

Pursuit

'Science is the Pursuit of the Unexplained'



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The Mayan Disk of Chinkultic (6 B.C.) from "Our Mayan Ancestors by M. Chatelain, page 15.

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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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We can't say for sure when minutes, as part of an hour, were first devised but Evan Hansen offers us possibly a recreation of millennia of effort to navigate unknown waters. And, please remember, communication then was *definitely* not as we know it today.

Yet, communication between pets and humans continues in a way we can not, as yet, understand. Dr. Schwarz tells us of some of his unusual such reports he has learned about over the years.

Mr. Petit offers to communicate to our English reading audience his trials and tribulations regarding the study of UFOs in France in this, the first of a four-part series.

Again in these and the articles by Maurice Chatelain and Daniel Eden, etc., we must commend those who think seriously and share their observations with us.

A Theory on Ancient Methods of Navigation

by Evan Hansen

The identity of America's early native tribes has been a matter of conjecture, at least, since Columbus first set foot on North American soil. Opinions about them range from Asians having crossed the Bering Strait from the Pacific side during the Ice Ages, (when the polar ice cap locked up enough water, as ice, to allow dry land to connect to Asia) to their being survivors of the sunken continent of Atlantis. But most of the ideas were more mundane i.e., involving peoples of various cultures for centuries crossing the ocean.

Some researchers involve the "Ten Lost Tribes of Israel" in one or another of the native tribes. Other scholars have found tangible evidence of Northern European, Mediterranean, and Chinese influence in America, including "loan words" in the native languages. Claims were made by some travelers, such as Welshmen, to have been able to converse in Welsh or other native tongues with some Indian tribes.

Then, in 1848, the Smithsonian Institute sent out the Davis-Squier expedition to investigate ancient Mound sites. Suddenly, the official dogma changed so that all the American tribes were native to America, with no contact to any Old World cultures for, at least, the last 20,000 years. Ocean crossings before Columbus were impossible, it was said. Everyone who claimed to have found evidence of ocean crossings was ignored or discredited.

I have always been aware of this attitude, but I didn't know how deeply this dogma had been imbedded in the academic community, until I found proof of ancient Celts in America, and I tried to get support to investigate my finds.¹ Other members of the Epigraphic Society have been making similar archeological discoveries, some of them even better than my Celtic mines. Every such person, without exception, is getting the same opposition as me and, some are catching even more static than I am on the subject.

Of course, there's nothing new in this. Heretics who challenge established doctrine, have been persecuted at least as far back as history has been recorded. We are all familiar with the threat to Galileo 300 years ago for denying the Earth is the center of the universe. But while we no longer burn heretics at the stake, the persecution is still just as strong. It is simply more subtle. The self-appointed "authorities" don't like to be challenged.

At first, this opposition puzzled me. Why should earlier ocean crossings have been impossible? The problems solved by Columbus in 1492 A.D. are virtually the same problems that existed in 1492 B.C. or even much earlier. If Columbus could cross oceans, then others could have crossed oceans in sea-worthy vessels.

However, one argument against earlier such crossings that could have merit might be: We know pre-Columbians did have ships. As far back as 5000 years ago, nations such as Egypt and Sumer had ships that were large enough, and strong enough to be ocean-going cargo carriers. But the argument goes that they never ventured onto the open sea because they had no means of navigation. They stayed within sight of land at all times and navigated by following landmarks. If they never ventured beyond sight of land they could never find America, even by accident. So the critics rationalize that ocean crossings before Columbus were, therefore, impossible.

The object of this article is to oppose this concept. Ocean crossings *were* possible, and they did occur on a regular basis. Probably every nation with ships has put people into the Americas, and most left rock writings as proof of it. Now that we are learning to recognize these ancient writings, we are not only realizing various groups did reach America, but the core of a new view of history is slowly taking shape. Let's take a look at the critics' contention that the methods of transoceanic navigation are of a relatively recent discovery.

The objection, based on medieval navigation methods was, namely, that if any navigational methods had been known in antiquity, they would still be used 200 or 300 years ago.

Even recent history shows that knowledge can be lost. Just because some medieval sailors had to hug the coasts, and navigate by landmarks, is no proof that older, and wiser ship owners were as equally ignorant. Let me point out one obvious fact; merchants tried their best to eliminate competition. If one had a secret that gave an advantage over competitors, that information was very carefully guarded. Ship's (cargo or war) crews who did not know navigation, most certainly would have hugged coastlines or follow known shipping routes.

But those who did know navigation, as those who did reach America, might well have kept their secret here. Also, wars, plagues, and natural catastrophes can explain, too, how a guarded discovery could be lost. Just as new knowledge can be discovered, so can it be lost.

Did ancient mariners know how to navigate? Most emphatically. There are primitive methods that can give adequate results, probably developed on land and applied for use at sea.

Modern knowledge of latitude and longitude isn't needed in order to find a desired port. There are plenty of less sophisticated methods that are totally adequate. For instance, the Polynesians found every island in the Pacific, and knew how to reach them at will. Their method used wind directions, ocean swells, and reflected waves from islands. They observed behavior of birds. They looked for the green of a jungle to reflect off the clouds. There are books on this for those who care to search out Polynesian methods.

Most of us are aware of children's stories about the voyages of Sinbad. What few realize, is that these stories are essentially true. They are much embellished to be entertaining, but beyond this aspect they are stories of very real people, who sailed to very real places and faced very real problems. Although Arabian seafaring played a very important part in history, this knowledge has often been ignored.

Though Arab seamen didn't know navigation in the sense of latitude and longitude, they did use a very adequate latitude finding method. The rotation of the earth gives it gyroscopic stability, so it's axis always points to the North Star. At the equator, the North Star touches the horizon. At the North Pole, it's directly overhead. So measuring latitude is easy; you just measure how high the North Star is above the horizon.

Arab seamen didn't measure this in degrees, such as we do, but they did utilize it well enough to reach any intended port. They had a crude, but very adequate, instrument they called a Kamal. Basically, this was a rectangle of wood with a cord in

the center. While at a port they intended to reach again, they would go out at night, and hold this block of wood at a distance from the eye so that the bottom was touching the horizon, and the top touching the north star. Then a knot was tied in the cord at a position that the knot could be held in the teeth, and then, placing the block at exactly the distance from the eye, so that the North Star and the horizon were at top and bottom of the block. This particular knot was then identified with that port. When out on the open sea, and trying to reach that port, this knot was placed between the teeth, and the block held with the bottom on the horizon. If the North Star was above the top of the block, the ship was north of that port. If it was below the top of the block, the ship was south of the port. Then they would head east or west, holding to the correct latitude, until this port came into sight. Even without longitude, they could still find the desired port.

But what of modern methods of measuring exact positions in degrees? Is this a modern invention? Or was it known to the ancients? Most readers of *PURSUIT* are familiar with Piri Re'is map.²

The story begins in 1929 when this map was found in the Imperial Palace in Constantinople. It was painted on parchment, and dated 919 in the Moslem calendar, or 1513 in ours. It was signed by a man known to us as Piri Re'is. He claimed to have compiled this by using some 20 older maps, including one used by Columbus. The curious thing is that it shows not only the Atlantic coast of Africa, but also South America as well. Both are correct in present day latitude and longitude, generally to within 50 miles, allowing for a few copying mistakes. The map itself is essentially correct.

But how is this possible? In 1513 we must assume there was no culture on earth that knew how to find longitude. Finding latitude was easier, as we said, by measuring how high the North Star is above the horizon. But because the earth rotates, it requires knowing an absolute time to measure longitude. Not even our culture could find longitude until the invention of the chronometer about 200 years ago. Before that, everyone probably guessed on such things as how fast a ship moved through the water. Longitudinal errors of hundreds of miles were the rule. Like the Arabs using the Kamal, the European navigators would just go to the correct latitude, and go east or west, until they made a landfall. Only with invention of the chronometer was it possible to find longitude.

As if this wasn't bad enough, the Piri Re'is map has another shocker; it shows the correct shape of the Antarctic land mass *without* its ice cover! We didn't even know this ourselves, until 1958 when expeditions of the International Geophysical year used seismic echos to find the land mass beneath the Antarctic ice. So how did Piri Re'is know this correctly, in 1513? The only possible way is that he used much older source maps, dating from some time in the distant past when the South Pole was not over Antarctica, and it had little ice cover. But that must go at least to the Pleistocene period, more than 10,000 years ago. What was the condition of civilization in those times?

My personal opinion is that catastrophic flooding at the close of the Pleistocene period, was so severe that it wiped out civilizations, though many people survived. This memory has reached us through such traditions as the Biblical story of Noah's Flood.³

The Piri Re'is map indicates that seafaring, including correct methods of finding both latitude and longitude, is one thing we salvaged from the ruins of the flood. But if longitude requires measuring time precisely, was there some other

method that could have been used before the use of precision mechanical equipment? While evidence points toward the early cultures as not having this advantage, could longitude be found by using only the sky and human logic?

Of course, even if such a method could be found there is no proof the ancients actually used it. We must have some supporting evidence before we suggest that they could use the sky to find longitude. The Piri Re'is map provides proof that *some* method was known in ancient times. So, either there was some method known in antiquity, and is now lost, or the only other alternative is to accuse the Turkish government of forgery. The odds are heavily against this since modern lab methods can detect such fakes.

I had to ask myself if it could be possible to use the sky to find both latitude and longitude. If such a method exists, why did our immediate ancestors fail to find it? After the discovery of America, the motive was strong enough to put the world's best minds to work on the problem. Trade rivalries were almost on a war basis — they were that important. With minds like people such as Galileo and Sir Isaac Newton trying to solve the problem, it would seem it couldn't be done without the chronometer. Now, if the ancient races were not so mechanically advanced as we are today, did they find something that even Newton had missed? If such a method does exist, why did I think I could find it if men like Newton failed, given their much stronger motive?

But I had one advantage that Newton lacked. I was so ignorant that I didn't know it couldn't be done. When I was a child, back during World War II, I heard a story about the value of ignorance. It seems someone calculated that according to all the known laws of aerodynamics, it's impossible for the bumblebee to fly. But since bumblebees don't know this, they keep right on flying anyway. Newton had been taught that longitude by the sky wasn't possible, so he failed, but since I didn't know it was impossible, perhaps that was to my advantage. This had worked for me hundreds of times in the past, so why not use it again? If I ignored the things that everyone "knows" and just observed the sky, then perhaps I could identify something that others had overlooked.

I had no special knowledge of astronomy, only such basics as that the earth is round, the sun is center of the solar system, the moon orbits the earth, and the earth's axis is tilted. But, while I do have a questioning mind, I have trained myself to *think*, so perhaps my ignorance makes me an ideal subject to try this. If I could find a method by only my own observation, and logic are used, then the same thing was probably available to our ancestors, too, no matter how far back in the past we look.

I knew ancient navigational instruments included the astrolabe and cross staff but I hadn't paid particular attention to how they worked. I decided to keep it this way. I deliberately avoided the books describing those old instruments, and tried to reinvent them on the basis of what was needed to make the required observations. If my path of logic led me to these same instruments, I'd take this as indication that their original inventors had used this same path of thinking.

I did assume the earth is round, and critics insist the ancients thought it was flat. I don't believe this since I was aware that the ancient Greeks had not only known of the spherical earth, but had actually calculated its size within reasonable accuracy. So while I had determined to try to reproduce the lines of logic used by the ancients, it wasn't cheating to read up on things they had available in ancient times in

order to try to experience their thinking, I went back to the record of Eratosthenes.⁴

After Alexander conquered all of Asia, the Greeks decided to set up a center of learning at Alexandria, Egypt, and try to collect all worthwhile knowledge into a single library. They almost reached that goal. Eratosthenes was appointed chief librarian at Alexandria in 235 B.C. We don't know if his work was copied from older records which were available there, or if he invented everything himself. But we are sure of what he did toward proving the true condition of the Earth as part of the solar system.

Eratosthenes knew that there was a well at Syene (modern Aswan) where the sun was directly overhead on the summer solstice. At noon on the solstice, the bottom of this well was fully illuminated. But he also knew that in Alexandria, the gnomon on a sundial still cast a shadow on that day. So he measured the angle of this shadow, and used it to calculate the size of the Earth. His figures came out at around 29,000 miles, while the real figure is a bit under 25,000 miles, but the error was due to inaccurate measurements, not to any flaw in his method. To start, Syene was 23 miles too far north to be directly under the sun on the solstice. Possibly the well wasn't exactly vertical, or maybe it had a slight shadow that wasn't noticed. But that threw his calculations off. Alexandria isn't directly north of Syene, it's actually 180 miles west, and that added to the error. But the biggest error is that he had no surveying methods of finding distance. He just hired a professional pacer to step off the distance between Alexandria and Syene. Considering all this, we must admire his accuracy. At least his method was correct, and if he had used accurate data for his calculations, he would have reached the true size of the Earth. And since this calculation was made 2200 years ago, we can safely assume that at least the Greeks were aware of the spherical Earth, and they never abandoned this realization. Because this was done at Alexandria, it's possible this was taken from far more ancient records.

While part of my research involved trying to reproduce the mental process that ancient navigators might have followed to find longitude, it was equally important to find how far they had actually taken their knowledge. So, while I avoided study of their instruments, I continued to read whatever I could find on how much they actually knew. I had been on my own study of the sky for about three months, when a new book came out, by two other Epigraphic Society members, Bill McGlone and Phil Leonard, titled *Ancient Celtic America*. The subject of this book is the series of Celtic astronomy caves in southeast Colorado.⁶

In their effort to crack the astronomical meanings of the marks, they enlisted the help of Rollin Gillespie, whose calculations formed the basis for NASA being able to put men on the moon. He added an appendix to the book to explain basic principles of astronomy and how these petroglyphs in the Colorado caves display the ancients' advanced knowledge of astronomy. In his research for this, Gillespie uncovered one method that was known for calculating longitude, and it was used successfully by Hipparchus in 331 B.C.

In brief, this method used an eclipse of the moon to get an exact time for different observers to make their calculations. Since the moon can be seen from any spot on earth that's facing it, the earth's shadow could be used to co-ordinate observations. As the shadow hit any preselected spot on the moon, or as it left the moon, that instant would be seen by all observers of the moon wherever they might be located. All observers could then measure angles of their position in

regard to the moon, or any chosen marker star, and discrepancies between the positions could be used to measure longitude.

Hapgood⁷ describes efforts by the Spanish to use this method to find the longitude of Mexico City. In 1541 they had two moon eclipses, with observers in both Toledo in Spain and in Mexico City. Unfortunately, their calculations were total failures to an error of 1450 miles. Quite obviously, the Spanish group had no idea how to accomplish what they were trying to do.

What I am about to say here is getting ahead of myself, but it fits better here than later. After my theory was nearly complete, I asked the help of experts in solving the final problems. One man I contacted, Avery Johnson, was also working on this problem. His theory required two widely separated observers to time the exact instant the earth's shadow left the moon at the end of an eclipse. Both observers would then measure compass direction and elevation of the moon. Triangulation would then be used to calculate longitude. On Oct. 6, 1987, the United States had a partial eclipse, so we both took readings. Unfortunately, this didn't have the earth's full shadow touch the moon, but only the penumbra, so that the shadow was too weak to see the exact instant it left. As an alternative, we both used the official time of maximum eclipse. Avery's calculations came out to about one degree error. My compass readings might have been off that far, but it is difficult to read a compass precisely in darkness.

So at least Avery's theory does, apparently, work correctly but to prove it we need an eclipse with the earth's full shadow touching the moon. Only then can we know if the earth's shadow leaving the moon will catch an exact instant for widely separated observers. We can accept his method of triangulation as correct.

For this experiment it's very obvious these particular Spaniards had little understanding of navigation. It's bad enough to get an error of 1450 miles for the longitude of Mexico City, but Columbus himself was ignorant of how to find even latitude. On his first voyage, he took readings on the North Star, at Puerto Gibara, and decided it's latitude was 42° north. It's true position is 21° 06' for an error of about 21°!

This shocked me! I can eyeball latitude closer than that! The North Star touches the horizon at the equator, and is directly overhead at the North Pole, so at any place in between, one can just measure how high the North Star is above the horizon. Half way between overhead and the horizon is 45° and almost anyone can estimate that angle correctly. So I went outside and held up my arm at the angle I assumed to be 45° and noted that the North Star was a bit less than ¼ of the distance from my arm to the horizon. I subtracted 10° to estimate my own latitude at 35°, then I got out my topographical map to check my true position. My exact latitude was 37° 45', so that my error was under 3 degrees.

If I could eyeball latitude to within a 3 degree error, what could I do with instruments? I cut the end from a cardboard box, assuming it was machine cut and had a square end. Using a compass, I drew a quarter circle and measured half of that to get my 45° line. Then I subdivided this into 5 degree segments. A small weight was tied on a string and hung from the top corner. (Figure 1) I took this outside, and sighted along the top toward the North Star. When the weight stopped swinging I pressed the string to the edge, and took it inside to make my reading. The string was closer to the 40° mark than it was to the 35° mark, so, because my true lati-

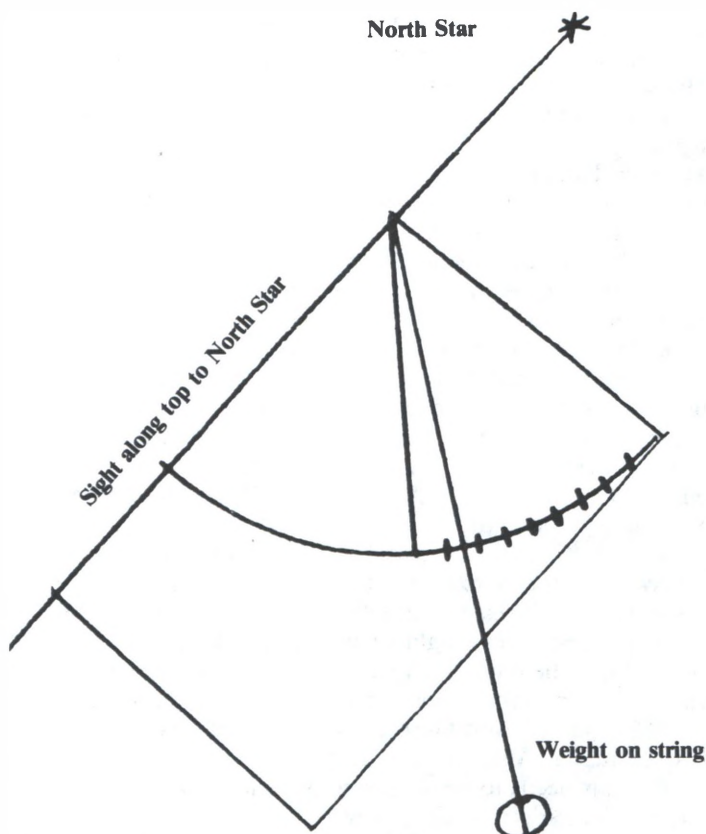


Figure 1. First step toward inventing the astrolabe.

tude was a bit under 38° , that was just about as perfect as I could expect from such a crude instrument.

The next step was obvious — build it with metal, calibrate it carefully and see if I could improve my readings with a better instrument. I had two choices, I could extend this same design and hang a pendulum from precision bearings, or I could use a full disc suspended from chain links, to find the true vertical, then have a movable pointer to use for aiming. I chose the latter, because it might also perform some of the functions of a compass. I didn't know if the compass was known to the ancients, but a disc that's calibrated into 360 degrees can be used to follow a fixed course. At dawn, just as the North Star loses visibility, one takes a final north reading. By laying the disk flat, with the zero line pointing north, the movable pointer can be used to set an exact course. By laying the pointer at the selected degree reading all a helmsman needed to do would be to steer in the direction of the pointer.

After I completed my instrument I went to my books for comparison. BINGO! I had just "invented" the astrolabe! My instrument was essentially the same as surviving examples of astrolabes. If I had followed my original plan of the string hanging from a quarter circle I would have "invented" a quadrant. Either instrument serves the same function, and both work astonishingly well. My readings are far more accurate than I expected, usually to within a $\frac{1}{2}$ degree.

While I was solving the problems of what instruments to "invent," I was also observing the sky. It rapidly became obvious that I was dealing with three motions, all based on the 360-degree circle. First, there is the orbit of the earth around the sun, which moves 360 degrees in 365 $\frac{1}{4}$ days. Next, there is the orbit of the moon around the earth, which is 360 degrees in 29.5 days. Finally, there is the rotation of the earth, which is 360 degrees in 24 hours. All my calculations are based on these standard movements.

But why do we use 360 degrees in a circle? Why not 100? Or some other figure? The answer became clear with a bit of logic. The 360 degree circle is based on the orbit of the earth around the sun. Each night at a given time, the stars are one degree west of their position the night before (or almost one degree). With 365 $\frac{1}{4}$ days in a year, the error is under 2%, and the eye can't see that close. So the degree is equivalent to how far the stars move each night. But 365 $\frac{1}{4}$ is almost impossible to use in calculations, while 360 is one of the easiest to calculate. Every whole number from 1 to 10 except 7, divides into 360, leaving a whole number remainder. This ease of calculation would generally, more than offset any lost of accuracy.

I noticed some other supporting data for this idea. Several ancient calendars use a 360-day year, with the extra $\frac{5}{4}$ days added as intercalary days outside the 'normal' year. At first, this is a shocking idea. What can be more absurd than time outside the year? If this had only been found in one nation we could dismiss it as ignorance of the true length of the year. But I had found this 360-day calendar in use in Egypt, India, Mexico, and Peru, all of them very advanced cultures, and I'm sure there were others as well.

Since this 360-day year was widely used, they had to have a very good reason for doing it. What segment of a society, that had political clout, would have a motive for using a 360-day year? Not farmers! Yet, many believe that farmers invented the idea of a calendar. In every society, food is the most important commodity. Life itself depends on planting and harvesting at the optimum time. If planting is done too early, the seeds will sprout, and then a late frost will kill them. Planted too late, and a fall frost will kill them before the crop ripens. In warmer climates there is the same problem with the wet-dry cycle. So for every culture, an accurate calendar means food, not starvation.

A 360-day year would be catastrophic for agriculture. In less than a decade the planting time would be off so far as to have a total crop failure. So I feel it definitely wasn't the farmers who invented a 360-day year. The usual idea is that this is 12 months of 30 days. But the moon cycle is not 30 days, it's actually 29.5 days. That gives a 354-day year, which is an even bigger error.

So what other segment of society is there with enough clout to control the calendar? And would this group have a motive for a 360-day year? Yes, the merchants. And their motive would be to allow them to use the 360-day year to fit the 360 degrees in the circle for navigation. Each night, the stars move exactly one degree from their position of the night before, so that on any given night of the year a certain key star will be exactly at the zenith at a fixed time. The extra $\frac{5}{4}$ intercalary days each year will correct the discrepancy and bring star time back into cycle with calendar time.

I had just finished working out this line of logic, when my copy of *Ancient Celtic America* arrived. Upon reading this, I found that Rollin Gillespie had independently reached this same conclusion. This was heartening for me. In fact, he took it a step farther, in assuming the small circle we use as the degree symbol $^\circ$ is actually to indicate the sun's, or one day's movement in the sky.

Gillespie added something I didn't know. I had known for years that ways for predicting eclipses were known for at least 5000 years. As far back as the Sumerians, and perhaps farther back in time the astronomers could predict eclipses of both sun and moon. What I didn't know is that there is a fixed cycle, known as the Saros. Every 54 years, 34 days, any eclipse

will repeat itself at the same place and time of day. Anyone who has a chart of the Saros positions for our Sun and Moon, can predict eclipses for any time in the future, or even check those in the past.⁸

Thus, knowing that such charts have been kept as far back as history has been recorded, I knew we had the basis for following my navigation theory. Charts such as the Saros charts, would have all the base data a navigator would need. He could just copy as much information as he needed and carry it along on his voyages.

Both Gillespie and Johnson independently realized that lunar eclipses can be used to find longitude. Their methods worked out when they actually put them to the test. Possibly the Piri Re'is map could have been made by using this eclipse method. But for navigational purposes, it's useless, since eclipses are such rare events. A navigator, therefore, needs a method that works on a regular basis. But does such a method exist?

After much observation and thought, I realized that it's possible to use the movement of the moon in relation to fixed stars. The moon moves 360 degrees in 29.5 days. That's 12.2 degrees in 24 hours, or 0.508 degree per hour. Gillespie gave another important clue that I didn't know before reading his information. The diameter of the full moon is almost exactly 0.5 degree. When I saw that, another piece of the puzzle seemingly fell into place. *The length of the hour was based on the amount of time it takes the moon to move a distance equal to it's own diameter, rounded off to fit exactly into the day.*

In all probability, someone was watching the moon one night, while a bright star was directly in its path. It probably was a crescent moon, since the full moon is so bright it obscures all but the brightest stars. As the moon passed in front of the star, it disappeared from view. An hour later, it emerged from the other side of the moon. This would arouse curiosity, so the viewer would watch for it to occur again. This might have been something the person couldn't explain, which would arouse so much interest that this observer might have decided to use this as a major base unit of time.

We know the Earth rotates 360 degrees in 24 hours, or 15 degrees per hour. That means one degree of movement in four minutes. Could this be combined with movement of the moon, to find an absolute time, without a chronometer? After several efforts to determine this failed, I finally found one that did work.

As a general rule, the sky becomes dark enough to see stars about one hour after sunset. To measure an interval this short, an ordinary hourglass is accurate enough. Even if it is off by a few seconds isn't important. So, to use this method, our hypothetical navigator uses his hourglass to measure one hour after sunset. All subsequent time checks are taken directly from the star's positions. Any bright star can be used as a marker star, when it's directly overhead, or at zenith. Starting one hour after sunset on their new year's day, the zenith star is noted. Then, whatever star is at zenith at the same time, the following night the new zenith star will be one degree away from the previous zenith star. Each subsequent night a similar such observation is made, and each degree is identified by the new chosen marker star.

To find the zenith, a meridian line is required, but it's easy to build: A string is tied to some solid object, such as a tree, or a stake driven into the ground. The observer stands at this stake, directing an assistant who moves the other end of the line to the north. When the line points exactly toward the North Star, a second stake is driven, with the line tied and an-

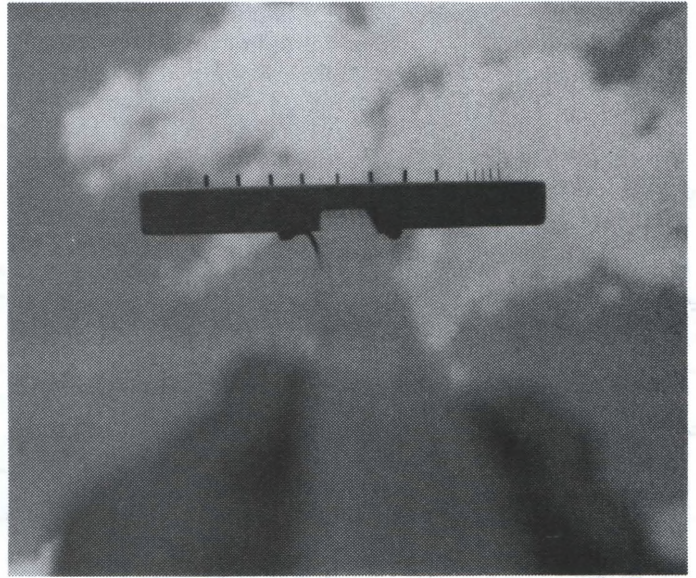
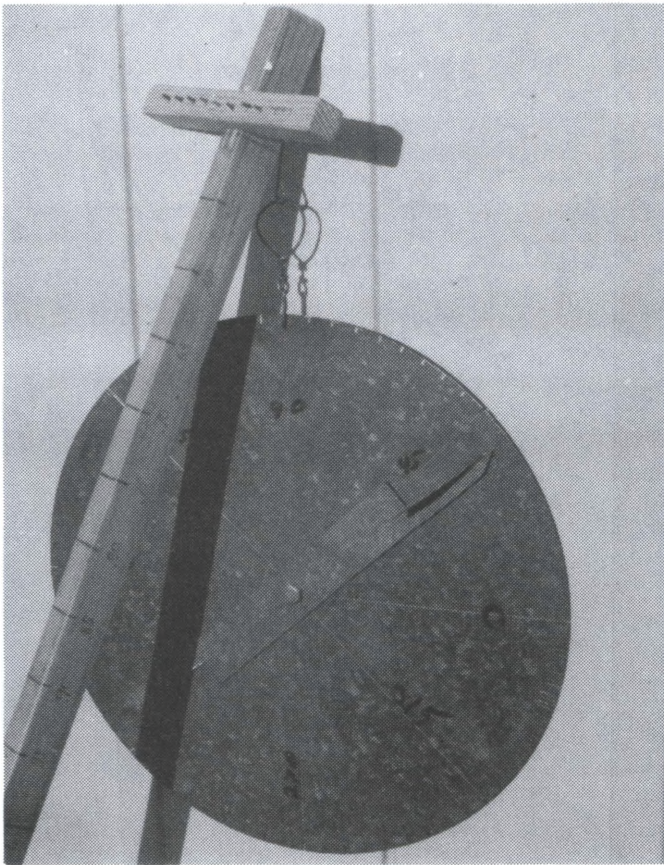
chored tight. Then a plumb bob is hung from the line. By lying face upward directly under the plumb bob, an observer can check for accuracy by noticing if the north end of the line is touching the North Star, while his or her eye is directly under the plumb bob. If not, adjustments must be made until this occurs. When the line runs exactly north, the observer has a meridian line. All stars "touching" this line at the same time, are exactly on this same meridian, without regard to how far north or south they are. By using this, any star in the sky can be used as a marker star.

Our navigator needs a home base for his base figures for all calculations. Our culture uses Greenwich, England for its home base, so, for purposes of discussion, our hypothetical home base will be called "Greenwich," in quotes, without regard to where it may actually be located. The Saros would be calculated on the basis of "Greenwich" observations. By carrying these figures on his voyages, our navigator could compare his local data with "Greenwich" data as the basis for finding his longitude.

The first thing we need is local time, and this is taken directly from the stars. Since the earth rotates, and sunset time is the basis for calculation, the local time will be the same everywhere. For every night of the year, a different marker star will be at the zenith an hour after sunset, and each will be nearly one degree apart. Since the circle is 360 degrees and the year 365 1/4 days, it won't be exactly one degree, so corrections must be made. Also, since time of sunset is variable with latitude, this needs to be addressed as well. Going into summer, each sunset is later and, likewise, going into winter, each sunset is earlier. This discrepancy increases the farther north you go, so all these variables must enter into the calculation. And, as long as this is being done anyway, the extra 5 1/4 days can be added into the formula while we are at it. But since all this occurs on a regular basis it's no obstacle. It adds to the difficulty, but a fixed, easy formula can be worked out to make all these corrections with only a few calculations.

There are enough bright stars to assign one to every degree of the circle, but if the navigator couldn't memorize 360 stars, he could select any longer interval equivalent to 5 degrees, 10 degrees or whatever, then estimate the shorter intervals in between. Once he times the first hour after sunset on his hourglass, he could then lie under his meridian line, note which marker star is touching the line and get his exact time all through the night. Since the earth moves one degree every four minutes, his precise time accuracy would be as good as his skill at seeing which star is touching the meridian line at any given moment. If he could see stars one degree apart, his time would be within four minutes accuracy. Since the moon's diameter is 0.5 degree, if he could see stars as far apart as the moon's diameter, he would have time to within two minutes accuracy. A skilled observer might get his accuracy to within seconds.

He could improve accuracy by avoiding the hourglass entirely. He could go directly to his "Greenwich" chart and note the key marker star for that date, then lie under the meridian line until that star touched it, at which time he would star his observations. It's important to keep one thing in mind; while latitude will distort most measurements, the zenith is the one constant thing. No matter where you are on the earth, the stars touching the meridian line at the same time, are always exactly overhead. Moving toward, or away from the meridian line, stars above the equator move faster, and stars toward the poles move slower. So this line is useless for anything but the zenith. But at the zenith, everything is exact, so that must form the basis for all observations.



Above: Use cross staff by placing one end under eye, and use pins to mark one degree spacing.

Left: Astrolabe and cross staff.

