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SUBMISSIONS

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

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FIRST WORD

EDITORIAL

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Reports throughout Britain this summer have continued regarding the mysterious bright ball seen almost daily in the skies. This previously unrecorded aerial phenomenon has been tentatively identified as a solar apparition - Annals will hope to keep you posted on the outcome of further investigations.

Well, the long hot summer has brought a return of the Beast of Exmoor and even Nessie has appeared briefly, according to media accounts. The beast, thought to be a puma, was observed during June killing sheep. This is believed to be the first time it has been spotted since last year, when two women from Cossington reported an unknown animal lunging at them while on their way home.

It brings an estimated 500,000 tourists to the Loch Ness area each year and the annual revenue generated locally is at least £25million, so it was high time that Nessiteras Rhombopteryx, to give it its official title, showed up this summer.

Slight confusion over this sighting, with some newspapers reporting the event as having occurred June 23 and the resulting photographs being studied by those unknown 'experts'. As it happens, I believe the incident took place on June 17 and there were no pictures of the water monster as the witness did not have a camera with her.

Edna MacInnes, 25, claimed to have observed an animated object on the Loch for approximately 10 minutes that evening. She was accompanied by her boyfriend when they both spotted the light brown body of a creature that was at least 8m long. Its neck was "very giraffe-like," she said, "and it started going one way and then went back the other". By the time they had both returned to the scene with a camera, the source of the disturbance on the surface of the loch had disappeared. **GL**

Dead Wrong About Vampire Curse

TERRIFIED RESIDENTS of Pisco, a Peruvian village, suffered sleepless nights in fear that a English female vampire would carry out her curse and visit them on the evening of June 9.

The Expresso newspaper said the woman, Sarah Heley, had been sentenced to death for murder and witchcraft 80 years ago and had been buried alive in a lead-lined coffin. "She swore to avenge herself in 80 years," the newspaper reported in early June.

This highly suspect story - for her death would only have taken place in 1913 - included an account that people were so frightened of the curse at the time, not a single cemetery in Britain would accept her body for burial.

In the days prior to the anniversary, sales of garlic and crucifixes shot through the roof and a trembling Pisco was festooned in the traditional requirements for repelling vampires. The town was subsequently successful in keeping Sarah Heley at bay - for a time, anyway!

Glastonbury Black Mass

IT WAS believed by Anne Goode that Black Mass was carried out in her field overlooking the site of the annual Glastonbury Festival at Piton. A 32ft illuminated wooden cross she had erected on her property was sawn down and the head of a dead Jacob lamb stuck on the stump.

Mrs Goode angered festival fans when she appeared on a Channel 4 documentary last year and claimed that the festival was evil. She says she discovered the crucifix, made from telegraph poles and sunk six feet into her field, lying on the ground early on Sunday.

"It looks like a satanic ritual," she said. "Obviously the cross annoyed them. I am not frightened, but it does reveal people's feelings and the lengths they will go."

She has reported the incident to the police and asked local clergy to say prayers "to extinguish the forces of evil". [Source: Western Gazette 3 June 1993]

Conducted Out-Of-Body Event

BROADCASTER Neville Garden had just finished conducting Oh What A Beautiful Morning - then he slumped dead to the floor. As the orchestra launched into another tune, 57-year-old Neville could see his own body as he felt the sensation of floating to the ceiling.

"I had no premonition of illness. The rehearsal had been going well and there was no stress," he said afterwards. "Suddenly - and without feeling any pain or discomfort - I found myself up on the ceiling looking down at myself still conducting. It was an out-of-body experience, which I'd never believed in before."

The incident took place three months ago in Edinburgh and when Garden collapsed he was, for a time, clinically dead. He had no pulse and no respiration. His life was saved by two members of the orchestra trained in resuscitation techniques.

UFO GETS ATTENTION OF EIRE

THE IRISH press was awash with reports on April 1 concerning the activities of a "bizarre, low-flying, silent craft with lights, which emitted a vapour trail from behind" as it traversed the night sky early on the morning of March 31.

