

FORTEANA  
UFOs  
EARTH —  
MYSTERIES  
PARANORMAL  
BIZARRERIE

£125



Quarterly  
Vol 3 No 3  
Jul/Sep  
1992

**A N N A L S**

O F T H E E N Q U I R I N G

# Annals Of The Enquiring

## CONTENTS

First Word .....	3
Off The Chinese Wall .....	4
Tiny Statues Of Takowo / Project Urquhart .....	5
Miracles At Gornemeadin .....	6
Few Loose Stones / Socratic Slaughter / Twilight Zone .....	7
Crosse The Creator .....	8
Crosse Conrd .....	9
Crosse Conrd .....	10
Crosse Conrd .....	11
More Rats Tales / Video Mess(c)ie .....	12
Mystery Fireball / Tread Carefull / Bizarre Lives .....	13
Circles Of Time - Pt 4 By Ian Campbell .....	14
Pt 4 Conc .....	15
Pt 4 Conc .....	16
Secret Power Plans / Baby Surprise .....	17
Guardian Angel Of Marble Arch / Whatever Happened To .....	18
Letters To The Editor .....	19

## SUBMISSIONS

in the form of articles, clippings, photos, artwork etc is always welcomed and, if used, will be acknowledged accordingly.

The opinions and views expressed by contributors to this magazine are not necessarily shared or endorsed by the Editor.

## COVER

Representation of the odd variety of hailstones observed at Alexandria Bay, New York, in 1901. The hailstones began as cylindrical, then gave way to walnut-size stones followed by two inch thick disk-shapes resembling the human eye.



ANNALS

## EDITOR

Gerry Lovell  
8 St John Street  
Wells Somerset  
BA5 1SW

Vol 3 No 3  
Jul/Sep  
1992  
Issued  
Quarterly

## RATES

UK:  
£5 / 4 issues  
International:  
[Air Mail]  
£8 / \$12 US

# FIRST WORD

EDITORIAL

August 4 was the anniversary of the commencement of those infamous Salem witch trials, that took place in New England 300 years ago. No doubt many innocent citizens were falsely accused and died as a result of the hysteria which always surrounds witch hunts to this day. Approximately 160 self-proclaimed witches gathered in Salem on this occasion - a community that apparently had a spell cast on it allowing witchcraft to survive the centuries.

I well remember my visit to Salem nearly 20 years ago. Nothing untoward took place but the town then was more than a little run down and certainly retained an atmosphere that I considered unpleasant and unsettling.

A few weeks ago I was speaking with an American visitor and told him how my investigations in the area of Wells/Glastonbury have revealed there to be 37 known witches covens, currently practising both white and black magic. Thinking he might be suitably impressed, I was astonished to learn that there are at least 63 such covens flourishing in and around Jacksonville, Florida, alone.

Perhaps we should look upon witchcraft as being the oldest known profession to man?

Spotted author and investigator Jenny Randles on a Sky News edition of *Nightline* in August, plugging her co-authored new book entitled 'Spontaneous Human Combustion', or SHC as it is more commonly called.

Interviewer Bob Friend, who has about as much skill in interviewing as a dead ferret, fortunately kept his often inane questioning and poorly timed remarks to a minimum. Probably beaten by some pretty rapid northern dialogue from JR, who is obviously used to being shortchanged by a time and space (no pun intended) problem, which is the bane of all news media.

I see that reports of a Ufo and aliens floating on a lake in the Lake District brought puzzled police to the scene in July. The spacer suited creatures and flashing strobe lights turned out to be London rave band Shamen filming a £30,000 futuristic video.

Having heard some of their music, it's a fair bet that the group is not of this planet anyway!

GL

# OFF THE CHINESE WALL

Whilst we might think that what goes down well with Red China is a yellow tablecloth, it looks like it has been a crazy summer for those inscrutable orientals, as the following stories reflect :-

Stamp dealers in China think they have spotted a daring political protest in a Barcelona Olympics commemorative issue released in June.

They noticed that the numbers pinned to the shirts of three runners on one stamp match the date of the Tianamen Square massacre on June 4, 1989.

In July a Chinese fisherman, who thought he had hooked the catch of a lifetime, hauled in a local farmer trying to commit suicide over personal problems.

A Shanghai property tycoon paid over £27,000, about 160 times the average annual wage in China, for a lucky number plate saying "I will become wealthy" in Chinese, at a Beijing auction in July.

An "earthworm craze" has broken out among peasants in Hebei, following the publication of research showing that earthworms could prevent blood dots and supplement feedstuffs.

Also in July, scientists hunting a newly discovered goat-like creature in the Yu Quang Reserve set up automatic cameras to try to photograph the animal.

A man from the province of Anhui, who wanted to be an emperor, killed his wife in August after a soothsayer said she was a ghost who was blocking his scheme.

That same month, a Shanghai commuter died in the streets, blood streaming from his nose and ears, after dashing with one of the city's fearsome woman bus conductors.

Newspapers reported Dong Huibo's nightmare began when the woman snarled an insult about the shape of his bottom.

She swore at him, slapped his face, made a grab for his testicles, then stood back and aimed a vicious kick at his private parts.

As Dong, 24, tried to scramble out of a window the driver, also a woman, set off and he went crashing into the road.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS IN THE Mazury region of Poland discovered tiny stone-age figurines which they believe are the oldest wooden artifacts ever found. In July excavations revealed more than 100 effigies, between half-an-inch and three inches high, in the village of Tlokowo. They were found in soil which was once the bottom of a lake more than 10,000 years ago.

While these could conceivably have been votive offerings, such tiny objects have been unearthed throughout the world, including Egypt, Africa, Australia, France, Sicily and England. For example, small crescent-shaped knives of flint and agate were once found in caves in the Vindhya hills of India. Half-an-inch long, did these artifacts belong once to an ancient race of pygmy people, or are archaeologists correct in merely labelling such finds ritual objects?

## THE TINY STATUES OF TLOKOWO



## Project Urquhart Makes Sonar Contact

THE SCIENTIFIC TEAM surveying Loch Ness made sonar contact with "something unidentified" which was "large and solid sounding" below the surface at 7.04pm on July 27, reported Bob Manson of Simrad, the Sonar manufacturing company supporting the operation. He refused to speculate but said that tracking equipment locked on to the stationary object in mid-water for about two minutes before it disappeared.

