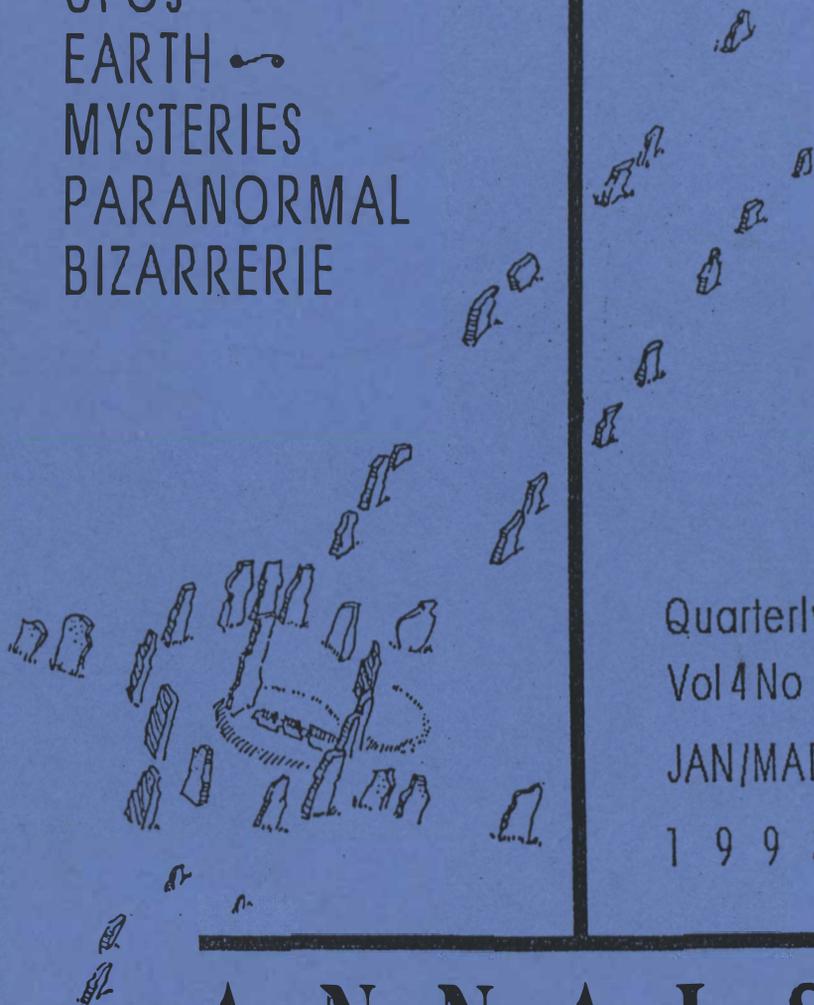


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and, if used, will be
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accordingly.

The opinions and views
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necessarily shared or
endorsed by the Editor.

COVER

Drawing of a temple on the
Island of Lewis, Outer
Hebrides - in the form of a
pre-Christian cross.

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FIRST WORD

EDITORIAL

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Well it's early February and yet another deadline of doom for mankind has passed without incident. On this occasion it was a posse of French astrologers who had gotten themselves all wound up for a cataclysm, at 9.10am Central European Time on February 2.

They were blaming it all on what was seen as a frightening conjunction of the planets Neptune (influencing the sea) and Uranus (signifying turbulence) in Capricorn, with violent Mars in opposition. Not since the day Napoleon died - May 25, 1821 - has there been such a fierce aspect between the three planets, they say.

One, Veronique Lepage, believed the conjunction was already at work, holding it responsible for last September's floods in the south of France, the Shetland oil spill and other disasters. France's leading astrologer, Elisabeth Teissier, foresees increased xenophobia, extreme nationalism, violence and destruction.

Seems like just another year to me! However, so that we stay on our toes we learn that the same conjunction is due to take place in a few months: August in fact.

Once again media interest, this time in the ongoing mutilation of horses in Hampshire for more than a decade, has only succeeded in muddying the waters and promoted copycat attacks by society's sick.

The most recent involved four horses at Burford, Oxon, at the end of January, followed a few days later by an attack on a lone animal at a remote stable in Wroughton, near Swindon, Wiltshire. The 17-year-old gelding there had a tail, forelock and mane hacked off.

Something I overlooked in the last issue of *Annals* was November's palindromic date: 29.11.92. Palindromes - which appear the same backwards as they do forwards - are thought to have been around since the Garden of Eden when Eve was greeted, palindrome fans believe, with "Madam, I'm Adam".

GL

The Brothers From Outer Space

JOHN MACKLIN

THROUGHOUT the early 1920s, America was captivated, mystified and occasionally irritated, by two squeaky-voiced young men in white suits who claimed to be able to do the impossible.

"We are not bound by earthly constraints," stated Wilbur and Ralph Torres' full-page advertisement in the New York Times published during 1921. "We came from another galaxy, and will return there when our work is done. We are free beings."

Vainly did cynics point out that Wilbur and Ralph Torres, then both in their early twenties, were the sons of a Mexican-born taxi-driver available for hire in Detroit and that their parents could attest to that fact.

Believers cared only about the feats which Wilbur and Ralph apparently performed. For instance, they seemed able to transmit thoughts to each other over thousands of miles, as quickly and precisely as if they were talking on the telephone. And no one ever discovered how they did it in spite of the most rigorous testing procedures of the day.

The Torres brothers first hit the headlines in Detroit shortly after the First World War with a routine which utilised the city's brand new skyscrapers. Wilbur would sit inside a sealed box on the pavement outside the building with a witness, while his brother, also accompanied by an impartial witness of civic standing, would ascend the building in the lift stopping at floors chosen by the witness.

He would then come to a window on that floor and Wilbur, in his blacked-out, sealed box, would say on what floor his brother stood. He was never known to be wrong. . . In one day-long test Ralph appeared 35 times on 20 different floors and Wilbur unerringly gave his brother's whereabouts. The fact that the witness choosing the floors was the Roman Catholic Bishop of Chicago ended all talk of collusion!

When the brothers went to New York they continued to astound onlookers with their apparent gifts of thought transference. A routine achievement was to ask a witness to write a message which would be shown to Ralph while Wilbur sat in another room. Wilbur would then write out the message transmitted to him by Ralph, and it would be compared with the original. They were always identical!

In the spring of 1921 the brothers embarked on a series of experiments devised by the American Academy of Sciences to test their powers. There had been rumours that the Torres brothers used the new-fangled science of radio to perform their miracle, but a body search revealed nothing.

To rule out the possibility of their using a code, the tests were to be carried out in silence. So it was that on March 24, Wilbur Torres set off across America for Los Angeles by train, in the company of two officials of the Academy while Ralph, under strict guard, stayed behind in New York.

Four days later, at midnight, the first tests began. According to a report on the incidents later published by the Academy, "A written message was composed by a third party (a past-president of the Academy), which read: 'George Washington was the first President of the United States and a major figure in our heritage. He was a man of distinction and his honesty was never in question.'"

This message was given to Ralph Torres who read it silently and then attempted to transmit it to his brother who was in Los Angeles. According to witnesses, Wilbur Torres suddenly went very pale and began to tremble. He then said: "My brother is trying to communicate with me," and started to write furiously on a pad in front of him.

When the message was complete it was sealed and taken by officials of the Academy to the Western Union office, where it was telegraphed immediately back to New York City.

An hour later the message, in a sealed envelope, was delivered to the New York apartment in which Ralph Torres and several witnesses waited. Slowly the brother opened the telegram. He read it briefly and handed it to the waiting officials. The message from Wilbur Torres was absolutely identical to the one transmitted an hour earlier by his brother.

Other tests followed over the course of the next week, and in all of them the brothers scored an unflinching 100 per cent rate of success. The tests included passing on messages of up to 200 words in length, and identifying colours, shapes, playing cards and objects taken at random from the pockets of volunteers.