Almost without exception every newspaper, most local, and all national radio stations carried stories of the sightings. Perhaps the account regarded as most reliable was made by two Gardai in a patrol car near Askeaton in County Limerick at 0113hrs (BST).

The Gardai saw "a large object in the sky with two bright lights, one at the front and one at the back". The object left a vapour trail behind it like a jet but was completely silent, they said. The UFO appeared so low that they "thought it was going to hit power lines or buildings".

North of Mullingar the four-man crew of an Air Corps Dauphin helicopter flying at 1500 feet from Baldonnel to Finner Camp in Donnegal spotted two "star-like objects" after 0100hrs. They estimated the objects' altitude to be about 5000 feet.

A local garage owner even claimed that "aliens" had "stopped for petrol" while he was spray-painting a van, early that morning.

One week later an official statement was released by the Air Navigation Services Office at the Dept of Communications, stressing the importance of not causing "unnecessary alarm".

"The objects were not seen to descend to earth at any stage," the statement read. "A check by air traffic control services could not relate the sightings to any known civil air traffic operating at the time. Neither were any unidentified objects observed on radar."

Shannon Air Traffic Control (ATC) together with London ATC confirmed receiving several reports but nothing was observed on radar. There was some suggestion that the sightings may have been of the US hypersonic stealth spyplane 'Aurora' but this had to be ruled out because the observed "debris" following the two main objects mitigated against this explanation.

But for the painstaking research of amateur astronomers in Ireland this incident would doubtless have remained on the books as another UFO. Astronomer David Moore, having been given timings, altitudes and azimuth estimates by fortunate witness John F Fitzsimmons from his own observatory based in Sligo, posted a request for possible satellite re-entries over Ireland on several global computer networks and bulletin boards.

Dr T S Kelso, Assistant Professor of Space Operations at the USAF Institute of Technology took the catalogue of unclassified objects as maintained by NORAD and extracted only those objects with an orbital element set (a series of numerical values describing very accurately an orbiting vehicle's path in space) for the last ten days prior to the suspected re-entry. This showed 6,529 objects.

Dr Kelso then eliminated any object with an element set after the observed sightings - this reduced the number to 2,868 possible objects. From John Fitzsimmons' supplied latitude, calculations by Dr Kelso showed only 438 objects were above the horizon at Sligo at 0010hrs (UT) on March 31. Of these, only one was below an altitude of 250km at this time. This object passed through perigee (closest point of

approach to the Earth's surface of a spacecraft during its orbit) at 235hrs UT on the previous night - just over an hour before Fitzsimmons' sighting. With a perigee of 107km the object could not have escaped re-entry.

Dr Kelso concluded that the object was predicted to have risen in the North-West at 0006hrs UT and ended at 0012hrs UT in the South Eastern sky. Closest approach to the observing site in Sligo was predicted to have occurred at 0009hrs UT on March 31, at an elevation of 63deg. These predictions matched exactly with the report. Now the UFO can positively be identified as:

rocket fragments of Cosmos 2238 International Designation 1993-0188

Further information revealed later that Cosmos 2238 was launched from the C.L.S. Baykonour Cosmodrome at 1600hrs Moscow time on March 30. It was part of the once thought defunct Ocean Reconnaissance Spy Satellite program. *UT: Universal Time = BST +1hr

Abduction Movie Causes Press Hype

THE PARAMOUNT Pictures movie 'Fire In The Sky' was launched in the UK during June amidst a great deal of media hype. Travis Walton, the man on whose alleged abduction the film is based, kept popping up on TV interviews just about everywhere. Sometimes accompanied by other members of the original logging crew who testified at having witnessed his disappearance. A sober man, Walton is also about to become a very rich one!

Newspapers such as the Daily Star dragged out old lurid stories of British Close Encounters for its readership to share. The May 31 edition carried brief details of an Aveley, Essex, couple who claimed they were taken aboard an alien ship after driving into a "cone of silence" on a lonely road in 1974.