Scientists had completed nearly three weeks of initial surveying and were sailing southwest down the loch at the time of the incident, between Foyers and Invermoriston.

Nicholas Witchell, broadcaster and chairman of Project Urquhart, confirmed the object's appearance on sonar but said the team had no idea what it was as it had been too brief a period. It was, however, the largest recorded in the middle of Loch Ness.

Legend had it that the monster sought refuge in underwater caves after being banished to Loch Ness by St Columba. Although only about 5 per cent of between six and eight million depth recordings taken by the the Norwegian-owned survey vessel *Simrad* had been evaluated, the team were able to establish that there are no caves. Also, the sides of the loch are almost perpendicular.

Another mystery has surfaced, however. Manson reports that a long line of "dots" had been identified on the loch bed at a depth of about 200 metres, approximately 60 metres apart. What they were and how they got there is not clear. He says they are certainly man-made and ran most of the loch's length.



Traces from a sonar probe taken at Loch Ness in 1972 and showing large black unidentified objects.

# Miracles at Gortaneadin

THERE ARE MANY shrines in Ireland attended by the faithful. Perhaps the most famous, credited with visions of the Virgin Mary and miraculous cures, is that at Knock. But in the quiet village of Inchigeela, County Cork, the Gortaneadin Grotto has been the scene of literally hundreds of apparitions since August 1985.

Some villagers say the Virgin Mary not only appears and speaks to them - she actually kisses them. Now, such visitations are said to be on a scale far greater than Lourdes or Fatima ever knew. For in the past seven years nearly 1,000 people claim to have witnessed the apparitions.

Events began in 1954, when John and Kitty McCarthy took their ailing eight-year-old daughter Mary for a walk to Gortaneadin and passed the spot where the Virgin Mary was to appear later. It was the first time Mary had seen the area and she suggested that it would be a lovely place for a Lourdes grotto.

Eight years passed and with little time left to live, she asked her parents to take her there again and this time marked the spot with twigs where she wanted the statues of the Virgin Mary and St Bernadette to be erected. She died soon after.

After a lot of effort, the McCarthy's saved enough to buy and erect the two statues at Gortaneadin in late 1969 and Mary's grotto was blessed by the local clergy. The tranquility of the area was not disrupted until two local girls, Rose O'Sullivan, 11, and Marie Vaughan, 10, went there to pray on August 5, 1985.

While kneeling they first saw a tall beautiful girl who, minutes later, vanished without trace. Full of thoughts that they might have seen someone from outer space, they rushed back to the village and told Rose's sister, Mary. Only later did they realise that the vision could have been the Blessed Virgin.

The very next day the lady reappeared and this time she spoke the word 'Peace'.

Over the next three months, the girls witnessed her visits on an almost daily basis and sometimes would receive simple messages saying that people must pray more. Occasionally, she just talked and even would hug and kiss them.

Such events would take place in the company of others, but to the observers the Virgin Mary was invisible. The girls seemingly in a trance-like state during the visitations.

Dr Michael Collins, an experienced GP from Cork, examined them at the grotto and noted their eyes were open and their lips moved "but they were out of communication with this world. I pricked them with a pin, but they failed to react. I touched their eyeballs with my finger - they didn't blink."

He continued to observe them for some months and could offer no medical explanation for their condition. "I'm satisfied they are ordinary youngsters to whom something extraordinary happened," he said. In the following year, Rose had her last apparition and was followed in 1987 by Marie.

Since that time, countless visitors to the grotto have reported similar visions. Many seem to be women and girls. In Mrs Mary Casey's instance the apparitions lasted nearly nine months. Her first was in June 1986.

"I was saying the rosary with about 25 others when a blue mist suddenly covered the grotto," she said. "When it cleared, I saw this beautiful young girl. She was wearing a brilliant white gown and a blue sash. When she smiled, dimples appeared on either side of her mouth. She disappeared after about 10 minutes."

The messages Mary received asked for more prayer and sometimes she was in such a deep trance that people removed her glasses without her knowledge. They pricked her with pins, but she felt nothing.

John McCarthy, now 74, still tends the grotto every day since he built it in memory of his daughter. He says he has seen "hundreds" of visions himself and still attends rosary meetings which attract between 50 and 100 people at a time.

He acknowledges that the Gortaneadin Grotto could become famous and attract millions of pilgrims one day, but secretly he wishes it would remain a humble place, as it was when he built it 23 years ago.

## A FEW LOOSE SLATES

A ONE-EYED Arch Druid from Cornwall has not only re-created Stonehenge in the garden of his home, he's busy putting the finishing touches to an underground temple as well.

Eddie Pryne, a 56-year-old former quarryman, says all the stones have names, including one for his Aunt Hilda. The stone circle and other tasks have been funded by money from his industrial pension, following an accident that resulted in his losing an eye. Up to 600 people at a time visit his bungalow home.

One huge rocking stone weighs 12 tons and the underground temple, when complete, will be roofed over using giant slabs of granite. Eddie plans to hold initiation rites inside and already has his "lucky touchstone" in place.

He says that former prime minister Margaret Thatcher once visited his bungalow to view the work - but unfortunately he wasn't home at the time!

POLICE HELD BACK a mob of 200 people who tried to lynch the wife of a mayor in Guaruluba, Brazil, suspected of sacrificing a six-year-old boy during a satanic cult ritual.

THREE PEOPLE WERE charged after police found the charred, limbless corpse of a man in the town of Carterton, north of Wellington, New Zealand. They are investigating a link between the death and ritual activities in the area. [Source: ITN Oracle 3 July/16 Aug 1992]

### SATANIC SLAUGHTER

## In The Company Of 'The Twilight Zone'

THE CROP CIRCLE enigma has attracted Australian TV Channel 9 again this year and a report, also aired on Sky News in August, centred on the cultists who have sprung up with the corn.

It wasn't a serious report and neither could it be as I have never seen such an assembly of "barking nutters" or "fruit loops", as the man from Oz so accurately described them, myself either.

One perfectly respectable looking shirt-sleeves and tie English gent - perhaps a solicitor or company director - was pictured whirling up and down the centre of a circle, all the while flailing his chest like a man possessed. In fact, he claimed he had been possessed at that moment and was in contact with the force which creates crop circles. It looked more like a 'Bill and Ben' routine to the viewers.