As the perplexity of the experts mounted, so the Torres brothers' modesty increased. "Where we come from, thought-transference is accepted as being as natural as talking and seeing," said Wilbur, as though that explained everything. "We were brought to this planet as babies by rocket ship, and will be returning before too long."

Three years later the Torres brothers did indeed disappear. One theory was that they feared their monumental hoax was in danger of being exposed. Another was that they owed vast amounts of money and had done a moonlight flit to Mexico.

Whatever the reason, the brothers with the power to crash the "thought barrier" were never seen again in America from that time onward. For they vanished as completely as if they really had returned to a distant galaxy, white suits and all.

Out of This World



THEY ARE SMALL with large heads, big eyes and leathery grey skin and they have conspicuously advanced the cause of academic freedom at Temple University, where Professor David Jacobs is currently teaching a course called 'Unidentified Flying Objects in American Society.'

Flying saucers have not landed in the syllabus at Temple without some controversy, reports Dermot Purgavie in his regular column for the *Daily Mail* 31 Oct. 1992. Although to some he's an embarrassment, most of Jacob's colleagues support him because of their commitment to open-mindedness and because he is the author of a solemnly-received book in which he argues that extraterrestrials are abducting people and subjecting them to experiments.

'I want to be wrong,' he says. 'I am an easy target for ridicule but this is a serious course about a serious subject and students take it seriously and get serious grades.'

Using hypnosis, Professor Jacobs, an historian, interviewed 60 people who told remarkably similar stories about being kidnapped overnight by grey aliens who perform medical procedures on them, and in his book, which has a supportive foreword from a professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, he concludes that we have been invaded by extraterrestrials seeking human sperm and eggs.

Millions of Americans, he says, may have been abducted but afterwards they are unaware of it, except for suffering a feeling of anxiety and depression.

The course is popular, and the chairman of the history department, Professor James Hilty, says: 'It's an important body of work and he has shown courage in pursuing it.' Says another colleague: 'People didn't believe Copernicus either.'

JESUS WAS HERE - IT'S THE GLASTONBURY CONNECTION

AND DID THOSE feet in ancient times walk upon England's mountains green? Well, according to one writer and broadcaster, they did. David Young, who presented the second in an award-winning series of programs for TSW Television in November, claims that not only did the boy Jesus live in Glastonbury, the Virgin Mary was buried there as well. And he claims the dark satanic mills of the anthem *Jerusalem* were not in the north country, but Priddy.

"In our research for the series I met a chap who had done 30 years of research. He is certain that Joseph of Arimathea journeyed with the boy Jesus up the Bristol Channel, through Priddy, and came to Glastonbury for three to five years. The dark satanic mills were the Mendip Hills shrouded by the smelting of lead."

Mr Young claims that the Druids were the lost tribe of Israel and that they, along with Joseph, fled Palestine after the Crucifixion, bringing Mary with him. She was buried in Glastonbury, in AD48, in St Mary's, or St Joseph's Church. Which, says Mr Young, explains why Glastonbury was never sacked.

"There is a stone in the chapel inscribed Jesus Maria. In 1086 a monk in Glastonbury wrote that 12 hides of land had been given to Joseph when he arrived after the Crucifixion, to support the church he had built over Christ's original hut."

The television program, which is part of a series called *Cobblestones, Cottages and Castles*, aired on TSW 7 November, 1992, at 5.30pm.

Glastonbury's deputy mayor Brian Henderson threw cold water on the suggestion.

"The whole thing is a load of rubbish. If someone is perpetrating this, it is a great con, just like finding Arthur and Guinevere." [Source: Wells Journal 5 Nov 1992]

MESSENGER OF DOOM

CHARLOTTE LINDGREN

the comet in 1066 may have helped to precipitate the invasion of England by William the Conqueror in that year. Since the comet foretold the fall of a great Kingdom or the death of a royal, William reasoned that it probably meant the death of King Harold.

In *Lulus Censor* Shakespeare wrote:

When beggars die there are no comets seen
The heavens themselves blaze for the death of princes.

Today we view comets with more equanimity, secure in the knowledge that they are mostly ice with some methane and ammonia, but in his book *Cosmos*, Carl Sagan described how as late as 1910 when it was discovered that the earth would pass through the tail of Halley's comet, people all over the world panicked believing that they would be poisoned by the cyanogen gas. Anti-comet pills and gas masks were sold, and people prayed or partied as they waited for what they thought might be their end.

In the Dorset County Record Office there is a typescript dated 1930 of the reminiscences of 82-year-old William Mabey. Born in Beaminster, he later moved to Bournemouth where he became a builder and maker of carts for Covent Garden Market. The recollection of older citizens may not always be accurate in facts, but they are invaluable in showing the spirit and belief of the time.

Thus when he writes about a comet affecting the climate, he speaks of the belief of many local people. He tells that in 1863 he went to see the last two men publicly hanged in Dorchester. "At about this time the large comet was appearing and it was so big its tail spread over nearly the whole of the sky. All vegetation was burnt up and the ground opened in great cracks as the heat was so intense. During the whole of my life I have never experienced such heat - and there was great joy when the comet vanished."

The idea that great heat accompanies comets had been expressed by Ptolemy in the 2nd century A.D.; so the country people of Dorset were perpetrating a belief seventeen centuries old. It is likely the comet described by Mr Mabey was Tebbutt's Comet for in the latter part of June 1861, scientists recorded that the earth passed through its tail. The 4 July, 1861 *Dorset County Chronicle* described the brilliant comet surrounded by a nebulous haze, the tail nearly perpendicular to the earth. It may have been the comet that inspired Thomas Hardy to write: 'The Comet at Yell ham'. For *Wessex Poems*, Hardy drew a flashing comet to illustrate his poem 'A Sign Seeker'.

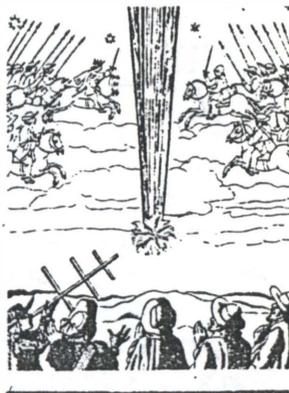
It is the words of Thomas Hardy and the reminiscences of ordinary men like William Mabey that reveal how even in the enlightened latter half of the 19th century, the superstitious awe of comets lingered in the minds of the countryfolk of Wessex.

IN 5000 BC COMETS were known much as they are today; their origin and composition were understood and their effects were studied.



These 18th century observers were mystified by glowing objects, some natural, some fictitious, in the night sky. The engraving above shows not only a comet, meteors and stars but a dragon as well.

MAN HAS ALWAYS been fascinated by comets. Until the age of modern science they were believed to be harbingers of disease: omens of such earth-shaking events as famine, plague, war or the death of an important personage. Halley's comet is depicted on the Bayeux Tapestry, for the return of



HAS THE FRONT MAN BEEN UP-FRONT ABOUT LOCH NESS?

TV NEWSMAN Nicholas Witchell has tried hard to disassociate himself from his past pre-occupation with Loch Ness and its famed monster. As one of the more prominent spokesmen for Project Urquhart he played down that aspect of a initial scientific survey of the Loch carried out last July.

"Project Urquhart is *not* a monster-hunt," he took pains to emphasise in a radio interview, while the MV Simrad was conducting the first of seven million readings taken with the latest sonar technology.

But twenty years ago as a teenager Witchell was so convinced a monster lived and bred in the Loch that, before going off to study for a law degree at university, he spent five months camped out on its shores in a wooden hut in a field overlooking Urquhart Castle. He even wrote a book shortly after the event, entitled *The Loch Ness Story*.

