 / A Flying Machine reported? / *Lit Gazette* 1843/421.

1843 June 19 / On a vessel ab 50 miles from Southwold in a heave gale a pigeon

[Reverse side] sought refuge upon a pilot boat. On a wing feather was stamped in Roman characters ONOKNEEROR. / *Liverpool Journal*, July 1.

1843 June 20 / [L*T*], 5-d / Atmospheric phe.

1843 June 21 / Parma / *BA* 60 / Fireball.

1843 June 21 / [L*T*], 7-d / Myst case.

1843 June 22 / Utrecht / Fireball / *BA* 60 / See June 2.

1843 June 23 / California / q / *BA* '11.

1843 June 24 / Nothing in *Liverpool Courier* nor *Liverpool Journal.*

1843 June 24 / Living / Severe th. storm / Liverpool / fall of pebbles and small eels / *BA* 45/21 / See *Literary Gazette*, 1843-420.

1843 June 29 / Manegaum, Knandeish, India / Metite / (*F*) / See July 26.

1843 June 29 / [L*T*], 7-b / Escape of a wolf at Coventry.

1843 1st July / from end of June, 1842, to // Ab. 30 shocks at Comrie / none on Perthshire / *B Assoc* 1843-120.

1843 July 4 / Efont Alps / by Dr. Gerling, of Marburg / [O]n moon — "a splendid bright point with a light like a

[Reverse side] fixed star. / *Observatory* 11/335 / See July 15, 1888.

1843 July 5 / The storm raged [o]ver almost all Great Britain, and "tidal waves" in Cornwall and in Scotland. /

[Reverse side] E. J. Lowe, *Treatise on Atmospheric Phe.*, p. 213.

1843 July 5 and Oct. 30 / Agitation of sea / Plymouth and Penzance / See May 3, '09.

1843 July 5 / At Mount's Bay (Cornwall?), ab. noon, sudden high wave, said been like that at Lisbon in time of the

[Reverse side] q. Then disturbance for several hours. / L.*T.*, July 24-8-a / There were clouds, and in morning sounds of a distant th. storm had been heard.

1843 July 6 / St Lawrence River / obj in sky or mirage / See Col. with Objs.

1843 July 7, 8 / Many mets / Parma / *BA* 47-15 /

[Reverse side] 10-12, 30 in one hour, at Trezzo, Lombardy / 21, 22, 23, 26, 29, 30, many, Parma.

1843 July 10 / *N.Y. Herald* / Long continued drought in N.Y. region.

1843 July 19 / *N.Y. Herald* — last page / scarcely any rain in Conn. for 6 weeks.

1843 July 25 / q. / Temeswar, Hungary / *BA* 11.

1843 July 25 / (Hun) / q / Temeswar / *BA* '11.

1843 July 26 / date of Kandeish stonefall in *BA* 60 / 3:30 p.m.

1843 July 26 / See June 29. / Metite / Manegaon (Khandeish), East Indies / *Oldham's Catalog of Meteorites.*

1843 July 31 / Ext. high tide / Thames / L.*T.*, Aug. 2-8-a.

1843 July / Aerolite fell near Eidulabad (Khandeish), India. / *Trans Bombay Geog Soc* 9/206.

1843 Aug. 4 / Prince Ed. Island / devastating th. storm and hail, some square-shaped

[Reverse side] and 4 to 6 inches in circumference / *N.Y. Herald*, Sept. 1-1-6.

1843 Aug. 5 / Storm and flood / Delaware Co. / *Inst of Sci* 1844-52.

1843 Aug. 5 / Great rainstorm in flood / N.Y.? / Delaware Co / *Fassig*, p. 170, part 2.

1843 Aug. 6 / Westphalia / met. det. / *BA* 60 / 1:30 a.m.

1843 Aug. 9 / great storm / A lightning storm / no rain? / *Nature*, Sept. 7, 1893 / E.J. Lowe.

1843 Aug. 9 / Th storm / *Leisure Hour 23/509.*

1843 Aug. 10 / Violent shock at Dornstohen / same day a trombe at Bagneres de Luchon /

[Reverse side] C.R. 18-397.