We were then introduced to several professed dowzers, one of whom talked drivel about "The Divine" and another who had just asked his dowzing rods to show him "the positive healing points". Now, while I respect the ability of some people to dowse - having witnessed it myself - it did neither them nor the subject any good whatsoever.

Most sadly of all were the sick and lame, who apparently had been carried to the centre of a circle by others and positioned on chairs to await a miracle.

The Channel 9 reporter was so right in his remarks when he concluded that he had just been in the company of 'The Twilight Zone'. **GA**

# Crosse The Creator



DID AN ENGLISH Squire called Andrew Crosse stumble upon that great mystery - the creation of life - or did the tiny mites which grew on a piece of volcanic stone in his laboratory come from somewhere else?

Crosse was born in 1784 at Fyne Court, Broomfield in Somerset and spent much of his adult life there conducting experiments which mostly involved electricity. With his parents both dead by the time he celebrated his twenty-first birthday, he did his best to cope with the estate but his trusting nature led to him being badly cheated on occasion. While on a visit to London he chanced to meet George Singer, who was involved with a family business but devoted as much time as possible to working on electricity in his small laboratory, also giving

lectures and demonstrations to raise money to extend his investigations. The two quickly became firm friends. He supplied Andrew with 'a splendid electrical machine and battery table of 50 large Leyden Jars' to set up at Fyne Court where they spent many happy hours together sharing ideas and planning future experiments. Crosse had made a start on his lifelong project of investigating the theory of electricity.

An intelligent and hospitable country squire, this God-fearing man was to become known to local folk as *Hizzard Crosse*, whose house was best avoided especially after dark and in 1837 he was being decried by the popular press as an atheist, 'A reviler of our Holy Religion'. As early as 1816 he astonished his hosts at a dinner party at Alltoden with his prophecy that: 'By means of the electric agency we shall be enabled to communicate our thoughts instantaneously with the uttermost parts of the earth.' Later he was to declare that he had reason to believe that the same powers would 'be employed in a vast variety of manufactures throughout the world' - an amazing statement at that date.

In the early 1800s Crosse visited Holwell Cave, discovered during quarrying operations in Broomfield, which was rich in stalactites and stalagmites, with fine arragonite in every possible variety of crystallisation lining the walls and roof. Fascinated by their growth he took home a sample of water from the pool in the cavern and passed a weak negative current through it. Before long he observed sparkling crystals on the negative platinum wire which proved to be carbonate of lime attracted from the water by the electrical action, as seen in the much slower geological process. The same results followed repetitions of this experiment, it was always one of Crosse's firm principles to prove beyond doubt everything he undertook. So began his painstaking work on electro-crystallisation using very prolonged voltaic action beneath the house where the only sound was the continuous dripping of water. By this method he eventually produced up to 200 types of crystals including quartz, malachite, etc., but also some substances never found in Nature, even suggesting to him the possibility of manufacturing artificial diamonds.

Crosse was very interested in the presence of electricity in the atmosphere. In order to collect and measure its potential under various weather conditions he strung up to a third of a mile of copper wire around the ground of Fyne Court attached to poles and trees, with carefully devised insulators to prevent loss of current to the ground. The wires were connected to apparatus in the window of the organ gallery over his main laboratory. A conductor carried the current to a brass ball suspended over a large capacitor. To charge the latter needed 230 vigorous turns by hand of the wheel of a 20 inch cylinder frictional electrical machine, yet in favourable conditions sufficient atmospheric electricity was collected to charge and discharge it 20 times a minute, accompanied by a continuous leaping of sparks from one knob to the other and a sharp rattling noise. When the voltage across the capacitor built up, as in fog, driving rain or thunder-storms, the 5 large windows were lit up by brilliant flashes and continuous reports like cannon occurred.

Small wonder that tales were told of devils, surrounded by lightning, dancing on the wires and of the Squire's power to attract storms. A report was put out by a French gentleman that '20 miles of wire filled the entire neighbourhood with thunder and lightning, to the great terror of the peasantry'. At this exaggeration the scientist laughed heartily although he acknowledged that he knew that 'no small terror prevailed in regard to him and his experiments.' Visitors feared the destruction of premises and operator. If however the surge of the charge collected was too violent (it could be 100,000 volts or above) Crosse could earth it by turning an insulating lever thus leading it harmlessly into the ground. More than one early experimenter lost his life but Crosse was not just lucky, he understood what he was doing. The conclusions he reached after long years of patient recording of the states of electricity in the atmosphere remain valid today.

Reluctantly, Crosse allowed his friend Singer to include an account of his work in 'Elements of Electricity' published in 1814. Singer's book was widely acclaimed and translated into several European languages and he travelled on the Continent lecturing. While visiting London to see its author, Andrew eventually agreed to talk to a scientific meeting at Garnerin's where 'his mode of explanation and his enthusiasm wrought conviction in the minds of all present'.

Peter Haining, in his book 'The Man who was Frankenstein' stated that Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin and her future husband, Percy Bysshe Shelley, were at this lecture; thereon he based his theory that the speaker was Mary's inspiration for her Frankenstein story of an inanimate body brought to life by electricity. Their attendance has never been proved and in any case Shelley himself had been involved in electrical experiments for some years.

At one point Crosse was visited by Sir Humphry Davy, President of the Royal Society and a pioneer of electro-chemistry, who had been using the voltaic battery to decompose substances. He showed much interest in Crosse's construction of a voltaic battery on a large scale that he was hoping eventually to incorporate into an apparatus 'capable of giving Light, Heat and Motion'.

Crosse continued patiently with further work in the course of which he was trying to form silicate crystals from a dilute solution of powdered flint and potassium carbonate, dropped onto a piece of volcanic stone saturated with hydrochloric acid and subjected to a low electric current. After 15 days he was amazed to see on the stone not the expected crystals but tiny white excrescences which gradually grew filaments, then legs and finally moved about. It seemed astonishing that any form of life could develop in such a caustic, electrified solution, so he repeated the experiment using no flannel, wood or stone; similar creatures appeared below the surface of the liquid.

