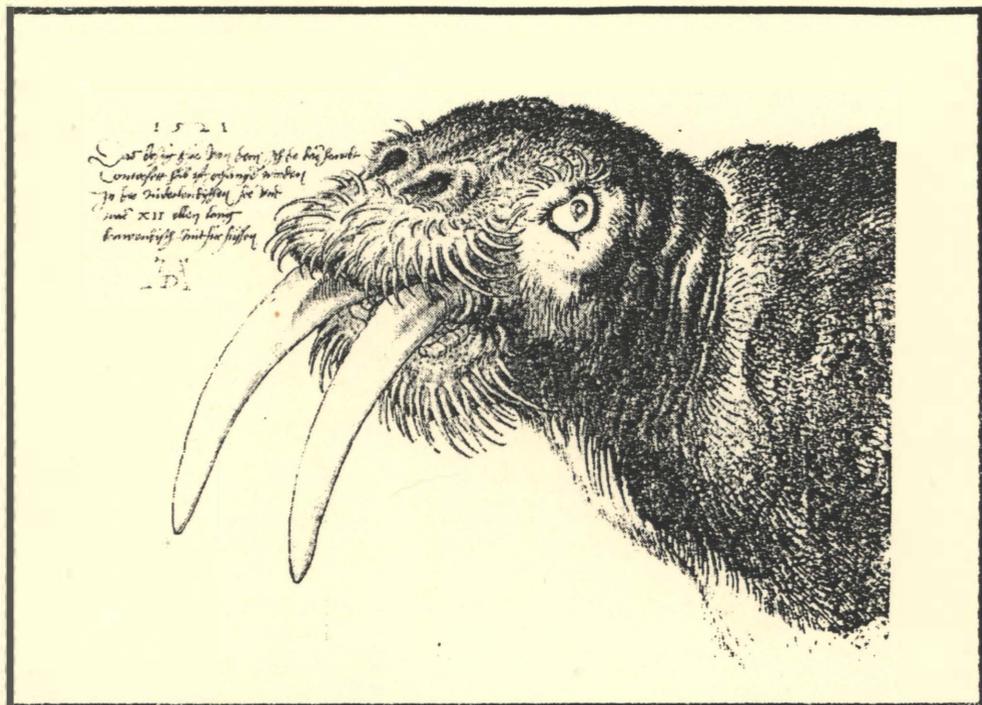


Animals & Men

The Journal of the Centre for Fortean Zoology



Wondrous Walruses; Initial
Bipedalism; Mystery Whales;
The Loch Lochy Monster;
Ground Sloth Survival in North
America.

Issue Eleven

£2.00

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THE GREAT DAYS OF ZOOLOGY ARE NOT DONE

My Dear Friends,

Welcome to issue eleven. As the last issue of 1996 it seems mildly appropriate that the unwritten theme of this issue seems to be very much 'Ring out the old, ring in the new'. As most of you know Alison and I are in the process of getting divorced. This was not something that I ever wanted - indeed I am finding it very difficult to come to terms with, but much against my will it is happening and there is nothing that I can do about it. As many of you know, Alison and I always worked together as a team, and now because of the current situation that team is no longer operable. This means that inevitably changes have had to take place in my life, and as the greater part of my life is involved with Fortean and Fortean zoology in particular, this has meant great changes at The Centre for Fortean Zoology.

The most important change is that my long time friend and colleague Graham Inglis, who will be familiar to anyone who was at this year's Zoologica or either of the last two UnConventions, has now become Assistant Director of the CFZ, and together we have launched several new projects. These are detailed elsewhere in the issue, but in the words of Tony Shiels "Fun and Games are afoot!"

Many thanks to everyone in the A&M readership and team who has supported me with visits, telephone calls and letters during the past two months, which, as you are all aware has not been easy for me. I won't single any of you out for special thanks because to do so would take up half the magazine, but you know who you are, and you have my heartfelt gratitude. It is a hoary old platitude, but at times like this - (and I won't pretend that much of the last three months has been anything but hell), you find out who your friends are.

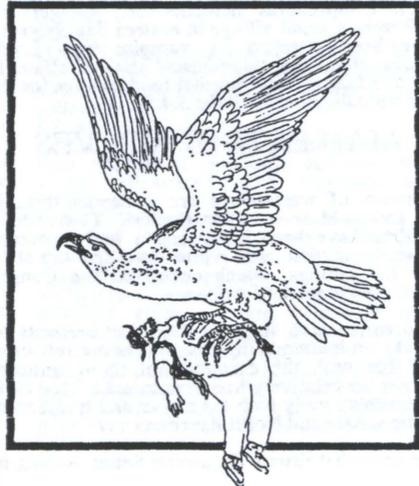
I found that out very quickly and most of them are readers and/or subscribers to this magazine. We are sorry that this issue is again a little late, but we are getting back on track. I am sure that you will forgive us. I am not too sure, however, that I can forgive Mr Naish (an artist and cryptocetologist of this parish) for his utterly libellous picture of me being carried away by a giant eagle which appears in the bottom right hand corner of this page, but I am sure that I can learn to live with it.

May we be the first to wish you all a successful and peaceful 1997.

Best wishes,



Jonathan Downes
(Editor)





This is a particularly peculiar newsfile because although there is quite a lot of news, it doesn't fall i to the categories that we usually use, so several of the charming logos prepared for us by Mark North have to remain unused this time....

ATTACKS

RELEASE THE BATS (2)

In a scenario sounding somewhat similar to the recent Chupacabras incidents forty villagers in El Pozon, a small village in eastern San Salvador have been attacked by vampire bats. Local experts claim that this unusual state of affairs is due to a lack of more normal food sources for the tiny animals. *Boston Globe* 3.4.96

MAN EATING WOLVES

Rumours of werewolves are sweeping through the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. Thirty three children have been killed and a further twenty seriously mauled since April. Investigations state that the killings, which centre on the Ganges basin are the work of wolves.

Modern research suggests that most accounts of attacks on human beings by wolves are folkloric, and that with the exception of rabid animals, wolves are relatively harmless to man. This view contrasts strongly with the native oral tradition in Europe, Asia and North America.

The naturalist Ernest Thompson Seton, writing in

the 1920s, believed that the wolf's avoidance of man was a recent development due to its fear of guns, and that Native-American legends of man eating wolves were true.

In 19th Century India the wolf had a deadly reputation of being 'deadly to children', but there have been no reports of wolf attacks of anything like this scale for more than a hundred years.

The wolf has been exterminated from vast tracts of its former territory, and the population in Northern India is greatly reduced. Only ten wolves have been tracked down in the region, despite hunts by thousands of villagers and police officers.

In comparison, hunters searching for the Beast of Gevaudan in 18th Century France shot around 2,000 wolves. Some villagers are claiming that werewolves are responsible for the killings, others that the children are being murdered by infiltrators from Pakistan wearing wolf skins. *Cincinnati Enquirer* 1.9.96.

NOW PLEASE WASH YOUR HANDS...

Denver Zoo: 50 people contracted salmonella in the space of 5 days from Indonesian Komodo Dragons - some from touching the enclosure and some from direct handling.

No-one died. The US Centre for Disease Control subsequently recommended that zoos erect double barriers to keep animals and humans apart and provide "facilities for people to wash their hands"...*New Bedford Standard-Times* 2.3.96 via COUDI

ESCAPEES

FOLLOWING IN BERT'S FOOTSTEPS

In a belated tribute to the most (only?) famous Capybara of all time, two of the world's largest rodents made a break for freedom last summer.

Reg, a male of the species went AWOL from Malvern Zoo at the end of August. His rather laid back escape attempt ended after only five days, when he was tracked down with the aid of a BBC Radio 5 Hotline, and found wallowing in a pond only half a mile from the zoo.

A female capybara from a diabetes research farm run by Oxford University has proved a more successful survivor. The exact date of her escape seems uncertain, but reports of a four foot long rodent frightening unsuspecting anglers around the village of Stanton Harcourt, (between Oxford and Witney), have been surfacing since early August. Research staff have searched the area, and enlisted the help of local villagers, but have failed to track her down. Experts have said that she is unlikely to survive the local winter. Let's wait and see shall we? *BBC Radio 5, 3.9.96; Sunday Times 11.8.95; Daily Mail 13.9.96.*

Editorial Query: Does anyone in the wide and almost impossibly eclectic A&M readership have the slightest inkling of an idea why a capybara would be any use for diabetes research?

THE EAGLE HAS(N'T) LANDED

A rare eagle has escaped from the UK Falconry Centre in Thirsk, North Yorkshire. Olga, a Russian Steppe Eagle with a six-foot wingspan, took off during a flying exhibition in August. *Daily Mail 21.8.96*

GREAT SNAKES!

A Royal Python was confiscated by customs officers at Heathrow Airport after causing chaos on a British Airways flight. The python belonged to a Polish man, who had bought it in a pet shop in Seattle. He showed it to airport security staff at

Seattle airport and was allowed to board the plane with the sleepy snake in his hand baggage. The man fell asleep during the flight but the python woke up and wrapped itself around the ankles of a woman passenger. After some disruption, cabin staff caught the snake, and confined it securely in an in-flight metal container.

A staff member at Seattle airport was sacked. *Mail on Sunday 29.9.96.*

RUDOLPH STRIKES BACK

Marmite, a reindeer from Pennywell farm animal centre, found that freedom has some unusual hazards. Straying into a garden in Buckfastleigh, Devon, it got its antlers entangled in a rotary washing line and had to be rescued by police. *The Times 22.8.96.*

AVIAN ANOMALIES

BLOWING IN THE WIND

South westerly gales at the beginning of October blew a rich crop of rare birds to the westcountry.

Guesthouses on the Scilly Isles reported a boom in business from twitches anxious to see birds including a semi-palmated sandpiper, a buff bellied pipit, a northern oriole, a red eyed vireo and two pectoral sandpipers. *ITV Teletext 2.10.96.*

COME IN NUMBER 57 YOUR TIME IS...

A female fulmar, known only as Number 57 has been named as the oldest known bird to survive in the wild since records began.

The seabird is more than fifty years old, and still breeds every year on the uninhabited island of Eynhallow in the Orkneys. *Daily Mail 19.8.96*

DEAD PELICANS SOCIETY

The Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge in California announced that thousands of pelicans and other rare sea birds were being killed at their refuge by indiscriminate use of pesticides in the locality and they called for a urgent review of the practice. *Boston Globe 28.7.96 Via COUDI.*

OUT OF PLACE

FERRETING OUT THE TRUTH



Confirming what our beloved editor wrote in his most recent book the Vincent Wildlife Trust have claimed that: "Britain's Polecat population is expanding rapidly and has spread to most parts of the country". They estimate that there are about 15,000 animals living outside their known stronghold in Wales. At the CFZ we can only say: WE TOLD YOU SO! *Daily Mail* 30.9.96.

IN THE SOUP.

Valerie Taylor an Australian shark expert warned that whale sharks - the world's largest known species of fish, were facing extinction due to exploitative fishing by Chinese fishermen in search of their fins for soup. "The Chinese will kill

a whole creature so they can use its fins for a bowl of soup. It sickens me to think of this, and I just hope that enough attention can be drawn to this to put a stop to it". *Daily Mail* 16.9.96.

MISSING LYNX

A 20lb Bobcat strolled into a carpet warehouse in Dalton, Georgia where it caused a certain amount of havoc before being humanely captured by an employee armed with a noose on the end of a long stick. It became stuck between giant rolls of carpeting, and apparently the store was in turmoil for about thirty minutes. History doesn't relate what happened to the Bobcat. *Atlanta Journal* 24.2.96 via COUDI

MYSTERY CATS



Buckinghamshire

A cat-like animal crossed the road fifty yards from John Taylor of Akeley as he drove from Akeley to Maid's Norton near Buckingham on the 28th July.

"It was about three feet long", he said, "I couldn't believe it. It was like a big cat, light grey in colour, and with a big, long, bushy tail. It walked just like a leopard or a tiger". Buckingham and Winslow Advertiser 2.8.96.

Sally Jones saw a big cat in Pounden, near Bicester, on the fourth of August. She walked to within fifty yards of the three foot long animal before it ran off.

She said: "It had a fairly arge head and a face just like a cat's, with short pointed ears". Buckingham and Winslow Advertiser 9.8.96.

Northamptonshire.

A large cat came within three feet of witness Peter Jenkin in Brackley Pocket Park on 4th August. He described it as three and a half to four feet long, with green eyes and pointed ears.

It bo nded off into the undergrowth. Buckingham and Winslow Advertiser 9.8.96.

Yorkshire

A brown cat-like animal with green eyes was seen by David Rose on the outskirts of Walkington. He described it as being similar to a puma.

This is the latest in a series of sightings in that part of Yorkshire. Pawprints have also been found. Hull Daily Mail 26.8.96 Via COUDI

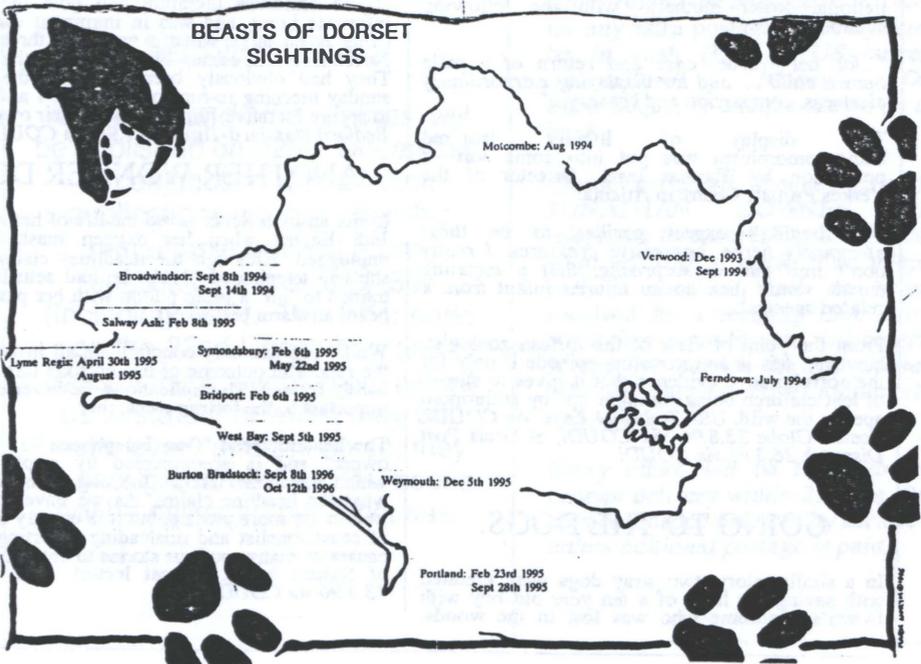
Dorset.

Giles Eastwood aged 33 was walking his dog about half a mile from Burton Bradstock when he looked over his shoulder and saw a huge, puma-like creature slinking across a freshly-cut ornfield.

"It had a very dark, silky body, which certainly looked like that of a puma" he said., "I feel privileged to have seen it!" Dorset Evening Echo 8.9.96

A week or so later a similar animal was seen just outside Bridport "slinking along just yards from the mutilated carcass of a young deer". The carcass was fresh and the head was completely missing. Dorset Evening Echo 12.9.96.

Mark North, our Dorset Correspondent and in-house cartoonist has compiled a map of other recent ABC sightings in the county:



RESCUES

MONKEY MAMA

Binti Jua, a female gorilla at the zoo in Brookfield, Illinois, rescued a three year old boy who had fallen eighteen feet onto rocks in what the newspaper described as a 'gorilla pit' at the zoo. The child was released from hospital three days later, and anthropologists are divided as to whether this seeming act of kindness was carried out as a result of her maternal feelings for the child of a fellow primate, or whether the incident would not have happened if she had not been hand reared by human foster parents.

Those who, like the editor, were raised on a diet of Edgar Rice-Burroughs will not be at all surprised by these revelations. We would like to know, however, whether this is a case of nature imitating art? Or perhaps it is the other way around?

The Tarzan connection did not escape american fans of the books. They presented Binti Jua with 'the first ever Kala award' (named after Tarzan's fictional foster mother), with the following citation:

"...for her rescue, care and return of a male human child ... and for displaying extraordinary alertness, compassion and bravery..."