1843 Aug. 12 / bet. 7 and 8 a.m. / Shock and low rumbling sound / Burlington, N.J. / *Niles Nat. Reg.*, Aug. 19.

1843 Aug. 18 / night / Ohio and Tenn. and Ky. / q and loud noise / also N. Jersey / *Niles Nat. Register*, Sept. 9

1843 Aug. 21 / Stourbridge / frgs / L.*T.* 25-3-f / They were seen to fall and were in immense numbers.

1843 Aug. 21 / frgs / *Birmingham Journal*, 26th. / That at Stourbridge, fall of little frogs "during the evening and early part of one night. Persons in the streets felt them dropping in the dark, during the

[Reverse side] storm. Said that they were innumerable. All of small size. Stourbridge, Worcestershire / See L.*T.* Aug. 25-3-f. / 11 miles from Birmingham.

1843 Aug. 30 / 2 to 3 a.m. / London / Great glare in sky but moved about. / L*T* — Sept. 1-6-e.

1843 Sept. 2, etc. / At Zegna, Croatia, the q's / *CR* 18-397.

1843 Sept. 10 / bet 5 and 6 p.m. / At Arnaville (Meurthe), "trombe d'eau" / *CR* 18-397.

1843 Sept. 11-14 / First q's / Ragussa / *C.R.* 18-397.

1843 Sept. 14-Oct. / q phe / (14-16) / qs / Ragussa, etc. / Subterranean sounds and whistling sounds as if of flights of birds

[Reverse side] in the air. / Large luminous body moved from east to west at 2 a.m., of 16th, visible 2 minutes. Other qs to 26th. / *C.R.* 18-398 / Then qs on 3rd of Oct. / On 7th — violent dry fogs affecting sun and moon.

1843 Sept. 14 / 4:57 p.m. / The violent q at Ragusa. From then until 10 o'clock of the 15th, a horizontal cloud that was described as a beam extended from southeast to south, not moving. Said that

[Reverse side] the inhabitants were not frightened by the q. more than by this cloud, or beam-like cloud.

1843 Sept. 14, etc. / Other places. Meteor at Cattaro, Lesina, Ragussa. Q's in Ragussa, *Dalmatia* (on the Bay of Ragussa), particularly in *Herzegovania.* Dalmatia is on East of Adriatic.

[Reverse side] In *C.R.*, it is spelled *Raguse.* At island of Curzola. At Spalato and Slano // (+) This is Ragusa, Dalmatia, Austria, where q. was in 1667.

1843 Sept. 16 / q's of Ragussa on in 1844 / See *C.R.*, 20-1445.

1843 Sept. 16 / Klein-Wenden, Erfurt, Prussia / Metite / (*F*) //

[Reverse side] Near Nordhausen / *A.J. Sci* 2/3/142.

1843 Sept. 16 / Nordhausen / 5:15 p.m.

1843 Sept. 17 / Hamburg / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1843 Sept. 18 / [L*T*], 3-f / Vesuvius reported.

1843 Sept. 22 / Hamburg / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1843 Sept. 24 / morning / Stoughton and Easton, Mass / Sound like of a heavy explosion and then a

[Reverse side] rumbling. Houses shaken and doors jarred open. / *Niles Nat. Register*, Nov. 4 — p. 147.

1843 Sept. 26 / (It) / Ragusa (Italy) / q / (*BA* '11).

1843 September / q and torrents / Smyrna / repeated q's / "The mischief has been occasioned principally by the torrents of rain which have accompanied these convulsions. / *Timbs* 1846/270.

1843 Sept. 27 / Sunspots of Sept. and Oct. / On 27th, bet. 4 and 5 p.m., 3 fresh spots broke out — not visible the next day. /

[Reverse side] *M. Notices* 8-14.

1843 Oct. 2 / Pont de Bouvoisin / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1843 Oct. 2 / q. / Russia / Odessa, etc. / *BA* '11.