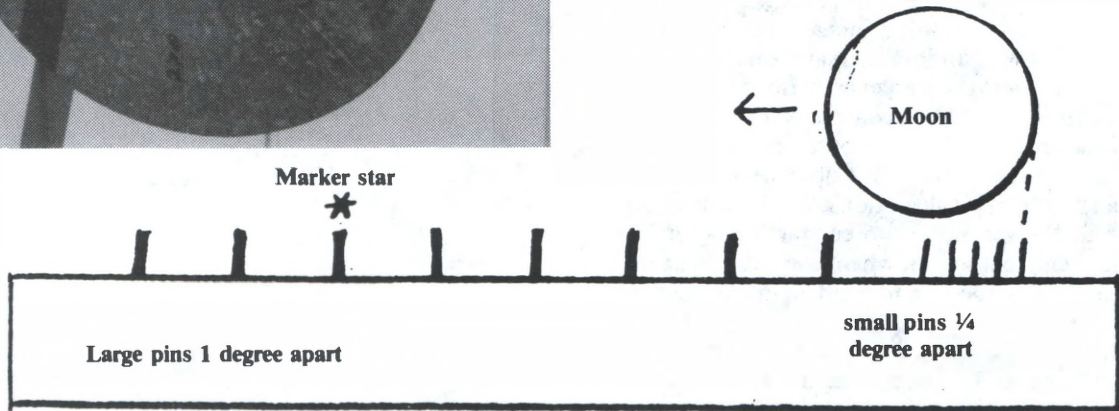


Figure 2. Use of cross staff to measure conjunction between the moon and a chosen marker star. The marker star is set above whichever pin fits the moon being on the right edge of small pins. Because light is dim, the star needs a big pin to be visible. If light is too dim to see the pin, it can be put over the star, to block it's light, and still get the star on the same pin for each observation. The small pins can be seen against the moon, and the smaller they are, the better accuracy is possible. It takes 30 minutes for the edge of the moon to move from one small pin to the next.



In actual use, the moon is half covered, so pin is touching edge of moon.

By using the marker stars crossing the meridian line, our navigator gets his local time as exactly as his skill allows. Next he must find "Greenwich" time, and the discrepancy is his longitude at the rate of one degree longitude for every four minutes of difference between his local time and "Greenwich" time. After months of observation, I found I could use the conjunction between the moon and marker stars. Most everything in the sky moves from east to west, due to rotation of the earth, but the moon moves west to east at a rate almost exactly equal to it's own diameter in one hour. If a chosen marker star is very near the moon, the conjunction is easy to observe. But here we get into a problem. The moon is so bright, it "washes out" all but the brightest stars. So we must use a new star with enough distance from the moon to enable it to be seen.

At first I tried to use my meridian line with stars north or south of the moon. This was a total failure. Though such

conjunctions occur with enough regularity to be useful, this is almost never at the zenith. As stars move toward or away from the zenith, those toward the equator move a greater distance than those toward the poles, so the meridian line is useless away from the zenith. If a star is more than 2 degrees north or south of the moon, this is so great that measurements are useless. I finally realized that I had to use stars directly in the moon's path.

This required a cross staff. (Figure 2 and photos) One end of the staff is placed on the cheek directly under the eye. This puts the crossarm at exactly the same distance from the eye for every observation. To calibrate my cross staff, I measured off 5/8ths inch intervals, and drove nails at the marks. The final segment uses small pins at 1/4 this distance. My intention was to calibrate this at one degree between the big nails, and 1/4 degree between pins. Since the moon is supposed to be 1/2 degree diameter, I put the arm at a distance from my eye, so

the moon would fit exactly between two of the pins.

But on using this, my observations didn't come out according to calculations. After several days of bad readings I thought of another way to calibrate it. I'd use the horizon for my calibration, since that's always 360 degrees. We have a north-south road going past my home [a convenient, modern advantage] with official survey markers at both ends, so I know that was exactly on a correct direction. An east-west road crosses this at right angles. Placing a stand at the intersection to hold the cross staff steady I took readings for 90 degrees of the horizon, going from west to north, then back to west again. I kept sliding the crossarm back and forth until it repeatedly gave me 90° for this reading. When I consistently got 90° for this, I rounded the full circle of 360° for several times, and when this came out to be exact for several readings, I knew my arm position was right. I marked this position on the staff, for one degree readings between pins. Next, this was repeated by sliding the crossarm closer to my eye to get two degrees between pins. The crossarm was then measured at intervals and marked.

When I tried this on the moon, it measured at 0.7 degree instead of 0.5 as it should do. After discussing this anomaly with friends, I learned they got the same result. After kicking this around between several people we finally decided this is due to optical properties of the human eye. As the pupil enlarges in dim light, we get a double image falling on the retina. This not only tells why an image is larger in the dark, but also why it blurs. At least this is an explanation that seems to fit observations. (If any reader has a better explanation, I'm certainly open to learn their correction or comment.)

At least with this new calibration my observations came out exactly as predicted by my calculations. Starlight is dim, so big nails are needed to mark the chosen star for observation. In case of a thin crescent moon, when stars are easiest to see, the natural light is often too dim to see the pins. In such a case, a big pin can be put over the star, to blot out it's light, and even if you can't see the pin, you know it's on the star. Then the small pins are used on the moon. It's always bright enough to see the pins, and the smaller these are, the more accurate the reading. With these pins at ¼ degree spacing, it takes almost exactly 30 minutes for the moon to move between pins, just as calculations predicted. (Always use the bright edge of the moon to be consistent.)

My own vision is weakening with age, and it's more obvious in the dark. But I found no difficulty catching time to within 4 minutes. If the bright edge of the moon has even a thin sliver of light showing behind a pin, it's easy to see this. The moon is in conjunction with the marker star at the exact instant this last sliver of light blinks out. With each pin giving 30-minute segments, if you can see half the space between pins, you are on a 15-minute accuracy. If you can see ½ spacing between pins, you are on 10-minute accuracy. Even with bad eyesight, I consistently caught four minutes. Since four minutes is one degree, that gives me my longitude within one degree error. Someone with eyes that are better than mine, could easily get it to a half degree, and with a more precise cross staff the estimate could be cut to half that.

So our navigator would use the cross staff to catch the time of conjunction between moon and his chosen marker star. His "Greenwich" chart would list the time for this conjunction, and it wouldn't need to be an exact conjunction, it could be any distance up to the limit of pins on the crossarm. He could say, for example, "Five degrees east of the moon occurs at 1:15 a.m." At the point his cross staff measures the five degrees, he lies under his meridian line and observes his

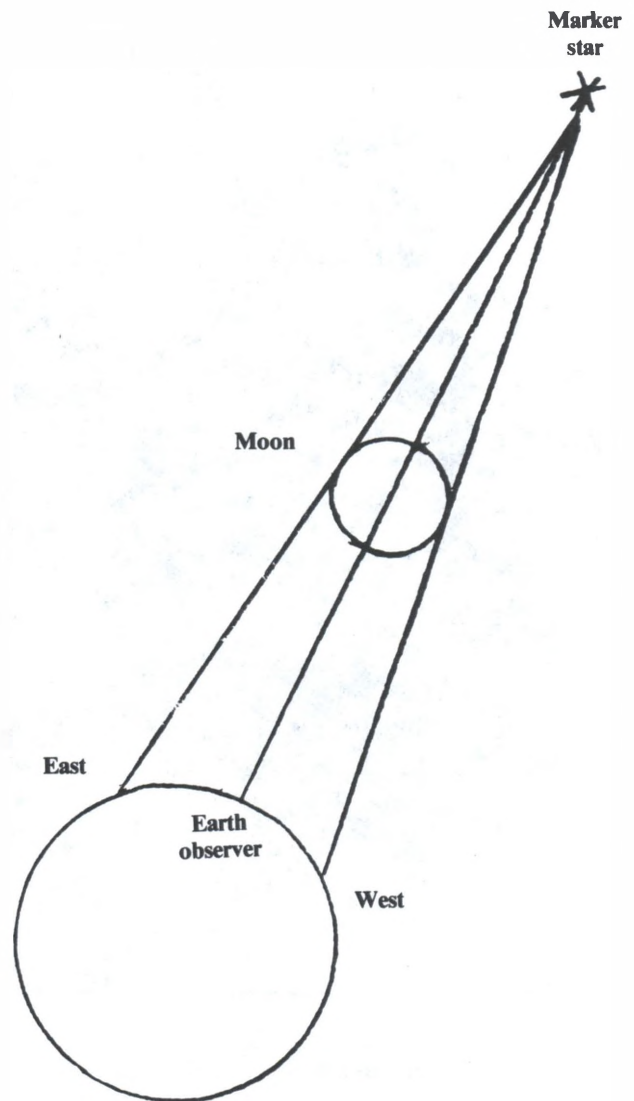


Figure 3. Exaggerated drawing to show parallax problem. If a star is exactly in line with the moon to an observer at the zenith, an observer east of the zenith will see the star as east of the moon, and an observer west of the zenith will see it as west of the moon.

local star time. The discrepancy is his longitude.

If he is at a different latitude, he uses a different marker star with the moon, his meridian line tells him which stars are on the same meridian. If he can't see the star at 1:15 a.m., say, because clouds obscure it, he adds the appropriate correction. At 1:45 a.m., the same star will be 4.5 degrees from the moon. All that's needed are the base figures and, then, the corrections are easy.

Now we face one final obstacle; parallax! And this is a big one. (Figure 3) If a marker star is exactly in line with the moon for an observer at the zenith, another observer to the east will see the star as east of the moon, and a third to the west will see it as west of the moon. Realizing parallax exists is no problem, even children have observed this. Any observer with the mental capacity to reason his way this far, will automatically know he or she must correct for parallax. But how much? And what kind of observation must be made to arrive at the right formula?

After kicking around the problem for nearly a year, I had several ideas on how to observe parallax, but all my observations failed to give results. It may not be possible to make observations in one position, that will give reliable results. But at

least a few who are skilled in math, were able to work backwards from the size of the moon, and its distance from the earth, to tell me how much correction must be made. If I understand the figures correctly, it's a fairly simple correction to make.

There will be no parallax at the zenith, and it's greatest at the horizon. It reaches the maximum on the equator, and is zero at the poles, so the amount of correction is reduced toward a polar latitude. For example, an observer at latitude of 45° would use exactly half the correction needed on the equator. For observers on the equator, with the moon's path following the equator, the maximum correction needed is 0.09 degree correction for each degree the moon is away from the zenith. Zero correction with the moon overhead, and 90° for the horizon. So you just measure moon position to know how much correction to use, and multiply that reading by 0.09 to make the correction. For example, if the moon is 30° from the zenith, the parallax correction is 2.7 degrees.

Correcting parallax is, possibly, the only remaining obstacle here. All other parts do check out by actual observation.

This explanation is designed for use on land, but it will still work on a ship, though with less accuracy. A meridian line gives a perfect mark for the zenith, but even on a wave-tossed ship, a good observer knows what is directly overhead. Using an astrolabe and cross staff gives the best results if they are stable, but it's still possible for a skilled observer to call his mark at the instant he's on target. And for a rough estimate, he can go to his "Greenwich" chart to see how high the moon is above the horizon for a particular conjunction, and then note his present moon position, thus giving him at least a ballpark estimate, even without instruments.

For example, if the "Greenwich" conjunction point has the moon overhead, and our navigator sees this star moving into position with the moon halfway to the horizon, he knows even without instruments, that his longitude is near 45°.

For mapping purposes, accuracy can be increased by averaging. By taking multiple readings the extremes cancel out. If one reading is high, another will be low. All things considered, I see no serious obstacles in getting results as good as the Piri Re'is map. Now, as to the age in which this was done, we can only guess. It might have been between 2000-3000 years ago. Or it might have been in the Pleistocene period, over 10,000 years ago. This question cannot be resolved at this time.

And let's not neglect other methods such as using moon eclipses. Gillespie and Johnson have both worked out correct methods for using this to find longitude. In fact, this method can be used to collect data for parallax corrections. At the instant when the earth's shadow is seen to leave the moon, all observers also note the distance between the moon and a key marker star. On comparing these distances later, the correction for parallax will become clear. So no matter how complex this may become, it still is possible to use the sky to find longitude. Those ancient people had good minds. If I can find this method, those ancient people could find it just as I did.

But did they? We have no direct proof, but there is external support. For one thing, these observations lead to the source of the 360 degree circle, and the length of the hour. My observations led me to "invent" the astrolabe and cross staff, both instruments known to be used by ancients. And in using them, I had a lot of ideas on how to "improve" those instruments. One such example, was that I thought to use a grid instead of a cross staff, so that I could use marker stars to north or south of the moon, as well as those in line with it. This grid failed miserably! Accurate observations demand

points be kept at an exact distance from the eye. It proved impossible to make a grid that kept all points the same distance. At the most, I could get two points the same, but other points were closer or farther away.

So all my "improved" ideas failed to work. The ones that did work, are the same ones used by the ancients. So when I reached the same end results, it seems obvious that I followed the same path of logic that produced those results in earlier ages.

Another bit of supporting evidence is already familiar to most readers of *PURSUIT*. In 1900, an ancient shipwreck was discovered off the coast of Antikithera. It turned out to be a Greek ship, of the first century B.C. Among the objects recovered was a corroded mass of bronze. This sat in storage until 1975, when X-ray studies revealed it to be a complex box of gears. By counting teeth, it was possible to build a workable replica. Studying this revealed it was a calculator designed to show positions of sun, moon, and a few key stars. Simply by turning a crank once for each day, the gears would move dials to give readouts for past or future. Question: what possible use could there be for such an instrument aboard a ship, except with such a method as described here? Would longitude be needed in the Mediterranean? Or did that ship venture out into the Atlantic?

None of this is proof that advanced navigation was known, but it does prove that longitude could be found by using the sky. If I did it, then others could also have done it. I feel I did "invent" the same instruments used by the ancients, and my "improved" instruments all failed to work. So I did follow the same path of logic they used. We have the Antikithera mechanism, to indicate that star positions were used for navigation, and not just for latitude, either. Latitude means only the North Star. And we have the Piri Re'is map to prove that both latitude and longitude were known, usually to less than a 50-mile error. How long these were used can only be estimated.

As Mark Twain once said "Sometimes circumstantial evidence can be very strong...such as when you find a trout in your milk." Well, a trout in milk isn't absolute proof that someone dipped water out of a river to dilute the milk, but no rational person would argue that fish come out of cows. In the same sense, I have no proof that longitude was found reading by the stars and used in navigation, but, I'll guess the smart money bets that way! Should you feel otherwise, please come around and talk with me. I'd like to discuss your buying some desert land. I'll give you a real bargain, only \$10,000 per acre!

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7. See footnote #2, above, page 41.
8. See footnote #5, above, page 246.



The UFO Impact

by Jean-Pierre Petit

Part I of a IV-Part Series

How to Get Involved in UFO Research

In 1965 I was involved, as a senior researcher, in a MHD (magnetohydrodynamic) research project in France. I worked in the Institut de Mecanique des Fluides de Marseille, in the south of France. The French CEA (Commissariat de l'Energie Atomique) tried to operate MHD converters. Such machines were supposed, if successful, to convert the energy of hot temperature nuclear reactors into electricity, with high overall efficiency, through a closed loop. Unfortunately, these MHD converters appeared to be very unstable and the electrothermal instability (Velikhov instability) severely reduced their conversion efficiency. Then the CEA gave some money to the Institute of Marseille in order to try to simulate the conversion process in our "shock tunnels." They were short-duration wind tunnels giving an atmospheric pressure, supersonic argon flow at 10,000°K. At such a temperature this gas becomes a highly conducting plasma (more than 3,000 mhos per meter). Thereby, we could convert the kinetic energy of the flow, running at 1,500 miles per second along the tube. In 1966 we operated a small, linear Faraday convertor producing several megawatts of good electrical energy (lasting some hundred microseconds, to be precise). In the United States Bert Zauderder, at AVCO, used the same kind of MHD-equipped shock-wind tunnel.

Unfortunately, the gas temperature was too high for steady-state industrial applications. We could just use it for simulation. It was convenient only for short duration experiments. But similar pulsed-power plants are presently developed in California's Lawrence Livermore Laboratory to feed some sort of "starwar" space-battle gadget.

When converting the kinetic energy of the working fluid into electricity, the gas was greatly slowed down and it created a strong stationary shock wave in this constant-area wind tunnel.

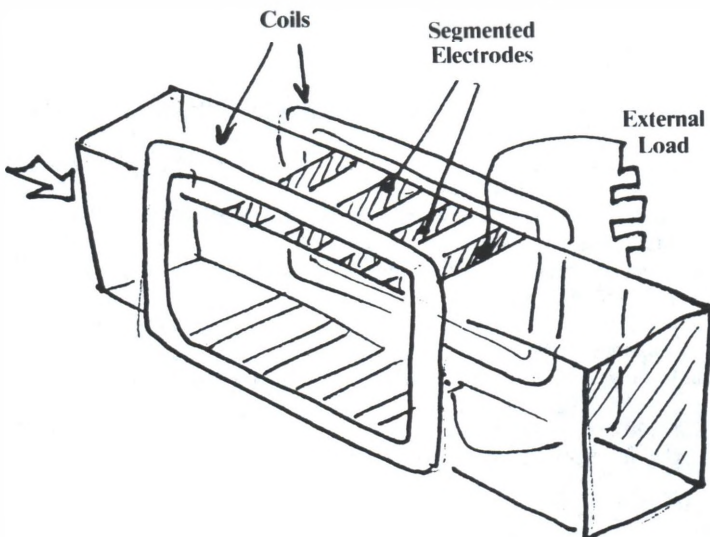


Fig. 1 MHD Linear Converter

Many years later, in 1975, after the occidental nations had given up all MHD activities, I remembered these experiments and said to myself: "If we were able to produce strong shock waves in a constant-section channel, just by electromagnetic forces, we should be able to cancel a 'natural' shock, due to the presence of an obstacle in a supersonic flow, just using Lorentz forces in the opposite way."

It seemed good. At the time I did not realize, doing this, how I would become involved in the UFO problem. Nevertheless, the connection quickly became evident. Witnesses reported about UFOs with a tremendous velocity, cruising silently and close to the ground.

This new flight concept was presented in December 1975 in the French Comptes Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences de Paris in a four-page notice, and the press reported about it. At this time I had shifted to theoretical astrophysics, galactic dynamics and so on, and I belonged to the observatory of Marseille. Thus, there was no possible way for me to do atmospheric pressure gas experiments. A friend of mine, Maurice Viton, an astronomer, belonged to the LAS (Laboratoire d'Astronomie Spatiale) and he had seen five UFOs very clearly near Avignon several years earlier.

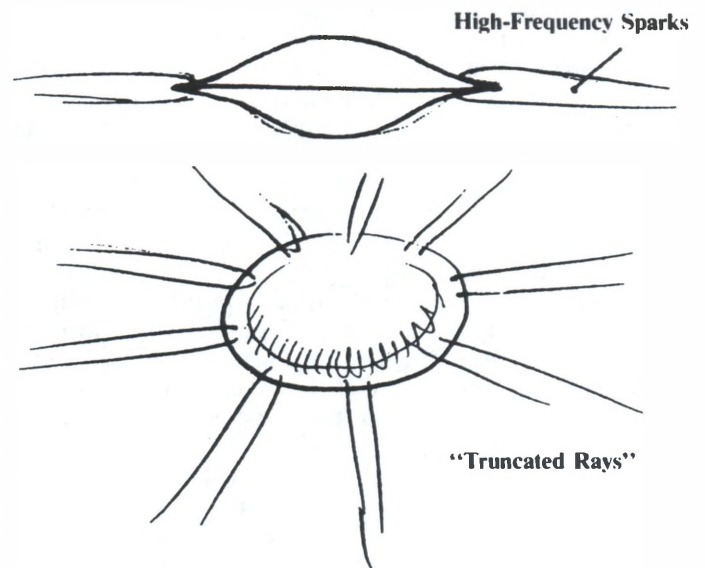


Fig. 2 High Frequency Ionization Effect

The First Experiments

We decided to prepare some experiments towards two directions: low pressure gases and hydraulic simulations. The scientific community was so strongly against such investigations that Viton and I decided to work secretly in a remote area of the LAS — the key word being "covert."

We got several scientific results, in spite of very uncomfortable working conditions. First, we got pictures corresponding to plasma patterns due to an electrical discharge around various bodies, with a magnetic field present. We showed, for an example, that the ionization due to high frequencies created high-frequency straight sparks very similar to so-called "truncated rays." We made splendid color pictures of them.

Then I remembered one could simulate shock waves, using free surface water flows (all students who attended aeronautical schools are familiar with this). We added electromagnetic forces, using a one tesla magnetic field, as produced by heavy coils and carbon electrodes connected to a cell. On the first attempt the front wave was cancelled. And, under certain conditions, the Lorentz forces could cancel the turbulent wake, too. It was a good beginning.

The Birth of Gegan

Claude Poher, who ran a department in the French CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales) in Toulouse, visited us and became very interested in our research. He had been interested in UFOs for a long time. At the same time (the end of 1976) the French IHEDN (Institut des Hautes Etudes de la Defense Nationale) recommended the creation of an official group devoted to the UFO study. This service was created in 1977 as a part of CNES, and Claude Poher, was put in charge of it.

Unfortunately, Poher talked to people about our experimental research in the LAS, but worse, he wrote an official letter to CNRS about it.

When the director of this laboratory found out what was going on in the basement of the building he ordered Viton to stop the activity immediately. As for me, I belonged to the observatory of Marseille as a member of the French CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique). CNRS is a large organization of some 30,000 researchers who pays people scattered throughout many different universities and state laboratories. It was then that I started to get into trouble, too, with the officials in Paris.

We had to move the equipment elsewhere. Fortunately, the director of the observatory of Marseille, the fair and honest Georgelin, offered to shelter this research in a recess of that building in complete secrecy. Then we shifted from one niche to another one. During the transfer I had a serious accident. A heavy magnet broke my spine and I had to spend six months in a hospital. Viton continued the work alone, part time and with difficulty. Of course, it was out of question for me to maintain any contact with the chief of GEPAN, Poher, who terribly underestimated the opposition of the French scientific community to the UFO problem.

During the year 1977 Viton finished the work on our simulation device and the reader may find the results in my book, entitled *The Silent Barrier* published by William Kauffman Editions (95 First Street Los Altos, California 94022). These results were later presented for the 8th international MHD meeting, held in Moscow in 1983, but the book is a more popular presentation for the nonspecialist.

Poher gave up as Director of GEPAN during the summer of 1977 and his interest in UFOs died at the same time. He was not a scientist. He believed that the mission of GEPAN was to stimulate real scientific research into UFOs (we will see later that the reality was somewhat different). From this point of view, this service was nothing but an empty box. Poher decided to leave his directorship of the service to his right-hand man, Alain Esterle, an American with a PhD in statistics.

At the end of '77 Viton endured attacks in his own lab and was obliged to give up. My stay in the hospital ended, but I could not continue the research alone, so I got in touch with Alain Esterle, now the new head of GEPAN. I suggested we get involved in experimental research in gases. Esterle asked me to write a report containing all my basic ideas about MHD propulsion, and I accepted. I enclosed a lot of theoretical

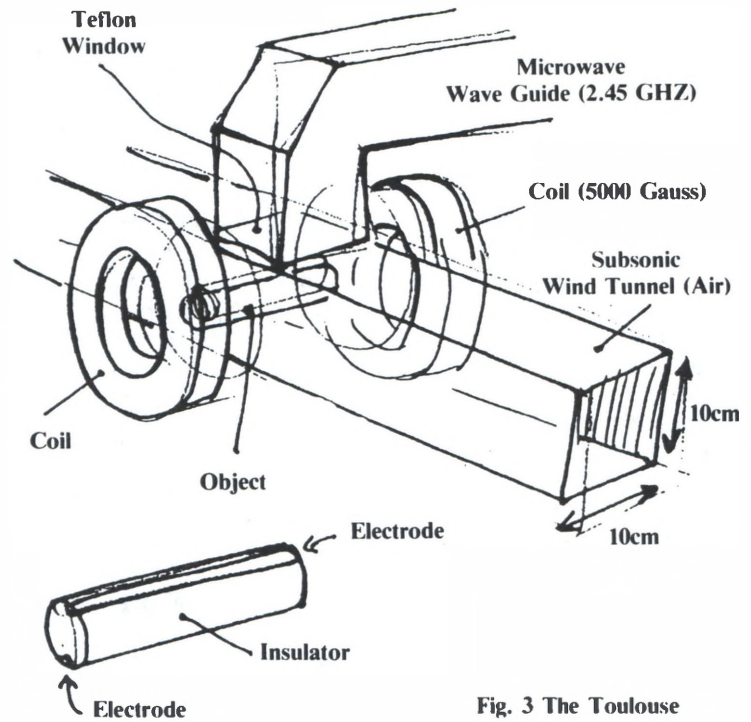


Fig. 3 The Toulouse Experiment

work and computational results that I had derived during my stay in the hospital, with a small, pocket Texas Instrument calculator, only recently available in France at that time.

But, a few months later, I discovered that GEPAN had tried to develop an experimental research project with the army at CERT (Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche Technique) in Toulouse. It was a large laboratory with many departments. The project included a cold subsonic wind tunnel, a large 5000 gauss magnet and a huge microwave generator (750 kW peak power!). A contract was signed and several researchers were already at work preparing the experiment. But, nobody had told me that. It was crazy.

A Real Mess

I gave up GEPAN and felt very disappointed. To tell the truth, they had chosen a peculiar experiment in my report in which I suggested a way to eliminate the turbulent wake beside a cylinder, using Lorentz forces. It was the extension to gases of the water experiment that Viton and I had done one year earlier. Since cold air is a very poor electrical conductor I had suggested, in the report, to ionize it with microwaves, recommending a pulsed 2.45 GHz generator (see the old US RB-47 affair, in 1957, I believe). The people of GEPAN asked the department of microwave studies, CERMO (Centre d'Etude et de Recherche sur les Micro Ondes) in Toulouse, to build the generator. They made quite a big one. The peak power was close to one megawatt, and it was expensive.

Unfortunately, they injected microwaves from the wall of the wind tunnel, through a teflon window, and as any real scientist knows, when microwaves ionize a gas, the ionized layer behaves like an absorber. They could not ionize deeper than a few millimeters. They did not find any solution and so, they simply gave up.

If I had been in charge of this project I would have done the job successfully. In fact, the ionization had to be confined close to the wall of the object such that the best way was to use the cylinder as a radiating wave guide. In such a condition one would have created a thin ionized layer exactly where it should be, i.e., close to the wall, in the boundary layer. But CNES and the military had decided to keep me away.

We knew all that one year later when an engineer of CNES, completely disgusted by this affair, got the final report about all this mess and sent it to us. I gave it to the press, who reported about it and it became a scandal. Esterle was moved to another service. The Director General of CNES asked him to write a negative final report about GEPAN's activities. But it appeared difficult to manage that for I could have contested it immediately in the press. They preferred to reduce GEPAN to almost nothing. Since 1983, the year of the scandal, GEPAN consists of only two persons: a female secretary and a technician named Velasco, with a very poor technical background.

The officials of CNES continued to pretend that the service was still in charge regarding the UFO problem, but it was nothing but a bad joke.

Last summer in Quebec, I met a man named Roger Lesgard. In 1977 he was the secretary general of CNES and I suddenly remembered he was the executive administrator who created GEPAN in 1977. Later, he was the director of SEP company, which builds the propellents of Ariane rockets. He was fired in 1986 for political reasons.

He did not recognize me and I asked him why CNES decided to create GEPAN. Since he believed I was a "classical" scientist he replied ingenuously:

The army and CNES were furious about all the noise made about UFOs. Then we created GEPAN to cool and extinguish the problem and it worked perfectly.

Since the summer of 1987 we know what GEPAN really was: *wind*. I give these details to clear up definitively this question for the American people. I admit this was unfortunately, not a very glamorous part of our national scientific history.

The Trans-en-Provence Affair

During the years, from 1977 to 1983 GEPAN published a dozen small, yellow reports. Most of them are totally uninteresting, but the last one was completely different.

When Poher was in charge of the service, investigations of UFO landing sites were very primitive. When Esterle became the head I suggested to him that he do more refined analyses, including biologic analysis of grass samples.

In 1981 an old man named Nicolai, retired, living in a house with his wife in the village of Trans-en-Provence, saw a strange metallic "cheese box" land in his garden with a loud noise. It stayed a minute and took off very quickly. He told his wife about it, who told the story to her neighbor, whose husband was a policeman. Then the officer came and picked some samples of grass in and out of the track area. These samples were sent to GEPAN. Fortunately, the officer picked up some soil, too, so that the plants did not die. These samples were sent 39 days later to a biologist, Michael Bounias, of the INRA (Institut National de la Recherche Argonomique), in Avignon. Also by chance, Bounias was one of the best specialists in plant traumatology. He did a very sophisticated analysis, which revealed some very important differences among the samples. Caroten, pheophytine, the chlorophylls A and B, and all the pigments of the sample plant were seriously altered by up to 80%. He asked for a systematic study of the landing site. Additional samples were picked ten days later. A systematic biochemical study of the site revealed that the pigment distribution changed slightly from the center of the UFO landing area to, say, ten meters away. The curve was uniform (the correlation coefficient was better than .996).

Bounias showed that this phenomenon could be due to the action of radiation. In effect, the impact on grass followed a

law like $1/r^2$. No known natural process was found able to produce such effect on grass. This was interesting because for a simple witness, just observing the landing site, the aspect and color of the grass were unchanged. This method showed that sophisticated information could be picked up from landing area data. The biochemical alterations normalized after six months.

Bounias suggested to try to reproduce such alterations with pulsed microwave irradiation on grass. He sent a research plan to GEPAN, but Velasco did not answer. At that same time (1983) GEPAN was already being reduced to almost nothing.

We know that other landings occurred in France, but Bounias, in spite of his excellent work about the Trans-en-Provence affair, was kept away. Just one year later a UFO stood 20 minutes in the garden of a researcher, in northern France. But, the grass, and flower samples were ruined. The policemen sent samples to a biology laboratory in Toulouse, but they cut the stalks too short and packed the samples in plastic bags. When the grass samples arrived at the laboratory, they were completely rotten.

Dead Men Don't Talk

In 1977 CNES created both GEPAN, itself, and a panel whose duty it was to check GEPAN's work. It was composed of seven officials and scientists, and we know their names. From 1977 to 1981 the members of the panel met ten times, but after 1981 there were no more meetings. Some members of the panel agreed to such an easy end. From the beginning they were against UFO investigations. Two of them, the specialist of astronomy and the specialist of meteorology, asked why there were no more meetings. They wrote several letters to the Director General of the CNES, saying:

Does the GEPAN still exist? If so, what are its present activities in the last few years? If not, does CNES intend to organize a final meeting. Will a final report, with a conclusion, be forthcoming from the panel?

Several letters were sent out. The last one was accompanied by a letter from the head of the French meteorologic official service. There was no reply. I think the answer came from Lesgard, who told me last summer:

There will be no more meetings. CNES considers it is finished. They just let GEPAN die "naturally."

The Rouen Experiment

In 1983 a young engineer named Bertrand Lebrun asked if he could do his Ph.D. thesis under my scientific direction. I predicted many difficulties for him but he insisted. Then he attended fluid mechanics courses for one year. I invented a theoretical approach in order to describe the shock-wave cancellation process, based on the characteristic theory. Together, we did preliminary work giving the orders of magnitude of the fluid and electromagnetic parameters. It was well accepted by the fluid mechanics commission of Marseille that gave the best possible mark to Lebrun. But, later they refused to accept the subject. They said it was scientifically correct but that the commission was not interested. I complained to the CNRS at the highest level. The Director General gave us a two-year scholarship for Lebrun. A small amount of money made it possible to buy two Macintosh computers and then we started to work hard.

As the student registration in the fluid-mechanics department grew, problems were created so that the Directors of CNRS asked us to shift to the applied mathematics department, which we did. They said: "go ahead. When you have good, solid results and publication material we will try to find

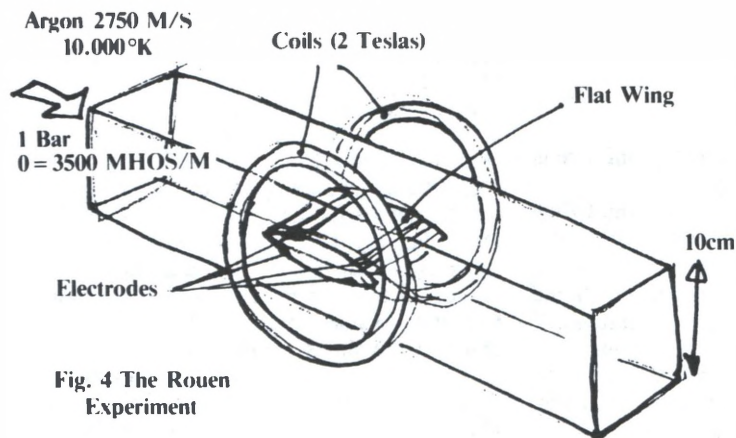


Fig. 4 The Rouen Experiment

a better arrangement in this university.”