Witchell says he has become increasingly cynical about the mystery and when asked two and a half years ago whether he would help to create something new at Loch Ness, thought very hard. His main concern from comments made last year was about his own professional credibility. "Did I want to deal with the possessive and obsessive behaviour of some of the people who are attracted to Loch Ness?" he said.

But Witchell's eyes aren't totally closed to the many eye-witness accounts. In a September 1992 issue of *World* magazine he makes reference to the sighting of Alastair and Susan Boyd, two art teachers from Southend in Essex. Several years ago they saw a "20-foot-long solid, dark hump" in the water about 100 yards away in Urquhart Bay. Since that experience they have been returning to the loch every summer in the hope of repeating it.

A WHALE OF A TALE

Extract of a letter from Wemouth dated Oct 2, 1752: "On the sands near this place has lately been caught a monstrous large fish upwards of fifty feet long and twelve feet thick. Its jaws were nine or ten feet when extended. Its tongue in size may be compared to a large feather bed, and the passage down its throat large enough to receive a coach horse. Its teeth which consist of two rows on the under jaw are about five inches long which sheath themselves in holes in the upper jaw when the mouth is shut. Its body (although one part in three was buried in the sands) was higher than the head of a tall man on horseback.

When it was cut open, numbers - at least thirty thousand fish of various sized - leaped out of its belly. The two prongs of the tail are twelve feet asunder. Its eyes very small for so large a bulk not exceeding the bigness of an ox's eye, yet from the tip of the nose to the eyes is ten feet.

The country for many miles round flock to see this surprising animal and not less than three thousand were present when I saw it. The men who took this monster say that an anchor was thrown into its mouth which it spit out with such force as to break three new cables it was fastened to, and at one stroke it overwhelmed three hundred men with its tail. The fish at high water mark came over our Bank, and when the tide ebbed it could not get back again. The proprietors expect to make one hundred and twenty hogsheads of oil from it."

A CHINESE PUZZLE OF A CONTINENT

JAMES FAIRHURST

Regarded by history as barbarians and pirates, the Vikings had a highly developed culture and left many vivid, although sometimes obscure, narratives of their exploits. One such story concerns Bjarné Herjulfsson, who was fishing in 966 and was blown off course to the west and knew the land he found was not any that he had seen before.

Another story is about Eric the Red who killed a man in Iceland and was banished. He sailed westwards and after 500 miles of voyaging arrived at a place he called Greenland. Returning, he gave an exaggerated account of the country that he found and persuaded 400 colonists in 24 ships to take possession of the territory. As the natives offered no resistance, the land was soon settled and the colony flourished.

Some years went by before Eric's son, Lief, knowing of Bjarné Herjulfsson's experience, organised an expedition with a crew of 35 young men, all of which were anxious to sail into the unknown. Eric, now no longer red but silver-haired, was asked to be the leader but his horse threw him and he sprained his ankle. Taking this as an omen he said, "It is not destined that I should discover other lands than Greenland."

Lief and his crew sailed for many weeks, striking the mast at night and laying the sail over it as a makeshift tent under which they slept, watched over by the helmsman. Eventually they arrived at a country with huge snowy mountains and well-wooded plains which they named "Markland" or forest land and which was probably Labrador. Sailing further south they encountered warmer climes which, to their surprise, besides having valuable timber, supported vines and grapes. They named the country Vinland and most historians agree that it was most likely Newfoundland. Some natives were seen but they ran away from the dragon ship and its pale warriors.

They stayed the winter, which passed uneventfully, and in the spring loaded their ship with the rare timber (probably bird's-eye maple) and returned home to a tremendous welcome for no one had expected to see them again.

Lief's brother, Thorvald, equipped another ship and set out with a crew of 30, many of whom had been on the first voyage. They visited the places described by Lief and sailed further south to "gleaming white beaches" and the belief is that they progressed as far as what is now Massachusetts. In a battle with the natives, Thorvald was killed, whereupon the ship returned to Greenland.

The following summer, three vessels with 160 crew set out to colonise Vinland. One ship ran into trouble, but the other two reached their destination. At first the natives were friendly, but when the Vikings executed one of them for stealing supplies, relationships deteriorated.

There were many voyages between Vinland and Greenland, mainly to take back the valuable wood. Eventually, the urge that drove the Creeknén faded. The immense distances, the hardship of the voyages, the loneliness and lack of communication and the hostility of the "skraelings", as the natives were known, militated against further exploitations. But the great voyages of these little ships were not wasted. It is known from the writings of Columbus that he visited Iceland and the story runs that he first obtained his positive conviction of the existence of land in the west from the records of Herjulfsson and Lief.

Some evidence of the Norse occupation of North America has been discovered in archeological digs which have uncovered wood dwellings similar in plan to other dwellings in Greenland which have been excavated. Carbon dating gives the year as 1,000 A.D. But what of the land's name? It could not possibly be named India, as repeated expeditions began to show more and more clearly.

A Florentine, Amerigo Vespucci, reached Spain as a naval contractor, helped to fill Columbus's ships with stores and found it easy to follow in the wake of the initial discoverers. He explored intensively the coast of Venezuela and the stories that he wrote of those voyages which he claimed to have made brought him exaggerated fame. The result was that when a name had to be found for what Vespucci called the "New World" his Christian name was used. So for all time, the continent is known as America and not Columbia.

CHINESE RECORDS STATE that early in the Christian era, bold sons of the Celestial Empire crossed the ocean in their junks and visited a great land in the East. If that claim is valid, the Chinese may have been the first to discover America by landing on the Pacific Coast. Features of Peruvian life and manners are thought to be Chinese in origin, although the truth will never be known.

The colonising of ocean sites by the Polynesians suggest that these great seamen must have landed at some time on the shores of the great continent long before Europeans knew of its existence.

There is evidence that the Vikings - a Norse word meaning "Creekmen" - landed on the shores 500 years before Columbus.

In the words of a plaque at Fort Morgan in Alabama, Welshman Prince Madoc is said to have "landed on the shores of Mobile Bay in 1170 and left behind, with the Indians, the Welsh language".

More Maxwell Nightmares

A MAN WHO almost killed Robert Maxwell 46 years ago had a chilling nightmare about the millionaire publisher - at precisely the moment he died. Verdun Besley, aged 65, woke in a cold sweat after reliving the wartime confrontation with the newspaper magnate as a young soldier.

Maxwell, then a second lieutenant, raced to rescue British infantryman Mr Besley from a Dutch farmhouse under siege by 80 Germans during the Second World War. But the terrified private, then 19, thought the British officer with the heavy foreign accent was a German - and tried to shoot him. His shot missed by millimetres and Mr Maxwell - later decorated for his bravery in the rescue - saved the young soldier.

At his home in Axbridge, Somerset, Mr Besley said: "He was the most important man I ever met. He saved me.

"It's eerie because I went to bed on Monday night and just kept reliving the moment he came to save me and I tried to shoot him.

"Then I got a phone call from a friend saying he was missing. I knew that he was dead then." [Source: Bristol Evening Post - 7 Nov 1992]



AN EARLIER INCARNATION of Robert Maxwell? Well, it certainly looks like it to me, but in fact it is a Japanese illustration of famous American Commodore Perry. Strangely enough one of Perry's souvenirs from his expedition to Japan in 1854 was the term 'Tycoon', which means business magnate.

It is an Anglicised spelling of the Japanese taikun, derived from the Chinese work tai, meaning 'great', and kün, meaning 'prince'. Now, wouldn't old infamous Bob have just loved that.

DEATH DREAM CONFESSION

A FORMER ARMY officer confessed to killing his parents after an aunt recalled seeing a vision of his mother the night she died, a court heard.

The bodies of wealthy Nicholas and Elizabeth Newall have not been found since their disappearance in 1987 from their home in Jersey, Channel Islands.

Roderick Newall, 27, who was arrested on his yacht by a naval boarding party, is in Gibraltar awaiting extradition proceedings to the UK.