This display of literary inspired anthropomorphism was put into some sort of proportion by Thomas Insel, Director of the Yerkes Primate Centre in Atlanta:

We shouldn't expect gorillas to be these awesomely fierce, aggressive creatures. I really don't find this so surprising, that a lactating female would pick up an injured infant from a related species" ...

From the point of view of the fortean zoologist, however, this is an interesting episode if only for the corroborative evidence that it gives to stories of lost children being 'brought up' by anthropoid apes in the wild. *USA Today* 21.8.96. Via *COUDI*. *Boston Globe* 28.8.96 Via *COUDI*, *St Louis Post Dispatch* 26.8.96 via *COUDI*

GOING TO THE DOGS.

In a similar story, two stray dogs were credited with saving the lives of a ten year old boy with Down's syndrome who was lost in the woods.

According to the County Sheriff's office the child would have certainly died from exposure if the dogs had not been there to 'lend a helping paw'. In a slightly fortean scenario somewhat reminiscent of one of the more soppy episodes of a TV show like 'Lassie', the family of the boy wanted to adopt the dogs, but they have not been seen since the boy's recovery. *St Louis Post Dispatch* 10.3.96. Via *COUDI*

THE RETURN OF FLIPPER

Jumping figuratively from one cultural reference involving crassly anthropomorphic childrens television from the 1960's to another one we must now cast our minds back to a dreadful TV series called 'Flipper' in which a dolphin of that name repeatedly rescued two annoying red blooded american kids from smugglers, helicopter crashes and shark attacks.

Such rescues of humans by dolphins are not unknown. Indeed the exploits of one specific dolphin nicknamed 'Beaky' by the Westcountry Press in 1976/7 appear in the editor's new book, 'The Owlman and Others'. A similar event happened this summer when a British tourist was attacked by a shark in the Red Sea (afficianados of classic childrens literature will note the Tintin reference here), and was in imminent danger of being eaten alive when a group of three Bottle Nosed Dolphins came. 'Flipper' like to the rescue. They had obviously been watching the recent sunday morning re-runs on Channel 4 and hoped to secure lucrative film careers of their own. *New Bedford Standard-Times* 26.7.96 via *COUDI*

ANOTHER WONDER DOG

Lyric, an Irish Setter saved the life of her mistress Judi Bayley when her oxygen mask became unplugged. Although the h dlines claimed that she had telephoned '911', she had actually been trained to 'hit' a panic putton with her paw if she heard an alarm bell go off.

Whilst one can only congratulate all involved for the successful outcome of this episode this story is hardly fortean. Th implications, however are very important to the fortean researcher.

The headline read "Dog Telephones 911 to save owner" and is accompanied by a photograph which apparently shows the dog doing exactly what the headline claims. As we have seen, the truth is far more prosaic, but it is exactly this type of sensationalist and misleading reporting which causes so many spurious stories to enter the canon of fortean belief. Caveat lector! *USA Today* 13.3.96 via *COUDI*

OTHER STORIES

(WHICH DON'T FIT
INTO ANY
ESTABLISHED
CATEGORY)

FISHMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE?

Dr. Antonio Yapha, chairman of the Seby Provisional Health Committee in the Philippines was, in July, planning to visit a family who claim that they can breathe underwater. Segundina Jimena claims that her three children can stay under water for up to six minutes 'breathing' through gill slits in their necks.

She also claims that her late husband had the same ability. Various doctors were claiming that although these 'gills' might indeed be vestigial remains of branchial clefts - primitive gills possessed by foetuses, they would not be functional, and indeed could cause grave medical problems if they became infected!

We do have to ask, however, if these 'gill slits' are nothing more than holes in the neck, how can these people 'breathe' underwater? Is it all a silly hoax in a country not known for its reserved and rational outlook on life, or is there perhaps some truth behind this seemingly silly story.

Interested readers are referred to 'The Magic Zoo' by Peter Costello in which similar cases, some of them in Europe, are discussed. *Atlanta Journal* 28.7.96 Via **COUDI**.

GET AHEAD IN GIBRALTAR

A Neanderthal skull found in Gibraltar has been dated by British scientists to less than 30,000 years ago. A team lead by Chris Stringer of the

British Museum (Natural History), in London, is dating skulls found in a cluster of limestone caves. They have concluded that Neanderthals were forced to migrate southwards across Europe by Cro-Magnon Man, and that the two species did not interbreed. *Stringer says:*

"If you look at northern and southern Spain you have a picture of Neanderthals surviving later in the south than in the north which suggests that southern Spain, including Gibraltar, could be amongst the last footholds of Neanderthals". *Sunday Times* 29.9.96

I'D RATHER BE A LEMMING...

For the third year in succession suicidal walrus have been lining up to hurl themselves from a two hundred foot high cliff in Alaska. Sixty male walrus have plunged to their death this summer from the cliff at Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. *Daily Mail* 14.9.96

ART FOR ART'S SAKE

In the wake of Damien Hirst the animal mutilation ethic within art seems to be becoming more and more prevalent.

In one particularly revolting episode artist Vincent Gothard dipped forty live baby mice in resin and then cut them into cubes as part of an undefined 'art project'. He was charged with animal cruelty and faces a large fine and a prison sentence if convicted. *Boston Globe* 6.4.96.

TALK TO THE ANIMALS

One of the editor's best (but most juvenile and retarded) friends pointed out a cartoon in a recent issue of *Viz* Comic. In a spoof of a well known musical and series of children's books it tells the story of Doctor Poolittle - who talks to the animals about constipation.

This has nothing to do with the main content of this newfile item, but your editor has just won a £5 bet by including it.

The real story in this section is that researchers at Toledo Zoo are recording the sounds made by their two hippos in order to try and establish whether or not these enormous creatures have a language. *News Advertiser (Toledo)* 3.3.96 via **COUDI**

NEWSFILE EXTRA: BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Feathers are unique to birds. Or are they? A new fossil of a small, meat eating dinosaur from Liaoning Province, China, suggests that feathers actually appeared long before birds themselves.

There is no longer any serious doubt that birds are truly flying dinosaurs - a vast body of data now supports such a statement. Not only does this mean that dinosaurs are alive and well, it may also mean that features we associate with birds were also found in extinct dinosaurs. Feathers are the ultimate example, for if small dinosaurs were 'warm blooded', they would probably require insulation, and would therefore probably have been feathered. Skin impressions of large dinosaurs show that they had scaly skin as do crocodiles.

But amongst mammals, large forms are generally naked skinned - what if mammals were extinct, and we only had skin impressions of elephants and rhinos? Excepting the famous Archaeopteryx - usually considered to be a bird because of its feathers - the evidence for feathery dinosaurs has thus far been ambiguous.

Despite this, many dinosaur experts have long considered feathery dinosaurs to be a likelihood: the idea was first proposed in the last century, and in the 1970s a number of artists began to draw small dinosaurs clothed in feathers. Some have even suggested that the young of all dinosaurs were down-covered.

News of the latest discovery first appeared in the Japanese press on the 9th October. It was announced to the community (via the internet's dinosaur discussion group), by Dr. Paul Davis, an expert in the fossilisation of feathers at the National Science Museum, Tokyo.

Dr. Phil Currie, a noted authority on predatory dinosaurs, or theropods, had been in China at the time of the discovery.

He verified that a small (about 1m long), well preserved theropod with feathers had been found.

The fossil is from the Lower Cretaceous (about 135 million years old). Photographs, posted on the www, show the animal in classic theropod 'death pose' with the neck bent back and the hind limbs partly folded. The eye is represented by a dark circle of organic matter, and there are also traces of soft tissue in the lower abdomen.

The animal has a long, heavy tail. In photographs of the specimen the feathers do not show up well. They appear as a dark streak along the length of the backbone, and thus it is impossible to verify whether they are feathers or not. However, Currie examined the actual specimen and seems in no doubt that they are feathers. He reports that they are relatively short (about 1cm long), and are preserved over most of the body.

The timing of the discovery was excellent, as New York's annual meeting of the Society for Vertebrate Palaeontology was held the following week. The majority of theropod experts were therefore able to view high-quality photographs of the specimen, and they were all very impressed.

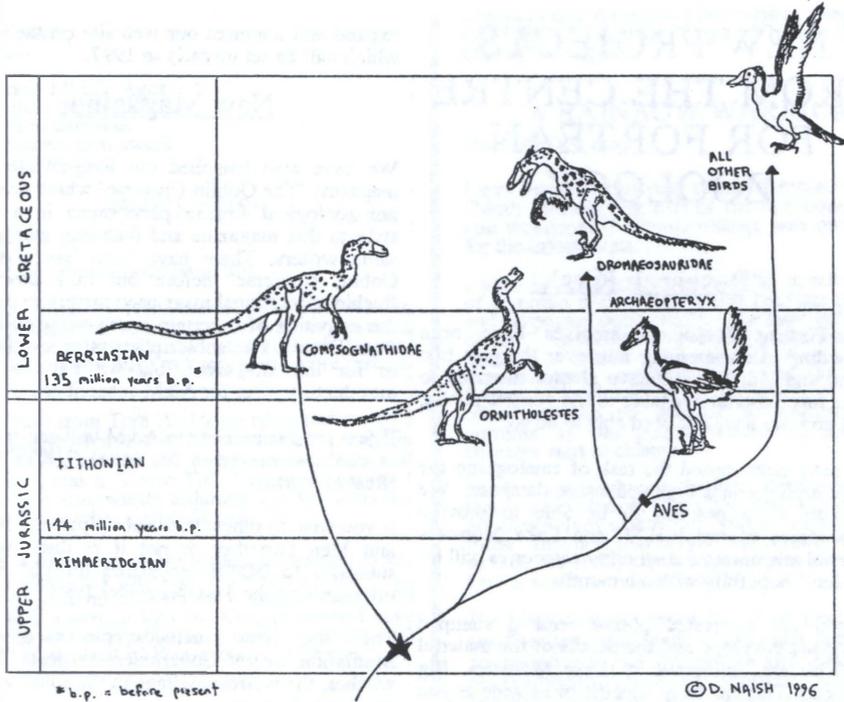
Unfortunately, the skull is crushed and the forelimbs are disarticulated. However, a number of characteristics suggest that the new dinosaur - given the awful name *Sinosauropteryx prima* by Chinese scientists - is one of the compsognathids. These are small, long legged, running dinosaurs that seem to have frequented shorelines and lakesides. *Sinosauropteryx* is from lake deposits that are already famous for the number of early bird fossils they have yielded. Many of these birds also have feathers preserved.

While it would now seem that a truly feathered non-avian dinosaur has at last been found, microscopic analysis is needed to demonstrate beyond doubt that these structures really are feathers. If they are, then we now know that feathers appeared before birds did. (*Sinosauropteryx* belongs to a group of dinosaurs that diverged from other theropods before the immediate ancestors of birds).

Many questions remain unanswered.

Did feathers first evolve for a purpose other than flight? (e.g. as insulation?) Does the presence of integument necessarily prove warm bloodedness? Were feathers widespread amongst dinosaurs, or just restricted to bird-like theropods and birds? The great dinosaur debate goes on..

Darren Naish.



The discovery of feathers in a compsognathid would suggest that feathers were present in the common ancestor of compsognathids and living birds (that common ancestor would be where the star is), and all the descendants of that common ancestor.

Newsfile Correspondents

Mark North, Chris Moiser, Tom Anderson, Darren Naish, John Allegri, Sally Parsons, Ginny Ware, COUDI

Editorial note: Frank Gibbons, for so many years the mainstay of the South West Herpetological Society died as we were putting this magazine together. I would like to dedicate this issue to his memory, and also to the memory of Tony Shields' mother, and Jessica Mitford - who despite being one of my favourite journalists was one of the only members of her family whom I have never written a song about... The world will be poorer for your passing.

NEW PROJECTS FROM THE CENTRE FOR FORTEAN ZOOLOGY.

'Research Kits'

Our Fortean Zoological archives have been expanding at an alarming rate over the past two years, and although we have always intended to make this material available to the general public, until now we have not been able to do so.

We have now started the task of cataloguing the entire archive, in a comprehensive database. We are now in a position to be able to provide photocopies of our B.H.M. and Lake Monsters material at a nominal cost; other categories will be "on-line" hopefully within a month.

If you are interested please send a stamped addressed envelope and the details of the material that you are interested in (Lake Monsters, Big Cats etc). This can be as specific or as wide as you like. We will then send you a printout detailing the material currently available on that subject. (If the printout runs to more than five sheets, we shall have to charge 50p for each extra five sheets - this will be invoiced to you.)

If, upon receiving the printout, there is material in our possession that you want, then we can provide photocopies at a rate of 20p per sheet. (You may wish to send the printout back with the items in which you are interested indicated.)

There is no minimum order but there is an administrative charge of £1.00 per order to cover postage, archive retrieval time, etc.

If you are in the fortunate (or possibly unfortunate) position of owning an Amiga computer we can provide the database on disc for you at the cost of £3.00 including p&p.

This is a new service, but one which we hope will

expand and augment our web site on the internet which will be set up early in 1997.

New Magazine.

We have also launched our long-awaited sister magazine 'The Goblin Universe' which deals with non-zoological fortean phenomena in a similar style to this magazine and featuring many of the same writers. There have been issues of 'The Goblin Universe' before but they have been freebie promotional mags used merely to publicise the activities of a certain seven piece rock band from Exeter. The subscription rates are the same as for this magazine, but we have a special introductory offer for A&M subscribers.

If you are a subscriber to A&M you can subscribe to our new magazine for £6.00 (UK/EC) £9.00 (Rest of world).

If you wish to renew your subscription to Animals and Men (whether or not it is due), you can subscribe to BOTH magazines for £12.00. This offer ends on the 31st December 1996.

The first issue includes pieces on Cattle Mutilation, secret Government projects, Cornish witches, the weirdest village in the south-west and considerably more.

The 1997 Yearbook is nearing completion and will be available in mid November. It is, we think at least, bigger and better than before. Details of the contents are found elsewhere in the magazine, as are details of my newest book 'The Owlman and Others' which is also available now!

We have also become involved in the Exeter Strange Phenomena (ESP) Research Group and produce a newsletter with the stomach churning title 'The EXE Files'. For details send us a SAE.

The only mildly vexing fly in the fortean zoological ointment is that because of increased printing and postage costs we have had to increase the cost of Animals & Men by 25p a copy. We are sorry about this but it is the way that the proverbial cookie crumbles.

I AM THE WALRUS

Well, I'm not actually, and neither to the best of my knowledge are any of the other people on the editorial team, (except possibly Aberdeen's Mr Entertainment), but it's a great song and the following miscellany of articles is probably the best excuse we shall ever have to use this headline....

in mitigation....

Something that all good fortune-seekers will readily accept is that phenomena, or even items of mild interest never seem to occur singly. In August this year Richard Muirhead was staying with me and over breakfast (a polite euphemism for the cold pizza and beer we were consuming just before the time when most people have their lunch, he pointed out an interesting paragraph in the *Daily Telegraph*. Alleging that what appeared to be a walrus had been sighted off the coast of Scotland, the news item rang some figurative bells in my mental database, and after a few telephone calls we had what could probably be described as 'Everything you wanted to know about crypto-walruses but were afraid to ask'...



THE NORFOLK WALRUS.

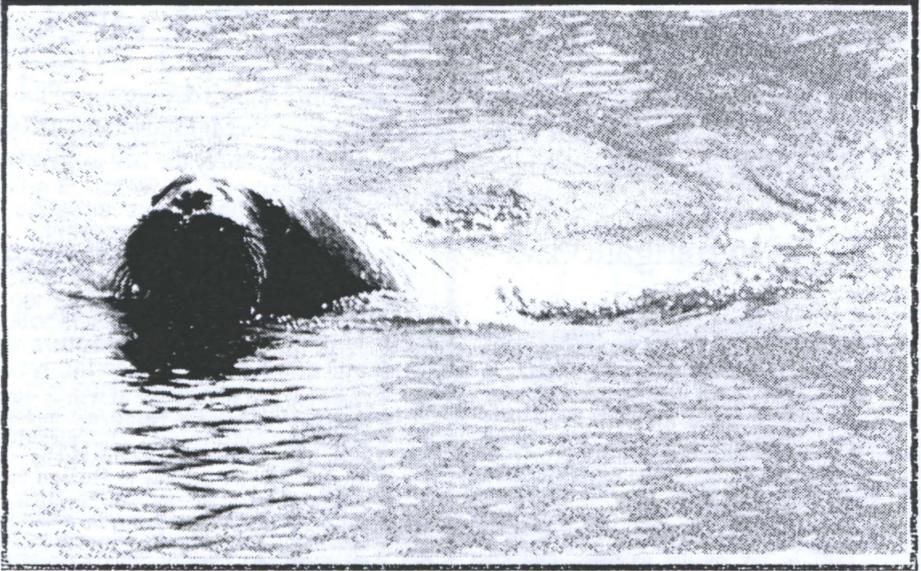
By Justin Boote.