In the same time the Directors of CNRS found a French fluid mechanics laboratory, in Rouen, that had a convenient hot-gas wind tunnel. Nothing but that good old shock tube we used in the sixties. They accepted to try a shock cancellation experiment if financial support could be found. Lebrun proposed to compute the experiment by numerical simulation. The CEA gave a mountain of high-capacity condensators, in order to produce the necessary two-teslas magnetic field and the accelerating discharge in the gas. Finally, a costly, sophisticated image converter was given to us plus a \$200,000 grant.

The Impact of a Political Change

Just when the contract was about to be signed in 1986, the government changed. Then, too, the Directors of CNRS were also immediately changed. The Director General of CNRS, Papon, who helped us, was fired. The new director ignored our scientific efforts. Similar changes in the army also caused new difficulties. They said the grant would be cancelled at once if I would pretend to get any official scientific position in this affair. This was similar to the CNES affair six years earlier. It was that or nothing, so I decided to accept. We hoped that things could be changed later.

One night, at the end of 1986, Lebrun got his first real success, showing by numerical simulations that a shock-wave system could be completely removed from around a thin body imbedded in a supersonic gas flow. In February 1987 he presented his Ph.D. thesis on this subject, in the applied mathematics department. His scholarship was almost complete.

In France we can get a gradation called “These d’Etat” whose level is somewhat higher than the Ph.D. Lebrun asked to be enrolled in the fluid mechanics department of Marseille, but they refused again and he was obliged to find enrollment at another university: Poitiers. His scholarship ended and I searched actively, how possibly, to support him.

Since the summer of 1987 he was paid by the owner of a French private company, acting as a sponsor, whose activities had nothing to do with MHD. Our team had been completely abandoned by the CNRS. Personally, I shifted to cosmology and returned to the observatory of Marseille. But, and this will be the matter of the third paper, the reader will see that I did not give up on UFOs. Not at all. Lebrun finished his State Thesis in December. He works on a VAX, that belongs to the computing center of the University of Marseille.

The situation was so bad that we decided to give up Rouen. Now they run it on their own. They said that the army was interested in the experiment and would help them getting materials and financial support. But MHD is a sharp field. I am not sure it will go in the right direction.

As the reader probably knows, French politics encountered some changes recently. The leftists have come back. Thus, the general direction of the CNRS will be changed again. Similar changes will certainly occur in the army, too.

Among the so-called French ufologists the evolution was similar to other countries. Following the message of Jacques Vallee, 1976, a part of them considered that UFOs definitely belong to the paranormal world. The other part shifted towards a so-called psychosociological interpretation of the UFO phenomenon. For such people UFOs are definitely a dream, a phantasm, some sort of an hallucination. Personally, I belong to what Americans call “nuts and bolts” men. There are probably only a handful of us in France. In general, French scientists vigorously ignore the UFO problem.

The next paper will concentrate on the scientific approach, through fluid mechanics.

About the Author

Jean-Pierre Petit, Director of France’s National Center for Scientific Research, sent *PURSUIT* a cover letter that summarized his upcoming four-part series of articles. Here are excerpts from that letter.

“I was, personally, very impressed by the quality and content of the paper of R. Perry Collins entitled “UFO Intervention — The Possibility” published in *PURSUIT* Vol. 19, #2, in 1986. I agree with it and would like to add some comments of my own. First, may I present myself. I am 51, married, with two children. My initial fields of interest were aeronautics and space science and I graduated from our national aerospace engineering school in 1961. Then I worked in a test site devoted to powder-propelled missiles later launched from French nuclear submarines. In 1965 I joined civilian research and worked on magneto gas dynamic devices (MHD pulsed generators). In 1974 I shifted towards astrophysics and cosmology. I presently belong to the Marseille Observatory.

I got interested and involved with UFOs in 1975 simply through scientific interest. At the time I was thinking about the possibility of operating external MHD propellers. MHD acceleration has been known for a long time. We can say that the first inventor was the great Michael Faraday himself...

It would take more than a simple paper to tell all that happened in France since 1975. In fact, it would deserve at least a book. Briefly, the CNES (equivalent to N.A.S.A. in the U.S.) created a service named GEPAN in 1977. It was devoted to the official study of UFOs. But, rapidly, it appeared that this small group’s activities were only devoted to debunking (and even self-debunking). They refused all serious technical work with UFOs and did their best to anesthetize people (and perform a self-anesthesia, as well). From the beginning it seemed to me that they were deathly afraid of the subject which R. Perry Collins refers to in his article as *cultural shock*...

By the way, I wrote a dozen popular books that have been translated in ten countries including, in the United States, *The Adventures of Archibald Higgins* and on the subject of UFOs, *The Silent Barrier*.

Member George Andrews, author of *Extraterrestrials Among Us*, sent *PURSUIT* his excellent translation (from French) of the article of Michael Bouineas’ “Application of a Research Program Concerning the Characterisation of Vegetable Traumatism by studying Metabolic Irregularities after a Phenomenon of Unknown Origin,” published by *OVNI Presence*, No. 31, 3rd Qtr., 1984.

The article was, we felt, too technical for use in *PURSUIT* but was a major breakthrough in the study of chemical after-effects on vegetation following a UFO’s close contact with a field of alfalfa on Jan. 8, 1981, in the Var region of France.

SITUATION

The Mundrabilla UFO in Western Australia

The front pages of many newspapers of the 21st of January reported provocative details of a family's alleged encounter with a UFO. The glowing object resembled a giant egg in an egg cup. It allegedly stopped their car and left behind physical traces. Follow-up reports gave details on other alleged witnesses. The unidentified driver of a car with caravan travelling in the opposite direction to the Knowles family, reportedly swerved to avoid the object. Graham Henley, driving a truck 10-15 km ahead of the Knowles, saw in his rear vision mirror, a bright white light hovering over the car's headlights. Another truck driver, probably John De Jong, travelled some distance behind the Knowles' car. There was possibly one other unidentified truck driver who may have first reported the incident to the Eucla police. Other reports came from Alan and Tina Parkes, who saw a very bright, greenish-bluish object stationary on the horizon while driving from Mt. Gambier to Melbourne on 16 Jan. Two separate tuna boat crews reported sighting UFOs in the Great Australian Bight.

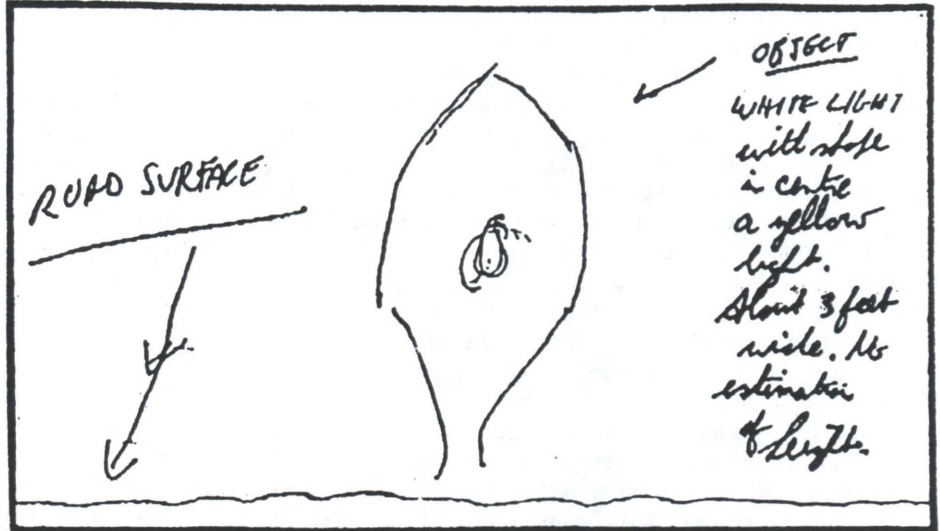
The following details on the central Knowles family sighting are derived from preliminary reports compiled by Keith Basterfield and Ray Brooke of UFO Research (South Australia) and kindly provided by Vlad Godic of UFORA, and from media sources. Ceduna police telephoned Ray Brooke some 10 hours after the incident had occurred, whereupon an interview with the family was arranged for when they reached Adelaide. Unfortunately, TV Channel 7 intercepted the family enroute and arranged an "exclusive" deal with them. After negotiations with the network, Keith and Ray were able to informally talk with the Knowles, though in a hectic atmosphere sandwiched between TV studio interviews.

Mrs. Fay Knowles and sons Sean, Patrick and Wayne were travelling in a 1984 blue Ford Telstar from Perth, Western Australia to Melbourne, Victoria. At a point some 40 km west of Mundrabilla, Sean, the driver, saw what he at first took to be a truck's light approaching along the road from the E. It was "jumping about a bit," disappeared, became visible again and continued to approach their vehicle. Sean commented that it looked like a "spaceship." It became bigger and brighter. They kept driving towards it. It then disappeared.

The next thing they knew it was behind them. Sean accelerated the car in an attempt to get away from it. Suddenly it was in front again. At some stage, Sean did a U-turn and travelled W for a while, then did another U-turn to resume the original E travel. It is not clear whether this was an attempt to elude or follow the light. At another time, the light was seen close to their vehicle and they swerved to miss it and nearly hit a car and caravan coming the other way.

The exact sequence of events from here is very confused, but included:

- The right rear tire blew out whilst they travelled at speed. Sean braked the car to a halt.
- Mrs. Knowles placed her hand on the car's roof and felt a "spongy substance." She retracted it after feeling the material. Immediately the back of her hand felt warm for a few seconds, then the sensation of heat faded.



Sketch of the UFO drawn by Mrs. Faye Knowles for Ceduna police after she crossed the Nullarbor Plain.

- The family wound down the windows and a "greyish-black mist" came into the car.
- The sound of their voices changed in pitch and appeared to slow down.
- They believed the object had landed on the roof of the car, although upon questioning, they said they did not see anything protruding front, rear or over the sides of the car.
- A humming sound was heard.
- Sean blacked out for a period.
- They all became hysterical, shouting and crying. Mrs. Knowles said she believed they were going to die.
- They believed the car was lifted off the road. However, when asked if they had looked out and saw the car off the ground, they said they had not done so.
- They reported the vehicle dropped to the ground and the tire burst.
- Their two dogs went "crazy."
- They reported a smell like "dead bodies" in the air.

After a period of time, Sean stopped the car and they all got out to hide in adjacent scrub. They reported the light/object remained in the vicinity of the car and then departed.

Some 15 minutes after stopping, the family returned to the car and rapidly changed the tire. They proceeded to the Mundrabilla Motor Hotel in W.A.

A sample of the "soot/ash" found on and in the car was collected 10 hours after the event by a police forensic squad officer who was at Ceduna police station on another matter. Results of the analysis are still awaited. On 25 January, Channel 7 announced that its experts said "analysis of black material on the car reveals that it is mostly iron oxide consistent with residue from worn brake linings" and that the almost perfect cut on the right rear tire was probably caused by running a considerable distance on the rim. This could likewise explain the shaking and smoke. There

were also four slight indentations discovered at the four corner points of the roof. It is possible, though yet to be confirmed, that the marks may have occurred when the family's two suitcases strapped to the roof disappeared, presumably by being ripped off at high speed.

The UFOR(SA) investigators have emphasized that "the physical evidence is not as strong as the media have reported and caution is urged until technical reports are in." They concluded that the family appeared to be down-to-earth people trying to cope with some traumatic episode. Indications of a hoax are minimal. At this date, the entire incident is still open to a number of interpretations. Investigations are continuing and a more detailed report is in preparation.

(Media sources include: "Daily Telegraph," Sydney "Sun" and "Daily Mirror," 21-22 Jan; "Sun-Herald" and "Sunday Telegraph," 24 Jan 88; and Channel 7 "Nightly News" and "Newsworld," various dates.)

Our thanks for the above report to the Australian Centre for UFO Studies (ACUFOS), PO Box 728, Lane Cove, NSW 2066 Australia.

Our Mayan Ancestors

by Maurice Chatelain ©

The chronology of ancient Mayas, who were living in Mexico several thousand years ago, probably was the most sophisticated that ever existed. Their calendar had weeks of thirteen days and months of twenty days. And in addition to the solar year which they had correctly estimated to 365.242 days, they had computed years of 260, 360, 364, and 365 days, as well as twenty-one cycles called Katuns of 7182, 7200, 7254, or 7280 days, which were all used in different places and at different times. They also had several cycles of 5200 years representing 13 Baktuns or 260 Katuns whose duration could be 1,867,320; 1,872,000; 1,886,040 or 1,892,800 days — corresponding to great astronomical cycles.

Some may wonder why Mayan astronomers had used a sacred year of 260 days representing twenty weeks of thirteen days or thirteen months of twenty days, but there were several good reasons for this. First, in the south of Mexico where the first Mayas lived, the Sun is at the zenith 260 days apart, on 13 August and 30 April. Then two of these years represented three eclipse cycles and three of them corresponded to Mars' synodic cycle of 780 days. And, finally, most Mayan calendars were exact multiples of 260 days.

For example, there was a short calendar of 37,960 days which represented 104 years of 365 days, 65 Venus cycles of 584 days, and $48\frac{1}{2}$ Mars cycles of 780 days. That simple calendar was too short by 25 days to coincide with the Sun, but it was only three days too long for Mars or five days for Venus. As a matter of fact, Egyptian astronomers had a similar but longer calendar where Venus cycles of 584 days coincided with years of 365 or $365\frac{1}{4}$ days.

Mayan astronomers also had two great calendars of 5125 and 5164 years, the first one being based on the conjunctions of Mercury, Venus and Mars, while the second one was based on those of Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. The calendar of 5125 years represented 260 Katuns of 7200 days or 1,872,000 days, as well as even numbers of Mars cycles or Mercury and Venus conjunctions. That calendar seems to have started on 6 September – 3113 [3114 B.C.] which was the day 584,283 in the Julian calendar. It should therefore come to an end on 21 December 2012 which will be the Julian day 2,456,283.

The starting date of 6 September – 3113 is indicated by two inscriptions discovered in the Temple of the Sun of Palenque in Mexico. The first inscription tells us that a great conjunction of Jupiter was observed on the day 1,388,996 which was in the year 690 of our calendar. We know that such a conjunction of Mars, Jupiter and Saturn occurred on 18 July 690, Julian day 1,973,279. The difference between these two numbers tells us that the Mayan calendar of 5125 years started on the Julian day 584,283 which was 6 September – 3113. Triple conjunctions of these planets can only happen every 516 years after an average of 188,604 days, which is one tenth of the calendar of 5164 years.

The second inscription tells us that an heliacal rising of Jupiter, which is its first apparition on the right of the Sun after its conjunction with it, had been observed on the Mayan day 192,462 and another one on the Mayan day 275,055. And, effectively, that phenomenon occurred on 12 August – 2586, Julian day 776,745 and on 27 September – 2360, Julian day 859,338. In each case the difference between the

Mayan day and the Julian day is equal to 584,283, which also proves that the Mayan calendar of 5125 years had really started on 6 September – 3113.

The calendar of 5164 years represented 260 Katuns of 7254 days or 1,886,040 days, or 260 conjunctions of Jupiter and Saturn or 2418 of Mars and the Sun. This calendar had started on 16 August – 3164 which was the Julian day 565,635 and it will end on 10 May 2000 which will be the Julian day 2,451,675 during a spectacular conjunction of Mars, Jupiter and Saturn behind the Sun, which had been announced four hundred years ago by the French astrologer Nostradamus in his quatrain 9-83.

These two great calendars can only coincide every 2,901,600 days, after 403 Katuns of the first or 400 Katuns of the second. They have exactly coincided on 9 January 1047, Julian day 2,103,483 when Jupiter and Saturn were in conjunction behind the Sun. They almost coincided twice, between 18 July and 5 August – 1595, and between 13 June and 29 September 1086. The difference between the first dates of each coincidence, which is 979,200 days, represents 135 conjunctions cycles of Jupiter and Saturn of $7253\frac{1}{3}$ days which were used by the ancient Hindus of the Indus valley. The difference between the last dates of each coincidence, which is 979,290 days, represents 135 conjunction cycles of 7254 days used by the ancient Mayas in Mexico several thousand years ago.

Most of the time the conjunctions of Jupiter and Saturn do not occur on the exact date indicated by one or the other of these two calendars, but their intervals often represent exact multiples of the 7200 or 7254 days cycles. For example, conjunctions with the Sun of the five planets Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn have been observed on 28 August – 1852 and on 10 April 849. The interval between these two dates is 986,400 days, which represents 137 Katuns of 7200 days or 6850 conjunction cycles of Mercury and Venus of 144 days each. This could explain the Katuns of 7200 days of the 5125-year calendar which was based on these conjunctions.

For the 5164-year calendar, I found the dates of 26 March 1345 and 26 January 1643. These two dates are separated by an interval of 108,810 days which represents 15 Katuns of 7254 days or 186 Venus cycles of 585 days each, or fifteen conjunctions of Jupiter and Saturn. However, these astronomical dates did not exactly coincide with the dates of the two calendars, since the astronomical conjunctions periods of these planets are 144.564, 583.921, and 7253.445 days, and the calendars had to be adjusted from time to time to remain in phase with the astronomical phenomena. This explains the differences of 228 days in the first and 107 days in the second.

A similar adjustment was made in 1582 by Pope Gregory when he decided that the 5th of October of the Julian calendar would become the 15th of October of the new Gregorian calendar, so that the following spring equinox would again fall on 21 March 1583 as it was supposed to do. It probably was the only important decision of that pope who only reigned for thirteen years and died two years later, anyway. The Gregorian calendar, more precise than the Julian, is made of 400 years of 365.2425 days or 146,097 days, which is still too long by three days over a period of ten thousand years.

MAYAN CALENDAR OF 1 886 040 DAYS
OR 260 KATUNS OF 7254 DAYS
FROM 16 AUGUST – 3164 TO 10 MAY 2000

3164	2767	2369	1972	1575	1178	0781	0383	0014	0411	0808	1205	1603
3144	2747	2350	1952	1555	1158	0761	0364	0034	0431	0828	1225	1633
3124	2727	2330	1933	1535	1138	0741	0344	0054	0451	0848	1245	1642
3104	2707	2310	1913	1515	1118	0721	0324	0073	0471	0868	1265	1662
3084	2687	2290	1893	1496	1098	0701	0304	0093	0490	0888	1245	1682
3065	2667	2270	1873	1476	1079	0681	0284	0113	0510	0908	1305	1702
3045	2648	2250	1853	1456	1059	0661	0264	0133	0530	0927	1325	1722
3025	2628	2230	1833	1436	1039	0642	0244	0153	0550	0947	1344	1742
3005	2608	2211	1813	1416	1019	0622	0225	0173	0570	0967	1364	1762
2985	2588	2191	1794	1396	0999	0602	0205	0193	0590	0987	1384	1781
2965	2568	2171	1774	1376	0979	0582	0185	0212	0610	1007	1404	1801
2945	2548	2151	1754	1357	0959	0562	0165	0232	0629	1027	1424	1821
2926	2528	2131	1734	1337	0940	0542	0145	0252	0649	1047	1444	1841
2906	2508	2111	1714	1317	0920	0522	0125	0272	0669	1066	1464	1861
2886	2489	2091	1694	1297	0900	0503	0105	0292	0689	1086	1483	1881
2866	2469	2072	1674	1277	0880	0483	0086	0312	0709	1106	1503	1901
2846	2449	2052	1654	1257	0860	0463	0066	0332	0729	1126	1523	1920
2826	2429	2032	1635	1237	0840	0443	0046	0351	0749	1146	1543	1940
2806	2409	2012	1615	1218	0820	0423	0026	0371	0768	1166	1563	1960
2787	2389	1992	1595	1198	0800	0403	0006	0391	0788	1186	1583	1980
2767	2369	1972	1575	1178	0781	0383	0014	0411	0808	1205	1603	2000

We have seen before that heliacal risings of Jupiter had been observed by Mayan astronomers on 12 August – 2586 and 27 September – 2360. The interval of 82,593 days between these two dates exactly represents 207 synodic cycles of Jupiter of 399 days each. These dates certainly were important steps of another great calendar of 1,867,320 days or 260 Katuns of 7182 days, each representing 18 Jupiter cycles of 399 days or 19 Saturn cycles of 378 days. Ancient Hindus of the Indus valley had also computed a similar calendar of 308,448 days representing 816 Saturn cycles or 378 conjunction cycles of Mars and Jupiter of 816 days each.

This great Mayan cycle represents a mathematical achievement. At first, Mayan astronomers had computed that it represented 4680 Jupiter cycles or 4940 Saturn cycles, but after several hundred years they noticed that the real Jupiter cycle was slightly shorter and that the Saturn cycle was slightly longer. That was when they had the bright idea of counting one more cycle for Jupiter and one less for Saturn. That way they obtained Jupiter cycles of 398.915 days and Saturn cycles of 378.076 days, two synodic periods which are very close to those used by modern astronomers.

They also obtained 399 cycles of 4680 days representing six cycles of Mars or eight of Venus, and found everywhere in the Dresden Codex which is the classical astronomy book of the Mayas. However, a calendar representing 258 conjunctions of Jupiter and Saturn was not very practical for Mayan astronomers who counted everything by thirteen or twenty.

Having observed that the average interval between two conjunctions was 7254 days, they adopted the calendar of 1,886,040 days which we have already mentioned.

Mayan astronomers also had a great calendar of 1,892,800 days representing 260 Katuns of 7280 days or 5200 lunar years of 364 days, and 10,920 eclipse cycles or 64,096 synodic cycles of the Moon. They had also noticed that the conjunctions of Jupiter and Saturn occurred behind the Sun every 355,408 days or 973 years, as it happened in – 1892 and – 919, in 54 and 1027, and as it will happen on 10 May 2000 at twenty degrees of Taurus, as Nostradamus has announced. From that observation, they had computed another calendar made of 891 synodic cycles of Jupiter, 940 of Saturn, and 49 conjunction cycles of these two planets. It therefore appears that Mayan astronomers had not one, but several different calendars based on the relative motions of the planets.

Mayan astronomers probably knew the existence of the planet Uranus which is often visible with the naked eye during its conjunctions with the Earth every 370 days. The Dresden Codex contains many time periods of 702 days which certainly correspond to the conjunction period of that planet with Mars of 702.713 days, and time periods of 14,040 days which represent 18 cycles of Mars, 20 of Uranus or 24 of Venus. As a matter of fact, the calendar of 1,867,320 days is an exact multiple of these two cycles, which is another confirmation of its existence in the Mayan chronology.

MAYAN CALENDAR OF 1 872 000 DAYS
OR 260 KATUNS OF 7200 DAYS
FROM 6 SEPTEMBER – 3113 TO 21 DECEMBER 2012

3113	2719	2324	1930	1536	1142	0747	0353	0041	0435	0830	1224	1618
3093	2699	2305	1910	1516	1122	0728	0333	0061	0455	0849	1244	1638
3073	2679	2285	1891	1496	1102	0708	0314	0081	0475	0869	1263	1658
3054	2659	2265	1871	1477	1082	0688	0294	0100	0495	0889	1283	1677
3034	2640	2245	1851	1457	1063	0668	0274	0120	0514	0909	1303	1697
3014	2620	2226	1832	1437	1043	0649	0255	0140	0534	0928	1322	1717
2995	2600	2206	1812	1418	1023	0629	0235	0159	0554	0948	1342	1736
2975	2581	2186	1792	1398	1004	0609	0215	0179	0573	0968	1362	1756
2955	2561	2167	1772	1378	0984	0590	0195	0199	0593	0987	1382	1776
2935	2541	2147	1753	1358	0964	0570	0176	0219	0613	1007	1401	1796
2916	2521	2127	1733	1339	0944	0550	0156	0238	0633	1027	1421	1815
2896	2502	2107	1713	1319	0925	0530	0136	0258	0652	1047	1441	1835
2876	2482	2088	1694	1299	0905	0511	0117	0278	0672	1066	1460	1855
2857	2462	2068	1674	1280	0885	0491	0097	0297	0692	1086	1480	1874
2837	2443	2048	1654	1260	0866	0471	0077	0317	0711	1106	1500	1894
2817	2423	2029	1634	1240	0846	0452	0057	0337	0731	1125	1520	1914
2797	2403	2009	1615	1220	0826	0432	0038	0357	0751	1145	1539	1934
2778	2383	1989	1595	1201	0806	0412	0018	0376	0771	1165	1559	1953
2758	2364	1969	1575	1181	0787	0392	0002	0396	0790	1185	1579	1973
2738	2344	1950	1556	1161	0767	0373	0021	0416	0810	1204	1599	1993
2719	2324	1930	1536	1142	0747	0353	0041	0435	0830	1224	1618	2012

Mayan astronomers had also discovered the great cycle of the transits of Venus in front of the Sun which can also be found in the Dresden Codex. That cycle of 88,756 days represents 243 years or 152 passages of Venus in front of the Sun. The best known of these transits are those of 6 June 1761 and 4 June 1769, the last one observed in Tahiti by the famous Captain Cook. The next two transits will occur on 8 June 2004 and 6 June 2012. These ancient astronomers probably knew the exact duration of the synodic cycle of Venus but in their calendars they used the more practical numbers of 584 or 585 days which could coincide with those of 365 for the Sun or 780 for Mars.

As for the Moon, the Mayas knew that 44 lunar months lasted 1300 days and that 405 months made 11,960 days. They also had a short calendar of 27,759 days representing 76 years or 940 months, and a long one of 421,490 days representing 1154 years or 14,273 months. For the eclipses, they knew that three eclipse cycles made 520 days, and they knew the cycle of coincidence between 93 solar years and 98 lunar years, as well as that between 521 solar years and 549 lunar years which was known by the Sumerians, and after which the same solar eclipse occurs automatically on the same day of the year and on the same point of the zodiac. Mayan astronomers also knew the Saros cycle of 6585 days, the Meton cycle of 6940 days, and the lunar standstill cycle of 6800 days between extreme moon rises north or south of the east.

However, there still exists in the Mayan chronology

another problem to be solved, for which many different solutions have been proposed. It is generally accepted that the 5125-year calendar must have started on a day 1 IMIX — 1 POP, but nobody so far has been able to determine the day of the Julian calendar which corresponds to a certain day 4 AHAU — 8 CUMKU which was at the same time the beginning of a solar year and that of a Mayan year, and also was a very important historical or astronomical date.

Each day of the Mayan chronology was defined in the year of 260 days by a certain number and a certain name, such as 1 IMIX or 4 AHAU, for example, and in the year of 360 days by another number and another name, such as 1 POP or 8 CUMKU, for example. It was therefore necessary to wait 93,600 days or 256.2683 solar years to have the same day again at the beginning of 260- and 360-day years, and it took 41 of those cycles to coincide with 10,507 solar years of 365.2422 days each.

As one can see, Mayan astronomers had to wait for 10,507 years to see a day that would be at the same time the first day of a solar year, of a 260-day year, and of a 360-day year. Egyptian astronomers had probably made the same calculations because the number 41 was for them a sacred number that can be found in the dimensions of the Cheops and Chephren pyramids measured in feet of 375mm. Moreover, in the Cheops pyramid, the Chamber of the Queen and that of the King are 41 and 82 cubits of 525mm above the base. Also, 82 days represent three sidereal months of the Moon.

A day 4 AHAU is the day 160 of a 260-day year starting on a day 1 IMIX, and a day 8 CUMKU can be considered as the day 350 of a year of 360 days starting on a day 1 POP. To determine the day of the Julian calendar which corresponds to the Mayan day 4 AHAU — 8 CUMKU, we have to calculate, after the starting date of the 5125-year calendar, a certain number of days which would be at the same time a multiple of 360, a multiple of 260 plus 160, and a multiple of 365.2422 plus 350. The smallest number which fulfills those three conditions is 678,240. If we add that number to 584,283, the Julian starting date of the calendar, we obtain the Julian day 1,262,523 which was the 7 August — 1256 in our calendar.

And that day was a very special one, not only because Jupiter and Saturn were in conjunction, but also because that conjunction occurred right in the middle of the zodiac at the longitude 180, or zero degree of Libra. That is a very rare astronomical phenomenon that can only occur every 768,865 days after 2105 sidereal years or 106 conjunctions of Jupiter and Saturn. Since we know that these two planets were very important for Mayan astronomers, it seems almost certain that the last day 4 AHAU — 8 CUMKU was on 7 August — 1256.

Some authors think that the date of 6 September — 3113 could have been a day 4 AHAU — 8 CUMKU. That seems to me difficult to believe because in that case, we would have to go back in the past to 28 October — 11763, Julian day — 2,575,077, to find a day 1 IMIX — 1 POP which was at the same time the first day of a solar year, of a 260-day year, and of a 360-day year. That, however, is not impossible since we have found dates of — 11654 among the Hindus and — 11540 among the Egyptians which are about as old and could correspond to a period of cataclysms and calculation of new and more sophisticated astronomical calendars around the world.

There still are three more mysteries in the chronology of the Mayas. The first mystery is that of the Grolier Codex. It was believed that only three sacred Mayan texts had survived the fire of Diego de Landa, Bishop of Yucatan, who believed that they had been written by Satan. These texts were the Paris Codex, the Madrid Codex, and the Dresden Codex. Then a fourth codex appeared in New York in 1970 under the name of Grolier Codex and of unknown origin. And, as I had done for the three others, I tried to decipher it in order to find out if it contained more information about the Mayan chronology.

It took me some time to discover that the Grolier Codex represented a great calendar of 1953 cycles of 1352 years of 365 days each, or an enormous period of time of 963,766,440 days or 2,640,456 years which was an exact multiple of the Mayan cycles of 4680, 7254, and 37,960 days which we have already mentioned. It could therefore be considered as another astronomical constant of the solar system, similar to the Nineveh Constant of 2268 million days or 6,300,000 years of the Sumerians.

The second mystery is that of the disk of Chinkultic which was discovered in the ruins of that archeological site in Mexico. That disk represents a ball player surrounded by unknown hieroglyphs and the six numbers 9, 7, 17, 12, 14, 11, in Mayan numeration. The disk is a mystery because the date is indicated by six numbers instead of the usual five. The

number 9 which should not be there probably represents a number of great cycles of 1,872,000 days and, in that case, it would indicate a date 17,983,011 days or 49,236 years after the beginning of the first great cycle on 15 May — 49240, Julian day — 16,263,717. And that day would have been the 4 March — 5. That explanation would be logical since the Greek historian Diogenes Laertius tells us that the chronology of the Egyptians had started in the year — 49219, 21 years later. It appears that both chronologies could have started at the same time on both sides of the Atlantic ocean after some cataclysm occurred of cosmic or terrestrial origin which would have required the calculation of new astronomical calendars.

The third mystery is that of the inscriptions of Copan and Quirigua. It has been found on a stela of Copan, in Honduras next to the Guatemala border, an inscription representing 5.239 million years of 360 days, or one thousand Mayan great cycles of 260 conjunctions of Jupiter and Saturn, almost as long as the Nineveh Constant of the Sumerians. It has also been found, on a stela in Quirigua, in Guatemala next to the border of Honduras, another inscription representing 403 million years of 360 days each, or twenty million conjunction cycles of Jupiter and Saturn, or 31 million cycles of Mercury, Venus and Mars. That fantastic number of years could represent the time elapsed after the appearance of man on the surface of the Earth, since that extraordinary event seems to have occurred in Africa about four hundred million years ago. We now have to discover how it could have been known by the Mayas who were living in America.

In addition to astronomical and chronological data, the Dresden codex also indicates the measuring system used by the Mayas who wrote it. The Dresden codex is made of 39 pages folded like a fan or an accordion with illustrations on both sides, which makes a book of 79 pages. The pages are 21cm high and 9cm wide, which represents a total length of 351cm when the book is unfolded. This indicates a measuring system of 54cm for the cubit, 36 for the foot, 9 for the hand, 2¼ for the inch, and 1½ for the finger. The size of each page was therefore 14 × 6 fingers and the total length of the book was 39 hands or 234 fingers.