[*BCF*, p. 419:

In a pamphlet entitled *Wonderful Phenomena,* by Curtis Eli, is the report of an occurrence, or of an alleged occurrence, that was investigated by Mr. Addison A. Sawin, a spiritualist. He interpreted in the only way that I know of, and that is the psychochemic process of combining new data with preconceptions with which they seem to have affinity. It is said that, at Warwick, C.W., Oct. 3, 1843, somebody named Charles Cooper heard a rumbling sound in the sky, and saw a cloud, under which were three human forms, "perfectly white," sailing through the air above him, not higher than the tree-tops. It is said that the beings were angels. They were male angels. That is orthodox. The angels wafted through the air, but without motions of their own, and an interesting observation is that they seemed to have belts around their bodies — as if they had been let down from a vessel above, though this poor notion is not suggested in the pamphlet. They "moaned." Cooper called to some men who were laboring in another field, and they saw the cloud, but did not see the forms of living beings under it. It is said that a boy had seen the beings in the air, "side by side, making a loud and mournful noise." Another person, who lived six miles away, is quoted: "he saw the clouds and the persons and heard the sounds." Mr. Sawin quotes others, who had seen "a remarkable cloud," and had heard the sounds, but had not seen the angels. He ends up: "Yours is the glorious hope of the resurrection of the soul." The gloriousness of it is an inverse function of the dolefulness of it: Sunday Schools will not take kindly to the doctrine — be good and you will moan forever. One supposes that the glorious hope colored the whole investigation.]

1843 Oct. 5 / Volc / Lemongang / Java / N.M. / *C.R.* 70-878.

1843 Oct. 16 / Fireball / England / *BA* 60.

1843 Oct. 18 / Asia Minor, near Rhodes / great q / [*BA*] '11.

1843 Oct. 18 / Buffalo almost destroyed by hurricane. / *BA* 45/21 ///

[Reverse side] 63 / 8 / 18.

1843 Oct. 24 / *N.Y. Herald* 27-4-1 / 7:50 a.m. / Town of Canton, and other places in Mass. /

[Reverse side[Explosive sound that rumb[led] for a minute, ground quaking.

1843 Oct. 25-26 / (It) / Italy / q or det met / See 1805.

1843 Oct. 25-27 / q's / Tuscany, Italy / 26th, Asia Minor / *BA* '11.

1843 Oct. 30 / Stonefall / Russia — Stanitzka, on the Don / *BA* 60.

1843 Nov. 11 / 5 p.m. / Danube / white cloud and loud report / *BA* 60-80.

1843 Nov. 11 / [*LT*], 6-b / 20-3-d / 25-5-e / Dec. 1-4-e / Superstitions / Chepstow, Plymouth, Galway /

[Reverse side] Dec. 9-6-f / 25-2-f.

1843 Nov. 12-14 / Mets at Philadelphia not remarkable. / *BA* 47-15.

1843 Nov. 18 / Nottingham / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1843 Nov. 25 / Volc / Goentoes, Java / *C.R.* 70-878 / N.M.

1843 [Dec.] / Etna / *Le Moniteur* / p. 2570 / P.P. 9431.

1843 Dec. 5 / [*LT*], 7 / 20-5-c / 21-6-e 23-4-f / 25-3-d / Etna.

1843 Dec. 8 / (It) / Parma / Aurora / *CR* 18/54.

1843 Dec. 11 / 5 p.m. / Met as if from Ursa Minor / *C.R.* 17-1339 / *BA* '60-80 / Commercy (Meuse).

1843 Dec. 21 / q-phe / Ab. 10 p.m., parts of France and Switzerland, shocks and a light in the sky

[Reverse side] illuminating all things as if by daylight. / *C.R.* 18-402.

1843 Dec. 21 / Switzerland / great met / Sounds heard in the Vosges. / *BA* 60.

1843 Dec. 21 / Fr / Als. Vosges / Zurich, Berne, 10 p.m. / Alsace / det. met. / *BA* 60.

1843 Dec. 21 / Fr / q — met / Colmar and Vosges / Alsace nearest Switzerland / 2 violent detonations. Town in Switzerland in a deep [or dark?] fog suddenly illumined as if by the sun. To persons at

[Reverse side] a distance from Fribourg, seemed as if town on fire. / 2 [detonations] within few seconds. / *LT*, Jan. 9-6-e.

1843 Dec. 22 / 3:50 p.m. / Guernsey / q.

1843 Dec. 22 / (or 29?) // Channel Islands / q — *L.T.*, Jan. 15-3-f, said that at I[s]land of Sark the shock was "tremendously awful,"

[Reverse side] but that men in mines neither heard sounds nor felt vibrations.