There are two sub-species of walrus - the Atlantic species (*Odobenus r. rosmarus*), and the Pacific walrus (*O.r.divergens*). The majority of the population is situated in the Arctic circle. The Atlantic species extends to Hudson bay and the northwest coast of the Baffin Isles, but lives mostly along the northern coasts of Greenland and Baffin Bay. The Pacific species lives along the north-east coast of Siberia across the Bering strait and around the north-west coasts of Alaska. Fossil remains have been found in the south of England and Belgium on the east of the Atlantic, and South Carolina on the west.

They migrate north in the summer and south in the winter, travelling vast distances on great Ice Floes. You would not, therefore, expect to see one on the north coast of Norfolk. Yet one did turn up alive and well in 1981.

It was first spotted in the morning off the Lincolnshire coast on the 13th September, and was not seen again for the rest of the day. Then, on the 14th, it followed a Conservancy Board barge in from The Wash in north Norfolk and then entered the River Ouse at Kings Lynn. It continued up the river for 15 miles and finally settled at Salter's Lode, south of Downham Market.

It was seen again on the 15th, by which time the word had got around and a large crowd of astonished locals had amassed to witness the creature. More fun was to come when a helicopter flew overhead, carrying a team of specialists and a few volunteer helpers who attempted several times unsuccessfully to capture.



PICTURE: THE NORFOLK WALRUS
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PERMISSION.

it. Eventually the walrus grew tired of the attention it was receiving and slipped back into the water and made its own way back to sea. It was next seen at Skegness where a more successful mission resulted in its capture.

It was taken to the local marine zoo where it was identified as the Atlantic species and in perfect health for its troubles. It spent another day at the zoo recuperating until it was finally crated and flown from London airport back to its native Greenland.

EDITOR'S NOTE: There are interesting discrepancies between this animal, both as described by Justin, and in the original source material from the King's Lynn Newspaper, and the description of 'Wally' the walrus, also from 1981 given in Darren Naish's article printed in this issue. Perhaps there were two walruses in East Anglia that year? If so, surely this is a quasi fo tean event of some significance?

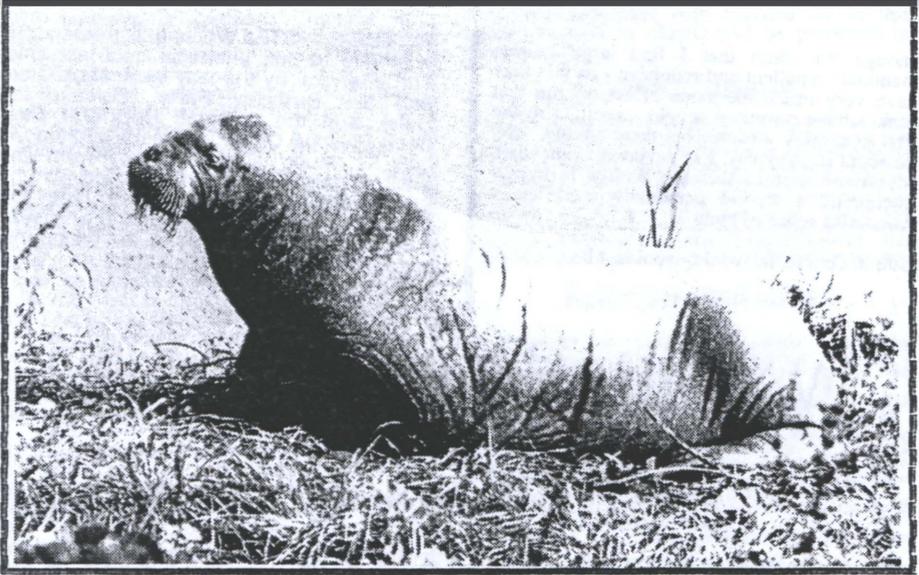
THE WHALE- HORSE

by Clinton Keeling

This, to me, nightmarish-looking Seal takes its popular name from two Norse words meaning "Whale Horse".

Probably England's first living Walrus as a - what for want of a better term I'm going to call "zoological specimen" - was exhibited during the reign of Alfred the Great. And now you know precisely as much as I do, as nothing else - ie where and/or how it was kept, how it was fed, or how long it lived - has been recorded about it. Alfred's reign, by the way, was from 871 until 899.

As far as can be ascertained (as I am literally twenty-five per cent of the country's serious zoological historians much of my work is by



PICTURE: ANOTHER VIEW OF THE NORFOLK WALRUS © LYNN NEWS. USED WITH KIND PERMISSION.

no means easy). the next Walrus to put in an involuntary appearance here was one in the days of James I - whose reign, as far as England's concerned, was 1603-1625. Here we have rather more information, to the extent that it was shown in London.

Eventful centuries roll by; it's 12th October 1853 - and a young female Walrus, caught "in the Spitzbergen Seas" by Captain Henry of Peterhead, arrives in a moribund condition at the twenty-five year old London Zoological Garden: she dies the following day.

Another, a young male from Davis's Strait, was purchased by the same institution on 1st November 1867 - for £200; a vast sum in those days. Apparently he had been caught on 28th August by the crew of the steam-whaler Arctic (Captain: Richard Wells), and for some days had been tied to a ring-bolt on deck. Not surprisingly, he refused food for some time, but gradually was induced to take strips of boiled pork.

When the Shetlands were reached a supply of fresh Mussels (a far more suitable diet) was obtained and he took these avidly until Dundee was reached: whereupon he was transferred to the S.S. Anglia and conveyed to London under the personal care of the Zoological Society's almost legendary superintendent, A D Bartlett. He died on 18th December of that year.

Walrus have never thrived for long in British zoological gardens, but several places such as the New York Aquarium and Hamburg Zoological Garden have had considerable success with the species.

A friend of mine - who is a frequent correspondent to this publication - had several in his care when he worked at Hamburg, a job I wouldn't have undertaken for all the proverbial tea in China (although as a non tea-drinker I wouldn't give you a thank-you for it). I'm unfortunate enough to be a claustrophobe, who regards water as an extremely alien, indeed hostile, element: daft, I know, but I cannot help it.

Consequently I must be the only cryptozoologist brave enough, or honest

enough, to admit that I find large marine mammals repellent and repulsive - in fact they have very much the same effect on me that snakes have on many people - again. I'm the first to admit it's idiotic but there's nowt I can do about it. Anyway, I'm deviating somewhat. My friend assures that the Walrus is hyper-intelligent, a terrific personality and has a wonderful sense of humour.

But, of course, he would; wouldn't he...

EDITOR'S NOTE: We had a tremendous response to our 'phone in quiz last time. The answers, by the way were Nick Cave and the Birthday Party (*Release the Bats*), and the immortal Pop Will Eat Itself (*Defcon One*). This issue's 'phone in quiz is much simpler. Apart from the obvious one, name two rock songs with the word 'walrus' within the lyrics. The first person to telephone me with the answer wins a free subscription to this wonderful magazine.

WALRUSES IN TIME AND SPACE

by Darren Naish

As with so many other groups of extant animals, the sole living specimens of walrus, *Odobenus rosmarus*, represents but a fraction of the diversity that exists in its fossil relatives. The living walrus is of near circumpolar distribution, being essentially an animal of the Arctic pack-ice, and with populations in the north Pacific (Bering Sea and adjacent Arctic Ocean), north Atlantic (eastern Canadian Arctic, Greenland and Novaya Zemlya), and the Laptev Sea, north of Siberia. These three populations are often recognised as subspecies, though there is debate as to the validity of the Laptev Sea population (*O.r. laptevi*). The Pacific (*O.r. divergens*) and Atlantic (*O.r. rosmarus*) walruses are morphologically distinct - Pacific walruses being longer, heavier, and with longer tusks and wider skulls than Atlantic ones - and their rank and subspecies is not merely for taxonomic convenience, as it so often is. Incidentally, the Pacific form was given the subspecific name *divergens* (by Illiger in 1815) as its tusks were originally stated to have been more curved than those of the Atlantic form. If this observation is valid, then Illiger's type specimen (since lost or destroyed!) was different from known Pacific walruses (whose tusks are not more curved than those of the Atlantic form). Laptev Sea walruses seem to be most like the Pacific form.

Interestingly, the living walrus is truly native to the north Atlantic, and seem to have moved, via Arctic waters, into the north Pacific within recent geological times (within the last 30,000 years). This is especially significant as the earliest walruses were Pacific animals that moved (via the Central American seaway about 9 million years ago) into the Atlantic: Pacific walruses thereafter became extinct, and the Pacific was devoid of walruses until the recent invasion of *Odobenus*. Early walruses called *disignathines*, which flourished in east Pacific waters from mid Miocene to early Pliocene times (15-3 m.y.a.), were more like sealions than the living walruses and were not specialised mollusc-eaters (=durophagores), as is the living walrus. Their upper and lower canines were of equal size, and they probably ate fish. *Imagotaria*, from the mid-late Miocene of California, was a typical *disignathine* (fig. 1). *Odobenine* walruses, which first appeared in the Pacific about 6.5 m.y.a. began to enlarge their canines shortly before their migration into Atlantic waters, where the rest of their history occurred. By Pleistocene times, 1.6 m.y.a., all walruses bar *Odobenus* had died out.

There are Pleistocene fossils of the living walrus on both sides of the Atlantic: they occur as

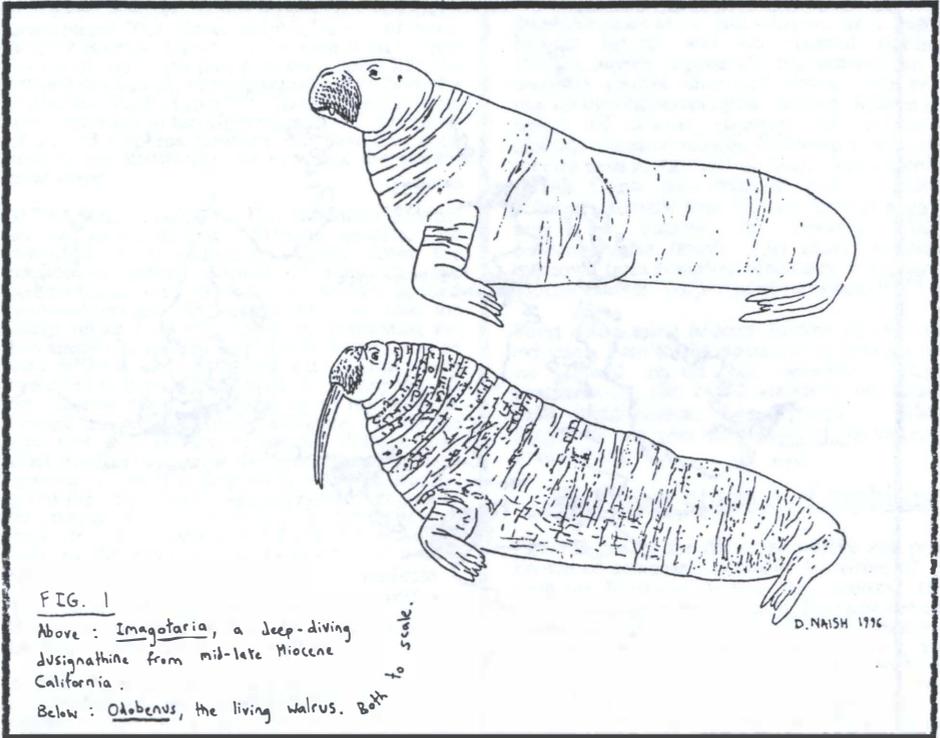


FIG. 1

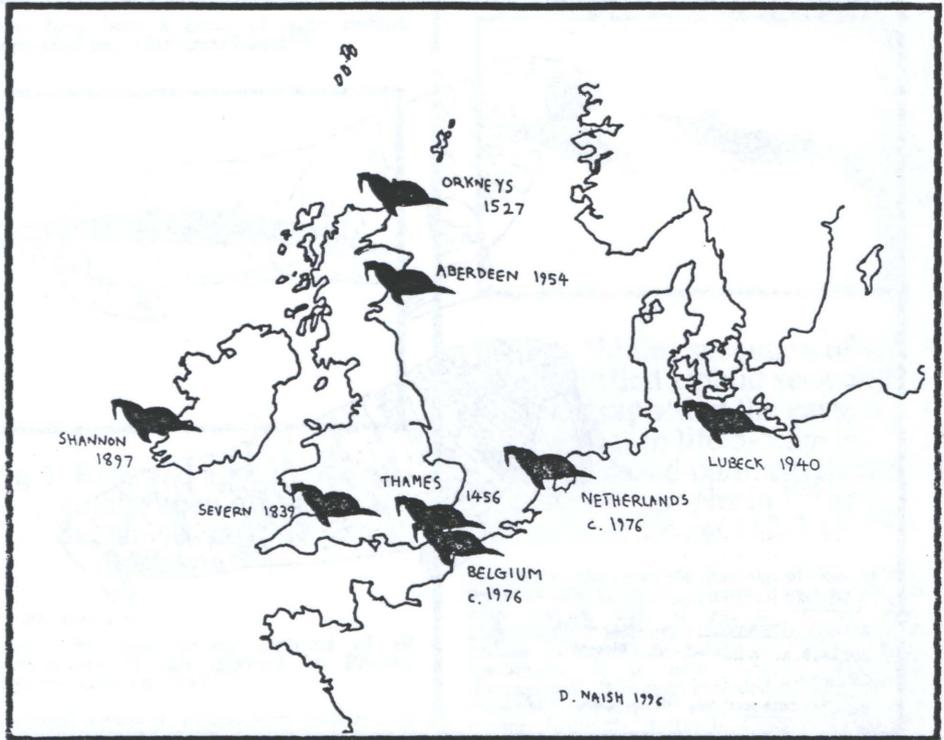
Above : *Imagotaria*, a deep-diving
Desingnathine from mid-late Miocene
California.

Below : *Odobenus*, the living walrus. Both to scale.

D. NAISH 1976

far south as the Carolinas in the west, and Paris in the east. In modern times, however, we expect walruses to be restricted to the Arctic. In the European region they are regularly seen around Spitzbergen and occur as vagrants around Iceland (where they have been seriously depleted by hunting) and Norway (31 records between 1900 and 1967). What about further south? A walrus captured in Dutch waters was sent, in 1520, to Pope Leo X in Rome. A year later, what appears to be the same specimen was illustrated by Albrecht Durer. We know that the specimen sent to the Pope was a walrus head, rather than a whole walrus, and this surely explains why Durer's illustration stops at the neck. In 1940 a walrus was reported from Lubeck Bay, Germany, and in 1977 P.J.H. van Bree reported an individual that made stops on the coasts of the Netherlands and Belgium.

As for the British Isles, stragglers have visited our shores for as long as records have been kept. In the seal 'bible', Judith King's *Seals of the World* (Oxford Uni. Press, 1983), King lists around thirty British walrus reports made between 1456 and 1954 (fig. 2). These include records from the Thames (1456), Orkneys (1527), Severn (1839) and Shannon, Ireland (1897), but with the majority (25 records between 1815 and 1954) from the Scottish coasts. The most recent of the latter are a dead animal washed up at Gairloch, Ross-shire.



in 1928, and a sighting on the shore at Collieston, Aberdeen, in 1954. Since King's book was published, two walrus have been seen on Shetland and one on Orkney (all three in 1986). The best known of all such vagrants, however, is 'Wally', apparently a young male walrus with a broken left tusk who, in 1981, made several stops on the English east coast. 'His' last visit, on the River Ouse north of Cambridge, was surprisingly far inland; here 'he' was captured and flown to Iceland. However, shortly afterward, a young walrus, also apparently with a broken left tusk, was seen off the Norwegian coast. 'Wally's' return?