These measuring units have been used for a long time around the world, along with other units which also are exact fractions of one meter and therefore related to them. For example, an ideal unit length of 12,600m would represent an exact number of each twelve different feet used by our ancestors in different countries. In millimeters, these are the feet of Mykenos of 277.777, Danube of 280.000, Angkor of 291.666, Rome of 296.296, Egypt of 300.000, Babylon of 308.642, Baalbek of 333.333, Egypt of 350.000, Mexico of 352.753, France of 357.143, Maya of 360.000, and Egypt of 375.000.

In the same order, a unit length of 12,600m would represent the following numbers of feet: 45,360; 45,000; 43,200; 42,525; 42,000; 40,824; 37,800; 36,000; 35,719; 35,280; 35,000; 33,600. This, of course, does not prove that our ancestors knew the metric system, which is now used all over the world, but it certainly proves that they knew the dimensions of the Earth and had developed an international measuring system which was very similar to it. The most amazing fact is that four of these ancient feet have been found in Europe, three in Africa, three in Asia and two in



Mayan Disk of Chinkultic
4 March -5 (6 BC)

America, which seems to indicate that these different civilizations had a common origin.

The Mayan square foot of 0.1296m^2 can be found in Uxmal, Mexico, where the palace of the governor was built on a huge platform of 160,000 square feet or $20,736\text{m}^2$. This area has been estimated by some archeologists at exactly $20,000\text{m}^2$, which had given them a square foot of 0.125m^2 corresponding to a linear foot of 353.553mm, which is very close to the length from the Dresden codex and possibly correct.

The Mayan cubic foot of 0.046656m^3 can also be found in

the sarcophagus of the pyramid of Cheops which has an internal volume of 1.1664m^3 and an external volume of 2.3328m^3 , which respectively represent 25 and 50 Mayan cubic feet. Since we know that there are many similarities between the pyramid of Cheops in Egypt and that of the Sun in Teotihuacan in Mexico, it would not be surprising if that pyramid had also been built with the Mayan cubic foot. In that case, its original volume of $1,036,800\text{m}^3$ would have represented exactly 22,222,222 Mayan cubic feet or 40% of the volume of the pyramid of Cheops of $2,592,000\text{m}^3$, which would be another strange coincidence.



Possible Human-Animal Paranormal Events

by Berthold Eric Schwarz, M.D.

Folklore, myths, and legends supply countless examples of the strange affinity between man and animals. Vincent and Margaret Gaddis¹ have collected many provocative examples of this. Ivan Sanderson,² a well-known biologist, had also noted many such events between a variety of species and man. Although he had handled many wild animals on his TV shows over the years, he jokingly said that he still had his ten fingers. One very weird case studied by the psychoanalyst-parapsychologist Nandor Fodor,³ concerned the bizarre poltergeist example of a talking mongoose. In another study he cited and speculated about the amazing animals that materialized in seances⁴ witnessed by eminent scientists. In his memoirs the newspaperman Pierre van Paassen⁵ wrote about his personal experiences with a possible poltergeist dog that savagely fought with van Paassen's two German police dogs, one of which dropped dead immediately afterward. Other celebrated controversial man-animal biocommunications include horses that were allegedly telepathic* and could calculate, and of course the not uncommon news stories of dogs and cats (and other pets) who had been abandoned or lost and then returned over great distances and time. The scientist Milan Ryzl⁶ has summarized much of the animal parapsychological data. Von Urban,⁷ the psychoanalyst, recalled his own turmoil and the bellowing and howling of animals before a major European earthquake in 1895. The research physician Abraham G. Ginsberg,⁸ who independently discovered a device similar to radar, recalled how when he was living in the Adirondacks his dog crawled under the bed and stayed there every time his sister, who was very fond of the animal, was operated on by Dr. Will Mayo in Rochester, Minnesota. Lilly,⁹ the multifaceted research physician, has studied the intriguing communications between man and dolphins. Keel¹⁰ has recorded many bizarre man-animal interactions that deserve serious consideration.

Although Grad, Cadoret, and Paul,¹¹ in well-controlled laboratory studies, demonstrated the effects of psychic healing on guinea pigs, there has been little critically analysed clinical material presented in the medical literature. The telekinetic hypothesis gives clues for a possible *modus operandi* for placebo effects in the study of drug actions, and it might explain the different results sometimes obtained from identical experiments by various investigators. This is a practical question which should not be overlooked.

Because of the intimate nature of their work, psychiatrists are favorably situated to observe possible telepathy between patients and their pets, as well as to be sensitive to such possibilities in their own lives. For example, Mrs. Krystal¹² and her sons presented convincing evidence of how, when she was traveling in Mexico (pp 11-12) she telepathically (and correctly) learned of her dog's death in Maryland. In a planned experiment with myself (BES) that was spontaneously derailed, she telepathically picked up many of the segments of a horrible situation where a dog savagely attacked my friend (pp 22-24).

It is of interest that Jacques Romano,⁸ the extraordinary

nonagenarian paragnost, claimed he was never bitten by a dog, although he was exposed to many dangers in his life.

Pets, mostly dogs and cats, have always played a large role in the personal life of the distinguished telepathist, Joseph Dunninger. Both Romano and Dunninger, interestingly enough, called attention to the possible telepathic affinity between cockroaches and man. For example, if one thought of squashing a certain cockroach in a group of several, *that* specific cockroach would frequently scamper away. The parapsychologist Mrs. Anita Gregory reported¹³ some cockroach experiments done by Russians which were based on an earlier study done by an Israeli scientist; and Helmut Schmidt¹⁴ has reported his investigations using cockroaches.

In a previous report¹⁵ brief mention was made of a woman who had persistent success in winning substantial sums of money at the horse races. I studied her until I was unable to keep up with her fast pace. I did go to the races with her once, however, and was satisfied that she seemed to have some genuine abilities.* Her family physician, who had observed her over the last decade, told me that she was still successful (1972). It is of interest that this woman's whole life seemed to be focused on horse racing, and that this interest, which she shared with her husband, might have been the means of keeping her otherwise precariously balanced marriage intact. Although her husband approached racing in a scientific, mathematical way, his luck was terrible. But she, at the last moment just before the races started, † would rush to the betting booth, place a small bet, and almost always win. At times, when she departed from her usual custom and told her husband about a race — including the long shots — he would never follow through on her advice, and he would lose. The woman would then be overcome with a near orgy of success.

Among hypotheses for such feats are these: (1) the lady telepathically cognized a crooked race; (2) she exercised true precognition; (3) she had direct communication with the horses and in some obscure way determined who would win from them. Moss and Sands¹⁶ have reported a controlled investigation in picking the winners.

The following examples from research on Joseph Dunninger, from psychiatric practice, and from personal life explore this topic.

**In a psychodynamically devised clinical experiment that was designed to take advantage of the transference, I gave the woman a small sum of money to place bets that, if successful, would be sufficient to bring to the United States for a visit, the distinguished parapsychologist and expert on proscopy, Prof. W.H.C. Tenhaeff. The experiment flatly failed.*

†Dunninger, unlike his father and brother, was not particularly interested nor knowledgeable about horses in horse racing. However, he went on two occasions. The first time was at Belmont Racetrack when he was accompanied by his wife, an NBC executive, and the latter's girlfriend. The executive wanted to impress his girlfriend by having Dunninger pick the winners. Dunninger was as surprised as anyone when he picked five winners in a row, but no one won any money because Dunninger did not place any bets and his friends did not follow his directions. "Dan T. (executive) said I chose long shots and plugs." The second horse race that he attended was in San Francisco, when he was again accompanied by his wife, who verified this information. He entered the arena and as a stunt wrote his prediction for the big race of the day on a small slate and showed it to the grandstands. He again picked the winner.

The only time the dowsing paragnost Henry Gross¹⁷ dabbled in horse racing, he picked both the winner and the loser of the Kentucky Derby (p. 153).

*Dunninger investigated several of such cases and never found an example of genuine paranormal ability. He contended that the horses were trained to respond to cues.

Dunninger's Cat O'Four Tales

Dunninger once recalled an event which happened near the turn of the century when he was a child. His older (by four years) brother Louis had become acutely ill with an obscure fever and an oozing discharge from the eyes, nose, and ears. Every day for several weeks between midnight and one o'clock in the morning, Louis would become very frantic, exhibit violent behavior, and "the family had a hard time holding him down. Dr. Steinach, our family physician, and later consultants were unable to make a diagnosis or prescribe a remedy that could relieve the condition."

Dr. Steinach, who knew Mr. and Mrs. Dunninger, Sr., very well, surprised them by asking: "Do you believe in witchcraft? Lou's illness is so bizarre that I wonder if it could be caused by suggestion or a curse. I have read many books about this kind of thing in medieval Scotch-English literature." The doctor was cautious in his statements because he knew this was a way-out position for a physician; and furthermore, neither Mr. nor Mrs. Dunninger believed in the supernatural. Nevertheless, the very day of the physician's statement, the family's white cat disappeared from their home in New York City without apparent reason. The next day, an employee of Dunninger's father, a Mrs. Ellit, who also knew the brothers and who had originally given them the white cat as a present, surprised the family by returning the cat. Mrs. Ellit lived on the lower East Side, more than a mile away from the Dunninger factory. She said, "The cat came into my house last night; it must have escaped."

Joseph Dunninger commented: "This event made my mother and father very suspicious, for on the night that the white cat disappeared my mother saw several cats sitting on the window sill of Lou's room. Although the window was closed, my father had to get the broom and chase them away. The following morning, when Mrs. Ellit brought the white cat back, my mother accused her of bewitching the cat and of cursing Lou. My father fired her.

"My parents knew that Mrs. Ellit was a vindictive woman who felt she was given less sewing than the other German and Italian women who worked in my father's factory. Mother was infuriated. She picked up a pair of shears and said if Lou didn't improve she'd kill the woman. Mrs. Ellit took the white cat away and from that night on Lou gradually improved until he was better. We never told him the story because it would upset him."

The Dunninger family had numerous cats and dogs as pets through the years but they never had cats on the window sill, as happened that night. "When Dr. Steinach heard of the strange events, he suggested that if we ever saw Mrs. Ellit again and she touched Lou or one of us, Mother should strike her. One day Mother met Mrs. Ellit by chance on the street and when the lady touched Lou, Mother hit her on the hand. Although Dr. Steinach didn't believe in the supernatural he had an interest in the occult. My parents just accepted the doctor's explanation and that was that."

Many years later, when Louis was twenty-one years old, he died on December 21, of tuberculous pneumonia. Joseph Dunninger recalled: "The night before Lou died he yelled to me to come into his room and screamed, 'Look out the window. Get the cats away. They're bothering me. They'll kill me. I can't sleep!' There were no cats. His room, and mine which was next door, was high up, and cats couldn't climb up the side of our brownstone building. This was the first time Lou ever mentioned any cats. Nothing like this had happened before.

Another related event to these cat experiences occurred in October 1933, about thirty-one years after Louis' death, when Joseph Dunninger, with the New York *Journal American* staffwriter Joe Cowen and columnist Louis Sobel, wrote a series of articles on Dunninger's investigations of spiritualistic mediums.

One day they purchased a Harlem newspaper and read ads about mediums and fortunetellers. They chose one name and immediately dropped in unannounced. Among several items, this otherwise unprepossessing tall, thin Negro medium told them was that Dunninger had a brother who had died as a young man and that his death had something to do with cats. Furthermore, she described a particular type of high collar that bothered Louis in life, so much that he couldn't wear it. Dunninger was quite taken aback: "I wasn't thinking of this: if anything I expected to have a laughable reading and to hear only nonsense. But what she said was all true." His brother never liked high collars and preferred a winged collar. Also, when Louis died, the undertaker tried unsuccessfully to dress him with a high collar. The undertaker called Joseph Dunninger for instructions, and he was told to substitute a winged collar. Only Dunninger knew this.

The last major family cat experience might have happened when Joseph Dunninger's mother was in the twilight of her life. Once she went away for a few days. Her cat, Mimi, who was accustomed to lying contentedly at the foot of her bed and purring, became very upset — apparently at being abandoned — meowed incessantly, and refused food. Only when Joseph Dunninger summoned his mother and she returned, did Mimi settle down again. This happy state persisted until Mrs. Dunninger's death.* Then, contrary to expectations based on the previous experience with Mimi, the cat surprisingly enough jumped up on her mistress's bed, looked around, "as if someone was there, purred, and assumed her serene previous adjustment." This continued until she died several years later and was interred with her former mistress.

The accounts of cat episodes which were always similar, were related to me by Joseph Dunninger on many occasions through the years. They were buttressed with appropriate scrapbook newspaper clippings and independent corroboration by Mrs. Joseph Dunninger and Joseph Dunninger's late older brother Max.

The Bat

My wife and I took my "summertime bachelor" colleague, Dr. Brewster Breeden, to dinner for the first time. I knew that part of his military service had been in Japan so I told him about a fascinating article in *Science*, that I had read earlier in the day. It was about the U.S. plans for using bats to which incendiary bombs were attached as a secret weapon against Japan during World War II. This was a focal point in our discussion. After my wife and I had returned home from dinner and had retired, we were awakened at 1:30 a.m., hearing a strange noise — first a pummeling against the screen and

**Throughout her son's career; Mrs. Dunninger, Sr., used to look out the open window of their apartment, with a shawl over her shoulders, waiting for him to come home late at night. The shawl was then neatly folded and placed on a chair by the window. The night before Mrs. Dunninger's death her son returned from a performance that also featured the soprano Jessica Dragonet. "I noted that Mother was very ill and her shawl was crumpled on the floor. I took her to bed and she died the following day of pneumonia. It was very odd that the formerly crumpled shawl on the floor was now neatly folded and placed on a chair. I could not think of any acceptable explanation for this. I am also superstitious about the 6 of spades which I had dropped that night during my performance. Anytime I encounter that card it seems that I'm in trouble."*

then odd sounds all around the bedroom. When I turned on the light, I found that a bat, by some freak accident had crashed through the screen and was flying around the room. This happened on July 23, 1960; it had never happened before nor has it since. One wonders about a possible communication, coincidence, synchronicity, or precognition.

The Squirrel

A middle-aged woman was visiting her sister in a nursing home. It was the ninth anniversary of the sister's severe hemiplegia and motor aphasia. Although the sister could comprehend sufficiently to successfully manage her investments, she had to be fed, dressed, pushed around in a wheelchair, and attended constantly. The visitor, who was an animal lover, noted that her sister was concerned over a newspaper article she had read a week before about numerous animals in the South that were killed on the highways because of the drought. On the way home the woman went into a florist shop that she seldom patronized and among many items bought a stuffed toy squirrel as a surprise present for her sister. She later learned at this time, many miles away, the nursing home attendant had wheeled the sister outdoors where she had a shocking experience: a squirrel jumped into her lap and ran up her arm and lay on the back of her neck — apparently the animal was tame. When the nurse swatted the animal with a newspaper, it jumped down, ran up the nurse's leg, and bit her. The police were called, and they shot the animal.

The squirrel's head was examined by the Board of Health for rabies, but no disease was found. Was this coincidence? Or, could this unique experience of the disabled sister with the squirrel have telepathically prompted the sympathetic woman (who was an animal lover) to buy the toy squirrel at that exact time (there were other choices) as an unusual telepathically occasioned means, as described elsewhere¹⁷ of reassuring the sister that the animal was really harmless and should not have been shot? Or, did the kind thought of buying the stuffed animal in some way cause an interaction between the disabled sister and the squirrel who took a short-lived liking to her? A possible telesomatic exchange (Case six) involving this woman and her family is reported elsewhere.¹⁸

The Robin

Lester Riley, a middle-aged handyman-gardener of old Scotch-Irish stock was standing by his truck in the backyard of my New Jersey house telling me about the trip he had to make to Virginia the coming weekend to see his ninety-year-old mother, who was ailing and might be dying. While he was describing his mother's health, we were startled to see a bird (a robin) fall from the sky, crash onto the hood of his truck, and skid onto the ground. It gasped and died. Neither of us had ever had an experience like this before nor have we since, although I had on rare occasions seen birds crash into the window when the lights were on in the office. It was a cloudy, cool day, and there was no apparent reason for this strange happening. I immediately looked at Mr. Riley and said, "It's very odd, but I guess you'd better go at once." Although I was not superstitious, this statement was foolish and out of place for me. When I next saw Mr. Riley, a week later, he said that because of the weird coincidence, he left immediately for Virginia instead of three days later, as was his original plan. He arrived just before his mother died. When he told his brothers and sisters about the bird experience, they were astounded. They all vividly remembered how twenty-five years before, their father who was in poor health since an auto accident three years previously, told them how he saw

two bluebirds flying out of a window and interpreted that as an omen of his death — which happened three days later. Mr. Riley was so disturbed over these dovetailing coincidences involving his parents that he discussed them with his minister.

Such an event as this may be the folklore origin of the common parlance, "to get the bird."¹⁹

The Eunuch Cat

A young housewife, who had chronic anxiety hysteria and who had been adopted as a baby, had many telepathic events in her life and treatment. On November 8, 1966, she came to her session and told about an odd event with her seven-month-old male cat. She and her husband had planned to leave for an Atlantic City vacation late one night, but had to postpone their trip until early the next morning because their cat, who was to be altered in their absence, had suddenly run away.

The cat, who was outside and therefore did not see them pack their suitcases or make preparations, had never run away before. They searched for him in vain. When they got up early the next morning, they still could not find the cat. Finally they received a telephone call from a neighbor who said the cat was in their backyard. The cat refused to be coaxed home, however, and ran away again. In anger, the woman asked her husband's sister who worked for a veterinarian and was familiar with animals, to have the cat castrated while they were on vacation. When they returned four days later, they found the cat meowing and shivering in their parked auto in the garage. The husband's sister said that when she came to the house on the morning they left, to take the cat to the veterinarian for castration, he attacked her, ripped her sweater, and scratched her whenever she tried to get into the car. So she left the cat and went home. The cat had no food or water for this period of time.

One can wonder if this usually docile cat sensed the separation from his masters, as well as from his generative organs.

As a built-in control¹⁵ sequel to this experience, in a session at 2:15 p.m. on February 2, 1970, this woman patient, who also had endometriosis and tried to become pregnant for a long time, asked me (BES) about spaying my cat. She recalled the aforementioned example how her cat was finally spayed, and then said that she had just returned from an appointment with her gynecologist who advised her on the eventual need for a bilateral oophorectomy.

Prior to this patient's session I wondered when my paper on Edison¹⁹ and Dunninger would be out. In truth, during the session my mind occasionally drifted to this personal matter, and during this interplay of polarized material involving the previous possible telepathic cat experience, the patient's discussing the castration of my cat (displaced unconscious wish for her physician who was not paying proper attention?) and herself, plus my thoughts of Dunninger, Joseph Dunninger telephoned me about another weird story concerning his cat, who was just spayed. *Touche*.

As a backdrop, it should be mentioned that this patient,

"Once, at the railroad station at Colombo, Ceylon, in the early thirties, Dunninger met "...a tall, swarthy gentleman in flowing robes. He spoke good English, had long hair, and a saintly face. He asked; 'You look like a professional man or an artist, are you.' 'No, I'm a magician. I am here to see what you fellows can do.' The Indian then said, 'I'll give you a demonstration.' He then whistled softly, like a steaming teakettle that could scarcely be heard, and shortly the sky was swarming with hundreds of blackbirds. They settled on the ground, all around him, and stayed until he whistled again, when they all flew off and the sky was black with them. Another amazing stunt was performed by a fakir and Dunninger recorded it on movie film. "He had a container of hundreds of beads which he threw on the ground. He also had a threaded needle and a blackbird rapidly strung all of the beads."

whose husband's family had once been patients of my father, had one striking thing in common with the outstanding paranormal event in Joseph Dunninger's early life. During our session on October 2, 1969, she talked about the fiftieth anniversary of the Slocum disaster (celebrated one year previously) in which her father-in-law's mother and sister and several other relatives perished. Ever since that session, I wondered about the odd coincidence of this event that associatively linked me through her to Joseph Dunninger. From the thousands of patients and myriad hours of psychotherapy, I had never come across this specific associative link before. One of Dunninger's most vivid childhood memories concerned his father's prophetic dream of the Slocum disaster which occurred June 15, 1904. Dunninger and his two older brothers were going on an annual outing up the Hudson River on the steamer, "General Slocum," until their father following his prophetic nightmare, forbade them. He ran around the neighborhood and kept thirty to forty other children from going. The "General Slocum" caught fire, and in the concatenation of horrible mishaps and errors, 1,031 lives were lost. It was the greatest ship disaster in the United States.

The last part of the patient's session was concerned with her dream of an airplane crash, which she associated to a recent Swiss-air disaster in which forty people were killed by Arab terrorists, who claimed they planted a bomb because of suspected Israelis on the plane. Although the patient's session was over and she did not elaborate on her dream, I inwardly smiled at this capstone of the fusillade of associative telepathy, because in all of his career and worldwide travels, Dunninger had never flown* until very recently. Very few people knew of this fact and virtually no one knew of Dunninger's past telepathic and precognitive experiences that may have accounted for his fear. It was no wonder that Joseph Dunninger made one of his infrequent calls to my office during this session of criss-crossing telepathically *a trois* when one considers the matrix of polarized associations.

At first glance it might be hard to follow these reported complex interactions and the psychic nexus, but this is the essence of telepathy and the associations are simple and more easily grasped if the telepathic hypothesis is used. Once one hears Chopin's "Nocturne," one does not chose "Chopsticks." As the therapist calls on his (and his patient's) reservoir of experiences, he finds telepathy a useful tool in treatment. This example is in accordance with what happens in the physician-patient relationship in psychotherapy or Professor Tenhaeff's²¹ observation that the paragnost continually rediscovers himself in his consultants. The sensitized areas seemingly reverberate ad infinitum. In a related vein, Joost A.M. Meerloo has written: "...in the psychic world, the new time contains an older one. In the sequence of mental events, later moments include earlier ones."²²

The Monkey

A senior premedical student in psychotherapy, who was working on a monkey project with a psychiatrist, came into

*Dunninger recalled: "Whit White, an advertising man and a friend, would call me up every time he flew because he knew about my experiences. I'd advise him. I never told him not to go and he never had an accident. Once I stopped Dan Tuthill, formerly a vice president of NBC and later my manager, and got him drunk to keep him from flying to San Francisco. The plane he was to have taken came down. Another time I tore up either the tickets or reservations of an insurance agent for a specific plane flight — this man was a neighbor and we bought our house from his relative. That plane too, crashed. He then called me and thanked me for saving his life. He had confidence in what I had to say." This type of experience and its relation to the psychic nexus is discussed elsewhere.²⁰

his session to report a possible telepathic episode between a juvenile male rhesus monkey and himself. The patient had just finished a seven-month period of controlled observation — totaling 232 hours — and he and his mentor were preparing to kill the monkeys in order to section their brains. Four of the seven monkeys had undergone midline thalamotomies to study the effects of that lesion on their social behavior. In no previous sessions did the patient note any unusual exchanges between the seven monkeys and himself. This was also his experience from more than forty hours of observation of a colleague's monkeys (four had dorsal lateral frontal lobotomies; four were untreated). However, now he noted: "We have a chain hanging from the ceiling of the enclosure, which the monkeys either held in their hand and walked around in bipedal fashion, or climbed up and down when playing with the others; or they would mouth the chain. I always wondered why they did not swing on it. While I was thinking about this, Nelson, who was an operated monkey, suddenly grabbed the chain and swung like Tarzan. Nelson, the third of a group of seven, was shy. He was different from all the other monkeys in that he was the only one who would look me in the eye. I felt close to him. The next day when I entered the room to complete my observations, I wondered about the previous day's performance. Nelson swung like Tarzan for the second time!"

It might be wondered if the patient was upset and split with the forthcoming sacrifice of the monkey which was symbolic of the patient's past social and academic school performance. Perhaps he sent his thoughts to Nelson, who of the seven was closest to him. Possibly the monkey had some awareness of the significance of what would shortly follow and reacted by telepathically complying with the researcher's wish. The repeat performance might have supported this view because, although this thought was not foremost in the researcher's mind, both he and the monkey were sensitized to this behavioral communication. Although the data in this case is insufficient, it would be of interest to keep the psi hypothesis in mind in a variety of experiments with animals who have undergone various neuroanatomical and other (e.g., bilateral adrenalectomy) extirpation procedures.

This patient has had many telepathic episodes in his therapy, including telepathically detecting Christian names on occasion, his physician's unannounced pending short trip out of the country, and one episode of spectacular tracer-laden overdetermined episode of telekinesis with built-in controls and involving an exploding can of carbonated soft drink.

The Myna Bird

A referring physician, Dr. L, whom I have known for more than thirty years, invited me to his home to meet a middle-aged couple who were also his patients and neighbors. It developed that I had seen the wife's father years ago in electroencephalographic consultation and I had known the husband, who was the manager of an automobile agency that I had dealings with off and on for many years. He told me the following story, which was confirmed by all present. Although anecdotal, the veracity of the informants was impeccable.

"Walter was my father's and my father-in-law's good friend, and he also was my sister's father-in-law. Walter was an inventor who lived in Florida, and he was a former patient of Dr. L. Walter was an alcoholic, and at such times he could be very mean. On a number of occasions he jokingly told his son, daughter, my mother-in-law, and others, 'When I die, I'm coming back as a myna bird.' No one knew why he said this since none of us ever had a myna bird or an unusual experience with one. It was just his dumb joke. This stuck in my

mother-in-law's mind, and when Walter died in Florida a few years later, my parents attended his funeral. Following the services they returned from the interment and sat down in my parents' patio to have a drink. They were all amazed to see a myna bird in a tree in the back yard. My mother-in-law shouted, 'That's Walter!' The bird stayed there for one week and then flew away. This was in Florida, and it should be noted that these birds are not native to that state, and these people had not had this type of experience before.

"Then a few days later the myna bird turned up at my brother Rolf's house. The bird followed Rolf on his rounds — he has an advertising agency and travels all over Palm Beach. Wherever Rolf would go, there was the bird. Finally, the bird disappeared and they didn't see him again until my father died eight months later, on his birthday, January 14, 1969. Remember that Walter and my father were also good friends, and that Walter joked how he would return as a myna bird.

"I flew to Florida from New Jersey to make arrangements for my father's funeral. Throughout the whole service in the funeral home Mother and all other members of the family saw the myna bird in the window — that is, before they took my father to the cemetery. After the service we drove to the cemetery and there was the myna bird sitting in a tree, looking out at the grave. Walter was buried only two graves away from my father's. Three days later the myna bird was again in my mother's backyard where she saw him for the last time.

"However, the finale occurred just this winter (February, 1972), four years after my father's death. For three weeks we had a myna bird fly to our backyard in the morning and spend the day with us, take off, and then come back the next day. I fed it suet, apples, and even bought 25 pounds of sunflower seeds. I'd go out and say, 'Hello, Pop!' The myna bird wasn't afraid of us, but he wouldn't come and perch on our hands. My wife called the Turtle Back Zoo — they had a few reports of the bird — and they sent an expert over to capture him, but the bird eluded him. Our home is in a wooded suburban New Jersey area and there has been snow and ice. Finally it must have gotten too cold for the bird and he took off. It is odd that this incident happened at the approximate time of my father's birthday, which was also the anniversary of his death."

Addendum

On June 7, 1972, while at the annual Associated Physicians' Banquet, Dr. L and his guest, the automobile agency manager, called me over to their table. The manager wanted to tell me the latest development: "The oddest thing happened two Saturdays ago when my mother returned from Florida to New Jersey. While she visited my family in our backyard, there, again, was the myna bird in a tree. We hadn't seen him since February, or after this visit with Mother. My wife was so upset that she wouldn't talk about it." The manager then repeated his strange story to several curious physician friends at the table. He looked in vain for an explanation.

The next time I met the manager was at the annual banquet, one year later. He seemed perplexed as he related the most recent development: "On the anniversary of Father's death, April 11, 1973, Mother and I flew to Florida where we joined my brother and drove to the cemetery. There, on the branch of a tree overhanging the grave, was the myna bird."

Comment

Examples of these strange, spontaneously occurring paranormal events between man and beast could be greatly expanded. The exact nature of the events makes coincidence

and chance an unlikely explanation. What can the link be between man and his pets, and between man and sometimes exotic wild animals? Could similar interactions from ancient times have been the source of the world-wide greatly embellished legends, myths, and superstitions of dragons, monsters, witches' cats, etc.? How might possible man-beast paranormal events tie in with the many documented accounts of UFOs²³ (flying saucers) whose presence has often been heralded by animals such as barking dogs, clucking chickens, stampeding cattle? John A. Keel¹⁰ has shown how many UFO experiences often have associated paranormal activities, including telepathy, poltergeists, precognition, etc. Could the key to an understanding of psychic matters be found in the mystery of ufology, or vice versa? Are there other dimensions to the life spectrum so that when the man-beast sensitivities are attuned to a common resonance these strange communications can take place? What might be the common physical modalities for such esoteric biocommunications? Are they, as it seems, outside the electromagnetic spectrum and comprise some untapped source of energy? What might be the man-beast neuroanatomical and physiological substrates? Could animals be telepathically summoned, hallucinated, teleported, or materialized when the man-beast needs and other factors are spontaneously fulfilled?

Eisenbud²⁴ has posed an intriguing exploratory generalization which he terms the "*principle of confluence*, according to which 'psi' — some basic psi manifestation that is, not just telepathy or PK, for example — is, like other great process-abstractions in nature (e.g., electromagnetic, or, queer as this sounds, 'the unconscious') an integral component in *all* events (change of state of definable systems, let us say) and as such represented in some measure as a determinate of the final, common pathways of these events."

The study of human-animal paranormal events should be vigorously pursued. If such disparate data exists, it should be used and now swept under the rug. The clues for the solution of the riddle are there.

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Editor's comments: While setting up the above article, my wife Nancy and I were reminded of unusual incidents with some of our own animals.

In 1970, we were returning from a trip to Europe. Our two-year-old parakeet was entrusted, for the two-week trip, with a close friend in a neighboring town.

Our return flight was delayed several hours so that we didn't get home until about 8 a.m. Unfortunately, the parakeet died that morning just before we arrived without explanation.

It is about 6 miles to the friend's house and Nancy drove over to talk with her about the trip and, of course, to retrieve the body of the parakeet. When she left she placed the dead bird in the trunk of our car. After about a mile, a crow dove down out of a tree along side the road directly into the front of the car hitting the front grill head on and was killed instantly.

Nancy had never hit a bird before and this "coincidence" of carrying one dead bird and killing another made her quite upset. She nervously drove on and just a few streets away from home a second bird (which appeared to be a starling) did the same thing. Needless to say, Nancy was startled and very upset by these two Kamikaze-like attacks.

Eighteen years have passed and, to my wife's knowledge, she never hit another bird with her car nor, likewise, has she carried such a cargo since.

On another occasion, a second curious event took place. Again, we were returning from a trip to Europe.

Jack, Nancy's brother, was left in charge of the house and our cat, Fritz, in our absence. When our plane brought us back, we called Jack to let him know we'd see him shortly.

Even though Jack was a frequent visitor to our home, Fritz, an indoor cat, decided not to come out from under our bed with Jack in the house. Fritz had always been skittish with "strangers" because he had been physically abused when we rescued him from his former owners. Jack did not have to look too far to find him. The entire time we were gone, Fritz never emerged once to allow Jack to see him either eat or use his litter pan. Regardless, Jack checked on him each day. Fritz had the upstairs while Jack's activities remained downstairs, for the most part.

Jack told us, when we walked in the door two hours later, "You know, you won't believe this but within seconds after you called me here from the airport, Fritz came downstairs, walked right over to me and waited in the living room for you to arrive."

We tried to rationalize that perhaps Fritz heard Jack mention Nancy's name but that would have been impossible since his distance from the phone and background noise outside excluded that possibility. Also the phone rang often, everyday, and Jack mentioned Nancy's name each time, even if we supposed Fritz could have managed to eavesdrop.

Jack, always the doubter and skeptic, was amazed by this event.

But most remarkable, perhaps, is Rudi.