Crosse was greatly puzzled; he told the poet Southey of this strange occurrence when he met him, vowing him to secrecy and he showed them to a few friends in confidence. He was extremely upset when the editor of the newly founded *Somerset County Gazette*, who had visited Fyne Court in 1836, printed without permission a not entirely accurate report entitled 'Extraordinary Experiment' - obviously a 'scoop' for the new paper. The story was promptly taken up, first by the Times and then by other papers and periodicals, all suggesting that Crosse claimed to have 'created life', a statement which he utterly refuted and some branding him an atheist. Samples and a full account were sent by him to the London Electrical Society and to the Natural History Museum. They were identified as a hitherto unknown type of mite and named *Acarus Crossei* or *Acarus sylvaticus*.

*This information was sent by Crosse to Richard Owen at the Natural History Museum. The Acari Crossei are very much magnified and as seen under the microscope.*

*The 1<sup>st</sup> appearance on the Volcanic Stone Island  
after 14 Days action of the Voltaic battery -*

*seen through a lens -*

*after 10 Days action -*

*after 22 Days action -*

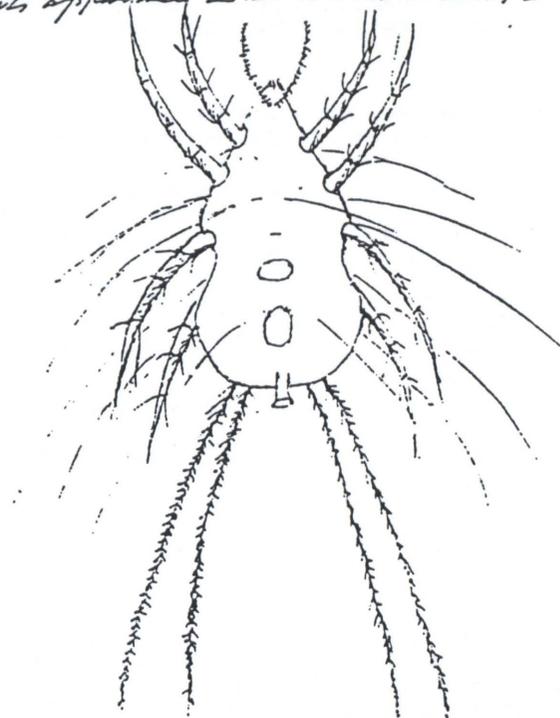
*after 26 Days action -*

*Motion after 20 Days action -*

The matter was discussed by some notable scientific societies and various theories put forward: spontaneous generation, contamination, revivification or the presence of virtually indestructible eggs in the experimental material were all suggested as explanations, but none were really satisfactory. Several workers repeated the experiments, although only over short periods of time, with negative results. It was incorrectly reported that Faraday had been successful, but in fact he took no part, not wishing to be accused of investigations into the origins of life, frowned on at this time by many gentlemen of science on moral and theological grounds.

In 1842 the controversy was revived briefly when W H Weekes was asked to repeat the experiments. He carefully excluded air and took all known precautions against contamination. After a year the same type of mites did appear, whereas in a control without electric current there was no sign of life. Unfortunately no biological tests seem to have been carried out on the acari and the matter fell into abeyance again although Crosse himself, once more trying the experiments in 1854, again found mites.

There is not the slightest appearance of the living  
 of the shell of an egg etc - upwards of 100 insects in  
 their appearance in the first formation - There were in  
 all eleven different formations - Two in dilute solution  
 of potash supersaturated with muriatic acid, let fall on a  
 volcanic stone, drop by drop - Three in concentrated solution of  
 silicate of potash & one in each of the following solutions - Ni-  
 -trate of copper, Sulphate of copper, green sulphate of iron, Sulphate  
 of zinc, mixture of tin & copper (all of which were concentrated) and one  
 in solution of oxide of copper - All these were exposed to the electric  
 influence for more or less time - Some months elapsed before the in-  
 -sects made its appearance in the metallic salts -



Figures of one of the insects formed under the influence of  
 Voltaic electricity - April - 1837 - 2 - 1/2 years.  
 The same the same as seen by the microscope -

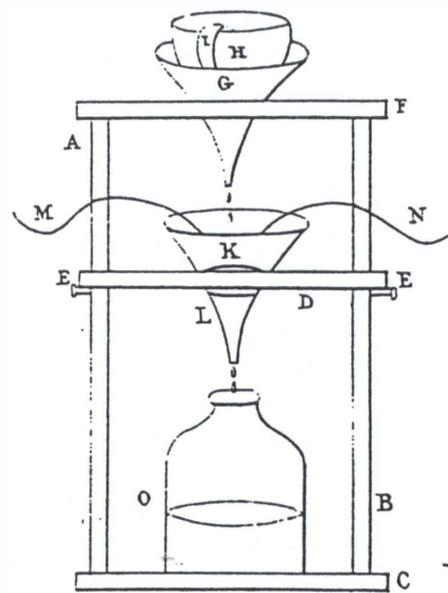


Fig 1

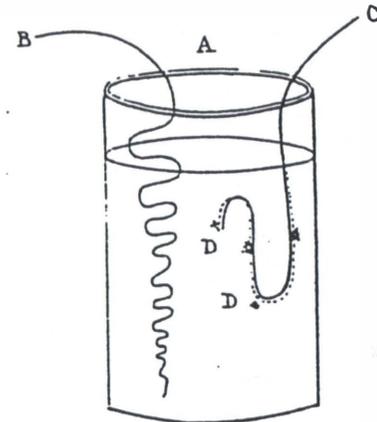


Fig 2

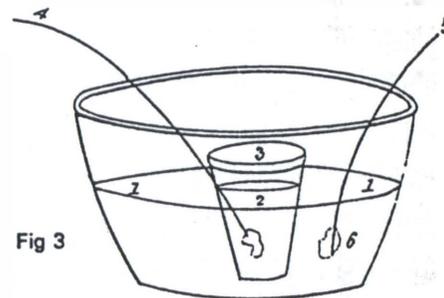


Fig 3

EXPERIMENTS BY CROSSE IN WHICH MITES APPEARED

Fig 1: 1st Experiment

Basin (H) containing fluid which is covered by strip of flannel (I) so that it falls into funnel (G) and onto a volcanic stone (K) in glass funnel (L). M and N are platina wires connected with opposite poles of a voltaic battery. Mites appeared on the stone.