As a variety of Arctic marine mammals - Harp seals (*Phoca groenlandica*), Hooded seals (*Cystophora cristata*) and Narwhals (*Monodon monoceros*) among them - have turned up around British coasts, even as far south as the English Channel in cases, the frequent visitations of walrus should not be so surprising.

Britain is one of those areas bridging biogeographical zones, and we have a rich and diverse fauna to prove it. Walrus included.

Ground Sloth Survival in North America

by Ben S. Roesch

The ground sloths were large, hairy, ground dwelling Edentate (*Xanarthra*) mammals. Edentates possess very simple or no teeth, and the order is composed of three sub-orders: Pilosa (including the ground sloths); Sloths; and Anteaters.

The name "Giant Ground Sloth" (or just "ground sloth"), is the common name for three supposedly extinct families of Pilosa: Megatheriidae, Mylodontidae and Megalonychidae. The members of these families originated and mainly evolved in South America but spread outwards to North America during the late Cenozoic, with some species even reaching the Northwest Territories in the Pleistocene. Many species were large and robust, with some megatheriids reaching the size, and sometimes even surpassing that of today's elephants.

The ground sloths supposedly died out 10,000 years ago in the Late Pleistocene extinctions, which also claimed many of the other 'ice age' mammals, notably the mammoth and the sabre toothed tiger⁽¹⁾. However, there has been an ongoing controversy over the possibility that these beasts may not have completely died out, and that some remnant populations of the giant mammal might have been able to survive to this day, or at least into historical times.

Reports of creatures that seem to represent ground sloths in modern times are well documented from South America⁽²⁾. These reports are still occurring, as the recent expeditions to the Amazon, led by American ornithologist, David Oren, in search of a "hairy and smelly" creature called the *mapinguari*, which Oren thinks is a ground sloth, have demonstrated⁽³⁾. With all the reports from South America of ground sloth type creatures, we might also expect some from North America. After all, ground sloths are a characteristic find from North American late Pliocene and Pleistocene faunas and they first arrived in North America when South America became connected in the late Pliocene (4), giving much time for possible traditions and reports among the Native

Americans and white settlers to crop up.

However, there is a remarkable absence of such reports. To my knowledge no-one has ever written on the subject, with the exception of Michael Bradley (which we shall discuss below), and even then only very little. Including Bradley's account, I have only been able to find two incidents, both from the Native American tradition, that could be interpreted 'off the bat' as surviving ground sloths. They are, however, rather interesting accounts.

We will first discuss Michael Bradley's report which comes from the traditions of the Micmac Indians of Nova Scotia, Canada. Bradley writes about this in 'More than a Myth', a book which is actually about his search for an elusive monster in Muskrat Lake (close to Ottawa, Ontario)⁽⁵⁾, and states:

"[The] Micmacs remember a time when they were plagued by 'giant squirrels'. Micmacs live in bark teepees and these pesky giant squirrels sometimes descended on Indian villages to devour these teepees or wigwams. The giant squirrels didn't harm the people, but they ate up their houses. Eventually these giant squirrels disappeared and the Micmacs were left in peace".

Bradley goes on to describe how this legend seems absurd at first, but which, if we look at the habits and anatomy of ground sloths, seems to make a lot of sense. After all, from what we know, ground sloths had long, furry tails, ate bark and other vegetation, (to a ground sloth an Indian teepee would be perfect fodder), and in fact looked very much like "giant squirrels". Certainly, if the above story is true, then it would seem that a group of very strange animals were living in Nova Scotia, and a ground sloth seems to be a good match. However, this clashes with currently accepted scientific paradigms of when the ground sloths died out.

Micmac legends occur no further back in history than about 500 A.D.⁽⁶⁾, and therefore if the 'giant

squirrel invasion' really occurred, it would provide excellent evidence that ground sloths were still surviving, perhaps precariously, at about the same time that the Vikings were plundering and pillaging - despite the fact that ground sloths were supposed to have become extinct 10,000 years ago.

In any case, as I mentioned above, there are other traditions, again from Native Americans of potential surviving ground sloths.

These traditions come from the Northern Tutchone nation, which originate from the Yukon, Canada, and have a very rich oral tradition spanning back many hundreds of years. Those traditions of interest to us were first revealed in newsletter #14 of the British Columbia Scientific Cryptozoology Club ⁽⁷⁾, in which the editor, Paul LeBlond, a cryptozoologist of high standard, presented an interview he had conducted with Ms. Dawn Charlie, who lived in the Yukon and knew of several Indian stories of strange creatures.

Ms. Charlie first told how she had moved to the Yukon from Toronto, Ontario in the early 1970s and soon met up with her future husband, Wilfred Charlie, a Northern Tutchone. Soon they were living in Carmacks, Yukon, and Ms. Charlie began to hear stories of strange animals reported in Tutchone tradition, as recounted to her by her husband and his relatives. One of these animals was the 'saytochin' ⁽⁷⁾, or 'Beaver Eater'.

According to Ms. Charlie the 'Beaver Eater':

"...is a large animal that eats beavers. It reaches under a beaver house, flips it up and eats the animals inside. When natives of the area were shown a book on extinct animals put out by the Smithsonian Institute, they identified the ground sloth as the Beaver eater".

There is no doubt that eating beavers seems strange behaviour for a ground sloth! As far as we know all species were 100% vegetarian. However, there is an explanation for this strange behaviour if, indeed, the 'saytochin' is a ground sloth. As we saw in the Micmac tradition previously examined, several alleged ground sloths descended on a small village to eat the bark teepees as this was easy-to-get food. Is it possible that when the Beaver-Eater was tearing apart a beaver log, it was not really after the beavers within, but rather the stock-pile of branches, bark and other vegetation that the beavers had industriously collected to make their

lodge? Again, this would essentially be a 'salad' just waiting for a lucky ground sloth to chance upon, and if a Native American spied upon the Beaver-Eater in the act of tearing open a beaver lodge, they doubtless would have assumed a likely carnivorous nature for the strange beast. The feat of tearing apart a beaver lodge would not have been a very hard task for a ground sloth; they had very large claws on their fore-feet which could easily have been employed for such a task.

In any case, the story of the saytochin has much more to it, as Ms. Charlie continues in the interview:

"Saytochin stories are ... very old but there are some recent reports. The latest report was from Violet Johnny, my husband's sister, who was fishing with her husband and her mother at the head of Tatchun Lake four or five years ago. An animal came out of the woods, eight or nine feet high, bigger than a grizzly bear. It was a 'saytochin' and it was coming towards them. They panicked, fired a few shots over its head and finally managed to get the motor going and took off. There are other reports. There is also a report that a white man shot one in a small lake in the area. Beaver-Eaters are supposed to live in the mountainous areas east of Frenchman's Lake."

This passage is very interesting indeed. In it Ms. Charlie cites an encounter with the 'saytochin' that took place in 1988 or 1989! The report isn't that specific but if they say that it was a 'saytochin' then it could only be a ground sloth! What else could it be? It is obviously not a known, currently recognised species such as a moose or a grizzly-bear, as the Tutchones would not make such a mistake. They have been familiar with the animals of the area since times immemorial. The report sounds like one of a sasquatch, but this doesn't seem possible as the Tutchones would be likely to have separate legends and stories about giant man-like creatures, as do many other tribes in North America ⁽⁸⁾. It really does seem that the best solution is a ground sloth!

However, this brings us back to the problem of the accepted extinction of the ground sloth about 10,000 years ago.

The Micmac legend of 'giant squirrels' is reason enough to speculate that ground sloths may have survived as recently as 500 AD, at least in the Nova-Scotia region of Canada. However, since no other similar reports have occurred since the

I arrival of white men (despite the fact that the region is now well populated with whites), and because the Micmacs mentioned that the giant sloths disappeared after a short while, it is easy to say that the giant sloth is now extinct in that area.

However, the Tutchone legends from the Yukon provide a completely different story altogether. It seems as if ground sloths could very well still be resident in the area today, as Johnny's report from only eight years ago shows. Certainly the great wilderness of the Yukon would provide ample space for a small population of such animals to live in harmony, and without many encounters with man.

This report may also explain the lack of reports of ground sloth like animals in North America. If they exist, they exist far from the reaches of modern man. Even so, it still seems strange that the two reports just discussed are the only two that I could find. However, it is possible that we have more reports - but under the name of a different cryptid.

I will probably start a debate about this, but I must ask:

Is it possible that some bigfoot/sasquatch reports from North America are really cases of a misidentified ground sloth? Let us briefly list the possible evidence for this:

1. The ground sloth could stand upright on its hind legs at least when feeding. It would then have looked like an upright animal resembling a bear. When coupled with its hairy body, it would certainly inspire thoughts of sasquatch in some frightened human who accidentally stumbled across it.
2. The ground sloth has been mistaken for a hairy humanoid before. The mapinguari of the Brazilian Amazon was thought of both by Ivan T Sanderson (10), and Bernard Heuvelmans (11) to be a sasquatch-like creature, yet as David Oren's recent quests and research have pointed out, the mapinguari is most probably a ground sloth.
3. About 140 (5.6%) of North American sasquatch reports tell of a nauseating or overwhelming stench (13). The mapinguari, now thought to be a ground sloth also possesses such a smell (14).

Certainly, I am not proposing that all sasquatch reports have really been of ground sloths, but I am presenting some evidence to suggest that a

small percentage of sasquatch/bigfoot reports could possibly be surviving ground sloths. Also, there is a good chance that the small fraction of 'smelly' sasquatch reports are actually ground sloths. I cannot, of course prove this last supposition besides the comparison with the equally smelly mapinguari. A strong smell would also be a more likely trait in a surviving ground sloth than it would be in a large anthropoid. This is mainly to do with the way that these animals were likely to have lived. They were large, slow and ponderous, and despite having large claws with which to protect themselves, they were probably not fast or agile enough to use them effectively. (It is thought that they were usually used for feeding). Having a strong smell, therefore, which they could 'turn on and off' at will would certainly be a very possible evolutionary step (15).

However, in 1967, when Roger Patterson was frantically filming a surprised sasquatch, featured in the now famous 'Patterson Film', he noted a smell akin to a 'dog rolling in wet manure'. (16). This could mean, if we accept that the 'Patterson Film' is not a hoax, that the alleged sasquatch is capable of producing a powerful smell similar to that of the mapinguari. Here my theory loses some credibility because there is no way to explain the animal in the 'Patterson Film' (if it is real) as a ground sloth.

In any case for now the 'Ground Sloth as Sasquatch' idea is simply an open-minded theory, and therefore it does have problems. Besides the one discussed in the previous paragraph, one might ask how a ground sloth, probably a slow and lumbering beast, living in geographical areas constantly being searched for sasquatch has managed to avoid detection. One possibility is that they not only live in remote areas but have a very small population. Another is that they are more adept at hiding than we would suppose - especially the smaller ones. If there are any surviving ground sloths in North America they are likely not to be much bigger than a black bear.

Despite sizes and measurements, the evidence of continuing survival of ground sloths in North America, particularly in the Yukon is rather intriguing. The Tutchone stories and legends are hard to dismiss as they also have legends of very real occurrences such as the time "ash fell from the sky" (17), in this case referring to the eruption of a nearby volcano in 700 AD. And if not ground sloths it is certainly something inexplicable.

Finally, as I finished writing this article, an interesting report came to my attention. In a recent edition of the American sasquatch newsletter Track Record, a letter written by Don Peterson was published as follows:

"Then the day the Space Shuttle blew up (Challenger, Jan 28th 1986), I was on a five state radio chat-about programme out of Bemidji (Paul Bunyan County) in northern Minnesota, and one call-in discussion from the year previous told of something that sounded like a South American ground-sloth walking upright, that they drove out of a very woody area".⁽¹⁸⁾

However exciting this report sounds it doesn't add up to much hard evidence. I am not sure as to the reliability of Don Peterson, and it should be noted that he mentioned the National Inquirer in the above quoted letter. As well, it would seem strange that Mr. Peterson would think that the creature "sounded like a South American ground-sloth walking upright", instead of just a bigfoot or another ape like creature. Just for the record Don Peterson is a sasquatch hunter from Washington State (with no scientific background), who actually worked with Ray Wallace, a rather questionable figure in the sasquatch world indeed 'it is believed that he hoaxed several alleged sasquatch photos, among other things'⁽¹⁹⁾. In any case, I don't see why Mr Peterson would take the trouble to hoax a story about a giant sloth in Minnesota when his main quarry is sasquatch. For now, at least, the above report will remain merely food for thought until further and more reliable information regarding it is turned up.

Certainly nothing can be said for sure until someone launches a serious expedition to either Minnesota or the Yukon to check out these rumours of living ground sloths, and to even try and bring home the evidence that will seal the fate of the story of ground sloth survival in North America - bones, skin or a body - dead or alive!

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Glen Kuban, Peter Massaro, John Moore and Ron Schaffner for valuable comments and material.

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Initial Bipedalism: A Theory of Human Evolution

by

Francois de Sarre

Our species is commonly believed to be four million years old, or thereabouts, and is commonly thought to have evolved from some kind of an ape.

How wrong, however, is this Natural History of mankind as defined with such solemnity by 'classical' anthropology? I would answer that it is completely untrue and that the whole story of our alleged Simian ancestry has been invented, and has, since the days of Darwin, has been imposed on us through scholarly precepts relayed to us through the newspapers and television.

An australopithecine (a very ancient ape), nicknamed 'Lucy' is presently considered by most investigators to be 'mother of humanity', but she merely represents a figurative 'missing link' between an early terrestrial biped and the quadrupedal chimpanzees of today.

For the last century at least, extraordinary anomalies have become widespread 'knowledge' and have thus become integrated into contemporary creeds of scientific belief

BIPEDAL GAIT AS THE EARLIEST FORM OF MAMMALIAN LOCOMOTION.

Such an assertion seems to be a direct contradiction of what we perceive to be 'proven' facts from our daily experience. It is currently believed by most observers that four legged animals remain in a more archaic state than ourselves. This is because until now Palaeontology has dictated that we allegedly evolved from some early quadrupeds.

As a zoologist I should surely take notice of what this science teaches; a science whose purpose is to explore the archives of our past from excavated remains, and interpreting these artifacts as the relictual supplies of ancient fauna.

I do not believe that life on earth is more than a few million years old, but this is not the purpose of this paper.

The concept that our current biodiversity of forms and structures has resulted purely from accumulated random changes caused by minute mutations, natural selection and adjusted adaptation over enormous periods of time is in itself scientifically flawed.

An important piece of my evidence comes from Embryology and comparative anatomy.

Every day, through experimentation, we can observe directly where we have come from, with the help of the real biological material that we possess. Not from stony, altered and evanescent substracts but from our own bodies.

We humans are fundamentally the same creatures which once lived and left the oceans by entering the land.

In previous articles I have, at great length, developed the theory that Man's large brain is not an indication of Simian ancestry. Indeed, we and the quadrupedal mammals all stem from a very primitive stock of bipedal mammals. Therefore, we all carry the same basic genetic properties as our ancestors possessed.

We steadily inherited the character traits of typical pioneers.