Jack stopped by the house one bitterly cold January evening in

1979. "Look what I've got," he said, as he opened up his old army jacket and lifted out a four-week-old pure black ball of fur. I said, "No Jack, we've got two cats. No more!" How many times have I heard and said those words?

Nearly three years passed since that January night when the first signs of cystitis showed up. Cystitis is a fairly common and often fatal male feline disease. The urinary tract is painfully blocked and if left untreated quickly causes uremic poisoning and death.

Rudi's veterinarian treated him but warned us to look for signs of reoccurrence and to call him immediately — day or night. And reoccur it did. This time Rudi was in serious trouble and the veterinarian shook his head. He told us, after the lab tests came back, that Rudi would, even after an operation, probably only have a short time to live because the tests showed 70-85% kidney damage.

I went to work that day severely depressed. I visited Rudi at the vet's infirmary on my lunch break.

He was so weak he could not lift his head but uttered a faint "meow" and pushed his paw out the cage for me to hold. With tears streaming down my face, I promised him then and there that I would do my utmost to save him.

We sought information from various national experts on feline disease. Then, as a long shot, I called our new friend, Greta Woodrew. This remarkable psychic's abilities are best expressed in her book, *On a Slide of Light*.

Greta, with the apparent callousness of a hard-core, business executive is inwardly a soft and sympathetic person. "Well," she said to me briskly over the phone, "I have never tried to heal an animal before, but if he means that much to you we can give it a try." She lived miles away in Connecticut, at the time, and admittedly a healing at a distance was a long shot attempt. Nevertheless, I followed her instructions, and as soon as Rudi was released following surgery, Greta helped us.

Two days later we took Rudi for a checkup. The vet was surprised to see him looking so well and took a blood sample. A day later, with no explanation, he took another blood sample. Later he told us that he had to take a second blood test to check the results of the first test but both came out the same — no sign of kidney damage! He stated that he had never seen this before and then we told him about Greta.

That was nearly six years ago. Rudi takes precautionary medication but otherwise is in very good health. Greta has a new book out, *Memories of Tomorrow* (to be reviewed in *PURSUIT* shortly) and Nancy has recently helped found a non-profit group called S.N.A.P.S. (Spay, Neuter And Protect Strays) so that as of this writing we are foster-caring just under two dozen, bouncing, healthy, some with handicaps, but all lovable kittens waiting to be adopted to good homes.

And thanks, Greta, our hearts will always be out to you.



SITUATION

Trying to Figure Out Those Human Calculators

Regal in her sari, Shakuntala Devi stood before an audience at George Washington University, her hands clasped like a singer's. The music that came out, however, was numbers.

The cube of 121? "One seven seven one five six one," she replied instantly. (She hates commas.) Then, after a moment's reflection: "That's also the fourth power of 11. There's something much more interesting to this number than meets the eye."

In fact it is the sixth power of 11, a lapse no one noticed.

Someone asked if she could handle decimals and wanted her to find the cube root of 12812.904. That, she said without hesitation, is the third power of 23.4.

Then it was days of the week. Given a date in the distant past or future, she answered "Thursday" or "Sunday" or "Tuesday" almost before the questioner had got the words out. She was always right. She played with her hotel-room number, 1729: It is the sum of 12 cubed and one cubed, also the sum of 10 cubed and nine cubed.

But this was child's play for the plump, 50ish Devi, one of the world's more celebrated calculating prodigies. She made the Guinness Book of Records a few years ago by multiplying two 13-digit numbers — correctly, of course — in 28 seconds.

In 1977 she made headlines all over the world when she beat the Univac computer by figuring in her head, before a rapt audience at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, the 23rd root of a 201-digit number — in 50 seconds. The machine, which had to be specially programmed for this event, took more than a minute.

"I have to be relaxed," she says. "I try to clear my mind. I don't watch TV on the day I perform; I don't get into conversations. I can work about 90 minutes, and then I get tired..."

Everyone is fascinated by "lightning calculators," "human computers" and idiot savants — who, at an age when most children are barely aware they're alive, can do astonishing, almost miraculous things in one narrow field, but who remain ordinary, or even subnormal, in everything else.

Many of them turn up in music and math (also chess), disciplines that resemble each other in their architectural qualities, their purity as abstract art, their freedom from the imprecisions of language or any other form of intellectual interpretation.

The musicians are the most famous: little Mozart composing symphonies in the attic in his pajamas; 2-year-old Claudio Arrau reaching up over his head to touch the piano keys and discover his calling; Menuhin and Chopin giving concerts in knee pants; and so on.

Much rarer are the prodigy artists like Nadia, an autistic girl who at kindergarten age

was drawing with the sophisticated skill of a graduate art student.

The gift seems to appear earliest in the math prodigies, often before they have any inkling that there is such a thing as mathematics, which is why so many of them seem to reinvent it for themselves while musing in their highchairs.

For all the fascination of the phenomenon, remarkably little has been written on it.

One feature of the conference was a demonstration by Hans Eberstark, an engaging genius who has memorized pi to 11,944 places and speaks at least two dozen languages.

He had the audience call out 50 digits, which were copied on a screen behind him. When he recited them, going slowly and methodically, he left out a chunk of 10 but soon recovered and got them right. It was clear he was using a memory system, and later he explained that he translates each digit into a sound, then works these homemade syllables into a private jargon.

Compared to Devi and some prodigies of the past, Eberstark was rather reassuring in his hesitations and false starts.

He was introduced by his friend Steven B. Smith, himself a numbers whiz, who has written probably the best book ever on *The Great Mental Calculators*.

For those who are simply flabbergasted by such math gymnastics, who start muttering about deviant brain cells and the supernatural, Smith's book is a revelation.

For instance, about that feat of Devi's in beating the computer, he has this to say:

"The computer apparently did not, as did Devi, extract the 23rd root of a 201-digit number where the root was known to be an integer, but rather raised a nine-digit number to the 23rd power. The problems are altogether different. If the computer had been given the same 201-digit number and programmed to use methods similar to Devi's, it would have given the answer virtually instantaneously, while no one could conceivably raise an arbitrary nine-digit number to the 23rd power."

Incidentally, Smith finds Devi's 28-second multiplication of two 13-digit numbers frankly "unbelievable," because "it is so far superior to anything previously reported."

But can these dazzling gifts be reduced to merely a matter of method and technique? Many of the famous calculators in Smith's book were illiterate and knew nothing about arithmetic (at least when they started).

Some learned to multiply by arranging pebbles in rectangles. And when you consider the speed — Wim Klein of the Netherlands extracted the 73rd root of a 500-digit number in under three minutes — it's hard to believe there is time for any technique.

And what about those people who can tell you, just like that, the day of the week for any date within thousands of years, yet who spend

their lives in mental institutions, diagnosed as retarded, and couldn't possibly have memorized some formula?

The fact is, numbers prodigies cover a vast panorama of talent. John and Michael, the much-televised twins with IQs of 60, for example, could quote, offhand, prime numbers 20 digits long. But any list would also have to include mathematicians John von Neumann and Karl Gauss, scientist Andre Ampere and the wonderful Alexander Aitken, linguist, composer, violinist, poet and instant calculator of the first order.

And nearly all of these people do have methods, although some wouldn't use the word. Rather, they would say they are in love with numbers, they play with them day and night, they delight in the myriad ways numbers relate to each other, create harmonies in the mind. Numbers are their language.

Klein once said: "Numbers are friends for me, more or less. It doesn't mean the same for you, does it, 3,844? For you it's just a three and an eight and a four and a four. But I say, 'Hi, 62 squared.'"

Salo Finkelstein thought 214 "beautiful," was especially fond of 8,377, hated zero. Shyam Marathe, flying over the Grand Canyon, was inspired to revel in the vastness of the 20th power of nine. Eberstark sees "the sinister 64 or the arrogant, smug, self-satisfied 36...the fatherly, reliable (if somewhat stodgy) 76."

Many calculators, as part of their constant fooling around with numbers, habitually factor any large figure they see. Thus, at a moment's notice they can dismantle a number like a toy, into more workable bits. Some memorize the multiplication tables up to 100 and beyond. A few memorize logarithm tables.

Smith gives a glimpse of Finkelstein's mind at work:

"Problem: reduce 6,328 to the sum of four squares. Thought that 71 squared equals 5,041. Thought of subtracting it; didn't like it, so didn't. Thought 72 squared. Doesn't know it. 70 squared equals 4,900 subtracted from 6,328 equals 1,428. Has it. 1,428 into 3 squares equals 32 squared plus 20 squared plus 2 squared. 6,328 equals 70 squared plus 32 squared plus 20 squared plus 2 squared."

This took him 10 seconds.

There are all sorts of tricks. Cube roots are a favorite because, Smith writes, they're easier, "since the last digit of the power unambiguously determines the last digit of the root." Fifth roots, he insists, are also duck soup.

"The difficulty of extracting the root of a perfect power has little to do with the size of the power involved. Much more important are the number of digits in the root and the particular power selected." So he says.

SOURCE: Michael Kernan of the *Washington Post* in the *Inquirer*, Philadelphia, PA 1/11/88

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Forgotten Tesla Letter — Rediscovered

by Fred Bobb

The search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI) and interstellar communication research interspersed with the discovery of radio waves. Radio waves offered a pragmatic mode of interplanetary communication. This possibility, although visionary, deeply interested a leading wireless pioneer, Nikola Tesla.

Nikola Tesla, the eccentric Serbian inventor, began investigations of high-voltage and high-frequency electrical transmissions in June 1899. Tesla constructed and operated a powerful 200-foot radio transmitter on Knob Hill, near Colorado Springs, Colorado. Utilizing power from a nearby generating station, Tesla created the first man-made lightning. Ultimately, he began experimenting with up to 100 million volts...a feat not equalled for over half a century!

It was during the course of these experiments, that one night, Tesla heard mysterious rhythmic sounds coming out of his sensitive radio receiver. Awestruck, Tesla listened intently. He soon discarded theories that the electrical actions were disturbances caused by the Sun, earth currents or the Aurora Borealis. Tesla could only deduce that such regular patterns were a message...a message to Earth by creatures from outer space!

(NOTE: Modern scientific opinion has it that what Tesla actually heard were natural radio waves emanating from pulsars or planets.)

But the faint, unknown message from another world had a profound reaction on Tesla that would guide him throughout his research career. The message read: "one...two...three..."

"One...two...three..." This idea contained the basic concept that most SETI researchers still believe about interstellar messages.

SETI researchers, consist mainly of scientists and engineers. They assume that extraterrestrial SETI researchers have the same technical backgrounds. These groups talk largely in mathematics when in formal conversations with each other. Therefore, it is assumed scientists and engineers trying to communicate across the vastness of space would likewise use mathematics as their language. Tesla believed that two intelligent groups who have no words in common cannot help but comprehend the basic principle of addition. The easiest way to get an extraterrestrial species to understand that a message is being sent is to start with one pulse, then two, then three pulses, then continue. "One...two...three..."

Tesla steadfastly maintained his beliefs and began to ponder the puzzle of how to answer the signals that could only have come from the angry red planet Mars. Announcements on the subject by the esoteric Serb, were met with intense ridicule from his peers.

A typical criticism was that of Professor Edward S. Holden, former director of Lick Observatory at the University of California. He quipped:

"Mr. Nikola Tesla has announced that he is confident that certain disturbances of his apparatus are electrical signals received from a source beyond this earth. They do not come from the sun, he says, hence they must be of planetary origin, he thinks; probably from Mars, he guesses. It is the rule of a sound philosophizing to examine



Artistic Rendition by author, Fred Bobb.

all probable causes for an unexplained phenomenon before invoking improbable ones. Every experimenter will say that it is almost certain that Mr. Tesla has made an error, and that the disturbances in question come from currents in our air or in the earth.”¹

“...it may safely be taken for granted that his signals do not come from Mars.”²

Many scientific minds agreed with this rationale. How could Tesla pinpoint the ruddy planet as the source of the signals? Why not a passing comet? Why not the Great Bear of the Milky Way, or the Zodiacal light? Why presume to propose any “planetary” origin for the signals if one was not certain?

Tesla was disheartened and disenchanted by those reactions. But in 1902, Lord Kelvin, the British electrical genius, visited America. He openly concurred with Tesla’s assumptions that Mars was signalling the United States. This high vote of confidence spurred Tesla on, and silenced many dissenting voices for the time being.

Although the Serbian scientist became involved with more practical research endeavors for George Westinghouse and J.P. Morgan, he never lost sight of his goal to talk to the firmament. In fact, a recently rediscovered letter to the editor of the N.Y. *Times*, expounded on these convictions. Tesla’s letter appeared in the *Times* of May 23, 1909. He again reiterated his obsessions about the plausibilities of cosmic communion and extraterrestrial life:

“Of all the evidences of narrow mindedness and folly, I know of no greater one than the stupid belief that this little planet is singled out to be the seat of life, and that all other heavenly bodies are fiery masses or lumps of ice.”³

Tesla admitted that there was no absolute proof of Martian life. He discounted Percival Lowell’s “canal” theory as such evidence, indicating that the canals were nothing more than geodetically straight flowing rivers culminating from the erosion of mountains. He again emphasized that his beliefs were based solely on:

“the feeble planetary electrical disturbances which I discovered in the summer of 1899, and which, according to my investigations, could not have originated from the sun, the Moon, or Venus. Further study since has satisfied me that they must have emanated from Mars.”⁴

Dr. Tesla’s letter also denounced most contemporary signaling theories as inadequate.

Professor W.H. Pickering, of the Harvard Observatory, at Flagstaff, Arizona, believed that an elaborate system of mechanically operated mirrors rhythmically flashed at Mars would suffice as a communication attempt. Pickering’s project would cost over \$10,000,000 (in contemporary money!) to perfect. He insisted Martians could see the mirror flashes, “When Mars is at a distance of one hundred millions of miles from the earth, a beam of sunlight half a mile square would appear to its inhabitants of the same brightness as a fifth magnitude star.”⁵

Tesla had little faith in this theory. In his letter, Tesla stated that,

“The total solar radiation falling on a terrestrial area perpendicular to the rays (of reflected light) amounts to 83 foot pounds per square foot per second. This activity measured by the adopted standard, is a little over 15 one thousandth of a horsepower. But only about 10% of this whole is due to waves of light.”⁶

The Serbian inventor continued his explanation by insisting,

“These, however, are of widely different lengths making it impossible to use all to the best advantage, and there are specific losses unavoidable in the use of mirrors so that the power of sunlight reflected from them can scarcely exceed 5.5 foot pounds per square foot per second, or about one one hundredth of a horsepower.”⁷

Tesla declared that in view of the small activity, a reflecting surface of about one quarter million square feet should have been provided for the experiment. Tesla also believed that ordinary commercial plate mirrors would not work “for at such immense distance the imperfections of surface would fatally interfere with efficiency.”⁸

Tesla was further convinced that expensive clockworks were needed to rotate the reflectors in the manner of heliostats. (Heliostats were instruments that automatically rotated mirrors to deflect sunlight in constant direction.) Provisions for protection against corrosive elements was also needed. Pickering’s conservative budget estimate could never cover such a vast array of equipment, according to the Serbian doctor.

Tesla noted that the Pickering devices could only hope to produce illumination 27,400,000 times feebler than that of the full moon. He also doubted that the reflected rays could penetrate planetary atmospheres. In essence, Tesla believed this to be an effort of futility.

Professor Robert W. Wood, of John Hopkins University, thought a simpler scheme would work. Prof. Wood proposed that a tremendous black spot on the white alkali Staked Plains of Texas, could be constructed at minimal cost. This dark dot could be discerned by alleged Martians if they possessed powerful telescopes like those on Earth. Furthermore, signals could be ‘winked’ with the ebony spot as with a mirror of equal size. Most probably, even easier.

The spot could be made in small sections of black cloth arranged to roll up on long cylinders. This could be accomplished electrically, exposing portions of the white sward. Tesla held this proposal with equal disdain.

Construction of large geometrical reflectors on the plains of Siberia was another theory proffered by Eric Doolittle, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania. He surmised that a triangle, a square and a circular plane of great size could be discernable to Martian astronomers. They then might construct similar devices in acknowledgement. Tesla had serious doubts concerning this proposal also.

Dr. Tesla concluded his N.Y. *Times* letter by outlining the only feasible method to contact the inhabitants of Mars:

“A circuit properly designed and arranged is connected with one of its ends to an insulated terminal at some height and with the other to earth. Inductively linked with it is another circuit in which electrical oscillations of great intensity are set up by means now familiar to electricians. This combination of apparatus is known as my wireless transmitter.”⁹

“By careful attunement of the circuits the expert can produce a vibration of extraordinary power, but when certain artifices, which I have not yet described, are resorted to, the oscillation reaches transcending intensity. By this means, as told in my published technical records, I have passed a powerful current around the globe and attained activities of many millions of horsepower. Assuming only a rate of 15,000,000, readily obtainable, it is 6,000 times more than that produceable by the Pickering mirrors.”¹⁰

Tesla insisted that if his system were also utilized by the electricians of Mars, they could multiply their receiving ef-

fects many thousands of times, concentrating energy received over dozens of square miles!

As usual, though, Tesla was purposely elusive on the specifics of "artifices" or procedures needed to project the interplanetary signals. No patents were ever issued for an interplanetary communicator.

Even in July, 1937, upon the occasion of being presented with the Yugoslavian Grand Cordon of the White Eagle and the Czechoslovakian Grand Cordon of the White Lion awards, Tesla continued to insist that life on other worlds was a "certitude" and that his cosmic communicator was fully developed and ready for use. He even boasted of collecting the Pierre Guzman Prize offered by the French Institute of Sciences for interstellar communication. But, Tesla's theories and methods for talking to the planets died with him on January 7, 1943.

Controversy and intrigue still exist even today on the subject of life on Mars. However, current conventional debate rests solely to its being on a microbiological scale. Whether humanoids existed on Mars at the time of Tesla, or whether they ever existed is extremely doubtful. The uncovering of this letter merely intends to project the passions Tesla held for a Martian radio communication link, and his belief in extra-terrestrial life.

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Related SITUations

Editor's Note: No doubt a number of our members and readers are familiar with the reports that appeared in the *New York Times* the last ten days of August, 1924 regarding radio signals allegedly "picked up" by radio receivers as Mars approached to 34,630,000 miles away from the earth.

The following are a few excerpts from two of the reports printed on the 23rd and 28th of August, resp.

Radio Hears Things as Mars Nears Us

An attempt by British wireless experts to "listen in" on Mars resulted in strange noises being heard at 1 o'clock this morning. The source of the noises could not be ascertained by the experts.

The attempt was made on a twenty-four tube set erected on a hill at Dulwich. Representatives of the Marconi Company and of London universities were present.

Tuning in started at 12:30 a.m., and at 1 a.m., on a 30,000-meter radius, sounds were heard which could not be identified as coming from any earthly station.

The sounds were likened to harsh dots, but they could not be interpreted as any known code. The noises continued on and off for three minutes in groups of four and five dots. *London, August 23 (AP)*

The regular signals blotting out other messages, which have led radio experts here seriously to consider the theory that Mars is trying to "tune in," were received at the Point Grey wireless station again today and also were heard by the wireless expert at the Merchants Exchange.

"The signal has been noticed at the same hour practically every day for four weeks or more," declared C.W. Mellish, wireless operator at the Government station at Point Grey. "It is absolutely distinctive and cannot be attributed to any known instrument, or to static or to leaking transformers in Vancouver."

This morning the signal, which dominated the air lines, was heard at 5:20 and at 7:12, at the same time to the minute that they came in on the previous days. It again came in four groups of four dashes and rather four "slepps" so powerful that they could not be "tuned out."

The sounds had not been considered seriously by the operators until the last day or two, Mr. Mellish stated. *Vancouver, British Columbia, August 21*

William F. Friedman, Chief of the Code Section in the office of the Chief Signal Officer of the Army, was standing by tonight, ready to translate any peculiar messages that might come by radio from Mars.

Lieut. Col. C.A. Slaone, Executive Officer of the Signal Corps, had implicit faith, he said, in Mr. Friedman's ability to decode Martian messages as well as any man in the United States. *Washington, DC, August 22*

It is 120 years, according to the calculations of most astronomers, though some differ with them, since the two celestial travelers have been as near. Nothing but a mere 34,630,000 miles will separate them at about 7 o'clock tonight (Eastern Standard Time), and when astronomers get talking about interstellar spaces, 34,630,000 miles is hardly worth mentioning.

Seeks Sign From Mars in 30-Foot Radio Film

The development of a photographic film record of radio signals during a period of about twenty-nine hours, while Mars was closest to the earth, has deepened the mystery of the dots and dashes reported heard at the same time by widely separated operators of powerful stations.

C. Francis Jenkins of Washington, inventor of the device, which he calls the "radio photo message continuous transmission machine," was induced by Dr. David Todd, professor emeritus of astronomy of Amherst and organizer of the international "listening-in" for signals from Mars, to take the record.

The film, thirty feet long and six inches wide, discloses in black on white a fairly regular arrangement of dots and dashes along one side, but on the other side at almost evenly spaced intervals are curiously jumbled groups each taking the form of a crudely drawn face.

"I don't think the results have anything to do with Mars," says Mr. Jenkins. "Quite likely the sounds recorded are the result of heterodyning or interference of radio signals. The film shows a repetition, at intervals of about a half hour, of what appears to be a man's face. It's a freak which we can't explain."

On the 31st of that month a letter was printed in the letters to the editor column from our very own Charles H. Fort in *London* entitled "Visitors of other Worlds." Unfortunately, he did not address the question, what was the face "from Mars" decoded in *Washington? Where is that 30-foot tape to-day?* [Ed.]

Do Ghosts Barrier Oscillate?

by Daniel Eden

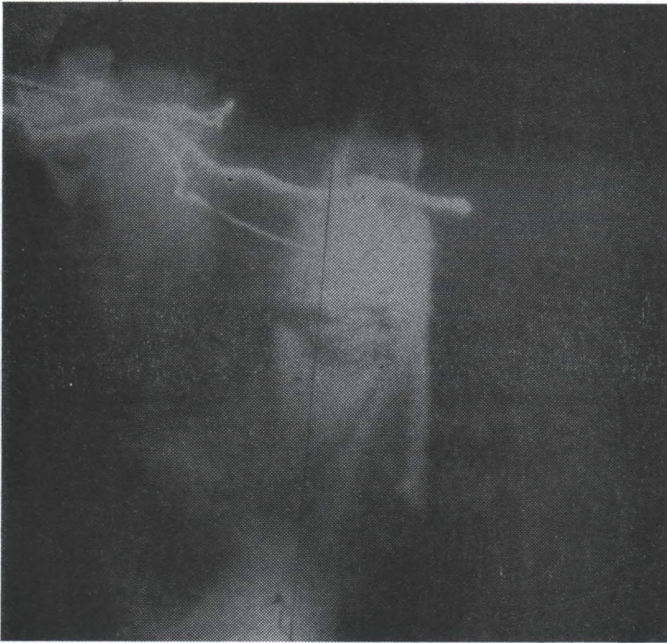


Photo credit: Hans Holzer © 1988

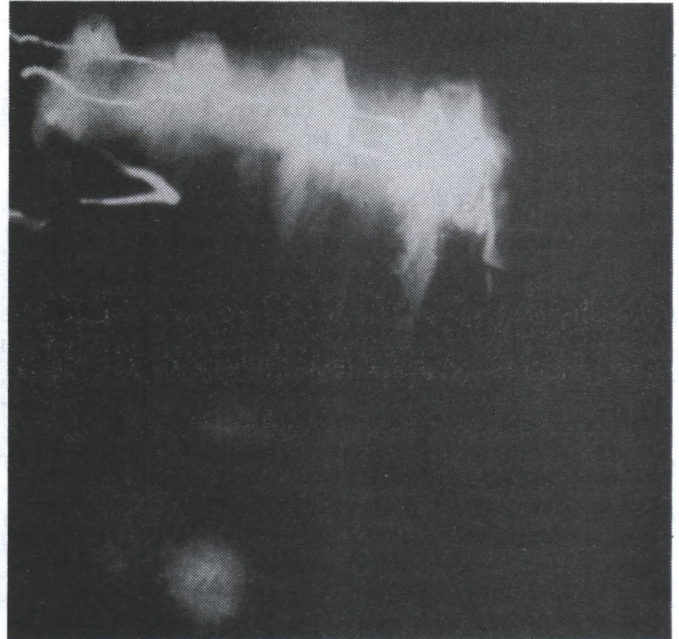


Photo credit: Hans Holzer © 1988

1963 photo at Aetna Springs, St. Helena, California.

Photo of "Dominican Monks" from H. Holzer collection.

On a bright, sunny afternoon in 1963 Dr. Andrew von Salza, a West Coast physician, was spending his vacation time at a resort area in Aetna Springs, St. Helena, California. Von Salza and Mr. George Heibel, the owner of the resort area, were out on a golf course toying about with an unusual camera — a "Wollensack" stereo camera. This device simultaneously snaps two different pictures of a scene from two slightly different angles. The two slides that result can give the viewer a 3-D image of the scene, like you see with those Viewmaster® gadgets that people buy, especially for their kids, each Christmas season.

The subject of the photographs they were taking was not particularly relevant to our interests since they were just a series of pictures of the resort's golf course. However, von Salza, who seems to have a history of psychic abilities, took one photo pair that seemed remarkably out of place. The two stereo slides that resulted appeared to show a cluster of images of a ghost-like figure that seemed to have been rapidly gliding across the field of view as the double photos were snapped.

Holzer's Interpretation

Professor Hans Holzer (See Note #1), who now owns these photographs and holds the current copyright on them, published two large blowups of these slides in his book, *Psychic Photography*¹. Professor Holzer also published one of the pictures in an article called "Psychic Photography — Graphic Proof for Another Dimension," which appeared in Ted Holiday and Colin Wilson's, *The Goblin Universe*.² This smaller version of one of the ghost photos seems to bring out more detail of the figures than the larger version in Holzer's photo book.

Holzer interpreted the series of images to be a group of ghostly religious figures. He wrote that "a group of robed monks appeared seemingly out of nowhere, perhaps eight or ten figures in all, and on one of the pictures (they were) surrounded by what appeared to be flames." He suggested that the images resembled a group of robed Dominican monks

carrying candles. He says, "I was able to bring British medium Sybil Leek to this area in 1966, and through deep trance establish the dramatic narrative of these monks." However, as Dr. Arlan K. Andrews has pointed out in *PURSUIT*,³ this kind of test can sometimes fail even when you are using very powerful psychics and mediums.

The *Goblin Universe* version of the photo really caught my interest because it did not look, to me, like a group of monks carrying candles. Instead, it looked like a series of four very bright images and three (or four) very weak images of the same identical figure, appearing repeatedly. In other words, these seven or eight figures may represent the world's first stereographic evidence for ghostly barrier oscillation.

In his book, Prof. Holzer stated that the camera was set for an exposure of 1/250th of a second, at F/16, using daytime color film with a rating of 160 ASA. If this exposure time were correct, and if we assume that there are about eight images on the film, then we would have a coining frequency of:

$$\begin{aligned} F_c &= \text{total number of images divided by the exposure time.} \\ &= 8 \text{ images} / (1/250 \text{ sec.}) \\ &= 2000 \text{ Hz} \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, judging from the picture, the image would be travelling across the field of view at an incredible speed. For instance, the image seems to glide along the ground somewhat farther than its own body image is tall. If the figure is assumed to have a typical height of about 5 feet, then it traveled about 8 feet during the brief 1/250th of a second. This would mean it was moving at a speed of about 2000 feet per second, or a little better than 1,360 miles per hour!

However, I wrote to Professor Holzer about the photographs and I asked him about this published exposure time. He suggested then and later confirmed by letter that the exposure time had been 1/25th of a second rather than the published 1/250th second. If this revised exposure time is correct then the coining frequency is only about 200 Hz and the ghost is moving along at a much slower (but still remarkable) ground speed of about 130 miles per hour.

Ghosts With Mass?

The barrier theory predicts that any object, disturbed from its equilibrium in our world by being pushed in the direction of higher space, will tend to oscillate in and out of our range of perception. However this only applies to objects that have a tangible, i.e., non-zero mass. Thus if we can demonstrate that a ghost can barrier oscillate, then we will automatically prove that such a ghost has a tangible mass — and if a ghost has a tangible mass then it is an objectively real entity. In fact, it is possible that the mass of a ghost has already been measured by parapsychologists!

In a recent Fate magazine article,⁴ parapsychologist Dr. Janet Lee Mitchell asks, “In Out-of-Body Experiences: Is Anything Out?” She feels that the OBE is a real phenomenon in which a tangible aspect of human consciousness does, in fact, leave the body. Furthermore, this OBE ghost may have a mass. She stated that, “Dutch scientists weighed the physical body before, during and after exteriorization to find a weight loss of 2.25 ounces during exteriorization. This coincides with a finding by McDougall of a 2.50 ounce weight loss at death...” Thus it seems that Out-of-Body (exteriorization) experiments and death bed experiences both tend to confirm the possibility that something with a tangible mass does leave the body.

Dr. Mitchell’s weight range for a ghost, about 2.25 to 2.50 ounces (63.8 to 70.9 grams), is a fairly substantial weight. A “Milky Way” chocolate bar, sitting on my desk as I write this, weighs 2.24 ounces (63.5 grams), according to the wrapper. Charles Fort said that ghosts, when multiplied, take on what is called “substantiality.” A ghost that weighs the same as a candy bar has to be considered “substantial,” at least to chocolate lovers.

Calculating the Barrier Constant K

Thus, it seems possible that a typical ghost might weigh about 60 to 70 grams, at least immediately after it has separated from the physical body (see Note #2). Now if Prof. Holzer’s later version of the exposure time (1/25 sec.) is accurate then the coining frequency, as we previously said, is about 200 Hertz. Let’s assume that the mass of the ghost is about 60 grams (0.060 kilograms) then the barrier constant “K” is determined as follows:

$$K = M \times (TT \times f_c)^2$$
$$K = 0.060 \text{ kilograms } (3.14 \times 200 \text{ Hertz})^2$$
$$23663 \text{ kilograms} \cdot \text{Hertz}^2, \text{ which rounds off to,}$$
$$2.37 \times 10^4 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{Hz}^2$$

This value for the barrier constant is a magnitude smaller than the roughly estimated value that I have used in previous papers.* If this is closer to the correct value for K, then the previous calculations would also be off by about this amount. On the other hand, if the exposure time was 1/250 seconds as Holzer first stated, rather than 1/25 seconds (his corrected figure), then K would be in about the same magnitude range that was previously estimated. This discrepancy shows us how important it is to have the correct exposure time on a multiple-image photo. Without an accurate exposure time then we will not be able to pin down the value of the barrier constant K — and until we can get a really good measure of K, then our calculations and predictions will be hovering in limbo along with the other ghosts of our imagination.

Unresolved Questions

Is this a real ghost flitting across a California golf course, or are we being taken for a ride by someone, or something? The fact that the camera was stereographic and that both

photos showed something in the same precise location would seem to argue in favor of the tangible reality of an anomalous image appearing in that particular point in space.

On the other hand there are some unresolved questions that are not explained to my complete satisfaction. For instance, one of the photographs has a green tinted background while the other has a red haze surrounding the images. In a letter to me, Professor Holzer admitted that he, too, was puzzled by this background difference in the photos. His comment was, “both were taken at the same time, about 4 p.m. — so the difference in color (background) is not readily explicable. Both were processed together.”

Were differently colored filters placed over the two lenses? Admittedly, I don’t know enough about the Wollensack stereo camera to know if it uses differently colored filters over the lenses. (If it does, then the viewer would presumably need to wear eyeglasses with red and green filters also to see the full three-dimensional view.)

Another problem, perhaps much more serious, is that of the photographer, Dr. von Salza, himself. This man has a history of taking odd photographs. Some of these other ghost pictures also appeared in Holzer’s *Psychic Photography* book. Some of these pictures look like candidates for hoaxes. Von Salza has collages of photos of famous persons (like Marilyn Monroe, John F. Kennedy, etc.) who were all in the headlines and magazines of the 1960s at about the same time that the psychic photos were said to have been taken. The irregular boundaries of these collages suggest, even to my untrained eye, that they were created by scissors and paste.

On the other hand, in another letter to me, Professor Hans Holzer had this to say about Dr. Salza:

“Dr. von Salza not only was...an absolutely honest man and research person, but highly skeptical of anything along these lines and (he) tried hard to find ‘another’ explanation: But when additional psychic photos happened to him when he took pictures, he finally realized the truth and sought my counsel.”