Fig 2: 2nd Experiment

Glass vessel contains concentrated solution of silicate of potash. Silver wire (B) attached to negative pole of battery. Iron wire (C) attached to positive pole. N.B. Insects (D), much enlarged in diagram, emerged on wire below surface of fluid.

Fig 3: Further Experiment

Glass basin (1) partly filled with fluo-silicic acid. Porous pot (2) partly filled with same acid, with cover (3) to exclude light, dust, etc. Platina wires (4 and 5) are each twisted around a piece of quartz and an electric current enters through 4 (positive pole) and passes out by wire 5. Mites appeared at negative pole after several months.

## Phantom's Shear Delight

A man who has been travelling on Canberra buses cutting locks of hair from women passengers has finally been arrested.

The Australian Phantom Snipper's first clipping occurred on Wednesday, July 29 when, from behind his victim, he cut bits of her hair before getting off.

Two further scissor assaults took place the next day, with the man just snipping hair from a woman from behind, then sitting in front of her to cut hair from another woman.

## MORE RATS TALES

800 visitors a day are paying £2 a time for a guided trip around the latest Paris tourist attraction - its rat-infested sewers.

Meanwhile, Beijing's self-proclaimed "King of the Rat-Killers" has filed a libel suit against a government scientist who said his famous lethal potion was no good, China's Legal Daily reported in August.



**HAILSTONES** the size of eggs seriously damaged more than 2000 acres of vineyards in the Medoc region of France, where the finest Bordeaux wines are produced, weeks before the harvest. [Source: ITN Oracle 10 Aug 1992]

**EXPERTS** have discovered that almost all of the 90 "prehistoric" cave paintings found in the Basque area of Spain in 1990 are modern fakes.

## VIDEO NESS(T)IE

SOMETHING UNIDENTIFIED CONTINUES to stir in Loch Ness. A holiday video taken by an un-named man, and made available to ITN and the Sun's Scottish newsroom, was shown during an evening newscast on August 17.

What viewers saw was a strange object or movement of water on the loch that was neither a swimmer or a diver. It appeared to move with a paddling motion - first one side would swirl forward and then the other. Quite unlike the water surface that surrounded it.

The man said he was among tourists visiting Urquhart Castle, on the shore of Loch Ness, when he saw and filmed the unexplained movement. He had no explanation for it.

Zoologist Peter Meadows said he was "amazed by what I've seen. I've never seen anything like it. I think it's very unusual and I can't see an easy interpretation, but it might well be a large living creature of some sort."

Adrian Shine, a Loch Ness expert(?), was interviewed next. "What we are seeing is a cycling motion. Lots of cycles that you see habitually on Loch Ness are waves. It's a most peculiar configuration if it is, indeed, a wave."

It was Stuart Campbell, author of 'Loch Ness Monster, The Facts' that brought a more cynical viewpoint. He said that the object he saw on the film "doesn't look like an object at all. It looks more like a wave phenomenon that I have described in my book."

## Mystery Fireball Tracked Over UK

SCIENTISTS APPEARED MYSTIFIED as to the origin of a huge ball of flame which entered the Earth's atmosphere over South Wales on the weekend of August 15.

More than 100 sightings were reported of the object, thought by the British Astronomical Association to be a meteor. It travelled over the Irish Sea towards Scotland and the Association is trying to determine the exact path of the 'meteor' - thought to have been about the size of a car - before it burned and fragmented.

All very well, except that meteorologists in northern Holland were also able to track the object. This implies that the fireball would at some stage have to complete a U-turn within Earth's atmosphere. They say it exploded with the force of a 1000lb bomb.

A Dutch spokesman added that "a meteorite is the least likely explanation," and scientists there were still unclear whether the red, yellow and orange fireball exploded in mid-air or hit the ground.

## TREAD CAREFULLY IN JAPAN

THREE shots were fired at the home of the President of Yokohama Tire, on July 24, by Japanese Muslim extremists. The attack was carried out because the word Allah could be seen in the tread of one of the company's new range of tyres.

Earlier this year, on May 15, a clothing firm was also attacked in Japan for allegedly using a design also incorporating the word Allah. [Source: JSTV 24 July 1992]

## BIZARRE LIVES

A BROTHER AND sister became so fed up with the world that they locked themselves in their rooms for 20 years, reported a Bangkok newspaper in July.

SOCIAL SERVICES CHIEFS have been called in to investigate the bizarre case of a self-styled Holy Man who has lived on a chair for the past eight years. The Yemeni-born man, in his 50s, and known locally as Ahmed, is said to survive on hand-outs from passers-by in Darnall, Sheffield.

[Source: Daily Telegraph 2 July 1992]

A Miami motorist who opened the hood after his car would not start found a six foot Asian water monitor lizard wrapped around the engine.

[Source: Daily Express 8 July 1992]

An Australian farmer rammed a horsebox to rescue his 350lb beer-drinking pig Penny, in a town east of Brisbane, after it was arrested for attacking old women.

[Source: ITN Oracle 13 Aug 1992]

In previous issues of *Annals* the challenge was to prove or disprove the existence of a circle of churches at Rennes-le-Chateau in south-west France. Because of the inherent inaccuracy of maps and acetate overlays (due to atmospheric changes causing stretch and shrinkage) the method of using co-ordinated geometry was employed to test whether the perimeter of an imaginary circle passed within 24 metres (0.5%

## CIRCLES OF TIME: Part Four

of linear ground measured of each of the six targets based on a single radius of 4,722 metres. This issue will look at the odds against this being a chance event.

In order to appreciate the special circumstances surrounding Rennes-le-Chateau and its circle of churches we should bear in mind the landscape of the area concerned. The village sits perched on top of a 1,500 ft hill, which itself marks the edge of the escarpment which is part of the foothills of the Pyrenees. Although these 'foothills' climb to some 3,000 feet, we should remember that our highest domestic 'mountain', Ben Nevis, only tops out at 4,409 feet.

Of the six targets which sit on the perimeter of the circle, only Rennes-le-Chateau and the rock formation at Toustounes are on high ground - all the others sit in the valleys. Line of sight between the centre of the circle and the targets would seem impossible, as would a view from one target to another.

The question that must be addressed, therefore, whether it concerns the Circle of Churches in the Rennes valley or elsewhere, is whether such a circle can occur by chance alone, or whether it is more likely to be the product of an intelligent mind.