Under hypnotic regression they recall being subjected to a detailed medical examination - which is a common factor in many abduction experiences. They insisted the aliens told them that genetic experimentation was one of their reasons for visiting Earth.

Former RAF pilot Graham Rogers reportedly said the occupants of a UFO saved his life while he was flying, low on fuel and in a storm, over the North Sea. He noticed a bright light closing fast and suddenly found himself inside the alien craft.

"Leave your aircraft and go to the room indicated. We're repairing your plane," the mechanics from another world apparently said. Then he was released into the air, minutes away from his home airfield in Lincolnshire.

HEAVEN HELP US

Astronomers are searching for signs of a meteorite in New South Wales, Australia, after the sighting of a white fireball 10 days ago.

[Source: Ceefax 26 Apr 1993]

Bearing an uncanny resemblance to the traditional 'Flying Saucer' shape is this object. It appears on the ornate frame of a Medieval German painting depicting the Trinity.



Psychic Meets Ghostly Waitress

TOP PSYCHIC James Byrne had unexpected company when he sat down for breakfast in an Ayr hotel on June 1 ... a ghostly waitress from the past. Byrne, alleged to be one of Britain's leading mediums, was staying at the St Andrews Hotel when he saw the apparition that morning.

"I had just sat down to breakfast with my assistant John Connor when I saw the woman standing in the window area. She obviously realised I could see her and she gave me a big smile," he said.

The woman was dressed in the style of clothes worn by the staff in the TV series *Upstairs Downstairs*. "It struck me that the clothes she was wearing were very fresh," remarked Byrne. "She was very slim, not very tall and had mousey-coloured hair under her pure white frilly bonnet. She was aged about 50 or 60 and had a slightly big nose. She told me her name was Ann Adams or Adamson. Then she just disappeared.

Hotel owner Hugh Searle wasn't surprised by the psychic's disclosure. For according to him there have been ghostly goings-on at the hotel for years. "But this is the first time anyone has actually seen the ghost," he said.

Mr Searle first became aware of strange happenings as he and his wife Isabel prepared for their opening night five years ago. He said: "Isabel and her sister had left some flowers on a table in a locked room. When they unlocked the door on their return they found the flowers spread out neatly on the floor. Since then I have heard footsteps and seen shadows on a number of occasions and other staff and customers have also had strange experiences.

"The ghostly lady usually makes her presence felt in the weeks around Christmas," he said. "But this year she was late. It wasn't until February that she showed up.

"A cleaner was working in one of the rooms when the television suddenly burst into life. No matter how often the cleaner switched off the set it switched on again." [Source: Ayrshire Post 4 June 1993]

Animal Magic

A goat in a southern Iranian town was found to have golden teeth when it was slaughtered and cooked by aides to a Muslim cleric. Jewellers in Lamard, near the Gulf coast, confirmed the teeth were covered by a three millimetre film of gold.

A newspaper report quoted old people in the town who said a kind of grass grew in the region which gave golden teeth to animals when they grazed on it. [Source: Ceefax 28 Mar 1993]

An Australian farmer claims to own the world's oldest cat. The Barron farm from NSW says its marmalade-colour moggie, called Tom, is more than 40-years-old. That's the equivalent of 280 years in human terms! Tom is said to be a little unsteady on his paws but in good health. [Source: Ceefax 27 Apr 1993]

Alien Corridors to Earth

Eamonn Ansbro analyses the possibility that UFOs might be incoming routes for extra-terrestrial interstellar travellers

If UFOs are extra-terrestrial vessels, their variety and numbers certainly have not gone unnoticed with the thousands of sightings each year. There may be a number of classes of extra-terrestrial visitors at this time, from different origins, on different business, with different objectives, different vessels and technologies, different interests.. There is a high probability they are from other stellar systems, in which case, their incoming flights to our solar system may be transited by a star-hopping mode. In any case, there would be planned routes in their interstellar travels, in order to either get here or bypass our system on their way to another solar system.

Our Alien Solar System

To an arriving interstellar vessel, the environment within the solar system would be different from that to which it is adapted, and would seem alien at best and hostile at worst.