Could it be that Dr. von Salza was, in fact, totally honest but that the spirits, themselves, were engaged in “obfuscation” of some sort?

Paranormal Obfuscation?

And so, are the stereo photos hoaxes? I don’t really know. It is often difficult to pass fully sound verdicts on parapsychological and Fortean data. We are dealing with very tricky territory here. In *PURSUIT*⁵ E. Macer-Story used the term “obfuscation” to describe these problems. Even the cautious researcher, Luis Schoenherr, while showing a curiosity for these “spirit” phenomena, reminds us that to go too far in these directions may only sink us into a dark bog of endless confusion.

Colin Wilson, who is a very astute observer regarding possible paranormal obfuscation, described problems faced by early psychical researchers, in *The Goblin Universe* as follows:

“If ghosts and poltergeists really existed, then they seemed determined to confuse the investigators with false information. G.K. Chesterton, who devoted some time to experiments with the ouija board, agreed that the seances produced unexplainable results, but added: “The only thing I will say with complete confidence about that mystic and invisible power is that it tells lies.”

Jacques Vallee, in his recent book, *Dimensions*⁶ (see Note #3), points out that this same peculiar deception also occurs in his field of study. He writes that “the UFO denies itself” and

more generally “the phenomenon negates itself.” Just as Chesterton’s spirit force “tells lies” and may create deliberate absurdities in its wake, so does the intelligence behind some UFO phenomena.

And so, even if Dr. Salza was really dealing with spirit forces, and not simply hoaxing the photographs, could it be that those same spiritual forces were also capable of hoaxing us: Do spooks, themselves, play games with scissors and paste? On the other hand, the multiple images would probably not be expected to occur in a spurious 1963 ghost photo because there would have been no particular reason for the hoaxer to think that multiple images would seem more important than a single image. That is, there was no barrier theory in 1963 to guide a practical joker. Maybe the stereo photos, which were said to be spontaneous and unplanned, really did catch a ghostly creature?

Another Multiple Image Ghost Photo

I have discovered another multiple-image ghost photo wherein an entity of some sort may have been caught off guard by a man with a camera. The story is a fascinating one. I found it in one of the very earliest issues of *Fate* magazine,⁷ and it seems to have taken place at just about the time that Kenneth Arnold was making Americans aware of strange signs and portents in the skies above.

There, Vaughn Greene of San Diego, California took his ghost picture in the Autumn of 1947 when he was strolling along Aquatic Park in San Francisco, California, on a somewhat hazy day. The photo showed “an intricate series of 32 designs, all almost alike, which formed an L-shaped pattern.” In my very old and worn copy of this magazine I can only see about 16 images (including partial images) that look like someone had taken a tangled wad of glowing string or wire, and they had thrown it across a dark field of view while it flickered on and off rapidly. Today, we might call this a typical “nocturnal light” UFO.

However, it was not a nocturnal UFO that was being reported by the witness. Instead, Mr. Greene said that he had actually taken a picture of “a black man wearing white robes.” This peculiar fellow arrested Mr. Greene’s attention and he described events as follows:

“His singular appearance at once aroused my curiosity so I edged closer and observed him. He was black, wearing a white turban, banging a tambourine and carrying a long cross-staff. He would sing for awhile, then stop and preach.

...I went up to him and asked if he would stand by the water’s edge. I wanted to contribute something to him but I had no money. I did have a street car token which he accepted, and I snapped his picture.

After listening to him say San Francisco would be destroyed because of its many evil residents, I snapped some other photos of boats and went home.

I had the pictures developed at Merrills, which is a large drug store in downtown San Francisco. There were eight shots on the roll and every one turned out perfectly — except the one of the black preacher standing in the water!”

Just as in the von Salza case, the photo was an unplanned spontaneous event and in both instances the witnesses were enjoying their leisure time in a California resort area.

Also, in Mr. Greene’s case, like von Salza’s, there was another person present when these things happened. Greene wrote that, “Harvey Young...was with me when I met the preacher and can testify to all of the foregoing.”

Mr. Greene’s bizarre black man in white robes who makes

flickering images on film reminds me of a purely fictional MIB case in J.N. Williamson’s horror thriller, *Brotherkind*.⁸ Williamson, who sometimes writes for *PURSUIT*, makes a living at writing Whitley Strieber-type novels. In his fictional *Brotherkind* he writes:

“Slowly at first, then with gathering speed, the Man in Black was fading out. Already he was a blurred outline of zigzag dashes, an electronic message with its own bizarre life. Quickly now the creature was disappearing before their startled eyes — until the only thing remaining was — like the Cheshire cat in Alice in Wonderland — his singularly hideous, quite defiant smile.”

Let us hope that, unlike Williamson’s fictional heroine, Ms. S. Sanderson, we will not have to deal with malevolent Men in Black whose plans are to slowly replace humans as Earth’s dominant species (see Note #4).

Other Cases

There are other published photographs where ghostly blobs and tangled masses of glowing “bent wire” apparitions flicker across photographic emulsions. For example see Rickard and Kelly’s *Photographs of the Unknown*,⁹ or Tom Bearden’s *Excalibur Briefing*,¹⁰ (see Note #5). A great many of these photographs have been published here and there in anomaly journals like *PURSUIT*, *Artifex/Archaeus*, *Flying Saucer Review*, *Fate* and many others.

Is it possible that at least one of these many photographs represents a real, physically tangible, ghost? Are we, ourselves, really only ghosts who are wearing bodies? When you talk to your neighbor, your brother, sister or your preacher, are you really talking to a living, breathing, ghost? Like a Saturday cartoon spectre, say BOO! to someone you love today.

Notes

1. To some, Professor Holzer Ph.D., has a rather poor reputation among professional parapsychologists. For years they have decried his research techniques, his theories, his credentials. However, Professor Holzer does go out into the real world to collect data, and then he publishes it. The von Salza photo set is a perfect case in point. A lot of the odd data that he has collected over the years would never have seen print if he had not been personally involved. By any measure, he deserves some Fortean respect.

In a letter to me, he wrote: “My Ph.D. is in philosophy with specialty in parapsychology and comparative religions.” For seven years he headed the cataloguing department of a major coin collecting firm and he professionally studied archaeology and numismatics.

2. However, the situation may be somewhat more complicated than this because Robert Monroe, and others, have reported that there is more than one “OBE body.” Somewhat like the multiple stages in an Apollo moon rocket, the ultimate payload of human consciousness must disengage itself from at least two “bodies” before it is ultimately free from the physical body.

Monroe seems to describe a three part system, the normal physical body is the heaviest, the second body is much lighter, and the third must have only a very small mass. A ghost, presumably, could be the second body by itself, the third body by itself, or both the second and third bodies in combination.

3. As the title of his new book implies, Vallee has come to believe that we are dealing with higher-dimensional activities. He writes, “I believe that the UFO phenomenon represents evidence for other dimensions beyond spacetime; the UFOs may not come from ordinary space, but from a multiverse which is all around us...”

4. Williamson's fictional MIB [men in black], who are slowly invading the planet, remind me of another tale of interdimensional invaders. One of the great writers of literature, Joseph Conrad, helped another famous writer, Ford Maddox Hueffer (later Ford Maddox Ford) to write the novel, *The Inheritors* (1901). In this book an emotionless woman "from the fourth dimension" says that a race of fourth dimensional MIBs are slowly invading our world. Consider this slightly edited quote: "The Dimensionists were to come in swarms, to materialize, to devour like locusts, to be all the more irresistible because (they were) indistinguishable (from humans). They were to come like snow in the night: In the morning one would look out and find the world white."

Let's hope that Conrad and Ford were not "abductees" because this strange lady from hyperspace goes on to say, "We inherit the earth and you, your day is over..."

5. Tom Bearden claims to have seen a large number of multiple image photos. In a brief note that he wrote to me, he stated that he was aware of many more such cases. In fact, he suggested that there were too many cases to be reasonably listed at one sitting. He tends to interpret most of these photographs in terms of "materializations from the collective

unconsciousness." Considering that we know so little about "consciousness" or "unconsciousness," I'm skeptical of this point of view.

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But, What are the "White Streaks?"



Editor's Comment: Actually, the above partially reprinted photos here, do not do justice to the color pictures as they are reproduced in Rickard and Kelly's, *Photographs of the Unknown*, as mentioned in the above article. We definitely recommend you obtain the book to better understand what is depicted in color.

We feel that the question of what the accompanying "streaks" are has not been properly addressed since they are often seen, apparently, duplicated horizontally or vertically on both sides of the subject or as in the lowest picture (above) both apparently in vertical and horizontal replication together in the same photograph.

Also, the left-hand squiggle or streak is in color and becomes white as it is repeated "moving" or pictured toward the right side.

We have asked some photographic experts and their replies vary with the number of experts asked. Again, as we have asked before, does anyone of our readers have an explanation of what the white streaks or "worms" are? It is important to remember that the subject, particularly in the top three photos (above) does not show barrier oscillation as the Holzer photos do but *all* six photos have the umbilical-like cord, as some suggest it appears to be.

SITUATION

Cherokee 'Little People' Legends of North Carolina

On summer nights, when the moon is full and the sweet scent of honeysuckle is thick on the North Carolina mountains, Bessie Jumper believes she can hear the Little People drumming and dancing in caves in the rocky hillsides high above her home.

Mrs. Jumper, an aging Cherokee Indian who lives in the Snowbird Mountains near Robbinsville, N.C., does not venture into the woods. To look for the Little People, says Cherokee legend, is to look for trouble, and Mrs. Jumper does not want to risk the wrath of that race of elflike Indians known in the Cherokee language as Yunwi Tsunsi.

When a non-Indian asked Mrs. Jumper about the Little People, she stared long and hard, as if to say that there are some things a white man should not ask an Indian. Then, without answering the question, she went back to stirring a pot of hominy that was cooking over an open fire.

In winter, when deep snow has buried the trails that run through the mountains, Cherokee hunters say it is not unusual to find small footprints that follow those unseen trails and lead them to safety.

But to retrace the tiny, childlike footprints to where the Little People live is to risk being pelted by rocks or having a spell cast from which there is no recovery.

Many elderly Cherokees believe the Little People still live in these thickly wooded, remote mountains of western North Carolina. The Little People are not wraiths that glide through fog-bound hollows in the dead of night or ethereal apparitions that rise with the moon and dance on the wind near the rocky promontories of Mount LeConte. Nor are they the supernatural manifestations of over-eager imaginations. Cherokees believe the Little People are a race of Indian spirits that predates man. They are the protectors of tribal tradition and the keepers of Cherokee history. They are revered, feared and treated with the kind of distant respect with which one treats capricious spirits.

"There are many stories about the Little People, but most of the older people are afraid to talk about them because the Little People can be good or bad. You never know," said Lois Calonehuskie, a Cherokee from Robbinsville and a frequent visitor in the Cherokee community of Snowbird, which is tucked into the shaded mountain hollows a few miles south of Robbinsville. Cherokees escaping the Trail of Tears in 1838 fled into these thickly wooded, nearly impenetrable mountains of southwestern North Carolina, just a few miles from their ancestral homelands along the Little Tennessee River. They scattered throughout the mountains to evade capture but eventually established their own community about 60 miles west of the main concentration of Cherokees who refused to be moved to Oklahoma and hid out in the mountains around what is now Cherokee, N.C.

Martha Wachacha, however, said she didn't mind sharing some of the stories about Little People that she has been hearing most of her 77 years. Mrs. Wachacha, a pleasant, round-faced woman, sat on the banks of the Snowbird River with her hands folded in her lap and her eyes closed as she talked about her days growing up in the mountains near Birdtown, N.C. She told how she learned to weave baskets from thin splints of white oak when she was about 6 years old and how she has been weaving baskets ever since. And she told of how late at night, when the whole family was working on baskets by the uncertain light of a kerosene lantern, her parents would tell stories about the Little People.

Mrs. Wachacha claimed she has never seen any of the Little People. But she has heard them laughing along creek banks. And she has heard their footsteps behind her at times when she was walking alone along mountain trails.

Mrs. Wachacha said the stories she heard of the Little People described them as about 1½ feet tall, with perfect proportions and hair that touched their heels. Some wore gold caps, she said, while others wore nothing on their heads.

Gary Carden, said the Little People are frequently confused with other Cherokee spirits that inhabit the surrounding mountains and rivers. Most notable among them are the Nunehi, the "people who live anywhere" or "the ones who are always with us." The Nunehi are immortal and invisible, except when they want to be seen, and they are usually portrayed as protectors of the Cherokee people.

"The Little People," said Carden, "are sometimes confused with the Nunehi, but the Little People are more like the Welsh and Irish leprechauns. Most of the stories I have heard about them indicate that each Cherokee is born with a personal guardian who is one of the Little People. The Little People also help hunters, reveal lost items and help with chores."

John Roth of Carlsbad, N.M., has spent several years chasing Indian spirits and legends across the country trying to collect enough information for a book on the subject. Roth, a national park ranger, said he has at times had difficulty obtaining information from some tribes because of a reluctance to share tribal mythology with non-Indian outsiders.

But Roth said he learned from Oklahoma Cherokees, that Little People accompanied Cherokees from North Carolina on the infamous Trail of Tears. Finding no mountain caves in Oklahoma in which to live, the Little People learned to live in the deep holes in Tenkiller Lake and nearby creeks.

Mrs. Calonehuskie, a counselor at Robbinsville High School, said "Sometimes at night people will wake up and hear footsteps and voices in their houses. When they get up

to see who is there, they find nothing. But in the morning, when they go to the kitchen and they find some food missing, they know the Little People have been there."

Other times, said Mrs. Calonehuskie, "You'll be standing by a stream and you'll hear children laughing, but, when you go to look, there's no one there. Then you know the Little People have been there."

There are also stories of Little People harvesting corn, clearing fields and chasing away burglars.

The Little People are an integral part of Cherokee tribal history and mythology and help enhance their spiritual reverence for the mountains they called Shaconage, "the place of the blue smoke." According to one Cherokee legend, each fall, the spiritual leaders of the tribe would go to spires known as Chimney Tops, which are in the heart of what is now the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The shamans, or medicine men, would stay there for seven days, praying to their spirits, retelling the legends of the tribe and sharing what they had learned the previous year. At nightfall on the seventh day, the Little People emerged from their caves and joined the Cherokees in singing and dancing. At dawn, the Little People filtered back into the forest, and the shamans returned to the tribe, spiritually enriched for another year.

But most stories that are told of the Little People concern their help to others. These stories are prevalent in James Mooney's 1901 book, "Myths of the Cherokee," which is still considered the most authoritative ever written on the subject. The book was reproduced in 1982 by Charles and Randy Eller of Nashville, Tenn., and is available in many bookstores and gift shops in the mountains of western North Carolina. Mooney, an Indian agent, collected material for his book while living with the Cherokees from 1887 until 1890.

One story Mooney relates in his book tells of a hunter who found small tracks, like those of children, in the snow deep in the mountains. The hunter followed the tracks to a cave and found it full of Little People dancing and drumming as they normally do. The hunter was taken in by the Little People, given a place to sleep, bread to eat, and he stayed with them for 16 days. The hunter's friends thought he had died in the mountains and stopped searching for him.

"After he was well rested," Mooney wrote, "they had brought him a part of the way home until they came to a small creek about knee deep, when they told him to wade across to reach the main trail on the other side. He waded across and turned to look back, but the Little People were gone, and the creek was a deep river. When he reached home, his legs were frozen, and he lived only a few days."

The Cherokees say it is important for anyone who walks through the high regions of the Smokys to remember that this is the home of the Little People.

SOURCE: Ron Martz, *Atlanta Weekly*, GA 10/11/87

CREDIT: Member #826

Some Latest Information About "Yeti"

Compiled by Kumar Basnyat

- Nepalese Name —Yaate
Tibetan Name —Mirgaya
Sherpa Name —Mi - Thi (Mi - means man, Thi -means takes away)
Race —Ape Family
Color —Brown
Height —3 ft. to 15 ft. Depends on whether it is young or full grown.
Hair —Thick fur around the body but long hair around the neck; about 6" long.
Face —Samo-like monkey (But not with a sloping forehead. Skin is as that kept of one in the Thangboche Monastery).
Tail —No tail.
Chest —Full grown Yeti seems to have huge double buffalo size chest.
Legs —Same as a monkey but very big.
Foot print —Different but the biggest one is 18" in length.
Hands —Long hands like a monkey.
Food —Animal meat like mountain black bear, snow leopards, mountain thar, sherow, blue sheep, Tibetan nine, musk deer, yak cows, and snow frogs.
Habits —It does not stay in the same place, but hunts an animal from one mountain to another.
Altitude —Above 12,000 ft.
How it Hunts —When the animals take a rest or sleep.
Area inhabited —From Mt. Gaurisankar to Kanchajunga in eastern Nepal.
Number of Yeti —Estimated to be not more than seven.
Types of Yeti —People say there are three types of Yeti (1) Chhuti (2) Yeti (3) Mi-Thi, but Mi-Thi and Yeti are from the same family, the only difference being the size and age.
Mating Season —January, February.
Best Month to Watch —In December, January, February, when snow falls.
Walking Style —When it climbs down and walks in the plain area, it walks like a man, but when it climbs up and jumps it tends to walk like a monkey.
Other Facts —Yeti comes down when snow falls and goes up when snows melt, and a full grown Yeti can kill yak cows as easy as we can kill chickens.
Last Seen —When seen in January 1987 that Yeti was about 15 ft. in height. A second seen on 25th December 1987 was about 7 ft. tall.

Our thanks to Kumar Basnyat for sending this to SITU.

Related SITUATIONS

Soviets to Seek Abominable Snowman

A society created within the Ministry of Culture has begun a search for the abominable snowman, a large manlike creature that has been sighted at least 100 times, the official Tass news agency said Saturday.

Tass said numerous reports collected by search enthusiast Zhanna Kofman of Moscow indicate the creature, known in Asia as the yeti, has a protruding forehead and eyebrows like cap peaks.

The news agency said anthropologists have associated those features and the knot of hair at the back of the yeti's skull with the prehistoric Neanderthal man.

"If one analyzes the whole available information he will find realistic features of the hominid corresponding also to the anthropological data and his supposed way of life and behavior," Tass said.

"The society of cryptozoologists set up under the aegis of the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Culture will engage itself in the search for man's shy next-of-kin," Tass said.

The hairy giant, said to roam the snowy expanses of Siberia, is a favorite legend with superstitious Soviets.

SOURCE: (AP) *Gazette*, Schnectady, NY 1/11/88

CREDIT: J. Zarzynski

Mythical Beast Spotted in U.S.S.R.

Researchers from the Ukrainian capital Kiev say they have come to within about 35 yards of a creature they believe to be an abominable snowman in the rugged Pamir Mountains.

The report did not give a description of the creature.

The news agency Tass reported Wednesday that the group led by Igor Tatsl sighted the creature during a visit last year to the Gissar range in Soviet Central Asia near the Afghanistan border.

The group is preparing for another trip, and hopes to make closer contact, Tass said.

SOURCE: *Free Press*, Burlington, VT 1/23/88

CREDIT: J. Zarzynski

And, too, about the

Chinese Yeti

And, there is the famous wild man of Yunnan, "ye ren," the Chinese sasquatch, according to Liu Minzhuang at the Shanghai Museum of Natural History.

"I am absolutely sure that the wild man exists," said Liu, a thin, eager man with a prophetic urgency about him. "I have seen his footprints. I have collected specimens of his hair. I have visited his dens in the mountains."

Liu says the wild man is about 8 feet tall, weighs 550 pounds or thereabouts, is tailless, walks upright and has bright shoulder-length hair draped about its horselike face, with reddish brown fur over the rest of his body.

Its footprints are up to 18 inches long and its sex organ is prodigious. Females have long, pendulous breasts.

Liu's enthusiasm was infectious, particularly because he said he has plaster of Paris casts of the yeti's footprints, along with specimens of the fur. He closed his notebook with a smack and looked triumphant.

So where were the fur and the footprints? "They are kept under lock and key," Liu replied.

"Do you have the key?"

"Yes, of course."

"Then can we have a look at them?"

"Impossible. They are in another building."

"Where?"

"Very far from here."

"Can we visit? I have a taxi waiting outside."

"Unfortunately, no."

"Why?"

"They are still being studied."

Bigfoot is the same all over the world: shy.

SOURCE: Michael Browning *Arizona Daily Star*, 11/15/87

CREDIT: Member 826



Chinese Love Their Oddities

These are the days of miracle and wonder in China.

ESP and UFOs are so common in China that they hardly make headlines anymore.

While the communist government rails against feudalism and superstition, the state-run press serves up an almost daily farrago of stories that would make Robert Ripley blanch.

In this land of prodigies they could find plenty to amaze, delight and horrify their readers.

There has been no retraction, no correction, no exposure of fraud concerning any of these articles. Some even have photographs to back them up.

Throughout all China's political storms, the hunger for the marvelous, for the big meteorite and the two-headed baby, has never relented.

This intensely conformist society is still fascinated by the outlandish, the exception to the rule.

A man with a womb turned up in the Guangxi-Zhuang autonomous region last March had to blink twice when a 17-year-old Fujian province man had a fetus removed from his chest in July 1982.

It had been inside him since birth and weighed more than 1 kilogram and had underdeveloped hair, teeth and eyes, said Xinhua, the national news agency.

At least the fetus wasn't screaming. In January 1984, the indefatigable Xinhua announced that a Shanghai woman, 27, began hearing her unborn baby boy howl inside her womb in the seventh month of pregnancy.

Doctors at the Shanghai No. 1 Textile Hardware Factory even recorded the cries. The child was born on Jan. 4, in good health and presumably good voice.

In a volcanic crater lake, Tianchi, on Changbaishan Mountain near the North Korean border, allegedly lives one of two Chinese Loch Ness-style monsters.

Skeptics say it's only a black bear or a large otter, and anyway the lake freezes over every winter, so how does the beast breathe?

The other — or others, for there may be a school of monsters in this case — lives in Lake Hanas, 300 miles north of Urumqi in China's Xinjiang autonomous region. The lake is nearly 600 feet deep.

"The creatures are supposed to cause huge waves and swallow cattle and sheep grazing on the shores. People say that when the monsters are happy, they chase each other in the water, causing a gigantic swell tens of meters high," reported the April 1986 issue of *China Reconstructs*.

"We regard these stores as 'xin xian' — fresh news," said Lu Haoming, a Xinhua spokesman.

"We have three reasons for publishing these things. One is they grab people's attention. The second is if we don't carry these items, other newspapers will. The third is, by printing it, we keep down the spreading of wild rumors.

"It's very good, very fresh stuff," Lu said.

But is it true?

"I can't guarantee that," Lu confessed.

It seems likely then, that the Chinese press throws in these curiosity stories like clove and cinnamon, to spice up the dull ideological fare that is the mainstay of newspapers here. Poverty tends to be boring, and China is still very poor.

Biggest, smallest, oldest, longest: The press abounds with superlatives, more often than not accompanied by verifying photos.

The Chinese are notoriously fond of children, and child prodigies regularly make headlines here — kids like Shen Kegong, who, at the age of 11, worked out the square root of 1,455 in six-tenths of a second.

But on the outer limits are the X-ray children, boys and girls who can detect underground pipelines, internal organs and hidden messages on rolled-up paper.

In Shanghai in 1981, a conference on the children was held and no less a scientist than Qian Xuesen, a physicist who helped develop China's atom bomb, said the phenomena should be studied, not laughed at.

Children brought to the conference were reportedly able to read characters written on bits of paper that were stuck in their ears, or placed on the tops of their heads, or under their feet, or in their armpits or even against their buttocks.

One hospital, the college of traditional medicine of Hubei province, was even employing some children as human X-ray machines, Xinhua reported in August 1982.

By far the largest purveyor of fantastic stories is the news agency Xinhua, which it totally under the control of the Communist Party. It is thus an oil-and-water mix, a weird contradiction, as though Marxists were peddling mandrake root on the side.

A yellow atlas moth with a wingspan of 13 inches was captured by a People's Liberation Army soldier in Yunnan province in December 1986, supposedly the biggest specimen ever found.

A photograph of a giant mosquito from Wuhan, 5 inches long and with a wingspan of nearly 4 inches was shown, with a ruler, in the Nov. 19, 1985 issue of *China Daily*.

China's biggest mushroom, weighing 25.3 pounds, was found in December 1985 in Pan-shi County, Jilin province, *China Daily* reported. The fungus is 49 inches in diameter.

The mass suicide of 100 quail in Hunan

province was reported by Shanghai's daily newspaper, *Xinmin Ribao*, in July 1984.

The quail all hurled themselves against an eight-story building. The paper theorized that their natural habitat had been destroyed to make room for new construction. The whole thing sounded like some kind of protest.

Three murderers were caught by a monkey in the Xishuangbanna Dai autonomous prefecture in Yunnan province in March 1983, the *Yancheng Wanbao* newspaper reported.

The monkey jumped on a jeep in which two soldiers were traveling, plucked at their sleeves and made them stop. It then led them to a spot in the forest and began digging until its forepaws were bloody.

The soldiers took the monkey to the local police station and the cops found two bodies in the spot where the monkey had dug.

Realizing the monkey's value, the police took it to a nearby village where the beast screamed and threw itself on a young man who tried to run away along with two other youths.

Under questioning (by the police, not the monkey), the three confessed they'd killed the monkey's two owners, two traveling showmen, some days earlier.

But the most poignant animal story I have ever seen in China, the one that decided me on keeping a detailed "curiosity" file four years ago, is the tale of the deathless turtle.

In November 1983, in Shenyang, Liaoning province, an old house was torn down. Under the foundation was a rotted wooden box.

Inside the box was a turtle, still alive, that had not eaten anything for more than 50 years.

Local records showed the house had been built in 1931 and the custom in those days — a cruel one to be sure — was to place a live turtle, a symbol of longevity in China, inside the foundation to assure the house's permanence.

Li Daming, assistant professor of Liaoning University's biology department, examined the turtle and pronounced its survival a mystery.

Perhaps it is just a tall tale, but there are millions of Chinese who would envy that turtle.

It missed World War II, the civil war between the communists and the nationalists, and the Great Leap Forward in which 10 million people starved to death.

It missed the first "hundred flowers" campaign that virtually wiped out the cream of China's intellectuals, the monstrous Cultural Revolution, and all the purges and cataclysms that have convulsed communist China's history.

It awoke in the midst of the campaign against "spiritual pollution" and, if it is still alive, it is witnessing the drive against "bourgeois liberalization" and "total Westernization."

Oh blessed repose!

SOURCE: Michael Browning, Arizona
Daily Star, 11/15/87

CREDIT: Member #826

Earth Lights is an intriguing tour-de-force of astonishing concepts and connections in this emerging area on the edge of science.

But there is a missing link here. Lights-in-the-sky? Fine. Unusual animal behavior before earthquakes? Maybe. But visions of spacecraft, humanoids, giant apes, and other bizarre experiences? What is the bridge between the undersurface of the Earth and the undersurface of the mind?

Everyone seems to be taking their speculative best guess at the causal agency, but don't worry, there will not be further guessing inflicted upon you here. Instead, a simple list of facts for your own intuitions to play with:

1. The Earth force allegedly involved in some of this craziness that all we Forteans love has been measured and identified; it is electricity and its alter-ego, magnetism.
2. This force operates via "fields," which although as occult a concept as anything in Forteana, are the establishment's way of rationalizing action at a distance.
3. Living systems work on two closely related powers, "free" electricity (bound to small ions) and "bound" electricity (bound to larger molecules); or in other words, chemistry.
4. All levels of life forms have been shown to be able to deal with hitherto unsuspected magnetic forces as well as chemical electrical ones; bacteria, bees, pigeons, robins, and dolphins are a few of the recently uncovered

"magneto-sensors;" now you can also add humans to the list.

5. Physiological mechanisms controlling awareness, bio-cycles, and behaviors are finely tuned "threshold" systems, requiring miniscule stimuli (the brain's own electricity is only in the microvolt range) to create dramatic differences in the "symptoms" produced when the thresholds are crossed.
6. Individual human beings (like individuals of any species) are geared differently in their various threshold mechanisms; the whole field of psychiatry is moving towards this realization; certain of us are susceptible to unusual "mental experiences" we are continuously riding certain thresholds; a small right, or wrong, environmental push and over we go.
7. There are plenty of well researched mental experiences capable of dealing with *most* Close Encounter, Sasquatch, and "Creature" experiences, if the wrong switch was tripped in the susceptible mind; the best candidate: Dissociative Hysteria.

None of this proposes to "solve" any large set of Fortean phenomena. These mysteries are too grand for that. But the new alliance of Earth scientists and Earth-line Forteans may be on the verge of solving a piece of several of them. Some people will regret and resist this. They are not Forteans. Forteans are interested in facts...all the facts...where ever they lead.



Related Situations

Canadian Sea Monster

University of B.C. oceanographer Paul LeBlond doesn't want people to think he believes in at least one of his research topics.

To LeBlond, the word 'belief' implies accepting something without actual evidence and "I don't do that."

In addition to being an oceanographer, LeBlond is a cryptozoologist, a scientist who studies unknown — or at least scientifically unverified — animals.

"If you asked me whether I believed in large, unknown animals, I'd have to say 'no,'" LeBlond said.

And he agreed with theories that argue there could be more than half a dozen large, unknown species of marine animal wandering around the ocean out of the reach of mankind.

LeBlond said unknowns like Cadborosaurus, or Caddy, an obliging marine beast that has been reported numerous times over the years — especially near Cadboro Bay — are far more likely than Opopogo or Nessie, the Loch Ness monster.

"The problems with lake monsters include the amount of food that would be required to support a biologically viable population and the absence of remains," he said.

"There are calculations that indicate there would be just enough food in Loch Ness to support a viable population but there have never been any remains (of dead Nessies) found."

Following an extensive survey in the 1970s, LeBlond and colleague John Sibert sifted through reports of large marine animals over 1,600 kilometers of coastline and more than

60 years to come up with three main types of B.C. coastal sea monster.

Here's what might be out there:

- A creature with a head like that of a camel or a horse mounted on the end of along neck and sporting large, laterally set eyes. It has short brown fur and no mane. LeBlond concluded that, if it exists, it is likely a mammal related to seals.

- A similar beast with much smaller eyes, sometimes bearing horns or a mane.

- A long, serpentine animal with a head like that of a sheep and a dorsal fin running along its back.

SOURCE: Paul Musgrove, *Sun*, Vancouver, BC, Canada, 2/20/88

CREDIT: L. Farish

Bigfoot Hair Samples?

The wisps of hair — longer and finer than that from many animals — might not have drawn much attention from most people.

But to Paul Freeman, who claims to have seen a Bigfoot in the Blue Mountains while on watershed patrol, those hairs possibly indicated evidence of what he had seen in 1982 on an abandoned logging road high up Tiger Canyon out of Mill Creek.

For near the young pine sapling, snapped off as if by a hand more powerful than his own, were a long line of giant-sized footprints in the spring softness of the trail. The hairs were found on the saplings. Other hair was found high up on the bark of an old fir tree snag alongside the same trail.

This was last spring, early in the year when so much was seen of Bigfoot evidence. This showed up in '87 in the form of not only an abundance of footprints in several locations of the northern Blues, but also these hair find-

ings, unexplained fecal droppings, the hefty green saplings snapped off in a line as if to mark a territory and the marks high above a tall man's head, indicating rubbing by a shoulder and scrapings not like any known animal's.

Suited to that action, Freeman and I took ourselves to the labs of Walla Walla Community College's cosmetology department, headed by Mildred Harvey.

Excerpts from the examiner's letter follow:

"The hair is different from any I've ever looked at in my 25 years of hair analyzing. Since I do not have a 'Big Foot' comparison — and as you advised, he isn't available for interview — all I can tell you is that it IS hair, but it is not completely human or animal. I've never seen hair of this nature!

"Most of the hair fibers were fractured (as in photo taken). Also noted, the even, almost fluid-like appearance of the medullary canal in photograph. The green retardation of color is also something I've never seen. All human or animal hair will retard yellow and magenta regardless of condition. All the hairs I looked at (20) were this shade of green.

"The only other possibility is that the hair was human and a chemical process was applied, then dyed with a very strong chemical before being made into a wig. But, again, I have looked at lots of wig hair through the years and this shade of green has never been seen by me and when hair is chemically processed for wig making, the medulla is completely destroyed or diffused in the process.