[Source: ITN Oracle - 22 Oct 1992]

ATLANTIS AND THE THEORY OF THERA

R. FARRELLY

TWO AND A half thousand years ago the Greek philosopher Plato wrote of a continent called Atlantis which was submerged by the sea in a day and a night. Plato derived his information of Atlantis from the writings of Solon, who in turn came across the story during his sojourn in Egypt. Since then the story of Atlantis has been a source of fascination to thinkers and writers who have speculated on the reality or otherwise of that strange tale.

Many regard Plato's story to be pure invention without any basis in fact; others disagree and advance the view that it is derived from a folk memory of some disaster which struck the ancient world.

Those who have placed faith in the veracity of the story have pondered on the possible location of the lost continent. The two favourite locations have been the central area of the North Atlantic and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Up-to-date geological evidence can't support the claim that part of the North Atlantic was the location of Atlantis, or that the North Atlantic Ridge, which crosses the ocean's floor from the coast of Africa to Iceland, is a remnant of the lost continent.

A study of rocks from the ocean ridge shows them to be of ancient origin which pre-date the emergence of man on earth. The type of rocks therein indicate that they are of marine origin and could not have been part of a continental land mass. The thickness of the sediment deposited on the ocean floor rules out the possibility of a seismic cataclysm occurring there a mere few thousand years ago.

Similar studies have ruled out the Indian Ocean as being the possible location of a lost continent despite the fact that Indian legends refer to the existence of a submerged land mass called Gondwanaland in that area.

Modern studies of the earth's magnetic field, which changes direction over long periods of time, enable scientists to establish how the continents were situated in the remote past and how the oceans were formed over eons of time. The view is that originally there existed a single land mass, called Pangaea by scientists, surrounded by a universal ocean, Panthalassa.

Over a hundred million years ago, this land mass split in two. The southern part became the basis of the continents of South America, Africa, Australia, Antarctica and part of India. The earth's crust is believed to be composed of twenty tectonic plates which float like rafts on hot, plastic sub structure material. This movement, over a vast period of time, has caused continents and ocean basins to drift across the surface of the earth and is responsible for the earthquakes and volcanic eruptions which happen from time to time.

Most experts now believe that the legend of Atlantis has its origin in the volcanic eruption which occurred on the island of Thera, near Crete, in about 1,470 B.C. Evidence abounds which shows how the Eastern Mediterranean was



covered by ash from that eruption, which is believed to have exceeded in force the tremendous volcano which almost blew apart the island of Krakatoa in August 1883.

At that time Thera was part of the Minoan civilisation centre on Crete and which pre-dated the dominance of the ancient Greeks. The Minoan dominance of that area went into a sharp decline some time after the Thera eruption and it is assumed that that disaster could have had some bearing on it.

It is reasonable to presume that such a catastrophe would have survived in the folk memory and could be the basis of the story recorded by Plato. We have to make allowances for errors and exaggerations which caused Plato to place Atlantis in the Atlantic. Many of the accounts of Atlantis given by Plato fit in with what is known of Minoan culture, so it seems safe to say that the lost world of Atlantis is based on the extraordinary volcanic eruption on the island of Thera which happened about a thousand years before Plato was born.

NO HOPE BEYOND TWO MORE POPES

IN THE EARLY Twelfth Century, the Irish archbishop Malachy O Morgair visited his Pope in Rome. . . and handed over a document with explosive implications for the Church.

The Pope, Innocent II, took a look at Malachy's list of 112 obscure Latin phrases and filed it away for future reference - in other words, stuck it in the archives and forgot all about it. The paper remained under wraps for the next 400 years. It was only then, in the mid-sixteenth century, that the Vatican realised what a devastating document they had on their hands.

For the Irish archbishop, who we now know as Saint Malachy, had accurately predicted every Pope from the year 1130 onwards. He had given each of them a Latin nickname which, in retrospect, proved amazingly apt. But Malachy didn't stop there. He went on to predict every Pontiff until the present day. And if he is to be believed, the one after next will be the last Pope of all.

Among Malachy's successes:

* Leo XI: "Like the wind he came and like the water he went" - he reigned for only 22 days.

* Clement XII: "Rose of Umbria" - he had been governor of Umbria, whose symbol was a rose.

* Leo XIII: "The light in the sky" - his coat of arms bore a golden comet in a blue sky.

* Benedict XV: "Religion depopulation" - he took over at the start of the 1914 War.

And in our own era:

* John XII: "Shepherd and sailor" - the shepherd or "pastor" of the Church was the Patriarch of the seaport of Venice.

* Pavi VI: "Flowers of Flowers" - his shield depicted a lily.

* John Paul II: "From the toil of the sun" - more cryptic this, although he did work as a labourer in his youth, and has been one of the most energetic Popes.

And still to come:

* The next Pope: "Glory of the olive branch" - perhaps a peacemaker, or a Benedictine such as Cardinal Basil Hume.

* The last Pope: "Peter Of Rome" - he will preside over "great tribulations" which will end with the destruction of Rome and the end of the Papacy.

'WEIRD' OBJECT FOUND UNDERGROUND

EXCAVATIONS FOR A new Kwik Fit depot near Bristol's Temple Meads railway station have unearthed a mysterious collection of underground rooms and chambers, plus a strange 10ft long metal object found in the rubble.

Local history sleuths are unable to identify the rooms; the largest of which is 45ft long, more than 12ft wide and nearly eight feet high says a report in *The Bristol Evening Post* 4 Feb 1993. A former railway worker Arthur Bedford has come up with an intriguing claim that he had seen buried rooms on the site in the 1930s, one of which had tall lancet windows.

In the floor of the large room was a pool of water, later explored by a cave diver and thought to have been part of the 14th century conduit system for carrying water into the city. Members of the Temple Local History Group are convinced there are more buried rooms nearby. The "weird metal object" remains a mystery, however, reports the newspaper.

A DEVIL OF A JOB IN EAST AFRICA by Gerishon Kibarabara

IN 1977 A local newspaper began to print articles about demon activity in a home occupied by eleven people. They lived in Ngong, thirteen miles outside Nairobi City in Kenya. The newspaper reported that the demons caused all kinds of problems, such as throwing stones and changing metal into kerosene. A storage hut burned after being ignited by the demons. People could not see them, but they could see their evil deeds. The stories continued for two months, until the paper printed an article entitled, 'Who Can Help?' Thirteen denominational church groups had gone there to pray. All had been chased away by the demons throwing rocks.

When the government sent policemen to the home, before they could ask questions or even shoot, the demons had driven them away. On February 22 I phoned the newspaper office and asked the newsman, 'Is it true what you are writing about these demons?' 'Yes,' he replied. 'What can you do that the church people couldn't do? The Moslems came and even they could do nothing.' 'I am going to take authority over the demons,' I told him.

To my amazement, the following day an article appeared on the front page of the 'East African Standard' containing my conversation with the newsman. Next, a government official called and commanded me to appear that night for an interview on television. During the interview I said that I would go to the demonized house on Saturday and take authority over them.

On Saturday many people came to Ngong to watch. The people stayed about two hundred yards back, afraid because of the newspaper stories. The presence of evil spirits was plainly felt. A heavy, devilish wind tried to push us back as I and several others walked forward. Standing our ground, I called out, 'I rebuke you evil spirits in the name of Jesus Christ.' Then they spoke through a young boy, 'We have come from New York. We are charged to come and terrorize people in Kenya.' I stood confidently before them, cast them out, and commanded them to leave in the name of Jesus. They answered, 'We leave as you command us.'

Within minutes the climate changed. One of the boys in the home had a broken leg caused by the demons. He had gone to hospital to have the leg put in a plaster cast. But upon returning home, the demons caused the leg and cast to be broken again. This had happened several times. I laid my hands on his cast and prayed. Immediately the boy felt his leg being healed. Before our very eyes the cast went straight again.