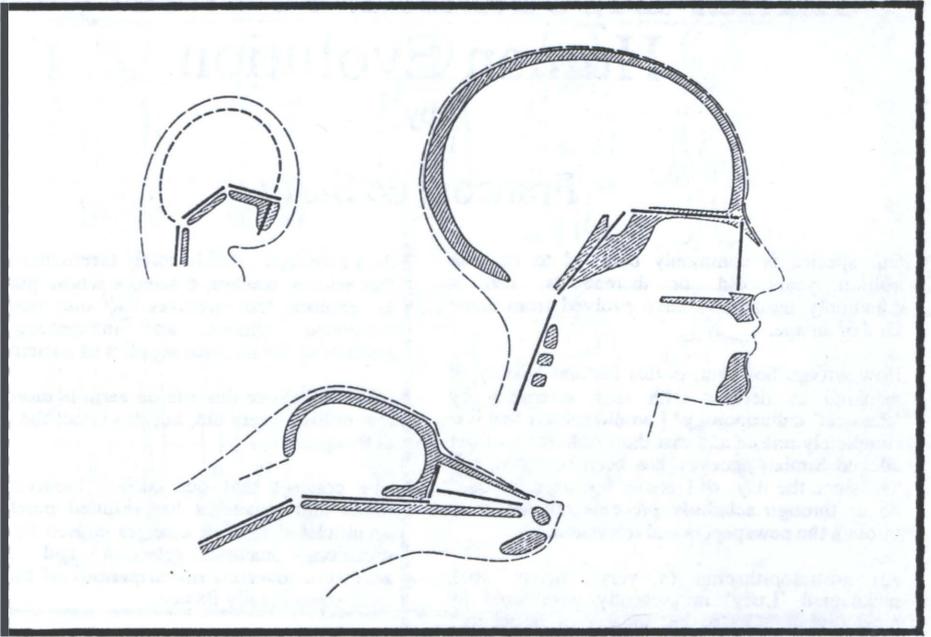


Figure One

Bending of the skull basis (after BOLK 1926).

below: dog's horizontal deck.
 above: (left) original bending in mammalian embryos.
 (right) bending of the skull basis in adult men.

At early stages of their embryonic development, all quadrupedal animals have the same 'big head' as people. Figure one, after the Dutch Biologist L.Bolk (1926), shows that the typical human bending of the basis of the skull is a prior phase in Mammalian octogenesis.

As far as quadrupedal mammals like dogs are concerned the skull basis forms a horizontal deck in relation to the axis of the body and the horizontal plane of the ground on which the animal is moving. In consequence, the position of the insert of the vertebral column at the back of the skull has become raised.

It would seem that, at a certain point in the embryogenesis, animal foetuses carry on developing beyond the point where the human embryo has become complete.

Furthermore, in bipedal Man, the volume and the weight of a primordial big brain has locked the bent skull base into the original embryonic position.

This is why, amongst all other vertebrates, Man has kept an upright position whilst standing or walking!

APES ORIGINATED FROM HUMAN ANCESTRAL STOCK.

The key error of today's evolutionists is to assume that man has descended from quadrupedal animals that resembled monkeys. It seems very easy to scan the fossil record for 'ancestors that fit' and then to design some ape-like creatures for our hypothetical line of descent.

Inversely, another explanation would be that apes such as Proconsul or the recently unearthed *Australopithecus ramidus* retained relict human features by specialising to an arboreal existence, where they made use of their prehensile arms, instead of, as commonly believed, having evolved into a man-like form.

Indeed, it appears that the apes should be considered as vestiges of the human lineage rather than as our antecedents.

Figure two is very convincing in the way that it shows how a monkey foetus resembles a human foetus rather than the other way around. Logically it appears that human evolution has never passed through a stage like that which characterizes the tree dwelling apes. In fact, Simians appear to have originated from a form similar to our own body shape.

We must therefore proceed with a complete re-evaluation of the common point of view as regards this topic. Let us therefore contemplate figure three - a scheme conceived by Adolf Schultz, a well-known American primatologist who made some very important discoveries in this field concerning the different relative proportions of the head, trunk and members during the stages of the growth of both Man and several of the apes from the foetal stage until maturity.

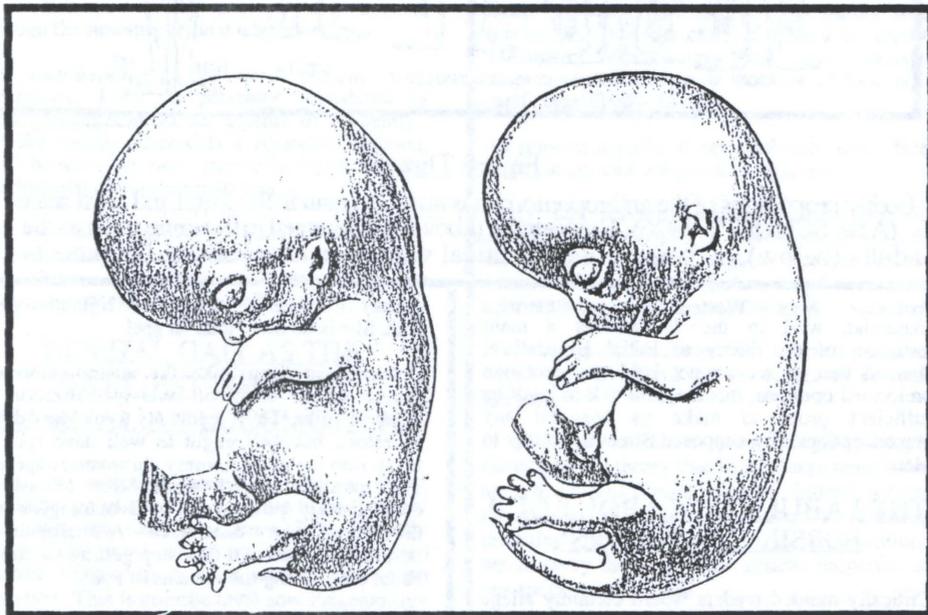
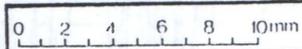


Figure Two. A Comparison of the fetuses of Man (left) and of Macaque (right) at comparative stages of their development (Man: 49 days, Macaque: 44 days).

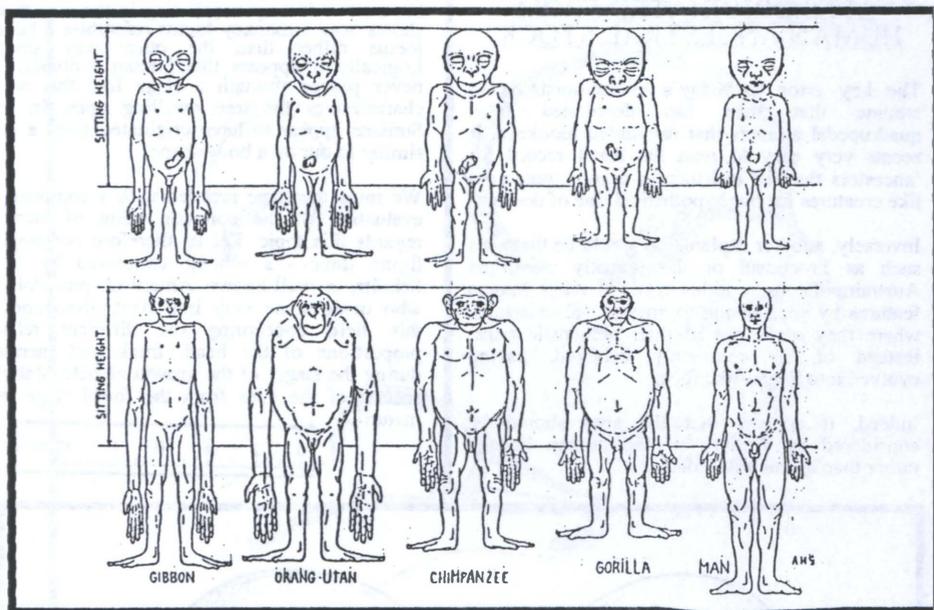


Figure Three.

Bodily proportions of the anthropomorphic apes and man in the foetal and adult stages. (After SCHULTZ, 1926). The foetuses (above) are arranged in the same order as the adults (below), all being given identical vertico-perineal sitting heights.

Professor Max Westenhofer, a German anatomist, who in the 1920s was a main instigator of the theory of Initial Bipedalism, claimed that, if we do not hold any sectarian preformed opinions, this diagram will in itself be sufficient proof to make us abandon any preconceptions of a supposed Simian ancestry to Man.

THE FABULATION ABOUT OUR FOSSIL 'ANCESTORS'.

Critically-minded readers would certainly allege that today's scientists are in position of 'intangible proofs' of our evolution from monkeys. Look out, however! Lucy, the world famous East African australopithecine is NOT the

mother of humanity, or even our figurative great aunt. She is no more than an ape!

Dehominised forms like the australopithecines appear as a result of over-specialization to arboreal life. They evolved from our direct ancestors, but they might as well have split up today into the contemporary chimpanzee species. The question that I would like to ask to contemporary professional palaeontologists like the ones who discovered *Australopithecus ramidus* is, when will they stop getting so excited about discovering the remains of apes?

I am sure that the famous idea of Man's Simian ancestry will soon join the other forgotten archives of natural history, where are stored the 'eminently scientific' orations and discourses of

16th Century naturalists like Conrad Gessner in Switzerland, and the Italian professor Aldrovani, about the lives and therapeutic qualities of their supposedly contemporary dragons!

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OUT OF THIS WORLD

Xenobiology by Graham Inglis

LIFE ON MARS?

The first indications that life has existed on a planet other than our own were outlined in August after a two year NASA study of a pear-sized Antarctic meteorite, called ALH 84001, believed to have originated from Mars.

It is now suggested that bacteria-like life developed on Mars three billion years ago (at about the same time life is believed to have begun on Earth) - but then fizzled out.

Most meteorites that hit our planet appear to be primordial remnants 'left over' from the formation of the solar system. It is believed that, around 16 million years ago, an object such as an asteroid hit Mars, scattering ejecta - some of which was flung into space. Current best estimates are that the item of ejecta now known as ALH 84001 encountered the Earth some 13,000 years ago, falling in Antarctica.

Three possible indicators of ancient life were found within this meteorite:

» Microscopic elongated tube-like structures: which possibly are fossils of bacteria-like entities.

» Deposits of a carbonate - a mineral product of some Earth bacteria and some geological processes.

» Aromatic hydrocarbons - organic molecules produced by some bacteria and by the processes of stellar evolution.

Individually, these three indicators are hardly conclusive; it is the presence of all three in one small rock that collectively constitutes the best evidence yet of life having existed elsewhere in the solar system.

The astronomers Hoyle and Wickramasinge have suggested that an earlier such rock-borne 'visitation' could have seeded Earth with its life. Effectively, we all could be Martians - and perhaps ALH 84001 bears some of our long-lost brethren.

MULTITUDINOUS ENIGMATIC CETACEANS, OR "WHALES IN LIMBO"

Part 4 in a 7 part series.
by Darren Naish

Unavoidably, cryptozoology is a narrow-minded science, for it is concerned almost solely with the mere identity of animals that people have seen. Its icons are typically creatures that, if real, are totally unique in the modern fauna. This contrasts with, say, a sighting of an unusual cetacean, an animal belonging to a group already consisting of almost 80 recognised living species. In this article I have attempted to review some of the more notable (and therefore better known) cryptocetaceans of which I am at present aware, and make conclusions on their possible identification and/or validity.

As will be explored in a future article, field identification and specific identity amongst known cetaceans is already a messy business, and many of the sightings alluded to here highlight the difficulties inherent in poor sighting records. However, do not despair. A number of the cetaceans reported here are so odd that they cannot be confused with anything else. If records of these animals truly represent a reality, they also reveal new diversity amongst living cetaceans.

A diversity of fins

The existence of, let us say, a sperm whale with a tall dorsal fin would indeed prove this point. Such an animal has indeed been seen. Like several other apparently new species discussed in this article, this animal is already well known in the cryptozoological community. Seen off the Shetland Islands in the 17th century, apparently several times, it was described by cetological pioneer Sir Robert Sibbald in 1692⁽¹⁾. It was of great size - apparently 15 m long (the biggest authenticated sperm whale bulls reach 18 or 19 m).

Sibbald commented upon the fact that teeth were present solely in the lower jaw, and though sperm whales are unmistakable animals in any case, this observation further shows that the animal was a sperm whale of some kind. Exactly how Sibbald came to be sure of this dentition I am not sure, as sperm whales' teeth are only visible at close range, and obviously only if the animal is lifting its head and opening its jaw. Carl von Linné, the great taxonomist, was obviously impressed enough with Sibbald's sperm whale to include it in his catalogue of organisms, the *Systema*

Naturae (first published in 1758) [2]. He treated it as a species and gave it the name *Physeter tursio* - 'sperm whale dolphin': the 'dolphin' alluding to the similarity of fin structure to that of dolphins. Fig. 1 is a highly conjectural restoration of this animal.

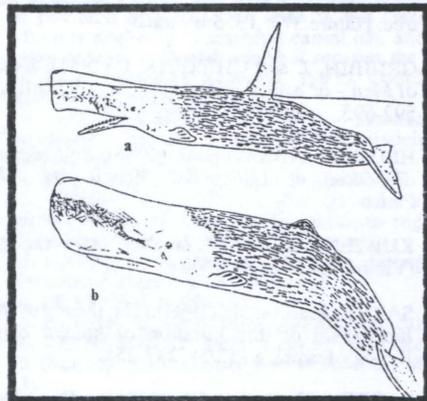


Fig. 1a. The conjectural restoration of *Physeter tursio*. 15m long in life.

Fig 1b. Adult male *P. catadon* for comparison. 18m - 19m long in life.

A possibility is that *Physeter tursio* is not a species, but was perhaps an abnormal individual. A dolphin with two dorsal fins was recorded from the coast of Cornwall in 1857⁽³⁾, but that it was amongst a school of otherwise normal animals strongly suggests a deformity (more about two-finned cetaceans in a moment!). However, it is hard to explain exactly why a sperm whale would accidentally end up with a tall dorsal fin as an abnormality. Other such external features, including tails in humans and external hind limbs in sperm whales can always

be explained as expression of an ancestral character still 'hidden' in the genome. Nobody knows if *Physeter* has the genetic 'memory' to generate such a dorsal fin. but if it does we may have an alternative theory.

More remarkable still are, as mentioned above, those cetaceans that would seem to have two dorsal fins! Michel Raynal, working in one case with Jean-Pierre Sylvestre [4], has already [5] reviewed reports of such cetaceans. Consequently, I will not analyse the area in depth.

Raynal and Sylvestre began by eliminating the confusion caused by a 'monstrous fish' (bearing two dorsal fins), reported by Mongitore to have stranded on the Sicilian coast in September 1741. Mongitore illustrated this animal - quite certainly inaccurately - and it bears scant resemblance to any cetacean. Treating it as such, however, in a publication from 1814, the French-American naturalist Constantine Samuel Rafinesque-Schmalz thought it to be a two-finned cetacean and named it *Oxypterus mongitori*. Raynal and Sylvestre regard the account as too vague to be useful, and I agree with them that the Sicilian animal was probably a large shark. In his 1989 book, *There are Giants in the Sea* [6], Michael Bright was obviously unaware of the original account of '*Oxypterus*', and erroneously refers to it as a 'twin-dorsal-finned black-and-white spotted dolphin', which it clearly was not.

In fact, Bright had confused '*Oxypterus*' with other animals, this time ones that do indeed appear to be two-finned cetaceans [7]. Perhaps the best-known of all cryptocetaceans - one even appears on the front cover of the magazine *Exotic Zoology* - these were apparently seen between Hawaii and Australia by the French naturalists Jean-Rene Constant Quoy and Joseph Paul Gaimard in 1819 [10]. They described and illustrated them (fig. 2) as being about double the size of a porpoise [11], marked with black and white spots, and with two curved dorsal fins, one set just behind the head. It would seem that they were viewed at close range, for some length of time, and furthermore by many of the crew members [10]. Quoy and Gaimard named their new dolphins *Delphinus rhinoceros*.

Having myself seen video footage where several dolphins gel together and create what appears to be a large multi-finned animal [12], I think it is tempting to speculate that such an explanation lies behind, at the very least, aboriginal myths of multi-finned cetaceans [13], as Raynal himself has also noted [5].

Quoy and Gaimard's sighting, however, is too precise to allow for such a possibility. Taking their accounts at face value, they clearly depict an

unknown cetacean: one that must also represent a new genus of dolphin. In accordance with this, Raynal and Sylvestre have proposed the name *Cetodipterus* [4].

What would appear to be another two-finned cetacean, but this time a mysticete, has also been thoroughly discussed by Raynal and Sylvestre [4,5]. Following his sighting of this animal between Peru and Chile in 1867, the Italian naturalist Enrico Hillyer Giglioli named it *Amphiptera pacifica* [14]. Giglioli's extremely competent illustration (on which fig. 2b is based) eliminates the need for description. *Amphiptera* is clearly remarkable. Such an animal would deserve its own genus, and Giglioli's own suggestion that the baleenopterid subfamily *Amphipterinae* be created for it seems entirely reasonable to me. Sightings of what would seem to be other specimens of *Amphiptera* have been reported [15], one even from 1983 [16].

