

BEHEMOTH:

● Loch Ness: The "Naturwissenschaftliche Rundschau" (vol. 41, nr.4, April 1988, p.157-58) has an article by Dr Hans-Heinrich Vogt on the LN monster. He mentions the Drumnadrochit exhibition, St Columba, Fr Brusey, the 1933 Daily Mail hoax and operation Deepscan. This is the first balanced article on the topic to appear in a serious German mag. - Nessletter 88, June 1988, is excellent as usual. Two new sightings are mentioned, both appear to be wave effects. It also reveals that L Stuarts picture from 1951 is faked - even Mackal considered it "genuine evidence". - Janet Bord has informed me of a new book, due in September. It is by Richard Frere, a sceptic, on "Loch Ness", publisher John Murray, 192pp. It is about the history and curiosities of the Loch, with a chapter on the monster. This sounds very interesting, price will be £ 12.95.

● Lake Karnaci/Karnachi: In the north of Xinjiang province, China, near the Soviet border, lies 89m deep Lake K. It is situated 1200 m above sea level in the Altai mountains. For years, animals disappeared at the lake, locals blamed a lake monster, according to Xinhua. In 1985, students and a teacher observed "big red fish" of 10 m length. Now scientists of the Nankiang Geographical Institute of the Academy of Sciences and the Marine Research Institute of Heilongjiang Province are now searching the lake with hovercrafts, boats and nets. Only result to date: a 68cm red, carnivorous fish. (Süddeutsche Zeitung/SZ, 10.8.,p.32f; Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung/FAZ, 10.8.,p.5f). Is this identical with Lake Hanas?

ISIS:

● Helgoland: In March 1987, a mermaid was washed ashore there, and examined by a biologist, who named this mixture between fish and beauty Thalassiovirgo neritica. (Naturwissenschaftliche Rundschau, 40, 4, April 1987,p. 143-145) It's a perfect parody of the factual style of the CZ-Journal. The hoax was also mentioned in the German satire mag "Titanic" (July 1988,p.50).

● Carolinas: AFN (Frankfort), in their 2pm news on July 21, reported that a "lizard man" with red eyes had been observed and pursued near Columbus, Sth Carolina. On July 23, they said the creature had also been spotted in Nrth Carolina, it was 7ft long. The Arab News (AN, 21.7.,p.12e) had a UPI report from Bishopville, Sth C. It says the lizard man is a swamp-dwelling, 2.1m scaly green creature with red glaring eyes. It chases cars and has the residents frightened. It lives in a swamp 6 km south of Bishopville in NE Sth Carolina. In mid-July is damaged a car. The Saudi Gazette (SG,11.8.,p.4ef), in an AP report, adds that it was 17-year old Christopher Davis who had been attacked while changing a tire in Scape Ore swamp about 2 am in June. He said the creature had three-fingered hands, and ran as fast as 35 mph. A radio station offered \$ 1-million reward for its capture. Early in August, an unidentified man claimed he had shot it, but the scales and blood he brought as evidence were those of a fish. Police does not take the matter seriously. L Coleman, in Fortean Times 39, and Curious Encounters, has more examples of lizard men, also FT 46,p.19. This is another myth in the making, and reminds me of European wild men, who were symbols of nature, and sometimes scaly. In his function as a frontier-guardian, he attacks cars, symbols of civilisation. More scale Bigfeet in Keel's: Strange Creatures.

● Denmark: 75 years ago, the "little mermaid" statue was erected on August 23, 1913, in Copenhagen. (Rheinpfalz/Rhpf, 25.7.)

LEVIATHAN:

● Djibouti: Jean-Jacques Barloy has sent me more infos on the Djibouti monster. In an interior sea near D., the Goubet, lives an enormous creature, a kind of shark or ray with a span of 110m/370ft! It cannot leave the bay as it has become too big and the currents are too strong. The people regard it as a god, and offer it a living camel in a cage each year. The cage will be broken and the camel gone when they pull the cage out of the water again. Cousteau has described the legend in "Vie et mort de Coreaux" and allegedly filmed the monster, though he denies this. Some people have seen a booklet about the affair on sale at D., authored by Cousteau, which again he denies.