In examining this question the use of probability theory is of little help for it can only compare different cases within known parameters. When dealing with the circles of churches, guidelines do not already exist and the parameters have not already been set. So, before any comparisons can be made, a framework needs to be put into place.

Part of the framework mentioned above is the category of targets. The Circle of Churches at Rennes exists because it confirms that three different types of target sit on the circumference of the Rennes circle - churches, chateaux and standing stones. One way of determining whether it can be a chance event, therefore, is to examine a larger area in the vicinity of Rennes-le-Chateau and count how many churches, chateaux and standing stones lie within that area. Obviously, the greater the number of possible targets, the greater the probability that the phenomenon may be explained by chance alone.

The chosen area for this study is the whole of the two maps IGN/2347 (est and ouest) which represents 600 square kilometres of countryside. The potential

target count in this area is listed in Fig 1.

Taken at face value, this number of targets averages out at less than one target for every six square kilometres and the thought that six of them lie on the circumference of a circle by chance, does not seem reasonable.

However, there are more precise ways to view the problem. One is to consider the whole area of the maps involved and compare it to the area

covered by the circumference of the circle. If we consider this at the map scale of 25,000 then the total map area is some 1200mm x 800mm or 960,000 mm<sup>2</sup>. The length of the circle perimeter is calculated as shown in Fig 2

Fig 1

Churches and chapels	56
Chateaux	17
Standing stones	19
Total number of potential targets	92

Or odds of 421 against it being a chance event!

The chance of any of the 92 targets (calculated as 1,000 square metres floor area on the ground but represented on the map as a 1mm sq symbol), falling on the circle's circumference rather than anywhere else on the map, can therefore be said to be 421:1 against.

The chances of the subsequent five targets falling on the same circumference are calculated as follows: 2nd target 462:1, 3rd target 467:1, 4th target 472:1, 5th target 478:1, 6th target 483:1. So, the odds against any six targets out of the 92 possible targets falling on the circumference of the circle is calculated as the product of the odds of each target falling on the circumference: 457 x 462 x 467 x 472 x 487 x 483 = 10,744,651

These odds of more than 10,000:1 against the six markers or the circle of churches being a chance event only takes into account the probabilities concerning the markers falling on the circle rather than in the 600 km<sup>2</sup> map area. When we additionally consider the topography of the landscape surrounding Rennes it becomes a truly remarkable phenomenon - and one that would seem to have been deliberately overlaid on the landscape.

If we accept the odds against it being a chance event and therefore accept the proof of the existence of the circle of churches, we should next examine the quality of the markers.

The four churches involved date back to the 12th century or earlier and the church at Rennes-le-Chateau has still visible Visigothic features which would date it approximately to the 5th century AD. The extreme age

Fig 2

Radius of Circle of Churches	= (4,728m x 1,000mm)
At map scale 1:25,000	= 4,728,000mm/25,000
Map radius	= 189.12mm
The circumference of map circle (scale 1:25,000), calculated as: (2 x Pi x radius)	= 1,188.43mm
NB (Pi = 3.142)	
The area of the circumference line drawn at 1.92mm thickness (to equal the 0.5% linear radius)	= 1,188.430 x 1.92mm = 2,281.79mm <sup>2</sup>
If the area of the map sheet	= 1,200mm x 800mm = 960,000mm <sup>2</sup>
And the total area taken up by the circumference drawn on the map	= 2,281.79mm <sup>2</sup>
Then the odds against a target falling on the line rather than the map	Total map area = Total line area
	= 960,000mm <sup>2</sup>
or	2,281.79mm <sup>2</sup>
	= 421

of the markers create a further problem, for it indicates that the markers predate the means for laying out the circle according to our accepted knowledge of history and mathematics.

In the development of the church it was commonly accepted that many were built on the foundations of earlier churches (Saxon and Roman), which in their turn had been erected at Pagan sites of worship incorporating the standing stones of Pagan times into their fabric. This was done, so we are told, to encourage the 'primitive' Ancient Britons to continue their worship at the same place. This would give opportunity to the Romans, both to absorb the older culture into their own and to indoctrinate the Ancient Britons with the Roman religion.

If we consider that the churches and the chateau at Serres occupy positions which were marked at an earlier date and that perhaps this date could stretch back to the Neolithic age, (eg that Toustounes rock formation might possibly be the sole surviving original marker), then we have a conundrum.

The necessary mathematics for the type of accurate surveying needed to lay out the Rennes circle did not exist prior to 700 AD, according to Professor Lancelot Hogben in his book *Mathematics for the Million* published in 1967. This excellent book deals with the history and development of mathematics, number and associated subjects. The period 700 AD, was when our history first records the invention of the zero and the abacus. Until that time, the handling of large and complex numbers was just not possible. An attempt at doing long division with Roman numerals illustrates the limitations! So, as far as the Rennes circle is

concerned, with the proven age of some of its markers taking it back to Visigothic times, the circle was pieced together at best 200 years before the means to do it was recorded by historical fact!

Even if the markers only dated back to the 8th century, then it would mean that almost as soon as the mathematical procedures had been invented, someone put the knowledge together and headed straight for the Rennes valley in order to construct the circle of churches. Should we accept this hypothesis then we needs must, in time, consider the 'why'?

Having satisfied myself that the geometry claimed to exist at Rennes was a fact, I wondered if it was a 'one-off' special set of circumstances or more widespread. Therefore, as much as I would have liked to carry on exploring the south-west corner of France I reluctantly decided to continue the research nearer home.

Within a few weeks of returning from the Rennes valley I was closely studying the area of East Kent, using the 1:5000 *Landranger* series map 179. Within days more than a dozen circles had been discovered, always the same size approximately as the Rennes circle. They seemed to occur wherever the landscape was hilly but faded out on river flood plains or on areas of marshland.

I wondered if it was my imagination that was playing tricks on me or whether I was reading too much into coincidence. I searched further afield, acquiring maps from different parts of the country and whenever I had the chance to do so, visited the markers involved.

However much I studied and checked the findings though, the proof was plain to see - I was picking up a constant circular pattern which inevitably linked old

churches together in upland areas. Wherever possible I visited the churches in question and checked their age in local editions of Pevsner, (ISBN 0 140710.39 6).