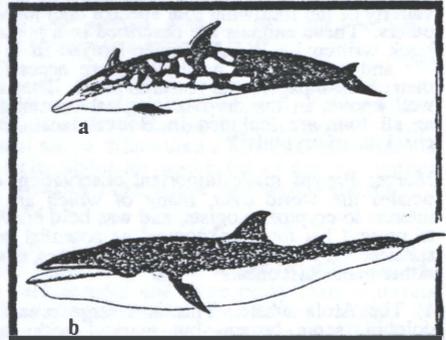


Fig 2a. A moderately speculative rendition of Quoy and Gaimard's two finned *Delphinus rhinoceros*. In life length would be 4-5m.

Fig 2b. Giglioli's *Amphiptera pacifica*, an 18m long baleen whale; unlike rorquals, it lacks throat grooves and has two dorsal fins.

As will become evident in the rest of this article, the majority of cryptocetaceans are, by cetacean standards, small. Joining *Physeter tursio* and

Amphiptera, however, are two large cryptic forms of right whale (family Balaenidae), both from the Arctic. For reasons of space, however, they will be discussed elsewhere, as will the cryptic whales of the Southern Hemisphere. These include yet another tall-finned toothed whale, a variety of monodonts^[17], and a grey and black dolphin probably related to Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*). A preliminary analysis of what may be another cryptocetacean, that seen by Sir Peter Scott in the Magellan Straits, has already been presented^[18,19].

Morzer Bruyns and his cryptocetaceans

Ironically the best known of all mystery cetaceans, more doubts are entertained as to the validity of the following four species than for any others. These animals are described in a popular book written by W.F.J Morzer Bruyns in 1971^[20], and as such are generally more accessible than obscure papers and research notes. They are well known in the cryptozoological community as all four are included in Heuvelmans' 1986 checklist of cryptids^[8].

Morzer Bruyns made important observations on whales the world over, many of which are of interest to cryptozoologists, and was bold enough to present his four 'unknowns' as potential new species. He even gave them species names, albeit rather makeshift ones.

1) The Alula whale. This is a large orca-like dolphin, sepia brown, but marked with star-shaped scars, apparently seen by Morzer Bruyns in the eastern Gulf of Aden.

He describes it as 6-7 m long and perhaps 1800 kg in weight. It has a rounded head 'similar but not quite as round as in *Globicephala* [the pilot whales]', and a prominent orca-like dorsal fin (fig. 3).

Importantly, Morzer Bruyns reports that several other officers besides himself watched one of these whales from their ship; a number of them made sketches, and later a painting was prepared. It would also seem that Alula whales were seen by Morzer Bruyns and his crew on more than one occasion, and also that more than one whale was seen at a time. On one occasion it is reported that the whales were seen to pursue a school of smaller dolphins, and furthermore, 'devouring of live whales by predators in this area was witnessed'. The predators doing the devouring could not be identified, but the inference is that they were Alula whales.

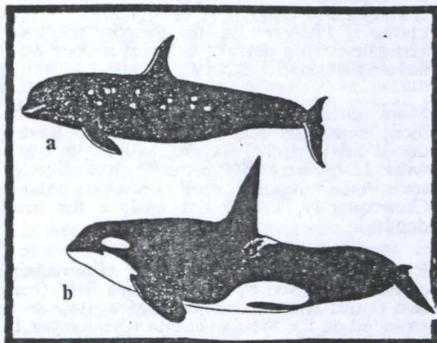


Fig 3a. Alula Whale based on rendition in (20). In life apparently 6-7m in length.

Fig 3b. Adult male Killer Whale (*O.orca*) for comparison. Between 8-10m in length.

If we are to assume that the Alula whale is real, and I really don't know whether or not we should, it is clearly a new species. Perhaps it is enough like the Killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) to belong in the same genus^[21]; it is clearly very much like that species in its morphology and behaviour. It is interesting that colour variants of the Kill r whale could, conceivably, be regarded as 'new' whales when seen: to my knowledge, however, all such variants have always been identified correctly. Watson reports the existence of all-black killer whales^[22], and all-white individuals have been seen several times^[23] (in 1970, one was captured for British Columbia's 'Sealand of the Pacific'. Called 'Chimo', it lived for 2 years^[24,25]). Other variants of *Orcinus* will be discussed in the next article in this series. However, the existence of aberrant orcas is irrelevant to the identity of the Alula whale: it is distinct from them.

2) The Greek dolphin. Of all living cetaceans, the small dolphins of the genus *Stenella* have been the biggest headache for taxonomists. Five living species are currently recognised^[27], but a bewildering variety of morphs and hybrids amongst these species ensure that some confusion remains.

Furthermore, if Morzer Bruyns is right, there are

another two species of this genus awaiting description! The 'Greek dolphin' is one of these: Morzer Bruyns claims to have seen it on several occasions, and says that it is very much like the Stripe dolphin (*S. coeruleoalba*) but without the distinctive black stripes^[20]. Though there is quite some variation in the pigmentation and patterning of Striped dolphins, nowhere else have they been said, to my knowledge, to ever lack the eye-to-anus stripe.

3) The Senegal dolphin. This is Morzer Bruyns' second as-yet-unknown *Stenella* species. He described it as differing slightly from the pantropical spotted dolphin (*S. attenuata*), the cosmopolitan, one of the two known spotted *Stenella* species. As anyone who has seen the things in the field will know, differentiating the two species of spotted dolphins in the wild can be very difficult, and identifying a third form where two already occur (as they do, as it happens, off the Atlantic coast of Africa) is, in my opinion, beyond the data ordinarily available. While the idea that new species of spotted dolphin may exist out there amongst the presently recognised 'species' of spotted dolphin is a fair possibility, given the very broad variation already known to be present in these species, I do not believe it reasonable to recognise a distinct form, viewed only in the field, as representative of a new species.

This does not necessarily mean that Morzer Bruyns is incorrect - it does, however, show that his distinctions may be on shaky ground.

4) The Illigan dolphin. This is perhaps the most remarkable of the cetaceans Morzer Bruyns claims to have seen, this time in the Mindanao Sea, amongst the Philippines. It has a brown back, yellow flans, a pink belly and, most interestingly, appears to be very similar in size and shape to the Melon-headed whale (*Peponocephala electra*).

As Heuvelmans has observed^[8], it is particularly noteworthy that Morzer Bruyns seems to have been aware of a *Peponocephala*-like whale before *Peponocephala* itself was deemed to be truly distinct from other dolphins. As Morzer Bruyns did not publish these observations until after *Peponocephala* was described as a new genus^[28] however, the best piece of supporting evidence is void!

I also find it hard to believe in a very brightly coloured dolphin when all of its closest relatives (either the killer whale - pilot whale group^[29], or the *Lagenorhynchus* species) are always marked in blacks, whites and greys.

However, there is no real reason why an Illigan dolphin cannot exist. But what are we to make of Morzer Bruyns and his claimed sightings? Besides having supposedly encountered the four cetacean species discussed above - all as yet unseen by other cetologists - Morzer Bruyns also writes of several sightings of unidentified ziphiid - beaked whales, including a rust-brown species seen in the Gulf of Aden. Then there is a 'South China Sea dolphin' and a 'Malacca dolphin': animals that, Morzer Bruyns suggests, may be similar to Fraser's dolphin (*Lagenodelphis hosei*) - yet again, an animal unknown from complete specimens at the time of Morzer Bruyns' purported observations^[20,30].

Short of accusing Morzer Bruyns of fabricating evidence, I am totally unsure as to how seriously we should regard his accounts. Stephen Leatherwood, the world authority on cetacean field identification, has referred to Morzer Bruyns as one who has 'muddied the waters' of field cetology^[31].

The most elusive of ziphiids

Ziphiids are by far the most elusive and poorly known of cetaceans, probably by virtue of their deep-sea lifestyle. Within this century, seven new species have been named, the most recent of these in 1991^[32]. Currently hardly reported in the zoological press is another new species, again from the eastern Pacific^[33]. As I write, the formal description of this species awaits publication^[34]. Yet again, here is proof that new cetacean species await discovery. So might there be other unknown ziphiids out there?^[35]

Again as of writing, Longman's beaked whale (*Mesoplodon [=Indopacetus] pacificus*) has been described solely on the basis of skeletal remains^[36]. We just don't know what the complete animal, dead or alive, looks like. This has led to some interesting speculations, as there are several ziphiid sighting records that do not match known species: might these have been live specimens of Longman's beaked whale?

For example, Mark Carwardine reports that two large mesoplodonts were seen, by 'experienced observers', in waters around the Seychelles in 1980^[37]. These animals agreed in size and morphology with what is known of Longman's beaked whale (namely, two skulls) and were light grey. Their appearance was reconstructed in 1995^[38] and appears as fig. 4 here. Another suggestion is that the rust-brown ziphiids seen by Morzer Bruyns in the Gulf of Aden may themselves have been Longman's beaked whales

as may have been a group of large ziphiids photographed near Christmas Island^[22].

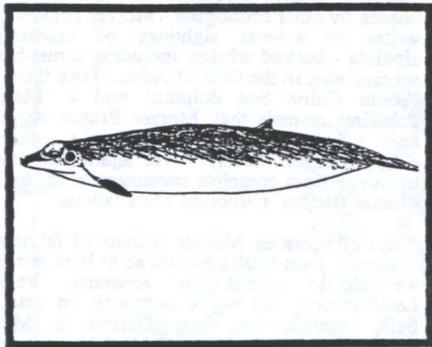


Fig 4. Restored appearance of ziphiid seen off the Seychelles in 1980. Based on⁽³⁸⁾.

Presently the most widely reported of all cryptocetaceans is that reported by Pitman, Aguayo and Urban in 1987^[39].

This animal agrees in morphology with known mesoplodonts and is notable for occurring in two distinct colour morphs that, on occasion, have been seen together. One is larger, has a broad whitish band sweeping diagonally from behind the head to the tailstock (fig. 5) and displays numerous scratches and scars.

These are typical of male mesoplodonts which, unlike the females and juveniles, have protruding teeth and seem to use them in fights with other males. It can therefore be deduced that this form is the male. It has several times been seen associated with a second, less distinctive, uniform grey-brown animal.

Probably female, this second form can only really be identified as the same species as the 'male' when it is seen together with it. Indeed Pitman and colleagues write: 'The brown animals are relatively nondescript and separating them from other mesoplodonts in the field may not be possible'^[39].

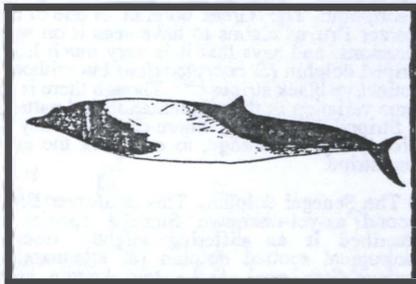


Fig 5. 'Male' specimen of an unidentified ziphiid seen and photographed in the eastern Pacific. In life 5-5.5m in length. Based on illustrations and photographs in⁽³⁹⁾ and illustration on pp.112-3 of⁽³⁷⁾.

As regards the absolute identity of this animal, three possibilities exist. Firstly, it may be a brand new species and, if so, as it has been photographed and seen on more occasions than certain mesoplodonts which are known from specimens, it is now certainly the best documented. It is even included in both recently published popular^[37] and technical^[27] field guides. Secondly, it may be a race of an already known mesoplodont, in which case we are dealing with a new subspecies. I consider this unlikely, but it remains a possibility (two other poorly known but morphologically distinct mesoplodonts - Hubbs' (*M. carlhubbsi*) and Andrews' beaked whale (*M. bowdoini*) - are considered by some experts to be subspecies of the same species.

Thirdly, this may be an already known species, but one not yet positively identified alive, or known from material other than a skull. Here we return to Longman's beaked whale. That this species has only been recorded with certainty from Queensland and Somalia does not rule out the possibility of it occurring in the east Pacific: ziphiid species are notorious for stranding miles away from their expected ranges. The best example of this is probably Gray's Beaked Whale (*M. grayi*). This seems to be a southern form, with a number of strandings restricted to the latitudes of New Zealand, Tierra Del Fuego and South Africa.

In 1927 however, a specimen stranded at Kijkduin in the Netherlands! It is not therefore inconceivable that Longman's Beaked Whales might be frequently observed off the west coast of Central America. However a true disclaiming characteristic might be size: the Pacific species is small (5 - 5.5 m) whereas Longman's is large (7 - 7.5 m, this length extrapolated from the skulls).

Further complications arise in view of suggestions that (1) the Seychelles whales, or (2) the Gulf of Aden whale, or (3) the Christmas Island whales, were themselves Longman's beaked whales, for if any of them are, the Pacific form must be something else again. Conversely, if the Pacific form is Longman's beaked whale, then the Seychelles, Gulf of Aden and Christmas Island beaked whales will still be unidentified, and all we will know is that they are not specimens of *Mesoplodon pacificus*. (Add to all this the fact that other as-yet-unidentified ziphiids have been referred to in the literature.)

Finally, it is even possible that the new Chilean beaked whale may be something to do with Pitman et al's form. Publication of the description will reveal whether such a speculation is valid^[34].

Less obviously, but still most likely, ziphiids were the 9 m long whales watched by famous nineteenth century naturalist Philip Gosse. He described animals with elongate bodies - black dorsally, white ventrally - with white pectoral fins and long pink-tipped snouts^[40]. Taken at face value, his account most certainly describes an unknown cetacean and, reconstructed with a mesopodont body as template (fig. 6), this is rather obvious. With no other recorded sightings, let alone specimens or photos, this animal's purported existence remains, like others we have seen, in limbo and, at t is stage, nothin more can be sa d.

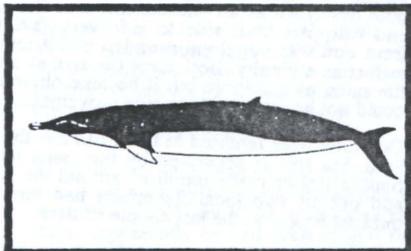


Fig 6. A tentative restoration of the 9m long ziphiid apparently seen by Gosse in the North Atlantic.

The cryptocetaceans only touched on in this article, as well as others, will be presented in another article.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Michel Raynal for his help and interest in my work, and to Alexandre Zerbini for literature on new ziphiids and monodonts. Thanks also to Richard Ellis for discussion of poorly known ziphiids, to Richard Muirhead for his uncovering of obscure documents, to Jon Downes for access to CFZ archives, and to Stephen Leatherwood for comments. As always, thanks also to my friends Ben Roesch and John Moore for interminable discussions, helpful comments and a constant stream of literature. This article is dedicated to the memory of Boba Fett the budge.