"This hair still has a very different medullary structure.

SOURCE: Vance Orchard, *Union Bulletin*, WA 1/24/88

CREDIT: L. Farish

Books Reviewed

A LIVING DINOSAUR; THE SEARCH FOR MOKELE-MBEMBE, by Roy P. Mackal E.J. Brill, Leiden, The Netherlands; 1987; 340 pp.; \$24.95 + \$2.00 postage from W.S. Heinman, Inc., 1780 Broadway, Suite 1004, NY, NY 10019.

Reviewed by George W. Earley

Tarzan, Jungle Jim, Indiana Jones — they all bob around the jungle with the greatest of ease and for most of us, our concept of The Jungle is based more on reel life than real life.

Comes now Roy Mackal, a University of Chicago professor and vice president of the International Society of Cryptozoology, with his account of two expeditions into the African backcountry in search of a living legend, the Mokele-membe.

First time I encountered the creature's name was in one of Willy Ley's books about curious creatures living or extinct, fabled or real. Reports of the dinosaur-type M-m had filtered into Europe late in the 19th Century, said Ley, and attempts were made — particularly by agents of German zoos — to find and capture the creature. No luck then and none now either, Hollywood's *Baby* to the contrary.

The M-m is not a large sauropod — envision a body slightly larger than a VW Beetle with a small head at the end of a 10-foot neck and about the same length tail at the other end. A 10-meter beast, in other words.

Though reportedly a herbivore — Mackal's expedition located and brought back samples of the vegetation allegedly preferred by the creature as well as observing what may have been its trail through the jungle — the M-m allegedly is quite hostile to anything entering its river/lake domain. The natives claim it will attack their canoes as well as hippopotomi and other trespassers.

Mackal's account of the trials and tribulations as well as the pleasures of the expeditions is told in a rather understated style which, to my mind, makes it all the more interesting as well as credible. The area is, quite frankly, not one I would care to hike in — or slog in, rather, since a fair amount of the walking was done in swamps.

Not having brought back either a M-m corpse or acceptable films of one, how do you build a case for such a prehistoric hangover in the face of skeptical sneers?

Here the explorers used both interviews and illustrations. After milking the natives for as much information as possible [there was a certain superstitious dread that hampered information acquisition], Mackal et. al. would produce illustrations of various African and other animals. The natives would invariably identify those native to their region and say 'I don't know that animal' when confronted with beasts specific to North America. But when confronted with an illustration of a brontosaurus they would inevitably murmur "Mokele-membe, Mokele-membe" without hesitation.

In addition to gathering information on the M-m, the expedition collected native reports of a variety of other creatures unknown to western science: giant turtles, giant crocodiles, a giant monkey-eating bird and several others. Does the jungle really hold that many unknowns? Skeptics, safely ensconced in armchairs thousands of miles away, will automatically say 'No.' Mackal, having been on-scene, is more open-minded and builds a case that Fortean will find acceptable.

Well illustrated — there's a marvelous picture of the entire

expedition armed to the teeth with knives, shovels and rifles, and looking for all the world like a band of treasure hunters out for pirate gold — the main text is supplemented by appendices and an extensive bibliography. You also get a fine introduction by Bernard Heuvelmans, ISC president and the man who coined the word 'cryptozoology'.

Given what you get, I consider the price most reasonable and urge you not only to buy one for yourself but to persuade your local library to do likewise.

THE FELLOWSHIP: SPIRITUAL CONTACT BETWEEN HUMANS AND OUTER SPACE BEINGS, by Brad Steiger, a Dolphin Book, NY, 1988, 179 pps., \$15.95.

THE UFO CONSPIRACY, by Dr. Frank E. Stranges, I.E.C., Inc. (P.O. Box 5, Van Nuys, CA 91408), 1985, 122 pp.

UFO ABDUCTIONS: A DANGEROUS GAME, by Philip J. Klass, Prometheus Books, Buffalo, NY, 1988, 200 pps., \$18.95.

Reviewed by Robert Barrow

Some readers of UFO literature insist upon cramming their libraries with absolutely every book spewed forth on the subject. To those stalwart individuals this triple review is dedicated. Now, let's get on with the festivities...

Brad Steiger has intrigued us with a measured degree of UFO writing over the years. Certainly, his lengthy report, *Project Blue Book: The Top Secret UFO Findings Revealed* (a 1976 paperback recently reprinted by Ballantine) is a memorable compilation and a lasting research tool.

This time, however, he gives us *The Fellowship*, something a little different. Drawing upon more than two decades of research into contactees — people who claim to receive messages from outer space entities and their craft — Steiger concentrates on the spiritual aspects of such reports. "With their emphasis upon spiritual teachings being transmitted to Earth by Space Beings," he submits, "these UFO prophets have not only brought God physically to this planet, but they have created a blend of science and religion that offers a theology more applicable to modern humankind." Truly, Steiger offers some interesting support to this, a statement that pretty much introduces the rest of the book, but some will find the whole affair a mite too preachy in its assertions about an "intergalactic fellowship" and "gospels for a new age."

Nevertheless, if you *really* crave your UFOs with a gallon of religious topping, don't miss *The UFO Conspiracy*, by Dr. Frank E. Stranges, who hasn't failed to include a back cover full of personal credentials. Foremost, the fact that he serves as president of something called International Evangelism Crusades should provide a clue to the book's contents — though, of course, he is also director of an organization called the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena...oops, pardon us, we mean *on UFOs*, not to be confused, by some remarkable coincidence, with that other well-known UFO investigative group.

Stranges (a name that I wish was mine, by the way, at least for writing purposes) has already gifted us with the forgettable books, *Flying Saucerama* and *Nazi UFO Secrets and Bases Exposed*. The current serving seems worth putting right

down there with them, but the reader will have to decide, since I wasn't able to venture far without losing interest. Maybe that is because, in Strange's own words, "To some, this may represent a fantastic novel. To others, something that is about to take place. Still others will dismiss it as an account steeped in fantasy." A confusing selection, to say the least — but maybe a major culprit in all the ambiguity is THE EXTENSIVE USE OF UPPER CASE LETTERS and annoying Bible-thumping that **JUST SEEMS TO JUMP OUT AT US** until we develop headaches that exceed the boundaries of aspirin relief and cause us to seek neurological help. Are you searching for another salvation-via-UFOs books? Is that what's at stake here? Well, author Stranges advises us that "the true 'believer' will have no difficulty in understanding the overall message of this volume." Pardon me, but I *don't* understand the message, so I can only assume that a ticket to hell awaits me.

And speaking of hell, we end our current book look on the super-debunker side of the UFO tracks, a place where logic dictates, as we've said before, UFOs cannot exist and therefore they do not. Indeed, UFO-deriding writer Philip J. Klass this time focuses negatively upon people who claim encounters with and abductions by UFO occupants. Predictably, what with all the furor precipitated by Whitley Streiber's book, *Communion*, Klass has simply been itching to use a mental chainsaw on UFO investigators and other — his word — "abductionists" involved in exploring alleged witnesses' stories.

Okay, surprise! *UFO Abductions* does make a valid point or two about reasons for caution and the effect of media hype. But readers of Klass' previous books will instantly recognize the *profound* debunking and explaining away of UFO encounters for what it is: vintage Klassism (deKlassification?) and his need, for who knows what reason, to staple an "explained" label on any phenomenon that disrupts his minimum daily requirement for an orderly universe.

We who tend to believe, and have for quite some time, that the UFO is a major piece of what is the mystery of life and existence can only hope that Mr. Klass writes another rabid UFO-damning book real soon. Does UFO research need another book from this man? Well, doesn't every circus have a clown?

CAROLINA BAYS, MIMA MOUNDS, SUBMARINE CANYONS AND OTHER TOPOGRAPHICAL PHENOMENA, compiled by William R. Corliss (The Sourcebook Project, P.O. Box 107, Glen Arm, MD 21057), 1988, 239 pps., \$17.95

Reviewed by Robert Barrow

This 24th volume in the *Sourcebook* series brings us much closer to home than the previous compilation, *Stars, Galaxies, Cosmos*, and explores unusual topographic features of Earth, some as near as our own back yards.

Again instituting the *Sourcebook* standard of drawing upon scientific literature old and new for curious topics in this, the first of four intended catalogs on geology, Corliss now questions the origin of various mountain features, unusual ground patterns and seafloor channels. Some 70 areas of geological enigmas are described, each supported by in-depth examples.

Above all, *Carolina Bays* is fun to browse through, particularly because its contents involve planet Earth and, literally, the awesome ground upon which we live, walk and die. Until the day, one can hope, when Corliss assembles a book on

ours being a "living planet" — a theory much tossed about currently — the work at hand holds enough terrestrial intrigue to keep us thinking for years.

A major emphasis is to avoid the placement of definitive labels on the phenomena, as Corliss explains: "When further classifying topographic anomalies, we use value-free morphology: depressions, mounds, ridges, valleys, etc....it avoids classifications such as meteor craters and glacial moraines, which assume a particular mechanism of formation...it avoids, for a time at least, making classification judgments based upon hypotheses-of-the-moment."

Some exceptional phenomena are spotlighted, and certainly among my favorites are two examples of "cookie-cutter holes," described as "holes left by the mysterious removal of large slabs (divots!) of turf. The intact slabs, weighing tons on occasion, are found nearby and closely match the holes. Human activity does not seem indicated."

Other surface anomalies exhibited include so-called bottomless pits, "rock cities," columnar structures, evidence for an expanding Earth, Mima mounds (rounded mounds of soil) and hills, marine and high-level terraces, raised and submerged beaches, astroblemes ("star wounds") and craters, and the sameness of lake orientation. Of course, this is but a partial list of contents.

While geological theories change daily, Corliss' volume-by-volume indexing system does not. Each catalog ends with a five-index section pinpointing time, place, first author, source and subject.

"In the long run," Corliss tells us, "the purpose of the *Catalog of Anomalies* is the challenging of major geological dogmas, such as the now-ascendant hypothesis of plate tectonics, the Ice Ages scenario, and the belief that ocean levels and volumes never changed much over the geological eons. But, as usual, we moderate such heavy fare with stone polygons, walled lakes, blue holes and sundry curiosities."

LOST LANDS AND SUNKEN CITIES, by Nigel Pennick (Fortean Tomes, 1 Shoebury Road, East Ham, London, E6 2AQ, England — available in the USA from Arcturus Book Service, P.O. Box 831383, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083-0023, price \$15.95 + \$.85 postage) 1987, 176 pps.

Reviewed by Jon Singer

Books on Atlantis are always popular among both Fortean and the general public while books on other sunken lands and lost cities are increasing in popularity. As I studied and hunted for lost city tales analogous to the Atlantis mystery I came across British reports of drowned towns and submerged kingdoms. I wrote a couple of reports on the subjects and found, to my amazement, that Mr. Pennick had written a whole book on the subject!

This work discusses sunken towns, cities and villages located all along the coasts of England, Cornwall, Wales and Scotland. He begins with a general survey of the Atlantis legend, global deluge stories and evidence for such accounts as discovered by geologists. Although Pennick's discussions of Lyonesse (the sunken legendary realm off Cornwall) and the lost city of Ker Ys in Brittany, France, are somewhat superficial, most of the chapters in this work contain fascinating accounts of many sunken cities of which I had never heard, such as Old Winchelsea or Brighthelmstone in the English Channel and metropoli which sank in the North Sea. There are detailed accounts of Dunwich, a famous sunken city of East Anglia and reports of modern floods from the 17th-20th centuries. Oddly enough, Irish tales are left out. My

only suggestion is that this work should be retitled *Lost Lands and Sunken Cities of Britain*, as this is primarily what the book is about. (Archaeologists actually *have* found sunken walls and artifacts at the site of Dunwich and at the alleged site of fabled Lyonesse around the Scilly Isles west of Cornwall.)

There are prophetic warnings of modern deluges which destroyed coastal buildings and whole towns in the 19th and 20th centuries. In short, this book will become a classic collector's item in Fortean libraries and I'm sure that it will inspire other works.

Ed. Note: Jon Singer has written articles for PURSUIT on various sunken cities such as Lyonesse and Ker Ys mentioned above.

THE GELLER EFFECT, by Uri Geller & Guy Lyon Playfair, Henry Holt, New York, 280 pgs., illus., 1986, \$17.95.

Reviewed by Robert C. Warth

I stopped for a short visit at Uri's home at the very time that Uri's latest book, *The Geller Effect*, was hot-off-the-press in England. Uri handed me a copy and told me I was the first American to be given a copy of the new book. Naturally, I was thrilled and honored. But, it was Uri's manager-brother-in-law and best friend, Shippi, who qualified or clarified that other books had been mailed to the United States to Uri's friends and reviewers, etc., but yet, I was the first from the U.S. to "receive" a copy.

But this is Uri, promising but sometimes impractical, immediately pleasing and complimentary to the point of embarrassment also quixotic, impetuous — and with an ego as effervescent as his friendliness. In some ways this comes through in Uri's book but is made more palatable for the reader by the professional assistance of co-author, Guy Lyon Playfair.

Mr. Playfair begins the book with a brief review of Uri's life through the publication of Uri's first autobiographical sketch, *My Story* in 1975. Then, after Uri fills us in on the next "quiet" decade of his life, Mr. Playfair concludes the work by bringing us up to date.

Fortunately for this reviewer, Mr. Playfair was also spending a day with Uri and, in conversation with him, I discussed several incidents or experiences that were mentioned, only briefly, or omitted from the book, usually for lack of space. Some of these were detailed events witnessed by Uri with friends.

For instance, could Uri expect his readers' acceptance of the fact: He was sitting alone in his den, heard a muffled noise, turned to find his address book had "jumped" off the bookshelf, he walked over to pick it up off the floor and observed one name, intuitively phoned that person thousands of miles away to be told by the individual on the other end, "Uri is that really you? This is remarkable! At this very instant I was trying desperately to find your new telephone number to ask your help with a question I have." For most of us this would have been a remarkable "coincidence," but for Uri incidents like this are much more commonplace.

The Geller Effect appeals to those Hollywood type of glitter-and-glamor fans who vicariously are thrilled admirers of any nouveau riche family. Basically, Uri is a showman. He is not "scientifically" analytical nor does he like being tested and "picked apart," so don't look for that in this book. You'll find incidents not introspection.

Uri keeps himself in a peak physical and mental state to assure, to himself, that he will do well in whatever is expected of him. He accepts the fact that he is unique but *allows*

himself to be as curious about his abilities as does his audience. He is in control and can describe an incident he feels is significant, discuss it truthfully, but will not attempt a scientific self-analysis. That it happened to him, is a matter of fact, and *that is it*.

I am pleased that Uri avoided lengthly attention here to that annoying cult of disbelievers who continually contest that Uri is nothing more than a clever sideshow, slight-of-hand magician, and apparently can not accept that Uri's talents have made him a multi-millionaire.

Uri, over the years, attracted one heel-barker who has become frustrated attempting to "expose" Uri as a fraud but who, in the process, exposed himself to be a talentless dullard. This unpleasant little troll is more reminiscent of Grumpy of the Snow White tale than a believable skeptic or critic. It seems he is of the ilk who: will perform any act to divert attention to himself; would wave a banner with "old glory" on one side and a hammer-and-sickle sewn on the other to be selectively displayed to an audience he would try to distract; fanatically denies the existence of such things as UFOs but, when the truth is told, will swear he knew they existed all along and was secretly protecting U.S. government security on the subject. But enough remarks about this "sorcerer."

All in all, *The Geller Effect* is an entertaining follow up to Uri's earlier book, *My Story*. I would ask the reader, however, not to judge the book by its cover. The fierce, glaring stare that "greeted" me made me sit back wondering if the "guy" on the cover was trying to hypnotize me or was, as an officer in the dreaded Nazi SS, about to watch me being interrogated. It is a photo of Uri, but it definitely does not represent the Uri I know or the Uri you will enjoy reading about.

The book does have a generous sampling of other photos and the one I like most shows Uri's mother, Margaret; his wife, Hanna; and his two kids at home. Of the photos, it is too bad there wasn't a bit more space to include a snapshot of Uri's loyal friend Shippi Strangh and/or co-author Mr. Playfair.

But get a copy of *The Geller Effect* and read about one of the world's most curiously talented and controversial figures.



Tim Dinsdale, "Nessie" Author, Dies

Mr. Tim Dinsdale, who died on December 14, at the age of 63, spent the best part of the last thirty years on the trail of the Loch Ness monster — and with some success.

In 1960, he managed to shoot some film of "a large, zig-zagging lump" — film which the Royal Air Force later analyzed and concluded to be a "probably animate" object. That was Dinsdale's most concrete sighting: but, once seen, he believed.

Dinsdale, to his credit, adamantly refused to reap and financial rewards on the back of Nessie. He survived on his lecture fees, and was much in demand. *Loch Ness Monster* (1961), a chronical of an obsession; *The Leviathans* (1966), which included monsters from overseas, too; and *Project Water Horse* (1975), a narrative of his years of almost fruitless searching.

On his boat, *Water Horse* — which was once his home offshore for a stretch of three months — camouflaged and bedecked with an array of sonar devices and cameras, he sailed up-wind, switching off the engine, and floating — silently waiting for the creature to surface. It seldom did, although in the autumn of 1971 he saw "an object like a black telegraph pole...absolutely streak across the water."

The London Times, 12/17/87



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).

Phobia Cured with Rifle Shot to Head

A young mentally ill man egged into a suicide attempt by his mother apparently cured his phobia of germs and obsession for hand-washing by shooting himself in the head, doctors said.

The .22-caliber slug destroyed the section of the brain responsible for his disabling obsessive-compulsive behavior without causing any other brain damage to the man, a straight-A student, his doctor said.

The afflicted man tried to kill himself five years ago, when he was 19, said psychiatrist Leslie Solyom of Shaughnessy Hospital in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Victims of the disorder typically have an inexplicable compulsion to repeat activities over and over.

"Their basic problem is they hesitate and are doubtful," Solyom said yesterday. "They hesitate so much that after closing the door they are not really certain they closed the door, so they have to go back again."

George's obsession was "very, very typical," Solyom said.

George washed his hands as often as 50 times a day. He would take 4-hour showers, and he would check and recheck to see whether doors and windows were locked and whether he had enough money in his wallet. The behavior forced him to drop out of school and quit his job.

Solyom treated George for more than a year before he attempted suicide.

"George was also very depressed and told his mother that his life was so wretched that he would rather die," Solyom said. "Parents of obsessive-compulsives, particularly mothers, often have cruel streaks."

"She said, 'So look George, if your life is so wretched, just go and shoot yourself.' So George went to the basement, stuck a .22-caliber rifle in his mouth and pulled the trigger."

"He was found lying on his face, blood oozing from his nostrils," Solyom said. He was rushed to Vancouver General Hospital, treated for 3 weeks and sent to Shaughnessy Hospital.

The bullet lodged in the left front lobe of the brain. Surgeons removed it, but could not get out all the fragments. "If it had gone to the center, it would have killed him. If it had gone to the right, it would have had no effect," Solyom said.

In effect, George may have given himself a lobotomy.

Or, more precisely, a leukotomy — a severing of the links between the frontal lobes and other parts of the brain, rather than a removal of brain tissue as in a lobotomy.

"When he was transferred to our hospital three weeks later, he had hardly any compulsions left," Solyom said.

"We started on behavior therapy," Solyom said. "But he was no longer obsessive." He returned to school, got a new job and is now in his second year of college, having retained the same IQ as he had before the illness struck, Solyom said.

Monday's edition of *Physician's Weekly*, the British journal of psychiatry, wryly described the failed suicide attempt as "successful radical surgery."

"The idea that a man could blow out part of his frontal lobe and have his pathological symptoms cured is quite remarkable, but it is not beyond belief," said psychiatrist Thomas Ballantine of Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

"In the '40s and '50s, psychosurgeons would get these patients and have reasonably good results cutting the pathway between the front part of the brain and a part called the striatum," said Dr. Thomas Insel, a psychiatrist at the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Md.

Such surgery has fallen out of favor as effective drugs have been found.

Insel, who has specialized in this disorder, said sophisticated brain images called PET scans show that the frontal lobes are more active in obsessive-compulsive patients than in normal people. That suggests that the source of the disorder lies at least partly in the frontal lobes, he said.

New research indicates that as much as 3 percent of the U.S. population displays some obsessive-compulsive behavior, according to psychiatrist Michael Jenike of Harvard University.

Conventional psychotherapy is useless in such victims, Jenike said. The disorder is most effectively treated with a combination of antidepressant drugs and behavioral therapy.

As a last resort, neurosurgeons will occasionally remove part of the left front lobe of the brain, where the obsessive behavior is thought to originate.

"What made the case so very interesting was that we had measured IQ and done a lot of other tests before the suicide attempt," Solyom said. "Afterward, we compared results and he had not lost anything. We used very sensitive tests."

SOURCE: (AP) *Herald*, Augusta, GA 2/23/88 and *Dispatch*, Columbus, OH 2/24/88

CREDIT: J. Sappington, and J. Fry via COUD-I, resp.

Singing Fish Still a Mystery of Moonlit Sri Lankan Lagoon

The sounds of war have drowned out a mournful tune made by the singing fish in an eastern Sri Lankan lagoon on moonlit nights.

Since mid-1983, when minority Tamils launched their revolt for a separate state, no one living in Batticaloa has had the opportunity to hear the singing fish.

"Before the war, the fishermen here used to pull out a fish from the lagoon and say they had pulled out the singing fish," the Rev. Harold Weber, a 70-year-old Catholic priest, said on a school veranda overlooking the red-tiled roofs of the town.

"But we have not up to now known if it's a fish that produces the sound from the lagoon," said Father Weber, who has been teaching mathematics here since 1937.

No scientific explanation has yet been found for the multitude of faint but distinct sounds floating at night from the depths of the lagoon.

Some say it is like a distant orchestra playing a full range of chords, others tell of a mandolin-like melody.

"They prefer the moonlight and the sound is particularly clearer when you put the oar in the water and put your ear on the other end of the oar," Father Weber said.

Residents say the sound is more distinct near the Kalladi Bridge, now manned by Indian soldiers dug in with machine guns at sandbagged emplacements at both ends.

Indian soldiers have been deployed in the island's northern and eastern provinces to enforce a 7-month-old pact with Sri Lanka to end the Tamil rebellion.

The 150,000 inhabitants of the town, like most in the region, in recent years have not been able to go out at night because of battles and on-again, off-again curfews.

A fishing ban in the lagoon, which snakes around the town, to prevent smuggling of arms by guerrillas has been partly lifted by the Indians to allow day fishing.

The Rev. Alfonso Del Marmol, a 66-year-old U.S. Catholic priest who has been teaching here for 40 years, said his mother dipped a wrapped microphone into the lagoon in 1947 and recorded the sound.

His mother, a music teacher, then transcribed the tune into musical notes. "It sounds like this," the bearded priest said, and hummed a tune that sounded like a dirge.

"There's no regularity to the sound," Father Del Marmol said. "It comes and goes but it has a definite note in it."

SOURCE: *The Sun*, Baltimore, MD 3/13/88

CREDIT: H. Hollander

V-Shaped UFO in England

Seasoned policemen smiled when a woman PC radioed in to say she had spotted a UFO — until they heard engines droning above their station.

PC Susan Jackson went to investigate when dozens of sightings were reported to Ecclesfield police station near Sheffield. Minutes later she saw a V-shaped craft hovering close by. Even above the car engine, Susan (29), could hear its motors and saw a row of red flashing lights.

A few hundred yards away PC John Boam spotted the mystery object for 30 seconds before it flew away.

They checked with RAF Finningley near Doncaster, which covers the area by radar — but nothing had shown up on its screens.

SOURCE: *Daily Post*, England

2/11/88

CREDIT: J. & C. Bord via COUD-I

Sun 'Spinning' in Manila

Things are spinning in Manila.

Actually, just the sun spins, or so people say.

Folks have been skipping lunch for the past couple of days to go out and watch it.

It will spin several times and throw off various colors.

Some folks who claim to have seen it say it's a vision.

They're not quite sure what it means or what they should do.

Cardinal Jaime Sin, Manila's archbishop, has some advice for them.

Eat.

"When you are hungry you see visions, so my first advice is to eat," he said.

"When you are not hungry you will not see visions."

SOURCE: *The Inquirer*, Philadelphia, PA
2/5/88

CREDIT: H. Hollander

N.J. Psychic Helps Police in Stabbing Death

A psychic from Nutley, N.J., who worked on the disappearance of Patricia C. Hearst and the Atlanta child murders, was in Hagerstown last week helping city police investigate last year's stabbing death of a 24-year-old woman.

Dorothy Allison, 63, a psychic informant, interviewed about 10 friends and associates of Sherry Ann Knapp, who was found murdered July 20, 1987, at her house in Hagerstown's west end.

Investigators declined to reveal clues Ms. Allison has provided because the case remains under investigation.

"I'll go until I get the evidence. I don't rest until I get my man or woman," said Ms. Allison, a devout Catholic who considers it sacrilegious to charge money for solving murder cases.

SOURCE: *Baltimore Sun*, MD,
1/17/88

CREDIT: Mel Saunders via COUD-I

Scientists Find Clues to Ancient Chinese Disaster

Studies of history, weather and geology suggest that 21 centuries ago the Chinese had a real and deadly encounter with the worst of Murphy's Law.

For people already burdened with despotic rule and rampant warfare, Mother Nature apparently added the last straw: a massive volcanic eruption in Iceland that blocked sunlight, destroyed crops and caused famine.

As Murphy's Law in its various versions would dictate, anything that could go wrong did go wrong. Two scientists report that as a result of the combined disaster, half the population of northern China starved in the years after the eruption, which occurred about 210 B.C.

"Although the harsh rule of the Chin Emperors and the war for succession between the Hans and the Chus were important causes [of death], major famines, especially in 205 B.C., also decimated the population," astronomer Kevin Pang and planetary scientist James Slavin said.

"Late in the third century B.C., more than half the population of northern China perished," they reported at a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco.

Mr. Pang and Mr. Slavin, from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., told fellow scientists that "the failed harvests seem to have been caused by a cold and wet spell that began in 209 B.C.," the year immediately after the eruption.

The scientists said they learned, from studies of geological data in areas such as Denmark, that much of the Northern Hemisphere experienced the cold, wet conditions that apparently led to famine in northern China.

Additional studies of materials found in ice cores drilled from the deep glacial ice of Greenland indicated that a major volcanic eruption, apparently in Iceland, may have loaded the skies with volcanic ash that "made the stars invisible for three months," as described in ancient Chinese accounts.

When the stars were invisible, Mr. Pang said, "is presumably when [the ash] was densest. So it took a few years to fall out."

"It was like a Krakatoa volcano, an explosion," he said. Krakatoa was a huge volcano in the Sunda Strait, between Java and Sumatra, that blew up in March 1883.

SOURCE: *Newsday* in *The Sun*,
Baltimore, MD 2/21/88

CREDIT: H. Hollander

Drowning Coincidences in Winyah Bay, South Carolina

When Wright Skinner Jr. fell off a boat ladder near Georgetown early Saturday, he became the fifth person to disappear on that date in Winyah Bay since 1977.

Some are saying the events are a coincidence, but there's also talk by locals of a Devil's Triangle in the waters of Winyah Bay.

It was the third mid-February search of

Winyah Bay by rescue workers in 11 years. The others:

On Feb. 13, 1977, David Browder and John Stanley Gore went in search of a friend in their 10-foot outboard. Their boat was found overturned the following day and the Coast Guard continued its search by air and sea, but didn't find the men. Their friend, Terry Miller, was found in his stalled boat around 7:30 a.m. Feb. 14.

The bodies of Browder and Gore were found later in Charleston, about 60 miles south of Georgetown.

On Feb. 13, 1982, Hubert Jordan Sr. and his nephew David Jordan left port in their 18-foot boat to go shad fishing. When they didn't return after dark, a relative, Tom Swinnie Jr., went in search of them. Swinnie found the bow of the Jordan boat sticking out of the water, but a life jacket and the gas tank for the boat were not spotted until the following day.

There are other stories about the mysteries of the bay.

"Two guys told me they were out on the bay one time and they saw three men on a 40-foot shrimp boat out there and they turned their backs to the boat for a minute and when they turned around the boat and the men were gone and they never found it or the men," Goude said.

Editor's Note: We have no data regarding the total number of drownings that occur in Winyah Bay, S.C.

SOURCE: (Knight-Ridder) *Chronicle - Herald*, Augusta, GA 2/16/88

CREDIT: John Sappington

'Quake' Was Sonic Boom

An earth tremor in southwest Scotland last November 17 was almost certainly caused by the sonic boom of a meteor, the Education Minister Mr. Robert Jackson said yesterday in a written answer to the Commons.

Mr. Jackson said that scientists had ruled out an earthquake. Reports of a fireball in the sky above Ross-shire in the Western Highlands of Scotland tended to confirm the meteor theory, he added.

SOURCE: *Daily Post*, Liverpool, England
1/13/88

CREDIT: J. & C. Bord via COUD-I

A Rain of Pink Frogs

Members of Gloucestershire Trust have been puzzled by sightings of pink frogs.

The Trust has now received information from Morocco which may offer a solution. After spawning in pools in the Sahara, tiny baby frogs sink deep into the sand to escape the scorching heat of the sun. Buried in the pink sand, the frogs themselves turn pink to disguise themselves, returning to their natural color when they breed.

Sometimes these pink frogs are lifted up in the thousands and carried hundreds of miles by hurricane force winds, and some have rained down on Gloucester.

SOURCE: *Natural World 22*

England, Spring 1988

CREDIT: J. & C. Bord via COUD-I

Black Panthers Seen in Hardy County, W. Virginia

Jeff Moyer of Mathias wrote recently about several sightings in that neck of the woods. His report of mountain lion past and recent sightings in Hardy County follows:

"On Dec. 10th, 1978 (it gets more recent), my wife and I were on our way home about 11 at night when we both saw something standing in a side road beside the highway," Jeff said. "We turned around and went back, and, shining my headlights into the side road, we got a good look at a very large black cat, standing two to three feet tall at the shoulder, with approximately three feet of tail. He was jet black with a head the size of a large dog.

"Some two or three years after this, the exact date escapes me, I was again on my way home when I saw a brown-colored lion beside the road in neighboring Virginia, about three to four miles from the West Virginia line.

"I have spent a lot of time in the woods, and never have I seen anything move with more grace or power than those two cats.

"Getting a little closer to the present, last year (1986) during bear season one of my fellow hunters saw a mountain lion in the mountains of eastern Hardy County. Then during this year's (1987) bear season, a gentleman that hunts with us and lives on this particular mountain told me that on Nov. 18 several men from another state were on their way to their cabin on the mountain when a lion ran across the road in front of their vehicle, only two or three miles from where the sighting took place last year.

"You can dismiss this letter as the work of a crackpot or whatever you wish, but I am relating this information to you as I experienced it and it was related to me. There are indeed mountain lions in West Virginia, at least in Hardy County."

SOURCE: *Advocate*, Cacapon, West Virginia 1/4/88

CREDIT: Walter Duliere

Mystery Giant Cat Puzzles North Men

Sightings of another mystery black cat in the Highlands have led two Inverness men to begin an investigation into the origins of their particular feline.

Mr. Franny MacDonald first spotted the cat in Strathnairn where there have been a number of reports of strange sightings.

He was completely taken aback by what he saw — as soon as he realized it was not as it first appeared, a black Labrador dog.

That was more than six months ago. Since then, he and friend Mr. Rod MacKenzie have seen the cat several times — on each occasion closer to the Hilton area of Inverness where they both live.

The capture of a large black cat in a trap on the Black Isle several weeks ago set the pair wondering if there was any similarity in the species.

However, they think the cat they saw is larger, with short smooth fur and a longer, slimmer tail than the Tarradale cat.

On first inspection by scientists, the Tarradale cat, now in captivity at the Highland Wildlife Park at Kincaig, appears to be a fine specimen of a wildcat crossed with a domestic moggy.

Mr. MacDonald, 49 Oldtown Road, said, however: "Our animal was quite large — 2 ft. to 2.6 ft. high — and unlike anything I have seen before."

A keen naturalist and birdwatcher, Mr. MacDonald has come across quite a number of wildcats but feels there is little relation between the two types of animal.

"Because of its size, I first thought it was a dog. It ran as soon as it realized I was close. But I followed its tracks and it was definitely feline.