In the east-Kent area, many of the churches are of Norman origin which places them securely in the 12th century, but many also exhibit Saxon features which indicates an even earlier history. The implication is clear-that whenever the churches were built, their positions conformed to, and confirmed, a suspected earlier circular patten with a radius circa 4,725 metres +/- 50 metres.

Invariably, whenever I visited the centres of the circles there would be nothing much to see except that the centres were often near to tracks and footpaths. More often than not, they would be situated in depressions on the top of elevated positions, thus denying a direct line of site to the markers. This remained the case until I discovered the Updown circle. This circle lies within a few miles of my home in Deal and consists of churches at Sholden and Ripple, two churches at Eythorne and St Bart's Hospital chapel at Sandwich. Pevsner, the authority on local churches, classifies them as follows:

Sholden - St Nicholas, 14th century tower.

Ripple - St Mary the Virgin, rebuilt in 1861 but with a Norman, 12th century west nave window.

Eythorne - Sts Peter & Paul, 12th century.

Eythorne - Baptist Church 19th century, but built on earlier site.

Sandwich - St Bartholomew's Chapel, 13th century.

With the exception of the Baptist church at Eythorne, which is itself a 19th century building, all these churches date back to the 12/13/14th centuries and are probably built on former church sites (although this is difficult to prove unless specific records are found). Although Eythorne Baptist church is of a much later period, gravestones in its churchyard bear 18th century dates, indicating that the site was used long before the current church was built.

What is remarkable is that whenever the 'Updown' churches were built, the radius of the Updown circle (which can be extrapolated as 4,750 metres) is not very different from the Rennes circle radius at 4,722 metres. Bearing in mind that both radii were calculated to within +/- 24 metres, it certainly looks like Ian Fleming's 'enemy action' at work rather than pure coincidence.

The indicated centre of the Updown circle lies in the grounds of a country house near Eastry, Kent, ancient centre of the Saxon Kingdom and it was with a sense of reserved anticipation that I visited it. To me, it was just the next in a series of country walks to points I had calculated on the map.

I had visited the centres of the other circles whenever I discovered a new one and had always found nothing, but Updown was to prove different. I climbed over a five-bar gate and walked a couple of

hundred yards along an old trackway across open park land and - at approximately the position of the centre which the computer had indicated - I found myself standing in a shallow depression on an elevated position some 200/300 metres from the edge of an escarpment. Trees at the edge of this dish shaped plateau obscured any long distance views I might have had towards any of the other markers.

I searched the area for any signs that would prove this centre to be different to the others. It didn't take long to discover that I was standing in an area enclosed by a small ridge some 3 or 4 inches in height. I thought at first that the ridge was circular but rough measurement by pacing-it-out showed it to be an egg-shaped ellipse some 80 metres long and 40 metres at its widest point, which straddled the track. The shape seemed somehow familiar and I remembered where I had seen it - in Professor Alexander Thom's work on megalithic structures. Could the 'Circles of Time' be megalithic in origin?

Back at base I reviewed the evidence I had found. I had five churches on the Updown circle which fulfilled my basic parameter. Four of these were founded in antiquity but the Eythorne Baptist church was a more modern era with earlier roots as indicated by the cemetery. What worried me about the markers was their position, rather than just their age. Although the churches at Sholden, Ripple and Sandwich were spread out around the circumference, the other two churches at Eythorne were only a couple of hundred yards apart. I would have preferred all the markers to be spread out.

I wondered if I had missed anything and went back to the maps, checking the circle on the larger scale 1:25,000 scale. I found nothing. I checked with the Ordnance Survey office in Southampton who confirmed that everything that was on the '50,000 scale maps was also on the 1:25,000 maps and suggested that if I needed further detail, I would have to turn to the old 6 ins to the mile scale of 1:10,560.

Simple calculations showed that to cover the area of a circle would require upwards of ten maps, at a cost of nearly £16 each. There had to be another way. Luckily, the answer was found in the local library which had complete sets at the larger scale to cover the local area. What was even better was that I could consult them free of charge.

Using the 1:50,000 Landranger map, I made a list of every grid square that the circle passed through and at the library, recorded everything in every square that could be included under the headings of churches, chapels, tumuli and stones. Every position of every feature was logged and given an eight figure map reference, using the romer. Here I got lucky, for the 1:10,560 maps I was using also contained the area's archaeological record which meant that some of the specific features I was studying already had been noted.

surveyed and given eight figure map co-ordinates. I was at last able to check the accuracy of my noting of the positions using the Romer!

Back in my study, I examined the dozens of new features and wondered which, if any, lay on the circle. The computer would tell me. As I already knew the dimensions of the circle I had found, it was a straightforward, if lengthy task, to feed each of the features into the computer in groups of fifteen or so possible targets.

When all the targets had been fed in, the print-out was examined to see which targets fell within the specified radius +/- 24 metres. To my surprise, the computer discovered six additional targets, all stones. One was close to Ripple church, another close to Eythorne Baptist church and the others packed very close together on the northern segment of the circle.

I returned to the original computer program and the

original Updown markers and fed in all twelve targets, the old and the new, to see if they were united by a common circle. The computer buzzed busily for nearly an hour before it finally printed out its lines of terse text 'Circle centre lies outside parameters'.

I re-ran the program, this time concentrating on the screen which printed out the targets and the number of hits for each calculation. It was difficult to concentrate but my patience was rewarded when I noticed that one position had given forty-seven hits out of a maximum score of forty-eight. This indicated that eleven out of the twelve targets were within 0.5% of the Updown centre and the one that had 'dropped out' was the relatively modern-built Eythorne Baptist church. However, the stone which I found close to the Baptist church was on the circle. Could this be the original marker? It was a tantalising thought...

To be continued -



Matthew Hopkins was England's Witch-Finder

The dungeon in Lancaster Castle which held the notorious Pendle Witches is to be opened to the public for the first time.



## SECRET POWER PLANT GIVEN TO US

A once secret Russian powerplant, that converts nuclear power into electricity and will last from six to seven years, has just been delivered to scientists in the United States.

This was confirmed recently from St Petersburg where a spokesman says that the revolutionary engine has been tested in more than 20 different forms on flights over land in the last 25 years. The decision to pass on the equipment was made due to a lack of funding.

## BABY SURPRISE

A BABY amazed her parents when she walked hours after being born.