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10. QUOY, J.R.C and GAIMARD, J.P. 1824. *Voyage Astour du Monde Execute sur les Corvettes de S.M. l'Uranie et la Physicienne Pendant les Annees 1817, 1818, 1819 et 1820* Publie par M. Louis de Freycinet. Zoologie. Phillet Aine (Paris) vol 1: 86
11. Unfortunately, we do not know if they were referring to true porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*), or to dolphins, for whom the name porpoise has often been used. Either way, it makes little difference to the approximate size of the two-finned species.
12. NAISH, D W. In press. *Analysing video footage purporting to show the 'migo' - a lake monster from Lake Dalataua, New Britain.* The Cryptozoology Review 2.
13. STEWART, H. 1979. *Looking at Indian Art of the Northwest Coast.* Douglas and MacIntyre (Vancouver and Toronto). Remarkd on also in ref 5.
14. GIGLIO I, H H. 1870. *Note intorno la Distribuzione della Fauna Vertebrata nell'Oceano Prese Durante un Viaggio Intorno al Globo 1865-68.* Giuseppe Civelli (Florence)
15. p 364 of ref 9.
16. MAIGRET, J. 1986. *Les cetaces sur les cotes ouest-africaines: encore quelques enigmes!* Notes Africaines 189: 20-24. An Amphiptera-like beast is described in this article. See also comments in ref 5.
17. 'Monodonts' are belugas, narwhals and their extinct relatives. An article devoted to cryptic monodonts will be published elsewhere.
18. NAISH, D W. 1996. *Cryptozoology: the page 254 story.* A&M 8: 23-29

19. I presently think it most likely that Scott's dolphins were specimens of *Cephalorhynchus eutropia* after all.
20. MORZER BRUYNIS, W.F.J. 1971. *Field Guide of Whales and Dolphins*. Mees (Amsterdam)
21. Sylvestre has gone further than this, and both includes the Alula whale in his entry on Orcinus orca, and refers to it as a 'sort of killer whale' (pp 125-126) in SYLVESTRE, J.-P. 1993. *Dolphins and Porpoises: A Worldwide Guide*. Sterling (New York)
22. WATSON, L. 1988. *Whales of the World*. Hutchinson (London)
23. A remarkable 74 records of all-white or mostly white killer whales, seen between 1923 and 1959, are listed in CARL, G.C. 1960. Albinistic killer whales in British Columbia. *Prov. Mus. Nat. Hist. Anthropol. Rep.* 1959: 1-8
24. HOYT, E. 1990 *Orca: The Whale Called Killer*. Robert Hale (London). 'Chimo's' capture, medical problems and death are discussed on pp 115-122. Worthy of note is that all of the orcas in 'Chimo's' pod were malformed in some way: Hoyt mentions speculations that they may have been a team of rejects that had teamed up together.
25. COUSTEAU, J-Y and DIOLE, P. 1972. *The Whale: Mighty Monarch of the Sea*. Cassell (London). Photos of an 'albino killer whale of the Juan de Fuca Strait (near Seattle)' are included on pp 232-233. Ellis (p 169 of ref 26) notes that 'the circumstances under which the animal was photographed are not clearly explained'. The whale is probably the same as 'Chimo': Hoyt (p. 117 of ref 24) mentions Cousteau's interest in 'Chimo' and Seattle is in close proximity to Victoria, the location of 'Sealand'
26. ELLIS, R. 1983 *Dolphins and Porpoises*. Robert Hale (London)
27. JEFFERSON, T.A., LEATHERWOOD, S and WEBBER, M.A. 1993. *Marine mammals of the world*. FAO (Rome)
28. NISHIWAKI, M and NORRIS, K. 1966. A new genus *Peponocephala* for the odontocete cetacean species *Electra electra*. *Sci. Rep. Whales Res. Inst.* 20: 95-100
29. In 1866 Grey recognised this group as a family distinct from other dolphins and named it Globicephalidae. Some cetologists today recognise this group while others treat it as a subfamily of the Delphinidae. Still others reject it, believing the different globicephalids to be independently derived. I am unaware of any good characters that prove its monophyly.
30. *Lagenodelphis hosei* was described from skeletal material in 1956: FRASER, F.C. 1956. A new Sarawak dolphin. *Sarawak Mus. Jour.* 7: 478-503. Specimens in their entirety began turning up in 1971, revealing for the first time the external appearance of this species. Two papers were published in 1973: PERRIN et al. Rediscovery of Fraser's dolphin (*Lagenodelphis hosei*). *Nature* 241: 345-350. TOBAYAMA et al. *Records of the Fraser's Sarawak dolphin in the western North Pacific*. *Sci. Rep. Whales Res. Inst.* 25: 251-363
31. LEATHERWOOD, S. *Pers. comm.* 1995
32. REYES, J.C., MEAD, J.C. and Van WAEREBEEK, K. 1991. A new species of beaked whale *Mesoplodon peruvianus* sp. n. (Cetacea: Ziphiidae) from Peru. *Marine Mammal Science* 7: 1-24
33. Van WAEREBEEK, K. 1996 *New beaked whale off Chile*. *Marine Mammal Society Newsletter* 4 (2): 3
34. According to ref 33, publication will be in REYES, J., Van WAEREBEEK, K., CARDENAS, J.-C. and YANEZ, J. *Boletín del Museo Nacional de Historia Natural de Chile*. It will be written in English.
35. An unabridged discussion of cryptic ziphiids will be published in *The Cryptozoology Review*.
36. LONGMAN, H.A. 1926. New records of Cetacea. *Mern. Queensland Mus.* 8: 266-278

19. I presently think it most likely that Scott's dolphins w
37. CARWARDINE, M. 1995 *Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises*. Dorling Kindersley (London)
38. Illustration by Martin Carron on pp 134-135 of ref 37
39. PITMAN, R.L., AGUAYO, A. and URBAN, J. 1987. *Observations of an unidentified beaked whale (Mesoplodon sp.) in the eastern tropical Pacific*. *Marine Mammal Science*. 3:345-352.
40. GOSSE, P.H. 1851. *A Naturalist sojourn in Jamaica*. Longman Brown, Green and Longman's. London.

Letter from the Lochside

by Richard Carter

'LIZZIE':

THE LOCH LOCHY MONSTER



'Lizzie' of Loch Lochy was seen on 11 September by staff and guests of the Corrieour Lodge Hotel situated on the shore of Loch Lochy. Sandra Turner who was working in the hotel dining room saw three large dark humps about one mile away.

Joined by Kate Allan they, together with 16 guests, watched the object move in what they both described as an unusual manner. The tail end whipped from side to side very fast; the front end was large and rounded and it moved as fast as a dinghy. Both gave the size as about the same as a dolphin but it became obvious it could not be, by its side to side movement.

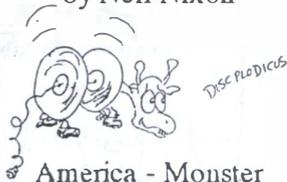
Dolphins were reported in Loch Linnhe, the sea loch, but this is separated by the canal locks. Sandra Fraser made inquiries around the Loch and one or two local fishermen had reported unusual wakes in the last couple of days.

The sighting ended when the three humps moved out of sight. No-one else from around the Loch reported seeing anything strange.

Another selection from the legendarily non-existent compilation album:

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL CRYPTO

by Neil Nixon



America - Monster

After their first single - 'Horse With No Name' had peaked at number 3 in the UK, the folk/rock band America meant very little in this country. In the USA they were eclipsed only by The Eagles in terms of record sales during the seventies heyday of country rock. The band's strengths were direct melodies and harmonies wrapping apparently simple lyrics.

In 1977 the band cut 'Monster' as part of their final album as a trio - 'Harbour'. The track has the deceptive simplicity of 'White Album' period Beatles. In the opening lines we discover that a 'monster' has crawled from underground. The creature was 'burning his face as he ran through he town'.

Each line seems simple enough but an overall scan of the two-minute song throws up a series of riddles. 'Hard court and harmony just ain't the same'... 'Red and blue want to like a hole in the head.' etc.

Built around an improbably simple chord progression, this little gem meanders to an open end. Superficially, it's nonsense; ultimately, it's what you make it; probably, it's a riddle.

Using a monster motif and title as a clue, it throws in a solution halfway through with the line 'got all these pictures, just need the frames.' In other words, the thing that will make complete sense of the whole puzzle is missing for the singer too. Lacking a literal truth the song is a clever exercise in using a monster motif as a metaphor for all the riddles and choices we face in life.

America were frequently slagged as lame copyists and purveyors of high school poetry. This song wouldn't have been out of place on The Beatles' 'White' album or 'It's a shame about Ray' by The Lemonheads.

NORTH OF THE BORDER

Caledonian Curiosities from the artist formerly known as Tom Anderson

Edinburgh Zoo authorities were worried about their cheetah's sedentary lifestyle and its inherent detrimental affect upon their livers. This is due to that organ's need for energy bursts and not, as you may have supposed, to their having gained access to the lounge bar of the adjacent hotel.

Researchers have developed a training machine constructed of, among other things, pulleys, cable and a dead rabbit...

A seven foot, four inch leatherback turtle has been washed ashore at Europic Ness, Isle of Lewis. Emanating from the mid Atlantic or Caribbean, it was badly decomposed and, according to the coastguard who found it had ridden the current of the Gulf Stream for some time. It was the first stranding of this species locally for ten years. At the time of writing (3rd October) it remains on the beach, it's removal dependant on the tides.

There seem to be strange things afoot in the waters around the Orkneys. Half the islands are whale watching now following the upsurge in activity lately - fifteen Minke's stranded on an radian beach, Humpbacks, Orcas, a Beluga, Basking Sharks are common (possibly local hyperbole, I know they're not rare in these parts).

The marine situation up here is in a state of flux at the moment, things appearing where they haven't before and migrations around the east coast of bottle nosed dolphins, previously unknown in Aberdeen Bay.

There is obviously a long term pattern emerging here. As yet we don't know whether its climatic, nutrient or hydrologically influenced, or down to something as yet unknown. Watch this space...

(Did I write that? Stupid damn phrase! Blame the Special Reserve 8.5%. I always do...)

Editorial Note: We usually blame the 'White Lightning' or Gramms unaccountable taste for 'Hawkwind' circa 1972.

As most of my recent postings has been prefaced with the words "Without Prejudice" it is a joy to be able to present a rather bizarre selection of:

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER

The Editor would like to stress that opinions expressed by individual letter writers, and indeed by contributors to the magazine under any capacity, do not necessarily correspond with those held by the editorial team. Whilst every attempt is always taken not to infringe anyone's copyright or to print anything libellous any such infringement's are the responsibility of the individual author!

THE WONDER HOUSE

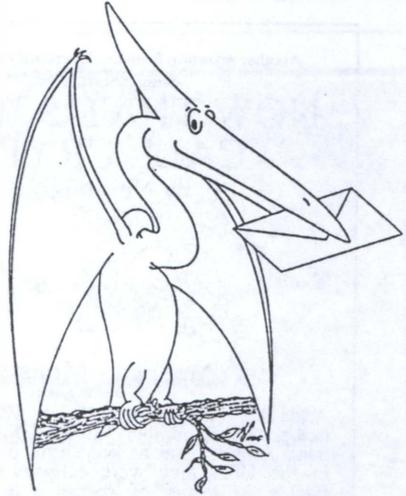
If one will excuse the seeming paradox, I absolutely, albeit reluctantly, endorse the Editor's wry comments about the current surly unhelpfulness of so many of the staff at the British Museum (Natural History) - or as they prefer to dub it, the Natural History Museum.

There was a time, up to the 1960s, when it was indeed a pleasure to research at this place, and to seek the enthusiastic assistance of its knowledgeable and cheerful staff - as indeed I have commented upon in more than one of my books.

Now it's all changed - even to the extent of a standard question barked at you as soon as you request information from any department: "Why do you want to know this? Is it for commercial purposes?" If you think this sounds so preposterous that I must obviously be making it up as part of my own "Let's hate the B.M. (Nat. Hist) Week", just try a simple experiment for yourself: give them a ring and ask some thing.

As has become fashionable in so many places these days, many of the staff are over-confident, over-educated, bossy and mouthy young-to-youngish women, and these seem to take particular a d peculiar delight in being unhelpful.

Some time ago I had an unfortunate conversation with such a person at the Kent County Record Office, and was so annoyed I made an official



complaint to the head of department - who turned out to be another woman. To my accusations of truculence and aggressiveness I got "Well, can you blame her - a woman trying to make her way in a man's world?"

So now you know.

CLINTON KEELING

By popular demand we are proud to bring you:

THE RETURN OF ERIK SORENSON

1. Fortean Zoologists,
Cryptic creatures
and friend of the dragons.
Chasing wild geese,
heresy, hearsay.

2. Braving ridicule
from the negative orgasm
of blind hatred.
In rigor mortis minds
with bigger monsters.

3. Reward? The chase t e search
for observation, the son of anecdote.
The fight, so hard
like herding cats.
The wins, the losses.

4. Why do it?
In noble few hundred
in brotherhood of men

with desire
to know.

5. In new Middle Ages,
and future degenerations.
Pattern in darkness
torchbearers in network,
waiting for dawn.

SWISS MISS

Dear Jon,

.... a few comments on issue #10.

To the article by Neil Arnold on Wild Boars. In Switzerland the boar is rather well represented and it's also hunted and eaten (though I never tasted it). If you want to know some more - just tell me.

The letter from Tom Anderson reminded me of a similar experience that I had at school, only in reverse. My teacher had bought a greenfinch and told us it was a "Green Tit". I was only six but I knew she was wrong although I never admitted it! I wonder what a greentit looks like?

Also, to the letter of Mr Keeling. I wanted to say that I absolutely love the "Now that's what I call crypto" column and I find it utterly funny. Of course if someone like Mr Keeling doesn't have the slightest interest in rock music - he (or she) won't understand it! Please keep it where it is....

Best wishes and good luck,

Sunila sen Gupta.
Switzerland.

Editorial Note: Sunila also asked us to point out that her cartoon which was included in issue 10 originally appeared in French in a wonderfully bizarre little book called "The Dahu", which was published by:

Editions de la Giraffe
Musée d'histoire naturelle
CH-2300, La Chaux-de-Fonds
Switzerland.

Her memories of her six year old 'greentit' experience triggered memories of a certain teacher in Hong Kong who told your editor (aged seven) that a pony was a baby horse...

Were we all taught by idiots?

Whilst in 'rock music mode' Pink Floyd aficionados will be sad to hear that in the last issue there was only one wild boar

article ready because I have been wanting to use the headline "Pigs (Three different Ones)" for ages!

A RAINBOW WARRIOR

Dear Mr Downes

I was interested in your editorial remarks on the "Moth Menace" on p10 of the last issue, where you wondered if climate change was responsible for the infestations.

I have increasingly been thinking about the area of common interest that green activists (like me) and cryptozoologists share. The hunt for cryptids often involves previously-thought-extinct animals, whilst Greenpeace - and other environmental organisations seek to prevent further extinctions. Also, "out-of-place" animals often become so because of shifting ocean currents as the planet warms up and local climates start to change.

Many cryptozoologists believe, I imagine, in the theory of evolution. They are thus well placed to ask themselves whether or not the "survival of the fittest" instincts that served our remote ancestors so well are really the best principles on which to base a modern civilised society.

The Market Forces creed, based on these literally mindless instincts, leads to the mass dumping of car batteries in the Philippines and leaky drums of poisonous waste in Western Africa, for instance. Norway and Japan continue their assault on the whale populations. Planned obsolescence wastes energy and resources. Asthma and skin allergies are rife as car emissions soar and our food is debased with additives, all in the name of global market competition.

Yet how many of us muse over any of this as we push our shopping trollies around the local supermarket?

The power of the Market is, of course, sometimes brought to bear on the problem - but usually a heavy social price has to be paid. For instance, old age pensioners and the unemployed are subsidising big industry when water companies clean up contaminated beaches: the cost is added to every water bill and the big users actually get discounts! It's the bosses in the boardrooms who are the parasites on society, not the New Age travellers and the widows of those who fought to deliver Europe from Nazism.

Whatever we do to the planet, it will stabilise; an

equilibrium will emerge. The question is, can that new-found state of equilibrium support the kind of life we would wish our children to enjoy - or, indeed, can it support ANY life? Venus, for instance - the planet where a runaway greenhouse effect has already occurred - is in a state of stable equilibrium. The surface temperature is always around 400 deg. C and the hurricane winds faithfully spray not just water, but sulphuric acid, around the Venusian landscape.

Environmental stability is not and never will be an issue, where Earth is concerned. Quality of life is - or should be.

The Market Forces creed is catching on: here in England all three main political parties are now fully committed to it. America has been for years - with the appalling social and environmental results we already know about. Russia is now moving from totalitarian neglect to Market Forces.

On Earth, cryptozoologists and green activists join climatologists as being among those people with the clearest view of the warning signs. These signs are not merely of academic interest; they should make us ask the question, what are we going to do about it all?

Yours faithfully

Steve Johnson
Wolverhampton

OMENS OF MISFORTUNE?

by Neil Arnold

Science is often quick to dismiss tales of unfamiliar animals; however the sightings continue. Some of these animals seem prehistoric - not so much out-of-place as out-of-time. Others are so hideous and unrecognisable that they could be participants in some obscure animal freak show. There are even those entities that seem to have the characteristics of ghosts. Although many strange reports are dismissed as hallucinations or hoaxes, or the product of attention-seeking idiots or overactive imaginations, a number of these sightings suggest some sort of spiritual entity - they are beyond the possibilities of nature as we usually understand it. The thought that we humans may be sharing our void with other forces is frightening enough, but there are many reported experiences which lead me to believe that our "dimension" is on a parallel with some other - and somewhat darker -

plane. A plane where creatures from millions of years ago are still alive: a dimension where dinosaurs still roar, serpents swim the seas and giant birds soar overhead.