1843 Dec. 28, 19 / Many mets at Nice. / *BA* 47-15.

1843 Dec. 29 / (or 22?) // q. / Guernsey / *In Timb[s] Y.B.* 1844-222, said was felt at Sark, too, and was evidently subterranean — then quote *Times* as to Sark.

1844

1844 / Fateshoh, Russia / Stones wit[h] hail / *Symons Met* / See 1809, 1815, 1833, 1844.

1844 / q's in Europe and adjac. parts of Africa and Asia / *C.R.* 20-1444.

1844 / Island of Oesel, in the Baltic / Sounds from a cemetary vault

[Reverse side] that frightened horses, tethered nearby, so that several died. Coffins here disturbed. / See *Dale Owen's Footfalls.*

1844 (Jan.) / Cerro Cosina, Guanaxuato, Mexico. / Metite / (*F*).

1844 Jan. / Corrientes, Brazil / Metite / *BA* 1860.

1844 Jan. 1 / [*LT*], 6-c / Feb. 9-5-e / Etna.

1844 Jan. 13, 15 / Feb. 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 18, 19, 26 / March 2, 15, 19 // q's / Ragussa / See 1843, Sept. 16.

1844 Jan. 14 / 12:30 p.m. and 1:05 / Comrie, qs and very loud sound / at Aberfeldy, ab 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. / *LT* — Jan. 27-3-d.

1844 Jan. 14 — / Meteor, St. Lucia / (19, 30, 31, and Feb. 3 / q. / Dominica) / *Niles Nat. Register,* March 16.

1844 / Gelat / *D*-49.

[*BCF*, p. 49 / See 1811//.]

1844 Jan. 16 / [*LT*], 5-f / Spon Comb.

1844 Jan. 20 / Naples / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1844 Jan. 28 / bet. 2 and 7 p.m. / Quakes in Trenton and other places in N. Jersey. In one place a

[Reverse side] crack in the earth several hundred yards long. / *Niles Nat. Reg.*, Feb. 3.

1844 Feb. 8 / Parma / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1844 Feb. 17 / ab. 7 p.m. / Meteor at Paris / N.M. / *C.R.* 20-522.

1844 Feb. 18 / Parma / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1844 Feb. 20 / noon / *BA* 60 / Hanover / in snowstorm, detonation — but no meteor seen.

1844 March 25 / [*LT*], 7-d / Ghost at Ramsey.

1844 Ap. 3 / Siena and Naples / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1844 Ap. 6 / *Niles Nat. Reg.* / Explosive sounds in mountain / Nor. Car. / that occasionally for 16 years, smoke

[Reverse side] and glares been seen there / *Niles Nat. Register* of Ap. 6.

1844 Ap. 6 / [*LT*], 6-a, Strange story.

1844 Ap. 11 / Edinburgh / Fireball / N. to S. / *BA* 60.

1844 Ap. 20 / [*LT*], 5-e / Superstitions.

1844 Ap. 26 / Along the river Towy, Carmarthen, dense swarm of black flies, ab a mile in length. See July 16. / "Caused consternation in

[Reverse side] the minds of the superstitious. Said had occurred in year 1843 — see *LT*, May 3-6-f.

1844 Ap. 29 / Killeter, Tyrone, Ireland / Met / (*F*).

1844 May 7-20 / 23-29 / and in June // Rains and probably the severest floods of eastern Kansas / *M.W.R.* 34-579.

1844 May 11 / Hamburg / Meteor / *BA* 60.

1844 May 12 / Milan / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1844 May 12 / Persia / great q. / III / *BA* 11.

1844 May 31 / Oc. Moon — the well known appearance of 2 seeming moons / *Y.B.* '45-281.

1844 June 3-4 / Fr / Poiters / q / *BA* '11.

1844 June 11 / 6 a.m. / Near Schemakha, Russia, near Black Sea, volcano burst out of a

[Reverse side] mountain, cast out burning naptha, also muddy water for ¾ hour. / *Athenaeum* 1845-229.