"I suspect it might be coming down off the moor at this time of year to find shelter on lower ground — on the occasions we have seen it, it was headed off into the trees."

Now, when Mr. MacDonald and Mr. MacKenzie go to the area of General Wade's old military road and nearby Druid Temple standing stones, they take binoculars with them.

"We have seen it quite a few times now and have got a good look at it. But it is always on the move," Mr. MacDonald said.

The animal, although predominantly black, does have a white or greyish patch of fur between its forelegs.

Because of the significant size of the animal and the shape of its tail, Mr. MacKenzie thinks its most likely origin is a sub-species descended from an escaped circus or pet exotic big-cat.

The two friends are now trying to find out more about sightings of similar animals — of which there have been a considerable number in the North in recent years.

SOURCE: *Press & Journal* Scotland 3/23/88

CREDIT: J. & C. Bord via COUD-I

'Big Cat' Rabies Alert

A rabies warning was put out around Dartmoor yesterday after a farmer shot a leopard cat, which is a native of Asia.

The cat was shot at Widescombe after it was seen chasing sheep. A vet, Mr. Neville Harrison who identified the animal — it is bigger than a domestic cat, but much smaller than a leopard — reported the shooting to the Ministry of Agriculture because he feared that the animal might have been brought into the country illegally.

SOURCE: *Daily Post*, England 4/22/88

CREDIT: J. & C. Via COUD-I

Exmoor Beast Strikes

The beast of Exmoor — a so-far unidentified animal — was yesterday blamed for the killing of a new-born foal which had its throat torn out in a field at Muddiford on the fringes of Exmoor in north Devon. A naturalist found the largest prints he had seen during a four-year search for the killer beast.

SOURCE: *Daily Post*, England 1/30/88

CREDIT: J. & C. Bord via COUD-I

Pilots, Controllers Spot a UFO Over Colombia

Several pilots and air traffic controllers spotted an unidentified flying object over the Medellin airport on Feb. 9, the daily *El Colombiano* reported yesterday.

At one stage, the international Jose Maria Cordova airport control tower, believing it was a private plane, gave landing instructions, the newspaper reported. The crews of five different planes, including a military plane carrying army chief Gen. Oscar Botero, reported seeing the object, which stayed in the area for half an hour.

SOURCE: *Star-Ledger*, Newark, NJ 2/28/88

CREDIT: N. Warth

Electric Man

A worker at a boiler factory in Xinjiang province can emit electric charges strong enough to knock down people just by touching them, the New China News Agency said.

SOURCE: *The Independent*, England 3/5/88

CREDIT: J. & C. Bord via COUD-I

Monkeys Get Revenge

In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, a troop of monkeys roaming the southern desert attacked a motorist who ran over one of its members, jumping on his car and smashing the windows, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The Okaz newspaper said a man was driving to work when he killed the monkey on a highway in the Khamis Mesheit region. He escaped the monkeys, but ran into them again on his way home.

When they spotted his car, they jumped on it and smashed the windows with their fists, the paper said.

SOURCE: *Asbury Park Press*, NJ, 3/28/88

CREDIT: N. Warth

Healing Fish

The next time you cut yourself and a Band-Aid's not handy, you might try the miraculous secretions of the Persian Gulf catfish.

"If you put it on a wound, you can actually see the wound start to close over in the next two or three minutes," says Richard Criddle, a professor of biochemistry and biophysics at the University of California at Davis.

Seems Arab fishermen have been using the slimy white gel secreted by the *arius bilineatus*, a species of saltwater catfish, for years.

Tests on mice, rabbits and catfish show the substance can reduce healing time by two-thirds, Criddle says.

But the product may be years from the market.

Criddle says catching enough catfish is pretty difficult.

Scientists may have to make a duplicate substance for use on humans.

SOURCE: J.W. Byrd, *Inquirer*, Philadelphia, PA 1/18/88

CREDIT: H. Hollander



The Notes of Charles Fort

Deciphered by Carl J. Pabst

ABBREVIATIONS

(+)	exceptional note	(It)	Italy
* or **	indicates notch cut from note	lum. objs.	luminous objects
ab.	about	(LT)	London Times
ac.	according	met	meteor
A.J. Sci	<i>American Journal of Science</i>	NM	nothing more
(A1)	Almanac ?	Op	Opposition
An Sci D	<i>Annals of Scientific Discovery</i>	phe	phenomenon
A Reg.	<i>Annual Register</i>	polt	poltergeist
BA or Rept. Brit. Assoc.	<i>Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science</i>	q	earthquake
BCF	<i>Books of Charles Fort</i>	Rec Sci	<i>Recreative Science</i>
Ch	<i>Chaos</i> , Fort's Working title for <i>New Lands</i> .	ref.	refers
cor	correspondent	S	South
C.R.	<i>Comptes Rendus</i>	Sci Am	<i>Scientific American</i>
(Cut)	illustration	Sid Mess	<i>Sidereal Messenger</i>
D-176	<i>Book of the Damned</i> , page 176	Sim q's	simultaneous
det met	detonating meteor	Spon comb.	spontaneous combustion
Eng. Mec.	<i>Engineering Mechanics</i>	S.P.R.	Society for Psychological Research
ext.	extraordinary	stat.	stationary
(F)	<i>Fletcher's List</i>	Th. st.	Thunderstorm
Fr	France	Timb's	<i>Timb's Year Book</i>
Hun	Hungary	volc.	volcano

(Continued from PURSUIT, Vol. 20, #4, page 192)

1850 July 22 / Northampton Herald, July 27 — at Olney, cockchafers on several trees in numbers so [Reverse side] great, as to be mistaken for a swarm of bees.

1850 July 22 / Cockchafers / Northampton Herald, July 27 — that "after a violent [Reverse side] storm near Clifton, Durham Down was visited by a prodigious swarm of cockchafers.

1850 July 25 / (D-84) / Fish and water. / Rajkote, India / All the Year Round 8/25.

[BCF, p. 87:

After a "tremendous deluge of rain, one of the heaviest falls on record" (*All the Year Round*, 8-255) at Rajkote, India, July 25, 1850, "the ground was found literally covered with fishes."

The word "found" is agreeable to the repulsions of the conventionalists and their concept of an overflowing stream — but, according to Dr. Buist, some of these fishes were "found" on the tops of haystacks.]

1850 July 29 / Perforating lightning killing boy / Long Island.

*
1850 last July / (with July 19th) / While a heavy blight upon peas and beans near Northampton, "The atmosphere [Reverse side] was charged with a gloomy brood about 3 days." / Northampton Herald, Aug. 24.

1850 Aug. 4 / 7 p.m. / Lightning flashes without thunder at Havana / C.R. 41-77.

1850 Aug 9 / met shower / At Collingwood, of 75 meteors in an hour or more, all but 4 or 5 from a point somewhere near Beta Camelopardali. / BA 51-39.

1850 Aug. 9 / Stat met / Observatory 2/165.

1850 Aug 11 / A flight of about 50 meteors over Kettering. / Northampton Herald, 24th.

1850 Aug 15 / [LT], 5-g / Met / S. Claydon.

1850 Aug 20 / [LT], 6-d / Spon. comb.

1850-51 / (Clergy) / Cideville phe / Dale Owen's Footfalls / Home of a clergyman, M. Tinel. Mediums were 2 children who boarded with him. Rappings

[Reverse side] for 2½ months. Stopped when the children were sent to their homes. Not only rappings but intolerable poundings some times. The sounds

[Second page] beat time to music. When asked would indicate the number of persons in a room. Strong force moved a table when the mayor [Reverse side] of Cideville and another visitor were sitting on it and trying to prevent its movement.

1850 Aug 30 / [LT], 7-d / Tidal phe.

1850 Aug, last of / Deluges / Jamaica / N.Y. Herald, Sept 12-3-6.

1850 Aug last and Sept 1st / Destructive storms / U.S. / N.Y. Herald, Sept 8-1-4.

1850 Sept, 1st week / Floods / U.S. / N.Y. Herald 12-3-5.

1850 Sept / Th. st / Spain / B. Assoc / 49.

1850 Sept 7 / Lit. Gazette of — New star in Little Bear, by M. Calomarde.

1850 Sept 14 / Mo[on] / Rev. T. Rankin saw part of moon (in 8th day) blotted out as if by a shadow. For more than an hour he examined it, and it remained the same. / [B] Assoc 51-41 / [Reverse side] B As. 57-41.

1850 Sept. 26 / Fluctuations in Zeta Lyrae, by Heis, like — see March, 1856. / J.B.A.A., 13-326.

1850 Sept 27 / Lumps of ice / destructive fall at Pittsburgh, Pa / Many 9 to 14 inches in

[Reverse side] circumference, weighing from 8 ounces to a pound / ac to Pittsburgh Gazette, copied in NY Herald, Oct 4-6-6 / [Front side] Some were irregular shaped, but most round or oval, made up of concentric rings.

1850 Sept 30 / Met train / 8:54 p.m. / from Perseus / great met / New England / A.J. Sci 2/11/131 / The train for more than an hour.

1850 Sept 30 / Great met train / Mass / BA 55/94.

1850 (Sept 30) / Met rocket / One seen on Sept 30, 1850, mistaken for an alarm rocket, at Aden, by a sentry, who discharged his gun and summoned garrison of 3000 men to arms. / [Reverse side] B As. 51/43.

1850 Oct. 1 / (Cut) / from 9:10 to 9:30 p.m. / reported from the Observatory of Durham / 3 meteors from an aurora, "not passing through it, but emerging from it." / [Reverse side] B As. 1851-23.

1850 after Oct / New Star / An Sci Discov. 1851/374.

1850 Oct / — Small body observed 4 nights. / Smithsonian Miscell. Cols. 20/20 / C-30+/ (Ch.)

[BCF, pp. 412-413 / See July 31, 1826.]

1850 Oct 1 / Q — Cleveland, Ohio. Low rumbling sound like distant thunder — then vibrations felt. Clear day. / An. Sci. D-'51-278.

1850 Oct 8 / [LT], 8-b / 13-3-f / Auroral Arch.

1850 Oct 9 / Large slow met burst. / Rept BA 1860.

1850 Oct. 9 / Moon D-shaped / Brit Assoc. 1851/41.

1850 Oct 13 / Met / Toronto, Canada / BA 51/40.

1850 Oct 14 / Ship sunk by waterspout near Malta / Timbs '51-271.

1850 Oct 31 / (lst) // Vessel shook like Mik's [or Mile's?] petroleum can / (near England) / Times — or Trans Bombay Geog Soc 13/155.

1850 Nov. 6 / Bombay / Met. streak 20 min. / Rec Sci 1/137.

1850 Nov. 8 / q. / Malta / I [Light] / BA '11.

1850 Nov 12 / Cut / 5:50 / E J. Lowe / Highfield House / "A brilliant, vivid flash; could it be a meteor? / B Assoc 1851-26.

1850 Nov 14 / morning / In a mountain pass between Bombay and Poona, 38 mets counted in one hour. / [Reverse side] BA 51-46.

1850 Nov. 18 / Worms in snow / Sangerfield, N.Y. / (D-92).

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[BCF, p. 96:

Large number of worms found in a snowstorm, upon the surface of snow about four inches thick, near Sangerfield, N.Y., Nov. 18, 1850 (*Scientific American*, 6-96). The writer thinks that the worms had been brought to the surface of the ground by rain, which had fallen previously.]

1850 Nov. 20 / Fr / (Lourdes) St. Pe / q / BA 11.

1850 Nov. 23 / Woodstock / several meteors / BA 51/40.

1850 Nov. 29 / London / Oxford / met / BA 60-90.

1850 Nov. 30 / 3 p.m. / near Bis empore / Metite / BA 51-47.

1850 Nov. 30 / (F) / Shalka, Bengal / metite / 3 hours before sunset / A. J. Sci 2/32/141.

1850 Dec 3 / [LT], 3-f / Met / Devonshire // 4-3-d / at Yalding.

1850 Dec 14 / Near the Bannmouth / aerial troops, etc. / B. Assoc 1852 / 30 / (See July 15, in the 90's.) / C-212+.

[BCF, p. 422:

"Phantom soldiers" that were seen in the sky, near the Banmouth, Dec. 30, 1850 (*Rept. B.A.*, 1852-30).]

1850 (Dec. 16) / Venus Inf Conj Sun / (A1).

1851

1851 / Snails near Bristol. / Zoologist 1/9/3176, 3187 [or 3087].

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1851 / Fr / Vosges / q / C.R. 33/69.

1851 / Cideville, France / Polt / Proc. S. P. R., vol. 18.

1851 / Sleeper Susan C. Godsey, near Hickman, Ky. / See Oct. 27, 1873.

1851 Jan 13 / [LT], 5-b / Auroral Arches.

1851 Jan 25 / 9 p.m. / Lightning flashes without thunder at Havana / C.R. 41-77.

1851 Feb 13, 14 / By Schmidt — on southern wall of Copernicus which was in full sunshine.

[Reverse side] Two black points — 3 more on 15th / on 16, invisible / L'Asto 4/309.

1851 Feb. 22 / 7:45 p.m. / Gutenberg and Eifel / det met. / BA 60-102.

1851 Feb. 25 / By Schmidt — near Copernicus / "A bright point surrounded by a dark gray nimbus." / Observatory 5/254.

1851 Feb. 28 - March 7 / ab. 5:15 p.m. / First shock / Rhodes / slighter to March 7 / BA '11 / A. Reg., '51-16. [Reverse side] Many springs dried up.

1851 March 17 / [LT], 5-e / Large Sunspot.

1851 March 24 and Ap. 2 / West Indies / great q / [BA] '11.

1851 March 26 / Le Moniteur of / Metite that fell on the "clocher" of the [Reverse side] church at Larignac (Lot) was in part "schisteuse".

1851 Ap. 2 / [American Journal of Science] 2/21/388 / Note up to 20 more shocks.

1851 Ap. 2 / Violent q / Valparaiso / On 4th, heavy rain set in and [Reverse side] lasted 4 hours. / Stryker's Amer Register, 1851.

1851 Ap 2 / q and flash / (Chili) / See May 24. / From Report of the U.S. Naval Astro. Obs. Expedition to Chili — by Lieut J.M. Gilliss — Some hours before the q, "x x there was a [Reverse side] vivid, quick flash of lightning to the N.N.E. so intense in brightness as to [illuminate within the observatory where I had been at work some hours." No thunder. / Am. J. Sci 2/21/388.

1851 Ap. 2 / [LT], 5-e / Wild Woman of Navido.

1851 Ap. 3 - 13 / q. / Chile / LT, June 16-5-d — at 6 a.m. / Many buildings fell. / N.M. / first shock the severest.

1851 Ap. 5 / Hauser / Athenaeum of [this date] — from the "Correspondenz of Berlin. / A stranger picked up at end of year 1850 in a small village near Frankfort-on-the-Oder; how got there no one knew. He spoke German imperfectly. He was taken to Frankfort. On being questioned by [Reverse side] the burgomaster, he said that his name was Jophar Vorin and that he had come from a country called Laxaria, in a part of the world called Sakria. He understood no European language except some German but read and wrote what he

[Second page] called the Laxarian and Abramian tongue, one of the written language of the clerical order of his people and the other the common language of the people. His religion was Christian in form [Reverse side] but was called Ispatian. Laxaria was many hundreds of miles from Europe, separated by vast oceans. He had gone to Europe to seek a long-lost brother, but had been shipwrecked on the way; where he did not know.

[Third page] His unknown race had considerable geographical knowledge, knowing the continents of the Earth as Sakria, Aftar, Astar, Anstar, and Euplar. He was sent to Berlin, [Reverse side] where he became object of great interest.

[BCF, p. 676]

1851 Ap. 13 / qs / Armenia / Sweden / Austria / BA '11.

[Reverse side] Sim q's, Feb. 18, 1889.

1851 Ap. 17 / (F) / Gutersloh, Westphalia / metite / BA 60.

1851 Ap. 19. / Ac to Dr Buist investigation, this of 19th was a mistake for 20th. / See other note.

1851 April / Lyrids abundant / Nature 99-133.

1851 Ap. 19th / ab. 10:30 p.m. / at Kolapore / "The entire sky in the north was seen in a perfect blaze [Reverse side] with meteors shooting from east to west. / BA 51-48 / ab. 5 minutes.

1851 Ap 19 and 20 / In Rept BA, 52-226, Editor of Bombay Times quoted that from other evidence he had concluded that there were displays

both of these nights.

[Reverse side] Quotes "one of the oldest and ablest observers in India that at Madras, on 19th, from 8:30 to 9:30, facing east, he had counted not less than 40 meteors, from N. and N.E. to S. and S.W.

1851 Ap. 19 / loc mets / 10 p.m. / At Mazagon, near Bombay, from point ab 15 degrees above N.E. horizon. [Reverse side] In ab ½ hour ab. 20 mets — largest left long trains. / BA 51-48.

1851 Ap. 20 / At Cawnpor[e] / mets like 19, from 8 to 10 p.m. / constant 8 to 10 p.m. / all from north to [Reverse side] south.

1851 Ap. 25 / at Cuneo (Piedmont), Italy / Immense swarm of butterflies. [Reverse side] Too early in year for them to have hatched out in Italy. / Taunton Courier, May 21.

1851 Ap. 25 - May 1 / Hurricanes / India / An Reg '51-73.

1851 April 27 / Durham / great met / 10:05 p.m. / BA 51/42.

1851 summer / Quincay, France / met / (F).

1851 May 2 / 10 p.m. / Madras — sky overcast — a circular illumination — thought be from a meteor / BA 52-228.

1851 May 8 / 10:20 p.m. / St Ives, Hunts / Meteor "issued from below Jupiter and near him". / B Assoc 1851-36.

1851 May 8 / L.T. of / That ac to Prof. Tosti, a luminous meteor had recently set

[Reverse side] fire to a barn at Lardabourg, Calabria.

1851 May 15 / 8:10 a.m. / shock / California / Time of eruption of Mauna Loa / Ref, May 13, 1850.

1851 May 15 to 25 / q — torrent / 1:45 a.m. / Majorica (spelled Mayorque) / C.R. 33-23 / Before the shock, the [Reverse side] air was charged with electricity. Some days before, torrential rains had ended a long drought.

1851 May 15 / — Spain / 16 — W. Indies / 17 — Cent Amer / q's / B.A. '11.

[Reverse side] Sim q's, Feb 18, 1889.

1851 May 17 / (Liv) / Bushels of snails fell at Bradford, ab. 12 miles from Bristol.

[Reverse side] Stroud Free Press, May 23.

1851 May 22 / at Ennore, near Madras / Brilliant meteor left a streak that lasted 2 minutes.

[Reverse side] BA 52-228.

1851 May 22 / India / Ice — size of pumpkins / (D-176).

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[BCF, pp. 184-185 / See May 12, 1811.]

1851 May 24 / See [LT], June 16-5-d. / q. / Chili.

1851 May 24 / Chili / Andes / "Large fireball; earthquake about the same time." / BA '60-91 / See Ap. 2.

1851 May 24 / (+) / See Ap 2. / q and large met / Andes. / BA 60-90.

[BCF, p. 130]

1851 June 1 / Calcutta / 8:30 p.m. / splendid meteor / B.A. 52-229.

1851 June / Cotopaxi, Ecuador, active after long inaction. / Nature 4-212.

1851 June 26 / 11:30 p.m. / great met / Bath / BA 51/49.

1851 June 22 / Met / Kingston / Ireland? / Proc. Roy Irish Acad 5/198.

1851 June 29 / Le Moniteur, July 1 / that metite fell through roof of a house in Vielle (Landros).

1851 July 6 / Met / Paris / 7 — det met, Epinal / BA 60-90.

1851 July 14 / q. / Calabria / Am. J. Sci 2-12-443 / 700 bodies found up to Aug 26.

1851 July 14 / q. / Calabria / 100 miles S.E. of Naples / A.J. Sci 2/12/443.

1851 July / Hun / Comorn / q / BA '11.

1851 July 28 / Total eclipse sun / Norway / C.R. 38-295.

1851 July 30 / Copenhagen / Met. train? / or thing like Burlington / B. Assoc 1872/68.

1851 Aug 8 - 12 / Mauna Loa / [American Journal of Science] 2/13/395, 299.

1851 Aug 8 - 20 / Mauna Loa / A.J. Sci 2/12/299, 395.

1851 Aug / Maximum of Perseids / Observatory 46-169.

1851 Aug 13 / Ice lumps / New Hampshire / D-176.

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[BCF, pp. 184-185 / See May 12, 1811.]

1851 Aug. 14 / Southern Neapolitan territory, great q. / An Reg / 50 villages damaged.

1851 Aug 22 / 4 p.m. / West Cambridge, Mass / Tornado / Finley's Rept.

1851 Aug 24 / (Fr) / q / Besancon / C.R. 33/272.

1851 Aug / [clipping from newspaper] / Eruption of Mount Pelee. / Port of Spain Gazette, 29th August, 1851.

1851 Sep. 1 / Light Sky / Minnesota / Smithsonian Rept 1855/281.

1851 Sept. 4 / S / bodies / Read / D-208.

[Reverse side] See Herschel, Objs and Magnetic disturbances, Oct, 1870.

[BCF, pp. 218-219]

1851 Sept 3, 6, 29 / Ext auroae / Am J. Sci 2/12/442 / 13/128, 152.

1851 Sept 13 / [LT], 7-c / Met.

1851 Sept 24 / [LT], 6-b / Met.

1851 Sept 29 / Aurora / A.J. Sci 2/12/442 / 13/128, 152.

1851 Oct 2 / Aurora / Proc Roy Irish Acad 5/222.

1851 Oct. 5 / Met "beneath the

- moon". / near Oxford / B. Assoc 1852-219.
- 1851 Oct 5 / 5:30 p.m. / Great whirlwind at Limerick / An Reg 1851-163.
- 1851 Oct 17 / Cut / 9 p.m. / at Stone / Met from one degree under Saturn / about 1-1/2° / E to W. / B Assoc 1852/24.
- 1851 Feb 20, about, to March 26 / 3 red rains in China in this period / Chambers' Journal, N.S., 17/230.
- 1851 Oct 22 / (q) / Gelos, Basses-Pyrenees / C.R. 33/464.
- 1851 Oct about 20th? / Shock in Ohio and same night a great [Reverse side] meteor that left a 20-minute train in eastern states. / Strykers Amer Register, 1851.
- 1851 Nov. / Harry Phelps, Stratford, Conn., polt boy, sent to a boarding school in Philadelphia. [Reverse side] Here, school disturbed by loud raps, and his clothes were torn to ribbons.
- 1851 Nov. 4 / Meteor / near Braincoto / 5:30 p.m. / "from just N. of Jupiter" / B Assoc. 1852/202.
- 1851 Nov. 4 / (Cut) / 7:35 p.m. / at Stone / Met from Saturn to Beta Ceti / B Assoc 1852/214.
- 1851 Nov. 4 / (moon) / near Aylesbury / Met as if from below and a little to the right of the moon / B Assoc '52-221.
- 1851 Nov 5 / Tarragona, Spain / Metite / BA '60 / (F). [Reverse side] (F) = Nulles, Catalonia.
- 1851 Nov. 11 / Met listed by Lowe as "Curious". / Cast. Donington / Rec Sci 1/137.
- 1851 Nov. 16 / Highfield House / Met listed by Lowe as "Curious". / Rec Sci 1/137 / Seen by Lowe.
- 1851 Nov 18 / Fr / Meteor at Cherbourg / C.R. 33/581.
- 1851 Nov. 20? / Singular tide / L.T., 1851, Nov 20/3/c.
- 1851 end of Nov, to early in Aug., 1852 / Very few meteors, ac to an observer's records, in Rept BA 1852-215.
- 1851 Nov. 24 - 30 / Livorno / (It) / Sound / Rumbblings // Dec 16 / rumbblings and rise and fall of the sea / See 1816.
- 1851 Nov 29 / Ext. spots on sun / Am J. Sci 2/13/442.
- 1851 Dec. 1 / Beeston Observatory. / Met seen by Lowe listed by him as "Curious". / Rec Sci 1/137.
- 1851 Dec 8 / Prof. DeGaspari, of Naples, discovered very faint star "near Saturn, which he considered a new planet. / Am J. Sci 2/13/28. / [Reverse side] P. 42 / Prof Challi / must have bee[n] Japetus, one of the sats of Satur[n] — if so —.
- 1851 Dec. 8 / Waterspout? / Two enormous waterspouts swept over Sicily — 2 "immense spherical bodies of water, [Reverse side] their cones nearly touching the earth, at a quarter of a mile apart, travelling with immense velocity, human beings and cattle raised in vortex — fall of cataracts of water and masses of ice. / [Front side] an Reg '51-199.
- 1851 Dec 15 / Stratford, Conn, phe ceased. / not Oct.
- 1851 Dec. 22 / Moths / W.B. Clarke, camping upon a mountain in the Australian Alps / bet 6 and 7000 feet his camp. [Reverse side] "About sundown an immense flight of moths came down from the granite peaks and nearly extinguished the fire. / H.C. Russell — Climate of N.S. Wales, p. 28. [BCF, pp. 132-134 / See 1845//.]
- 1852**
- 1852 / Have Friend of India this year mostly.
- [1852] / [newspaper clipping] / More Frogs From the Sky. / Northern News, Vryburg, Transvaal, March 21, 1925.
- [1852] / [A letter from] C.J. Grewar, Kleinpoort, Uitenhage District, C.P., South Africa, [addressed to] Charles Fort, Esq., 39a Marchmont Street, Russell Square, London. / Dear Sir,
I was much interested in reading your letter anent "Frogs from the sky" which appeared in the "Rand Daily Mail" of the 5th last, and it brings to my mind an occurrence of a similar nature, which took place in 1852.
In that year I was travelling with others of my family across what is known as the Springbok flats, in the division of Uitenhage, and about fifty miles from the town of Uitenhage. At a point quite close to the Cockscomb mountain, the highest peak of the Groot Winterhoek range, we noticed that the springboks in the distance were behaving in a most extraordinary manner, jumping from side to side as though being tickled. On closer approach, we were amazed to find that the cause was numbers of frogs and small fresh water fish commonly known as "Kirpers" pouring from the skies. At the time, and for some hours previously, a strong westerly wind was blowing. Some of the old people in the neighborhood informed me that a similar occurrence had previously taken place.
The vehicle we were using was what is today known as a Voortrekkers wagon, and this was the only type of vehicle in use in those days. I may mention I made a model of this vehicle, and it is now to be seen in the South African exhibit at Wembley.
Yours faithfully,
s/ C.J. Grewar.
- [BCF, pp. 544-545]
- 1852 / White hairs said been found after a q, in China / Nature 34-86.
- 1852 and 1885 and 1897, Dec 3 / Moodus Sounds.
- 1852, ab / Dunsink, near Dublin / obj and the necktie / See Lum Objs.
- 1852 / Sleeper, Susan C. Godsey, near Hickman, Ky. / See Oct 27, 1873.
- 1852, ab / Lum obj / Elec Intelligence / Eng Mec. 16-363, R. Packenham Williams of the Dunsink Observatory near Dublin, writes that about the year 1872 (P writes 20 years later) a young man was experimenting with a telegraph wire and so he accounts for a luminous phe he saw. [Reverse side] He thinks that it was an electric charge that left this wire. But his own first view of it was when high in the air. It had picked up a cravat that was bleaching on a lawn and high in the air carried it half a mile, then dropping it. The cravat was not even scorched.
- 1852 or 1853 / Cor to Daily Mail, Dec 13, 1922, writes that at Cotswolds he saw in snow [Reverse side] strange tracks, even on roofs. See Feb., 1855 / also ab this time. [BCF, pp. 159-160]
- 1852 Jan / Polt and flames / Russia.
- 1852 Jan 10 / Feb 11 / Apr 30 / June 30 / Aug 2, 11 / Nov 27 / q's / New England / See Nov 9, 1810.
- 1852 Jan. 23 / Nellore, Madras, India / (F).
- 1852 Jan 24 / q / India / Upper Sind, Murree Hills / BA '11.
- 1852 Jan 24 / Feb 22 / July 7 / Nov. 20 / Sim q's. [Reverse side] Sim q's, Feb 18, 1889.
- 1852 Jan 24 / — Sind, India / 24 — Mexico / 25 — Spain / 26 — France / q's / BA '11. [Reverse side] Sim q's, Feb. 18, 1889.
- 1852 Jan 24 / India / Upper Sind / Murree Hills / q / III / [great] / BA '11.
- 1852 Jan 24 / Op Mars / (A 1).
- 1852 Jan 25 / Gardeners' Chronicle, Feb. 14 / Cor sends tracings he made around lumps of ice that fell from sky at [Car]clew, Jan. 25. [Reverse side] It was a th. storm. Ice fell ab. 3 p.m.
- 1852 Jan 25 / [illustration] / [Fort's free-hand copy of tracing made around lump of ice] / [original note missing / copied from *The Fortean*, no. 25, p. 391, c. 1].
- 1852 Jan. 25 / [illustration] / [Fort's free-hand copy of tracing made around lump of ice] / [original note missing / copied from *The Fortean*, no. 25, p. 391, c. 2].
- 1852 Jan 25 / [illustration] / [Fort's free-hand copy of tracing made around lump of ice] / [original note missing / copied from *The Fortean*, no. 25, p. 391, c. 3].
- 1852 Jan 26 / 2 a.m. / q / Castillon-sur-Dordogne / NM / C.R.34/218/q.
- 1852 Jan 26 / (q and sky) / (Gironde, etc.) / 2:15 a.m. / Detonation and q / Bordeaux / "The sky at the time was of a dark reddish color as if from the effects of a luminous fire at a distance. / Sc. Am., 7-208.
- 1852 Feb 3 and 4 / Red snow / Switzerland / N. Italy / Am J. Sci 2/13/442.
- 1852 Feb. 17 / Mauna Loa / See June, '32.
- 1852 Feb 19 / Ext. aurora / Am J. Sci 2/13/426.
- 1852 Feb 19 / At Delaware College, at 10:05 p.m., a column of the aurora passed precisely over Mars. / Am J. Sci 2-13-430.
- 1852 Feb 21 / [LT], 5-f / Spon. Comb.
- 1852 Feb. 22 / France and Central Asia / qs / BA '11. [Reverse side] Sim q's, Feb 18, 1889.
- 1852 Feb 23 / [LT], 8-f / Aurora.
- 1852 Feb. 29 / Observations at Santiago de Chili, 7:40 p.m., of an unknown star [Reverse side] — one that could not afterward be recognized. / Sid Mess 3-315.
- 1852 March 11 / 7:56 p.m. / Dieppe / Met. / C.R. 34-772.
- 1851 Mar 18 / Ap. 30 / Sept. 25 / 3 aerolites in th. storm in India / Brit Assoc 1852/239. [BCF, pp. 101-102]
- 1852 March 24 - 25 / See Aug., 1890. / Spain / Prussia / La Belgique Horticulture 2/319. [BCF, p. 409 / See July 17, 1822.]
- 1852 March 30 / Red Rain / Lyons / R — May 26, '46.
- 1852 Ap. 1 / 5:30 a.m. / Winscombe, Axbridge / q / LT 12-7-f.
- 1852 Ap. 2 / Bolide / France / C.R. 35-676.
- 1852 Ap. 8 / ab 7 p.m. / A pillar of fire, vertical, western sky, extending ab. 15 degrees from horizon at a point near intersection of the ecliptic with the horizon. — lasted ab 20 minutes — appeared to follow the sun. [Reverse side] LT, Ap. 10-6-b / 12-7-f / 14-5-c / 15-8-e / 28-8-f.
- 1852 Ap 10 / [LT], 5-f / 15-8-e / 21-8-c / Atmospheric phe in London.
- 1852 Ap. 10 / [LT], 5-f / 15-8-e / 21-8-c / Atmospheric phe / London.
- 1852 April 9 / ab 1 a.m. / London / Heaven seemed aflame. "Messenger after messenger arrived [Reverse side] at Brigade, West of Englan[d] fire engine station, requesting the aid of the firemen to subdue what[t] was supposed to be a terrible fire." [Front side] L.T. — April 10.
- 1852 Ap 9 / London / Sky fire / LT 10-5-f, etc. [Reverse side] See Met and A L in index. / A column had been seen from sun.
- 1852 April / Auroras / See Aug 21. / Etna.
- 1852 April / Auroral (beam) / Am J. Sci 2/14/130.

(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.