Gerry Kibarabara studied at the Institute of Export, London, and is owner of Businessmen Agencies, an import, export and insurance business based in Nairobi, Kenya.

IT IS A short Dublin street in the heart of one of the most historic sections of the city. The past lingers here against a backdrop of Dublin Castle, Christ Church and City Hall. The ghosts that throng historic Cork Hill are mostly from the far past. But there is one exceedingly uncanny tale of the supernatural that belongs to the opening years of the present century. It is the eerie legend attached to a house that no longer exists but was perhaps destroyed by the very evil that lurked within its crumbling bricks. Who can say?

At the turn of the century, in a building on the hill, opposite City Hall, the *Evening News* was published. It was to survive into the 1960s. One of the stories spoken of in the *News* office was a disturbing occurrence that happened virtually on its own doorstep.

The bizarre events began on the day a group of young college students inserted a latchkey in the door of a tall, gaunt, empty red-brick house close to the office. It had been unoccupied for a long time, a fact that did not escape the attention of some neighbouring tenants, who shook their heads sagely and wondered.

Nothing of this, of course, was known to the young students when they accepted the key from the owner of the house, no less a personage than Mr Walter Butler, a building surveyor with Dublin Corporation. Taking on a property from a landlord in such good standing appeared to be a safe gamble, they thought. They were not to know that when they rented his house, for little more than £1 per week, they were taking on something over which neither Mr Butler nor anybody else had any control.

The students - three boys and a girl from the same family - opened the hall door and advanced into the short, narrow hallway. There, the first thing that attracted them, scrawled across the white plastered wall in thick black crayon, was the word "Ghosts". The young people exchanged amused glances. They shrugged and then picked their way slowly through the several ground-floor rooms. They then made their way up the narrow stairs to the two storeys above.

The rooms were spacious, and although each of the four intending tenants was strangely aware of a disquieting, eerie atmosphere, they decided after a brief conference in the top back bedroom to rent the building. "It's just what we've been looking for," remarked the girl, but even as she spoke they became aware of the sound of footfalls in the rooms beneath. Although they encountered nobody on their way out, they came to the conclusion that the noises were made by other people who, like themselves, were looking over the house with a view to renting it.

In case somebody might acquire the tenancy before them they hurried to Mr Butler's office to confirm their leasing. When they casually mentioned that they had heard footfalls in the empty house, he told them that nobody else had viewed it that day.

Some hours later they returned to the house to examine it for any urgent repairs that might be called for before they moved in. Five minutes earlier the party had split up into two couples. The second were upstairs but now, hearing footfalls in the hall, the two in the kitchen assumed they had come downstairs. Yet, when they went out to the hall to speak to them, it was empty.

A few days later when they were about to move in the students visited the nearest grocer, Mr Fottrell. Chatting while they selected their provisions he learned the young students had rented the house across the road and advised them against it. Warning that it was haunted. Twenty years before, he said, members of the secret society known as the Invincibles gathered in the house regularly to plan the Phoenix Park murders. The hauntings seemed to emanate from the basement, he told them.

And two nights later, it was from the basement that the sound of tramping feet echoing eerily up through the building, terrified one of the boys, who was alone at the time. Thoroughly scared he promptly hurried out through the rear entrance, the perspiration cold on his forehead, relieved to be free of the evil atmosphere that seemed to

permeate every shadowy corner of the old, creaking house.

Next day, the new tenants decided to vacate the house, prepared to forfeit the year's rent they had paid in advance in order to escape whatever chilling supernatural menace lurked within.

There is a bizarre footnote to a bizarre story. Just a short time later, on the night of Thursday, 26th January, 1903, one of the most severe gales ever recorded hit Dublin. Countless trees were blown down in the Phoenix Park and there was extensive damage to property in the city. On Cork Hill, the strange, empty house - how empty? - with the uneasy presence crumbled to the ground in a heap of rubble, burying whatever grim secret it held in the debris.

THE HOUSE THAT DIED

JOHN J DUNNE

NOSING AHEAD

A 45-day-old baby with a long nose is drawing crowds in Amritsar, India. They believe it is an incarnation of the Hindu elephant-head god Ganesh.

[Source: Teletex 4 - 3 Feb 1993]

The World Of QUIRK

EURO-MP Gary Titley is the latest victim of an exotic species invading Britain. He found a plague of red Pharaoh's ants crawling around his office in Redcliffe, Greater Manchester.

[Source: ITN Oracle 30 Aug 1992]

A PILE of uncollected rubbish in Macau saved the life of a 14-year-old girl who jumped from a 15th floor apartment after a quarrel with her aunt. [Source: ITN Oracle 12 Sept 1992]

THERE IS consternation among German sports fans. 'Kaiser' Franz Beckenbauer, the most successful footballer in German history, has told a magazine that in a previous life he was a plant. He also wants to come back as a woman, so he can experience giving birth. [Source: Sunday Times 27 Sept 1992]

JAPAN HAS agreed to dig up a tomb containing 20,000 noses of Korean warriors and return them to South Korea for reburial. The noses were sliced off in the 16th century as part of a victim ritual and brought back as trophies for the Shogun. [Source: Sunday Times 27 Sept 1992]

SCIENTISTS ARE trying to decide whether a spectacular light show in the sky over Pittsburgh was caused by a meteor or space debris. [Source: ITN Oracle 10 Oct 1992]

20 YEARS ago two mediums told Charlie Hill of Blackpool that all they could see was bags of money over his head. Now their forecasts have proved right, since Mr Hill, 68, has won over one of the biggest payouts ever of £2 million plus. [Source: Ceefax 4 Nov 1992]

POLICE IN Hengshu have smashed a gang who abducted people and forced them to sell their blood, the official Legal Daily reported under the headline *Hengshu Nabs Vampires*. [Source: ITN Oracle 28 Dec 1992]

A JUDGE in Holland ordered a Groningen man to muzzle his noisy cockerel or pay his neighbour £200 every time the bird crows. [Source: ITN Oracle 30 Dec 1992]

AN ESCAPED convict gave himself up and informed on six fellow escapees because he thought they were cannibals who were going to kill him for dinner. [Source: Teletext 15 Jan 1993]

THE EARTH might rotate every 200 hours if it had not been struck billions of years ago by rocks as big as the planet Mars, said a NASA expert. [Source: Teletext 17 Jan 1993]

THREE WALKERS in New Zealand claimed to have seen a large Emu-like bird thought extinct for the past 500 years. They were able to produce photographs of the alleged creature's footprints, although scientists are sceptical. [Source: Teletext 4 - 28 Jan 1993]

CHILDREN IN the Philippines went into a frenzy after seeing a man they said was the devil in their playground. "He was a gigantic man with horns," said one. [Source: Teletext 4 - 28 Jan 1993]

MOTORISTS IN upper Assam, India, are being terrorised by hordes of elephants who form roadblocks along main roads and refuse to budge until they are paid a generous toll of bananas. Sharp entrepreneurs are doing a brisk trade selling bunches of bananas to unsuspecting motorists who need to break the roadblocks.

African elephants nearly forced a project to deliver power to remote villages in Namibia to be abandoned, after they kept pulling the pylons from the ground one by one. [Source: Daily Mirror 10 Nov 1992]

THEY CALL IT the 'Transylvania hypothesis' and many scientists have concluded that there is indeed a direct correlation between the phases of the moon and incidents of madness as well as criminal behaviour in society. French astronomer Michel Gauquelin has established, statistically at least, numerous connections between human behaviour and such lunar phases.

It is a fact that when the moon is full the altered gravitational fields around our planet mean that huge amounts of electrically charged particles fall to earth. Such charges in the atmosphere are thought to cause depression and irritability by altering chemicals in our brains.