1844 June 12 / 7:30 p.m. / Yaxley, Huntingdonshire / severe q — *L.T.* 18-6-e ///

[Reverse side] 33
7
26

[*BCF*, p. 132:

A yarn in the London *Times,* June 22, 1844: that some workmen, quarrying rock, close to the Tweed, about a quarter of a mile below Rutherford Mills, discovered a gold thread embedded in the stone at a depth of 8 feet: that a piece of the gold thread had been sent to the office of the *Kelso Chronicle.*

Pretty little thing; not at all frowsy; rather damnable.]

1844 June 24 / (N) / Appearance near sun / *C.R.* 18/1168.

1844 June 24 / Frgs / *Leeds Mercury*, June 29 / afternoon / At Selby, during th storm, little frgs fell in and around Selby. People caught some in their hats. They were very lively.

1844 June / Zoologist 1/2/677 / Selby / Shower frogs / Wm. Andrews, *Book of Oddities*, p. 30 / between Donc[aster and York] /

[Reverse side] *N.Q.* 8/6/104 / bet. Doncaster and York.

1844 June 24 / In *Leeds Mercury,* June 29, reports from York, Leeds, Huddersfield, Doncaster, and other places of terrific th. storm, afternoon of this day.

[Reverse side] Large pieces of ice fell at Doncaster. Lightning struck in many places. At Leeds, there was heavy rain in some parts of town and no rain in others.

1844 June 27 / Floods / High mark reached, St. Louis / not exceeded at least to June 8, 1903 / See *Trib* of.

1844 July 10 / Hamburg / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1844 July 16 (?) / Flies? See Ap. 26. / *LT*, 20th, from *Kelso Mail* — that on Tuesday morning, between 5 and 6, at Berwick, a thick mist was seen.

[Reverse side] A shower of rain fell and the constituents of this mist were seen to be "a body of flies so numerous as actually to blacken the flags where they lay, and so small individually as to admit of examination only by a microscope.

1844 July 17 / [*LT*], 8-e / Sea Story.

1844 July 20 / Large meteor exploded. / Nuremberg and Parma / *BA* 47-15.

1844 July 20 / 9 p.m. / det met / Italy / Germany / Belgium *BA* 60-82.

1844 July 23 / Venus Inf Conjunction Sun.

1844 Aug. / *Times* Index for ladybirds.

(to be continued)

The Society For The Investigation of The Unexplained

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ORIGINS OF SITU/PURSUIT

Zoologist, biologist, botanist and geologist Ivan T. Sanderson, F.L.S., F.R.G.S., F.Z.S., in association with a number of other distinguished authors, established in 1965 a "foundation" for the exposition and research of the paranormal — those "disquieting mysteries of the natural world" to which they had devoted much of their investigative lifetimes.

As a means of persuading other professionals, and non-professionals having interests similar to their own, to enlist in an uncommon cause, the steering group decided to publish a newsletter. The first issue came out in May 1967. The response, though not overwhelming, was sufficient to reassure the founding fathers that public interest in the what, why and where of their work would indeed survive them.

Newsletter No. 2, dated March 1968, announced new plans for the Sanderson foundation: a structure larger than its architects had first envisioned was to be built upon it, the whole to be called the Society for the Investigation of The Unexplained, as set forth in documents filed with the New Jersey Secretary of State. The choice of name was prophetic, for Dr. Sanderson titled one of the last of his two-dozen books "Investigating the Unexplained," published in 1972 and dedicated to the Society.

Another publication was issued in June 1968, but "newsletter" was now a subtitle; above it the name ***PURSUIT*** was displayed for the first time. Vol. 1, No. 4 in September 1968 ("incorporating the fourth Society newsletter") noted that "the abbreviation SITU has now been formally adopted as the designation of our Society." Issue number 4 moreover introduced the Scientific Advisory Board, listing the names and affiliations of the advisors. Administrative matters no longer dominated the contents; these were relegated to the last four of the twenty pages. Most of the issue was given over to investigative reporting on phenomena such as "a great armadillo (6 feet long, 3 feet high) said to have been captured in Argentina" — the instant transportation of solid objects "from one place to another and even through solids" — the attack on the famed University of Colorado UFO Project headed by Dr. Edward U. Condon — and some updated information about "ringing rocks" and "stone spheres."

Thus SITU was born, and thus ***PURSUIT*** began to chronicle our Investigation of The Unexplained.

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