KRAKEN:

● Argentina: Bild am Sonntag (17.6.,p.46/47), the German tabloid, reported on the ISC and recent discoveries. Mackal and Heuvelmans are mentioned. Two planned expeditions are noted, one by Hans Fricke, his new search for the

Coelacanth, and a team of the University of Chicago, which will dive in the south of Argentina to search for giant octopi with 30m/100ft-arms. I have no reports of giant octopi from that area.

● Hokkaido, Japan: J J Barloy, in his "Enquete sur le serpent-de-mer" Nr 44, July 88, mentions a photo of a giant squid in Asahi Shimbun, April 9, 1988. The text is, translated roughly: "At Hokkaido, a giant cuttle-fish of 2 m length, wounded, has met a submarine instructor, at a depth of 12 m. Another man has photographed the animal." The cephalopod swims alongside a man, with short tentacles and great fins, Barloy suggests it could be Sepioteuthis, and says the creature looks larger than 2 m on the picture.

USOS:

● Sweden: The national defense staff has issued a pamphlet ("Our uninvited visitors!") asking fishermen to report sightings of subs. Hundreds of people report them each year. In 1988, the Swedish navy staged 9 separate sub chases: two confirmed hits of rocks under the sea, "and one possible hit of a submarine". (SG, 27.6.,p.6fg) End of June, and sub hunters took a three week vacation. Government declares next time they find subs, "blood will flow". (SZ, 28.6.,p.8f) 29 June - Aftonbladet publishes anonymous interview with high-ranking Soviet military who admits that the Swedish USOs were Russian subs, but that there have been no visitors since Gorbachev assumed office. Mixed political reaction in Sweden, but few doubt the authenticity of the sourceless, anonymous confession. (ABC, Madrid, 30.6.,p.44) End July - military spokesman says navy took "echo-sounder photo" of mini-sub in Oxelosund. Picture too fuzzy to find out nationality, but he claims it is proof for foreign intruders. He says it was taken early in June, and the sub was hit by underwater bombs, but managed to escape. (SZ, 30.7.,p.10a) Oxelosund is famous for its mirages, in former times thought to be Krakens or sea serpents or ghost islands. Mirages from Sweden, see also Fort, p.444/445.

CRYPTOZOLOGY:

● Yeti: A German, Günther Vollmer, was interviewed in the German TV programme "Tele-Illustrierte" (ZDF, 26.7.) He said he took three fotos of a yeti (in Tibet/Nepal?) - he had been sceptical before, but is a believer now. The photos were shown on TV, and look convincing. Vollmer said the creature looked like a gorilla - to me, it looks more like a monkey walking erect. I wrote to the ZDF, they wouldn't tell me his address, but said that the pix were reproduced in the "Bunte", July 28. I got the magazine - no pictures, no report. - Over 100 researchers divided into 12 teams searched Shennongjia in China's Hubei province in June. They discovered and analysed thousands of hair strands and concluded that these belong to an unknown high primate. (AN, 3.8.,p.12f, Rheinpfalz/Rhpf, 3.8.) - Soviet expedition to look for the kompolen, the Siberian yeti. There are only legends from the Syryan people, said leader Nikolai Kutorgin. (FAZ, 19.8.,p.7f; Rhpf, 19.8.; Bild, 19.8.)

● ABC: According to the SZ (6.8.,p.11c) there have been 1500 sightings of pumas north of Melbourne in the last 5 years. Farmers hunted the cat in vain, it kills their sheep, and has also attacked humans. Zoologists think the pumas are the offspring of 6 pet pumas that escaped during WW II.

● Switzerland: AN (30.6.,p.12a) and ABC (3.7.,p.10) report on a newly discovered 77cm, 3.8 km rodent, found on June 28 in a chicken yard in Mendrisio-

tto, Switzerland (near the Italian border), near Lugano. It has a brown pelt and looks like a monster rat. I wonder if not some reports of tatzelwurms could be such rats. The discovery was not mentioned in the Neue Zürcher Zeitung, so I do not have any Swiss sources. (See left for drawing based on photo).

FORTEANA:

● Swimming island in Lago Posta Fibreno, Italy - this lake has a perfect circular swimming island, already described by Pliny (Tauchen, Aug 88,p.44-49). ● "Strange Glow Found a Mile Deep in Pacific", off British Columbia (International Herald Tribune, 11. 8., p.7). ● attack by killer whales, see also last Bilk, mentioned in AN and SG, 16.6.

Bilk 25 in November. Thanx to J J Barloy, Charlie Diel, and my sister Regina.