Just as the moon creates ocean tides on the earth because of its gravitational pull, it may also create inner tides in the water compartments of our bodies. The human body, like the earth, is composed of 70 per cent water. The important thing about this theory is that if it is true, then everyone is affected by the moon, not just psychiatric patients or criminals.

In comparing criminal behaviour with lunar phases investigations have shown that all crime rises during a full moon, but there are some striking effects for particular crimes. For example, one study in Florida found an increased rate of homicide during full-moon days, from an average of one murder every three days to one every two days. Of all crimes, offences against family and children show the strongest relationship with the full moon, and car thefts the weakest.

The moon effects are not just due to the phase of the moon, but also its distance from the earth. This varies at different times in the lunar cycle, from 221,500 miles to 252,700 miles. Research has found that the closer it is, the more bizarre and ruthless homicides become.

The earth also becomes distorted by the moon because beneath the earth's crust lies a fluid 'mantle' which reacts to the moon's gravitational pull in the same way as the ocean. At its closest it has the effect of stretching the mantle so that we actually stand eight inches higher.

This amazing fact came to light because Swiss scientists kept finding errors in their experiments. Twelve years ago they built a 16-mile circular tunnel near Geneva in order to study the collision of atomic particles. Now it appears the tunnel is all of one millimetre out when the moon is in certain positions - enough to foil their experiments.

But it is not just scientific and criminal activity which is affected. Other violent events are also related to the full moon. Fatal traffic accidents, suicides and suicide attempts are all more likely. Research suggests that when it comes to suicidal activity, women are more affected than men. There seems to be a close relationship between female bodies and lunar cycles.

Contrary to popular opinion, the menstrual cycle in women does not average 29 days, but is usually 29.5 days, exactly the length of the interval between two successive moon phases. In addition, the average length of pregnancy is 266 days - exactly nine lunar months.

Research has found a dramatic rise in admissions to psychiatric hospitals in New York on days of the full moon. The total admitted on the day of the full moon was the same as the combined admissions on the ten days before, or after. Even counselling services report more telephone calls at full moon, and so all this evidence supports the idea that the moon does affect our behaviour.

Researchers in Johannesburg have been able to link this to certain activity on the sun's surface in the form of sunspots. The exciting thing about this theory is that modern science is beginning to suggest we may be 'cosmic receivers', our behaviour being influenced by events far beyond our own planet - which is exactly what our ancestors believed many thousands of years ago.

MANKIND

THE COSMIC RECEIVER

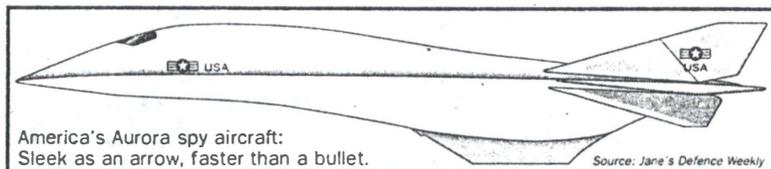
IT'S O-FISH-ALL

A FOSSILISED North American clam found near Skagen, in Denmark, brings new evidence that Vikings were the first Europeans in the New World, say experts.

FEATHER BRAINED

A PEKING zookeeper and his girlfriend have been jailed for eating extremely rare birds from the city zoo. [Source: Teletext4 - 2 Feb 1993]

UFO SPY PLANE TAKES SHAPE



America's Aurora spy aircraft:
Sleek as an arrow, faster than a bullet.

Source: Jane's Defence Weekly

AMERICA'S ULTRA-SECRET spy plane dubbed Aurora, and thought responsible for UFO reports from Europe to West Coast USA over several years, has been identified by *Jane's Defence Weekly* who have published a drawing of the craft. It is based on drawings initially made some three years ago by trained plane observer Chris Gibson when he spotted an unknown aircraft over the North Sea while working on an oil rig. *JDW's* Bill Sweetman believes the £500 million Aurora runs on liquid methane, giving it a range of up to 5,000 miles at 130,000 feet.

The 80-foot aircraft is shaped like an arrowhead and flies at eight times the speed of sound and its top speed of 5,000 mph makes wings virtually unnecessary. And it travels so fast that as it accelerates, or slows, it covers thousands of miles - which is why it is often observed high in the sky above Scotland, the Hebrides and Shetland Islands.

On a weekend in January, islanders deluged authorities with reports of seeing a mysterious white object shooting across the sky. Among those who have seen it are police Chief Inspector Farquhar Macgregor. "I saw a very bright white light moving at a consistent level across the sky leaving a long orange wake," he said. "It wasn't like any shooting star I have ever seen and at first I thought it was a plane with its engines on fire or a satellite burning up. But there was no noise."

STRANGE BLACK CLOUD

"About 7pm on Thursday, May 31 1946, one of our workmen and his family were in their cottage; it had been raining heavily - very heavily - and was beginning to slack off, when the attention of the family was attracted by the sound of a violent wind. Running to the window at the back of the cottage, which looks out on the hillside, they were just in time to see a small black cloud, about the size of a cottage, with its base at the ground level, approach from the south east at about 'cycling speed'. Two horses grazing in the field saw the cloud coming and bolted. The cloud approached the remains of an overgrown hedge, which mainly consisted of a few medium size oak trees (about a foot and a half in diameter), and as it passed snapped one of them off at ground level, though it left the trees about ten yards farther up the hill intact. The cloud then passed off in a north westerly direction and, crossing over the public road, passed over the hedge on the other side of it. Here it uprooted two 100'-sized elm trees, though here again trees quite close (about five yards) were left intact. The cloud then passed on up over the hill and disappeared."

[Source: Met Magazine #897 Vol 76 - Mar 1947]

SHORT REPORT

A CURIOUS INCIDENT has happened at Kempsey. A boy fell off the top of a high ladder, but alighted on his feet. He sprang up with a rebound which carried him backwards and he tumbled into a deep well. He was given up for lost, but was presently heard moving in the water; he had clung to the rough wall and was ultimately got out quite unhurt by either fall. [Source: WSM Gazette 10 Feb 1849]

Angels AA

ARE WHITE-SUITED Angels roaming the highways of the United States these days and undertaking the work of automobile associations? Daily Mail reporter Bernard Cornwell, in his *The Other Side Of America* column of 27 Jan, 1993, recounts an interesting if not fanciful tale related to him by an elderly lady acquaintance :-

'Two months ago Mrs Dorothea Sargent, my informant, was staying with her sister, Mary, in Iowa. Late one afternoon the two sisters were driving along a country back road when they had a puncture. Neither knew how to change a tyre, there was no house in sight and so they sat in their car waiting for another motorist to appear in the lonely landscape. They feared it would be a very long wait.

'But then, just seconds after they had resigned themselves to that long wait, a car seemed to appear from nowhere and pulled in behind them. Three young men climbed out and cheerfully offered to change the punctured tyre. The sisters noted that their rescuers were handsome, courteous and happy. They were also fair-haired and blue-eyed and all were wearing white suits.

'One of the young men had difficulty fixing the scissor jack in place, and so he lay full length on the road to position it. Dorothea scolded him for soiling his lovely white suit, but the young man made light of her worry and, when he climbed to his feet, she saw the suit was not stained at all, even though the road was greasy and slick after a day's rain.

'The tyre was changed quickly, the young men ascertained that the ladies had no further difficulties and, refusing to accept any payment for their efforts, they drove away.

'Except they did not simply drive away. Instead, their vehicle went a hundred yards down the long empty road which stretched between the twilight winter fields and then began to shimmer as though it were liquefying. The shimmer became brighter and more insistent until the young men's car was almost transparent and then, with a final pulse of brilliant light, it vanished altogether.

'Mrs Sargent and her sister believe that they were rescued by angels and, before you chide me for mocking the fantasies of an elderly and, perhaps, lonely woman, let me add that Mrs Sargent is not alone in her firm belief that angels are roaming the highways of America looking for punctured tyres.