Through the years, tales of great winged beasts, disfigured monsters, hairy men and cyclops cats have come to the fore. The most common of phantom creatures are the Black Dogs and the sinister Mothman. It is as if these demons are created on an emotional level by certain individuals and, like ghosts, can flicker onto our everyday level - but often only being perceived by the "invoking" individual. Various folklore omens and "signs" have emerged through the ages - for instance, death is the misfortune forewarned by the cry of a banshee, the howl of a hound and the screech of a cat. However, visions which seem to foretell moments of fate and misfortune may be misidentifications of other phenomena. The Black Dogs of Devon are seen by many and not always as a death impending - they may be mistakenly-identified black leopards. Mothman may in fact be an oversized eagle. Still unlikely; but a lot more natural than two-headed tigers, griffins and horses with human faces - creatures surely beyond nature's capabilities.

This certainly seems to be the case when we flick through the thousands of sightings which link misfortune and odd spectral-type creatures. The glowing red eyes and apparent ability of Mothman and the Cornish Owlman to disappear seems to point to supernatural forces rather than the existence of undiscovered flesh and blood creatures. These people may be seeing things that have stemmed from their emotional level - as one might see a deceased relative. Many entities are perceived as signs of 'darker' things - a theme that has run throughout folklore, and is still evident today. It is obvious that something beyond our every day level is at work. It may be extraterrestrial - and this may explain the connections some people have mentioned between UFOs and Bigfoot, big cats and lake monsters. This, though, is beyond human mentality. We may find out all we need to know when we reach our destination after death: until then, we are playing guessing games. However, we may never know why such odd and dark creatures infiltrate our void. We have not even worked out our own minds - but are still trying to solve mysteries beyond our science. There is much to learn about the animal kingdom here on Earth: just look at the surprises that keep popping up.

Messengers of doom? Omens of misfortune? Symbols of destiny? - the jigsaw is nowhere near complete. And the Ark was not what it seemed!

BOOK REVIEWS

'*THE UNEXPLAINED*' By Dr. Karl P.N.Shuker. (Carlton £16.99 248pp)

When Karl Shuker told me that he was writing a book on 'mysteries', and providing a scientific analysis for such phenomena as crop circles, vampires and UFO's, I am perfectly prepared to admit that I was not 100% enthusiastic about the project. After all, Shuker is possibly the most important cryptozoological writer of his generation, and being somewhat of a 'purist' I was worried to think that he might be diverting his undoubted talents into new and unfamiliar territory.

I was wrong.

This book is completely superb. There are an awful lot of 'weird phenomena' books on the market, and as we approach the millennium I suspect that there will be a lot more. This is the only book that I have seen for years which deserves to be mentioned in the same breath as 'Phenomena' by Bob Rickard and John Michel, or Francis Hitching's 'Atlas of World Mysteries'. I have been collecting this sort of data for years and I have upwards of 600 books on the subjects. Even so, Karl has managed to present information that is completely new to me. Even when discussing such well known phenomena as 'The Dover Demon' he does so in a refreshing and insightful way and presents illustrations that I have never seen before.

He even credits me for 'inventing' the term "Zooform Phenomena" (although the section on 'The Mad Gasser of Mattoon' fails to mention a

singularly good song on the subject recorded by a certain art-rock band from Exeter). Despite that appalling omission I have no problem at all in describing this book as 'Essential'. It is one of the best books I have read all year, and I cannot praise it highly enough.

'*THE ASHOVER ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN - The True Story*' by Clinton Keeling. (Clam Publications 134pp) £7.00 (including p&p from C.H.Keeling, 13 Pound Place, Shalford, Guildford, Surrey. GU4 8HH).

When he gave it to me at Zoologica this year. Clinton Keeling described this book as 'very bitter'. Not for the first time I am forced to disagree with him within the pages of 'Animals & Men'. This is not a bitter book. It is perhaps the most cathartic volume of autobiography I have read in many years but it is positive in its outlook and avoids the twin pitfalls of needless recrimination and self-pity which would indeed have marked this book down as 'bitter'.

The title is self explanatory but only gives part of the story. This is not just the story of the seventeen year history of what Maxwell Knight described as "one of the few zoos - almost certainly the only privately-owned one - to make a serious attempt to justify its existence", but it is the story of a remarkable man, who is also a remarkable zoologist, and his struggle against bureaucracy, apathy and a failing marriage. As someone whose own marriage has recently collapsed in circumstances which present a number of parallels to those of Clinton's first marriage I found this book very uplifting as well as an interesting read from a zoological point of view.

Ashover Zoo was many years before its time.

being the first zoo to see its role as primarily educational. The list of species it kept is extremely impressive, as were its achievements, especially considering the almost total lack of support that they received from the zoological establishment of the time.

It may seem pretentious of me, but I can find no parallels for this book within the canon of zoological literature. The nearest comparison that I can make is a 1974 LP by Neil Young called 'Tonights the Night' which, like this book is cathartically autobiographical and which provides a valuable insight into the mind of its creator.

This is a wonderful, but sad book, and I have no reservations in recommending it most highly!

'Biological Anomalies: Mammals 1' by William Corliss (Ed). (Sourcebook Project). 286pp

For two decades now William Corliss' Sourcebook Project has been cataloguing scientific anomalies and presenting them in a form which provides an invaluable body of reference material for any fortean researcher. This latest volume, is perhaps the most important yet from the point of view of the fortean zoologist because it includes a wealth of material not readily available elsewhere.

The book is divided into three categories:

External appearance and morphology
Behaviour and
Unusual talents.

Each of these categories is subdivided with extreme care. This book has even surpassed the previous sourcebook 'Incredible Life' in importance in my personal library, and I can only say that I am agog with anticipation as regards the next volumes in the series.

'Sea Head Lines' by Tony 'Doc' Shiels (Giss'On Books. 44pp £2.50).

Although best known to fortean readers as a monster hunter, magician and purveyor of naked witches, Tony Shiels is by trade a surrealist artist. This gorgeous little book of writings and drawings, which also includes a wonderful playlet from Simon Parker, is the first published fruits of 'Doc's' latest project: The Sea Heads In Elemental Locations Scheme. (Grok the acronym).

Tony weaves a marvelous spiders web of interconnecting images, invoking sea monsters, Moby Dick, Pablo Picasso and the elephant squid producing a bewitching miasma of Grotesque Sensuality (GS). As he writes:

"A Sea Head is a celebratory image. It raises the spirits and inspires uninhibited revelry. Mighty crack altogether. I raise my glass to it!"

And so say all of us.

Editor's Note: To celebrate all sorts of things, and to win a copy of the Sea Heads bookeen and a free years' subscription, be the first person to telephone me and tell me, according to Jonathan Richman what was Pablo Picasso never called?

'Quaggas and other Zebras' by David Barnaby (Bassett Pubs. £9.00).

I am a fan of David Barnaby. I like the way that he writes, with style and not a little wry humour but this latest book of his, in my opinion at least, surpasses his previous books by a considerable measure. This is a book about the Quagga, an

African wild horse extinct since the late nineteenth century. Barnaby examines the history of the species and its decline. He makes some very interesting points about its taxonomy and he lists the few surviving museum specimens. He also presents an impressive list of cultural and literary references to the beast (including my favourite one from 'King Solomon's Mines' by H.Rider-Haggard).

Furthermore he sets the entire saga over a backdrop during which he describes an exciting trip to South Africa undertaken with A&M Contributor Chris Moiser during the summer of 1995.

Most importantly, however is the current project to 'reconstitute' the species by intensive breeding experiments, and the book offers the almost fantastic hope that man can, in a small way at least, attempt to repair a little of the damage he has done to the biodiversity of this planet!

SPECIAL OFFER

'Quaggas and other Zebras' will be published on 22nd December.

In conjunction with Bassett publications we can offer this remarkable book at a pre-publication price of £7.50. (Including P&P). This offer ends on the 22nd December, and Bassett Publications have asked us to state that whilst they will make every effort to do so, they cannot guarantee that the books will be delivered by Christmas.

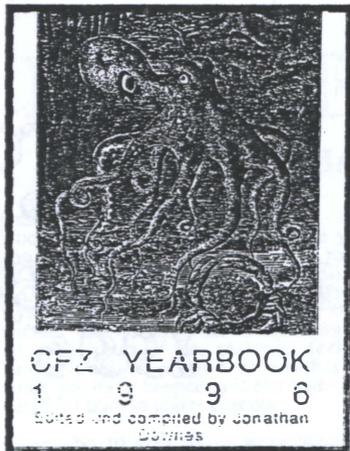
THE CRYPTO SHOP NOVEMBER 1996

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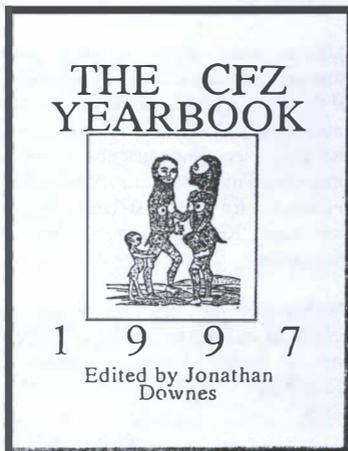
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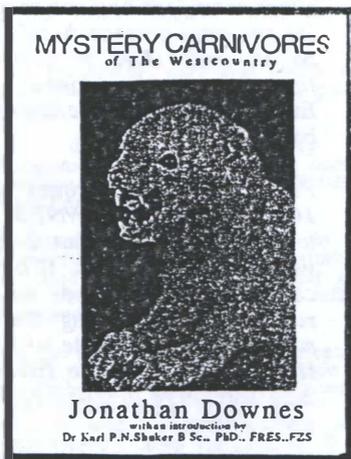
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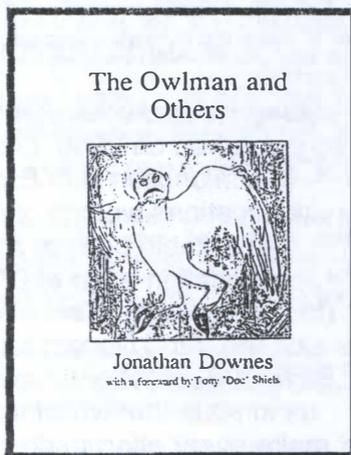
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Contributors include Karl Shuker, Michael Playfair, Ben Chirman, Jan Williams etc. Subjects include Aardvark anomalies, Gigantothermy, Shakespearean cryptozoology, reintroduced species in Scotland, Cattle mutilation in Mexico,
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Investigation into the possibility that two species of small carnivores await discovery in south western England. Also suggests that three or four species thought extinct may still survive in the region.
£7.50



The first in-depth investigation into the truth behind one of Britain's most frightening zooforn phenomena - The Owlman of Mawnan.
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CRYPTOZOLOGY AND ZOOMYTHOLOGY

DRAGON CHRONICLE, The Dragon Trust, PO Box 3369, London SW6 6JN. A fascinating collection of all things draconian which now appears four times a year. Now A4 and Glossy...how do they DO it?

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CRYPTOZOLOGY CLUB NEWSLETTER, 3773 West 18th Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. V6S 1B3. Excellent and well put together, and they are now on the Internet as well!

CREATURE RESEARCH JOURNAL, Paul Johnson, 721 Old Greensburg Pike, North Versailles, PA 15137-1111 USA. New issue devoted to Pennsylvania Bigfoot reports 1994-5.

CRYPTOZOOLOGIA, Association Belge d'Etude et de Protection des Animaux Rares, Square des Latins 49/4, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium. A French language magazine published by the Belgian society for Cryptozoology.

CRYPTOZOLOGY REVIEW, 137 A las Ave, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. M6C 3P4. Excellent new publication on cryptozoology.

EXOTIC ZOOLOGY, 3405 Windjammer Drive, Colorado Springs, CO80920 USA. A free newsletter from the author of 'Rumours of existence'. Useful round-up of information on new and rediscovered species.

FRINGE SCIENCE

SCIENCE FRONTIERS, Sourcebook Project, PO Box 107, Glen Arm, MD21057. Newsletter of William Corliss' invaluable Sourcebook Project. Fascinating snippets of useful information.

NEXUS 55 Queens Rd, E. Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 1BG. Intelligent look at the fringes of science. Well put together. Very impressive.

FORTEAN/EARTH MYSTERIES/FOLKLORE

TEMS NEWS, 115 Hollybush Lane, Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 2QY. An entertaining collection of odds and sods and generally weird stuff. A magazine I always enjoy reading. Recommended.

COVER UP, David Coleman, 39 Limefield Crescent, Bathgate, West Lothian, Scotland. EH48 1RF. The magazine of the Lothian Unexplained Phenomena Research group. UFOs, animal mutilation, ghosts etc. This is a useful addition to the scene and the editor should be congratulated for his hard work.

DELVE, Gene Dylantier, 17 Shetland St. Willowdale, Ontario, Canada. M2M 1X5. Fortean magazine. New issue includes an article on the flying snake of Namibia.

3rd STONE, PO Box 258, Cheltenham, GL53 3HR. Magazine of the Gloucester Earth Mysteries Group. Witty and intelligently put together.

DEAD OF N GHT, 156 Bolton Road East, Newferry, Wirral, Merseyside, L62 4RY. An amusing and intelligently put

together Fortean magazine. My favourite Fortean journal.

deVILLE'S ADVOCATE, Mike White, 62 Goodmore Crescent, Churchdown, Glos. GL3 2DL. A highly entertaining philosophical/Fortean magazine. The Spring issue includes a Dave Sivier article on the social implications of the Internet and the possibilities of its future use and misuse; snippets of weird news from the world's press; a detailed account of a UFO sighting over Cheltenham; and a cryptozoological analysis of Gloucester's Deerhurst Dragon legend. The quote on page 2, "Research, like love, requires no reasons and no excuse," sums the magazine up.

ZOOLOGY/NATURAL HISTORY

HERP LIFE 19 Elm Dale Road, Bideford, N Devon, EX39 3LF. South Western Herpetological Society 4pp newsletter. Entertaining and informative newsletter from a thriving organisation. Contains some quasi-Fortean oddments.

BIPEdia, Francois de Sarre, C.E.R.B.I. 6 Avenue George V, 06000 Nice, France. Issue twelve of this scholarly magazine is now available. Written partly in French, partly in English, it explores the obscure, but fascinating theory of Initial Bipedalism, and its allied disciplines.

MILTON KEYNES HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY 15 Esk Way, Bletchley, Milton Keynes. Excellent A5 magazine containing handy hints, informative articles and news of what appears to be an exciting organisation.

MAINLY ABOUT ANIMALS, 13 Pound Place, Shalford, Guildford, Surrey GU4 8HH. Veteran Zoologist Clinton Keeling edits this wonderful A5 magazine which is, as the title says, mainly about animals. This is a genre of magazine that I and many others feared was lost forever and it comes with your editor's highest recommendation.

ESSEX REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS SOCIETY 6 Chestnut Way, Tiptree, Colchester, Essex, CO5 0NX. Another excellent and lively regional reptile society.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE ANIMAL KEEPERS, 8 Ye lands Walk, Ifield, Crawley, West Sussex. RH11 0QE. Useful publication including a wealth of information about wild animal husbandry. This is an organisation which, especially in the present political climate needs your support.

THE MANE, Wild Equid Society, Flat 19, 119 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 4RS. Fascinating journal about wild horses and their relatives. Includes much of interest to the cryptozoologist.

MISCELLANEOUS

NETWORK NEWS, P.O. BOX 2, LOSTWITHIEL, CORNWALL PL22 0YY. Anarchism. Earth mysteries, weirdness, and even a little cryptozoology. This is the sort of monumentally groovy collection which should be encouraged.

PENDRAGON, Smithy House, Newton by Frodsham, Cheshire WA6 6SX. A scholarly and massively entertaining magazine on things Arthurian. Manages to keep an entertaining balance between literature and history. Highly recommended.

Cartoon by Mark North

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