Shannon Fertert took her first steps as she was held at the wrists. She then turned towards her father when he called her and grabbed mother Patricia's finger with her toes. [Source: Daily Mirror 21 Aug 1992]

## Cheeky Killer

AN IRATE 19-stone woman suffocated her 65-year-old landlady by sitting on her during a quarrel.

The overweight Egyptian, aged 45, is now being held in custody while police in Cairo investigate the death.

# GUARDIAN ANGEL of MARBLE ARCH CAVES

DOWN IN FERMANAGH they're talking already about how to celebrate the centenary of the trip Eduard Alfred Martell, a Frenchman, made deep underground in the Marble Arch caves.

He rowed through the dark and mysterious caverns along the subterranean Cladagh River with only a flickering candle to light his way.

Martell wrote about his Marble Arch experience in a book called "Ireland et Cavernes Angeleses", but the explorer didn't claim to have discovered the underworld of waterfalls, winding passages and lofty chambers.

The point is, you see, that the locals knew for years before Martell arrived of the existence of the caves and their curious rock forms. But they never ventured inside.

"The caverns were supposed to be occupied by spirits and the people were apprehensive of the legend of the ghosts," says 22-year-old Conor Magee who is a summer guide at Marble Arch.

So is there an underground ghost lurking in the dark depths of Marble Arch?

Says young Magee: "When workers were down here in the caves laying cables and building the walkways in 1966 to turn Marble Arch into a tourist attraction not one person was hurt on a dangerous project."

They attributed an accident-free job well done to their Guardian Angel. [Source: Belfast Telegraph 18 August 1992]

## Whatever Happened To ...

### Amazing & Fantastic Inventions That Time Has Buried

#### JAP DEATH RAY

Japanese scientists invented a 'death ray' but by 1950 the best they could do with it was to kill a rabbit at 40 yards.

According to Allied Headquarters in Japan, scientists there had spent four-and-a-half years working on the project. The Japanese Government had appropriated 1,000,000 yen to enable them to continue development of the ray, which was described as the focusing of extremely short wireless waves into a beam.

When tested on humans, all that it did was to leave them dizzy and tired for about 12 to 24 hours. [Source: The Times 8 Oct 1945]

#### NAZI FLYING SAUCER

According to George Klein, an engineer who was attached to the Ministry of Munitions during WW2, Germany had developed a piloted 'flying saucer' and he himself witnessed the first test flight in Prague in February 1945.

The aerial craft, he asserted, attained a height of 40,680 ft within three minutes and a maximum speed of 1,366 mph in level flight. In a statement to *Die Welt am Sonntag* in 1956 he said that it might seem astonishing that the first flight attained a speed nearly twice as great as sound, but with this ideal aerodynamic shape it would be possible to reach a speed of 2,485 mph and even more.

The Prague test, he added, was the result of experiments which began in 1941 and which cost millions of marks. The 'flying saucers' and other machines were being built and the construction plans were destroyed just before the Russians marched into Prague. A model designed by Meithe, the constructor of the 'V' weapons, and also his closest assistants fell into the hands of the Russians at Breslau.

Since the Russians entered Prague there had been no trace of the assistants, Herr Klein said. A test pilot named Schriever died recently in Bremen and Meithe, who left Breslau by air at the last moment, is now said to work in the US. [Source: The Times 1 May 1953]

I read with a great deal of interest a report in the last issue of *Arenas* regarding Britain's mysterious hum. I hear it also but strangely enough only in one particular part of my house.

Our home has a double through lounge and one evening, several months ago, I was standing in front of the display cabinet when I could hear this high pitched humming noise. I thought at first it might be from the refrigerator, as our kitchen is adjacent to this, but appliances were quickly eliminated.

Then I discovered that the noise could only be heard in a very specific, clearly definable, area of the room. I was able to move in and out of it at will, simply by moving my head and shoulders. It ended up with my being able to trace a cube-shaped area in space, at a height of several feet, which lay between a coffee table and the cabinet.

My wife, fortunately or unfortunately, cannot hear the hum and, as we live in a residential area and are not located near power lines, I am at a loss to explain the cause. The display cabinet is glass-fronted, has glass shelves and stands more than six feet in height. Is this or are the contents resonating in some manner, thereby projecting the sound into space? I think not, unless it is capable of focusing the sound to a point approximately 18 inches in the room.

Perhaps it is fortuitous that the hum is confined to such a small area, as it really is not a nuisance, but a mystery just the same.

Signed

*J Herliam, Brighton*

I don't believe in ghosts, necessarily, but what happened to me one night in March this year has caused me to think again. Perhaps your readers would like to learn of my experience and draw their own conclusions.

It was 9 am and I was on a lonely stretch of road in South Wales when my old Triumph Spitfire decided to boil dry. My radiator was belching steam and I needed to obtain fresh water in order to continue my journey, so I pulled off the road and went looking for a likely source.

The night was moonlit, although a little misty and quite cold. A short walk brought me to a farm road and I struck off up this as no other vehicles had passed me in this time. After what seemed an age I came upon a house and, picking my way through the mud and farm equipment, I stopped to deliberate on whether to wake the sleeping occupants or not. I decided against it as I did not want to risk an encounter with either a savage dog, or the wrong end of a shotgun.

It was an easy experience, creeping around in the dark at that time of the morning but I needed the water desperately and fortunately found it when I discovered a full water butt. A bucket was nearby and I had to crack the ice. It was while I was carrying out this operation that my worse nightmare happened.

The hair on the nape of my neck suddenly stood up for no apparent reason and I was filled with an awful feeling of dread. I knew someone was looking at me. As I turned I saw an old man standing looking at me just a few paces away. He had vacant stary eyes and was wearing what appeared to be an old nightshirt.

After what seemed like an age I remember mumbling an apology, saying I needed water for my car, and then it hit me what was so strange about the whole situation - I could see right through the old man! He was actually transparent and I was able to focus on a fence the other side of him.

The bucket I threw in his direction as I unashamedly ran off screaming down the lane and back to the relative safety of my car. There I stayed for another two hours before finally hitching a lift and getting the water I needed.

Signed

*Maurice Evans, Cardiff*

Editor's Comments: Due to a lack of space I have previously had to curtail the Letters page over the last five issues but I thought you would enjoy the above comes vengeance as much as I did. **GA**



**A  
TOP SECRET  
PRODUCTION**

© COPYRIGHT 1992