'Dozens of similar sightings have been made all across the United States and reported to a self-styled Angelologist in Washington DC. The angels are always young, white males dressed in pale clothes which never become creased or dirty. They are smiling and playful, but become solemn and silent as they perform their sacred duty of changing the wheel. They demand no payment and once their mission is accomplished their otherwise unremarkable vehicle de-materialises in a magical shimmer.'

Cornwell, as you might expect, takes a cynical view of such sightings. He makes an interesting point that many Americans find today's society 'tragically callous, uncaring and complicated, and they desperately want an outside agent to appear and put everything right.'

Even Cornwell is stumped by one question though: 'If neither Mrs Sargent nor her sister can change a wheel, who did?'

Witchcraft Fear Regarding Horse Mutilations

A 10-YEAR-OLD Irish Hunter was found dead on January 23 in a pool of blood after being sexually assaulted in a stable at Four Marks, near Alton, Hampshire. More than 30 mares have been subjected to such attacks in the region in recent years (see *Annals Vol 3 No 4*), though this is the first one to die.

The horse, Mounbatten, belonging to Robert Broderick, had been slashed about the genitals and stabbed in the neck, apparently after being sedated, and a broom handle may have been used in the attack. It is thought the mare may have died of pure fear rather than from its injuries.

Police would not rule out witchcraft as a motive, a theory suggested by the British Horse Society. Self-proclaimed "white witch" Kevin Carlyon said that horses, particularly white brood mares, were regarded as sacred by certain sections of the occult.

While some attacks have taken place in broad daylight adjacent to main roads and overlooked by houses, not one person has been seen carrying them out and no one apprehended so far.

[Source: The Sunday Telegraph - 24 Jan 1993]

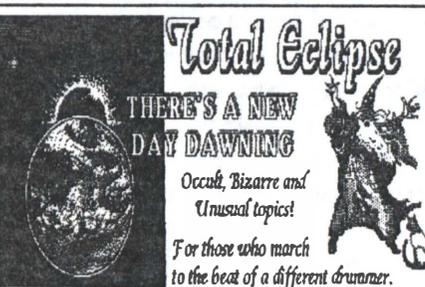
Mystery Of The 'Invisible' Rustlers

HUNDREDS OF ANIMALS are disappearing from remote moorland farms each month on Dartmoor and Exmoor but no one, it seems, has managed to capture or even spot those responsible. One farmer is said to have lost 50 sheep during January, another 41 breeding ewes.

The authorities are baffled and the hill farmers have now resorted to posting £1,000 "Wanted" rewards in an effort to stop the thefts, which they believe are carried out by local rustlers.

Despite vigilante style patrols organized by farmers and constant police activity in what is two of the last remaining wilderness areas in England, no gangs have been caught. There have been examples of cattle being butchered on the spot, with only the head left behind as a grisly memento, but usually the stock disappear without trace along with their abductors.

A CHINESE MAN who said voices told him his family would be tortured if he did not kill them before the Chinese New Year slashed all three to death. [Source: Teletext 4 - 24 Jan 1993]



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Art

BASED ON THE manuscript of a monk in AD545, two authors in a new book entitled *King Arthur The True Story* place the Round Table

Arthur's Stone

at Camelot, in Shropshire no less. They even point to the existence of a lake named Avalon situated just a few miles away. The writers, Graham and Phillips, are simply the latest in a considerable line of investigators who believe they have discovered the site of Arthur's legendary court.

Can we ever be sure, for as long ago as 1190 what were believed to be the remains of Arthur and Queen Guinevere were found in the ancient cemetery of Glastonbury Abbey. Around AD500 Glastonbury Tor would have been surrounded by swamps and marshes, creating what could have been termed an Isle.

Sir Thomas Malory in his *Morte d'Arthur* suggests Camelot was at Winchester, but other suggestions, based on local folklore, have placed Camelot at Colchester and near Tintagel in Cornwall, where the River Camel and the market town of Camelford are situated.

Perhaps the most popular site, backed to a certain extent by archaeological evidence, is Cadbury Castle, in Somerset. It is a fortified hill near the village of Queen Camel and local people during the reign of Henry VIII often referred to it as 'Camalat'. It has been claimed that the nearby River Cam was the scene of King Arthur's last battle, Camlann, which is referred to in *Annals Cambriae*, written by the 9th century British historian, Nennius.

A Victorian antiquarian who was rambling near Camelford in Cornwall during 1890, met an old man who told him he was close to the grave of King Arthur. Annoyed when informed that the King, if he ever existed, was interred at Glastonbury, the ancient rustic pointed to a kind of recess in the bank of the little River Camel. On wading to the spot the scholar found a hollow about seven feet in length and inside discovered a stone slab with the alleged inscription: 'Hic jacet Arturus Rex'.

He wasn't the first to have been shown the stone, for in 1886 a lady who had visited the site wrote that it lay in a recess on the bank of the River Camel formed by a natural screen of rocks. The location about a mile and a half from Camelford and near an old bridge known as Slaughter's Bridge. Opposite this was King's Mill and lower down the river Knights' Ford - all significant names of course.

The stone was described as being "massive" - some seven or eight feet long and "shaped curiously". Her companion, a good Latin scholar, could only make out an 'A' inscribed on the rock.

Perhaps the Rev S Baring-Gould, in an article entitled 'Tintagel, King Arthur's Castle', and published in the March 1888 issue of *The West of England Magazine*, shed some light on this mystery. He told his readership that "the scene of the battle is traditionally pointed out at no great distance from Tintagel, indeed in the next parish, on a little stream called the Camel or Alan. A curious Romano-British inscribed stone marks the site; but its inscription 'Latin hic jacet filius MacCar' refers to one Latin MacCar, unknown even to tradition."

The Reverend of course has his own theory as to Arthur's final resting place and believes he was carried to Glasynnys, the Green Isle. This is more likely to be "the mythical island of perpetual bliss in the western ocean," than Glastonbury.

CHECK

OUT

AN OCCASIONAL LOOK AT SOME OF THE PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED IN EXCHANGE AND AVAILABLE THROUGH SUBSCRIPTION TO THE READER.

ENIGMAS - A substantial bi-monthly whose editor is unafraid to tackle any subject covered by the term 'Strange Phenomena'. Consequently readers have an opportunity to draw their own conclusions on the many personal accounts submitted to SPI. Based in Scotland, the magazine has a unique north of the border viewpoint, which is quite refreshing.

↪ 40pp - 5 issues pa - £2 ea / £10 yr - Eu £13 / USA \$19 bills - Editor: Malcolm Robinson, 41 The Braes, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire, FK10 2TT, Scotland.

THE GATE - Covers the gamut of the paranormal, along with UFOs, Bigfoot etc. As well as a worldwide selection of newsclippings, each issue always contains some worthwhile articles by American contributors. Stan Gordon of PASU reports regularly on strange events in his home state of Pennsylvania.

↪ 18pp - 4 issues pa - \$2 ea / \$8 yr - \$10 O'seas - Editor: Beth Robins, The Gate, P.O. Box 43516, Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143, USA

TOTAL ECLIPSE - 'Alternative' reading it most definitely is; dealing with magic, the occult, bizarre and unusual in this world of ours. Editor J Taylor Block presents these topics and more in a readable and perhaps unique blend of altitude and style, befitting a resident of California.

↪ 10pp - 6 issues pa - \$2 ea / \$12 yr - \$17 O'seas - Total Eclipse, P O Box 1055, Suisan City, CA 94585, USA

THE CROP WATCHER - It cuts through the corn and regularly gets to the root of reality as far as many contemporary crop circles go. The latest issue provides a very comprehensive reference list of pre-Doug 'n Dave circles, as far back as the 16th century no less.

↪ 36pp - 6 issues pa - £1.50 ea / £9 yr - Editor: Paul Fuller, 3 Selborne Court, Tavistock Close, Romsey, Hants SO51 7TY.

THE UFO DEBATE - With a sub heading of 'Beyond the final frontier' this A5 size magazine lives up to its statement and, indeed, often plumbs the depths of alternate views in Ufology. If your perception of the subject can allow you to accept such thoughts, and surely it must, then add this publication to your list.

↪ 28pp - 6 issues pa - £1.40 ea / £8 yr - O'seas on application - Editor: David Barclay, 46 Prospect Walk, Shipley, West Yorkshire, BD18 2LR.

NORTHERN UFO NEWS - Straightforward reporting of events and happenings not only on the British UFO scene but also those worldwide. Very current and the views of its well-known editor, Jenny Randles, might well have raised a few eyebrows during several of last year's issues. Affiliated to BUFORA.

↪ 16pp - 6 issues pa - £1.25 ea / £7 yr - Editor: 37 Heathbank Road, Cheadle Heath, Stockport, Cheshire SK3 0UP.

DELVE - The inexplicable will find its way onto the pages of this relatively new Canadian magazine, whose editor has been publishing in this field for over 30 years. Caverns and the inner earth theory along with Fortean events are explored regularly. Cover to cover it retains interest through sheer variety.

↪ 20pp - non-scheduled - \$3 ea / \$3.50 O'seas - Editor: Gene Duplantier, 17 Shelland Street, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada, M2M 1X5.

THE CEREOLOGIST - Professionally produced and edited by John Michell, it's a forum for theorists and the practical who argue the case for hoaxing against those who point to natural or supernatural forces at work among the crop fields.

↪ 28pp - 3 issues pa - £2.50 ea / £7.50 yr - Subscription: SKS, Saint Aldhelm, 20 Paul Street, Frome, Somerset BA11 1DX.

THE LADY IN Grey sits patiently in a Shepton Mallet restaurant awaiting the arrival of her aristocratic lover. She has been sitting in the rocking chair by the fireplace nursing her broken heart for many years. In fact, legend has it that the Lady in Grey has been haunting the Thatched Cottage Inn for more than 300 years waiting for her lover to return.

She was a quakermaid in the days of Cromwell and was regularly visited by the dashing Cavalier who, some say, was the Duke of Monmouth. The couple fell in love. But she was a servant and he was an aristocrat. It was impossible for them to marry. The beautiful quakermaid was heartbroken, killed herself and has since sat rocking in the chair waiting.

Stories about the Lady in Grey abound in this Somerset town, located a few miles from Wells, but it is more than a legend. Kim Moon once saw the quakermaid's shadow as she sat babysitting children at the Thatched Cottage. The red setter dog became restless and began barking and pacing around. After checking on the sleeping children, Kim returned to her seat in the lounge. As she sat down she saw the grey shadow of a lady leaving the room - the ghost of the Lady in Grey.

Children are apparently sensitive to ghosts and notice them more easily than adults. Kim said the children once witnessed pots and pans moving around the kitchen floor by their own accord. When the youngsters told their parents, the adults moved to the kitchen to find the pots and pans lying motionless on the floor.

"It is not the kind of thing children make up. The children often saw her and they were very young and unlikely to make it up," added Kim.

Today, the Thatched Cottage Inn is a thriving restaurant and the lonely ghost continues to roam. Manager Susan Barugh said: "Personally I have experienced a cold hand on my shoulder and various staff members have sensed something."

One day Susan was laden with plates when a door quietly opened of its own accord letting her through. "She is not a disruptive ghost," added Susan.

The Spirit Is Willing

Rachel Humphries

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A POLICE officer has gone to court in Thailand to get rid of a ghost he says is haunting his street, because a neighbour lives with his mother-in-law's dead body. [Source: Teletex4 - 9 Feb 1993]

A POLICE Inspector jumped to it when someone reported seeing a kangaroo bouncing down the road. Lincolnshire's wildlife officer launched a hunt for the missing marsupial but it proved impossible for him to hold the kangaroo down when it was cornered in a field. [Source: Ceefax - 10 Feb 1993]

Dear Mr Lovell

I would like to recount an incident of the unexplained that happened to me many years ago.

One evening my sister and I were sitting by the fire quietly when a picture fell off the wall and broke the glass around our feet. The following evening I wanted some wool for knitting, so she drove me to the shop when another car came around the bend at great speed and crashed into us.

My sister was badly injured from the glass that shattered in the windscreen and I was severely shocked. The car was a write-off and I now feel the

picture falling from the wall had some warning significance.

Signed

Jane Windsor, Taurton, Somerset.

Letters

TO
THE



Editor

Dear Gerry

Here is something which I can never forget, it happened about seven years ago when my mum was very ill in hospital. I was working in a school and was in the reception class at the time.

There was a very large Wendy house in the corner of the classroom. There was just one other adult present at the time. The Wendy house rose up in the air about six inches, then landed back on the floor with a little thud. I thought I was mistaken or seeing things because of lack of sleep, but my friend also saw it take place.

Sad to say my mum died in the early hours of the next morning. Some older people told me that this was a warning to me. My brother, who was at the front carrying the coffin, told us after the funeral that when the coffin was first raised on his shoulders it was a normal weight. Then as they walked out of the church the whole weight left his shoulders and he thought that someone had raised it off him. But there was no one near him at all to take his share of the weight. It has always stayed in our memory and remained a mystery to us.

Signed

Mrs Eileen Owens, Northampton.

Dear Gerry

When I was a child we lived out in the country in a very isolated area, although our house could be seen from the road. Every night when everyone was in bed all the lights were put out by whoever was the last to retire. In those days we used to rely on oil lamps and as money was a scarce commodity, everything was saved and nothing wasted.

One night my father was out late sitting with an ill neighbour and did not return until around three am. Imagine his surprise on seeing a light shining from the house and another one moving to and fro, as though someone was walking around with a lamp. Just as he reached the house, all the lights disappeared.

We learned from neighbours later that often a light could be seen in our house, even though we were all in bed. Someone told my father that an old man used to live in our house and had been killed by a fallen tree. It was some time before anyone found him and since that incident the lights had never appeared to extinguish themselves from our house.

Needless to say, my parents and us children moved elsewhere very soon afterwards.

Signed

Jim Morton, Bath, Avon.

UNDERGROUND 'CITY' REVEALS TREASURES

ARCHÆOLOGIST IVAN KOLTSOV says he has discovered priceless works of art and a magnificent library in an 'underground city' north of Moscow, reported the *Daily Mail* of 10 February 1993.

It is on the site of a 16th century royal palace belonging to Ivan the Terrible. A monastery replaced it after Ivan's death and this was later seized and sealed by the Bolsheviks in the 1917 revolution.

Koltsov visited the site, in Alexandrov, and saw children playing with gold artefacts they claimed to have found in underground tunnels opened up by landslides, and long used by locals to dump rubbish.



PALESTINE PROPHECY

EASTERN RACES ARE fond of prophecies in a form that make them a sort of bet against the thing prophesied ever happening. Most of them are pretty safe, but occasionally the prophecy comes off. For instance, there was an old Turkish saying: "When the waters of the Nile flow into Syria and a new Prophet comes, then Turk rule in Palestine is doomed."

Now, when Allenby conquered Palestine a pipe-line was laid from El Kantara, near the Suez Canal, across the desert into Palestine. The pipes drew their supply from the Sweet-Water Canal, and the water in that canal, siphoned under the Suez Canal, comes directly from the Nile! And the nearest the Turk could get to the name "Allenby" was "Allah Nebi - prophet of God".

A VENEER SLIP of black ash, picked up on the waste pile of a timber company's yard, showed this life-like sketch of a bull-dog's head, fashioned by Nature from the grain. [Source: Everyday Science - Nov 1919]



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