To a culture that has a stable group, the reductions of the genetic uncertainties generated by cosmic radiation would be of vital importance. With its proton storms, x-rays and solar wind, the inner regions of the solar system would appear distinctly poisonous.

Why Our Solar System?

An interstellar group, with the whole galaxy to journey in, would find our solar system of little long-term interest.

This appearance might be modified by two factors, however: firstly, the presence of a planet teeming with life and a nascent intelligence might give the system a special value. Secondly, the concentration of mass that this system represents might be attractive to a vessel wishing to refurbish, or possibly replicate itself.

Regarding refurbishment, there would be demands for elements in the universe at large. An interstellar group would have resource demands that are the opposite of our planetary surface economy. Rather than seeking ores in which fractioning of elements has been high, a group would prefer cosmic matter in as undifferentiated a state as possible.

Fuel from Star Systems

A list of the nearest stars reveals that the most common stellar type is the red dwarf M stars. Little is known about the regions close to these low temperature bodies, but probably the lack of light and heat make them more attractive to an interstellar vessel than our system.

If stellar radiation is a primary cause of elemental fractioning in planetary systems then the matter around a red dwarf would be closer to the raw state, and therefore again the red dwarf would be a probable destination.

Finally, some of the red dwarfs, such as Barnards Star, are population 2 stars and, therefore, may have a preponderance of the light elements used as fuel by an interstellar group.

An alternative for advanced alien craft is that they may use super heavy elements like 115 or 116 for fusion reaction to operate gravitational reactors whose element may have been sourced near old supernova remnants.

Alien Exploration Model

An interstellar culture would probably work out a pattern and direction before embarking on a journey.

We may ask two questions: firstly, in which direction would an extra-terrestrial travel and, secondly, which trade stars would an extra-terrestrial use as beacons or replenishment centres?

ET explorers of the universe would be seen as a maturely developed culture capable of fast outward expansion, able to star hop because of the immensities of distance before them. As each new solar system is accomplished, ET will select new targets further from their own star.

In this model, paths will be assessed which lead from their star system to hypothetical spherical shells of several light years in radius representing a further penetration of space.

As we do not know the activities of any ET travellers the problem arises as to the starting point. However, we do know that the Sun lies about two-thirds of the way out of a disc-shaped galaxy, the ratio of whose diameter to maximum thickness is approximately ten to one.

Greater Density

The stellar density is very much greater at the centre of the galaxy than in our region of space; it is conceivable that an alien race or stellar federation might have reasons for pushing radially outwards or tangentially to the radius vector in the plane of the Galactic disc.

There is unlikely to be much interest in travelling in the direction perpendicular to this plane, where stars peter out and give way to the intergalactic void.

Similar considerations apply to the Gould Belt, the Local System of which our Sun is a part and which forms an arm of our Galaxy. The most likely direction for alien travellers is to and from the centre of the Belt.

Hypothetical Cubes

To represent the above alien exploration system, we shall consider a series of hypothetical cubes of space, with sides parallel to the Cartesian axes of the Galaxy or the Local System as appropriate. For convenience, the Sun is made the centre of each cube, although the centre otherwise has no spherical significance.

Discovered Routes

It is found that there exist two main routes for alien travellers. The best lies away from the main body of the Galaxy at about 55 degrees to the radius vector. First route starts at 47 light years from us and the second 38 light years. Starting point has three individual stellar systems, from +41 deg 328 (G2) to Mu Cassiopeiae (also double, G5 and spectral class unknown), to Eta Cassiopeiae (double, G0 and M0). This second route for travelling lies away from the centres of the Galaxy (in fact at 50 deg to the radius vector) and the Local System (also at 50 deg). The other route lies outwards from the Galaxy at about 55 deg to the radius vector. There are some interesting stars for a possible branch from Zeta Tucanae (G2) to Beta Hydri and Delta Pavonis. There is a star - 58 deg 8327 (G4) to the double system - 54 deg 9222.

Parallax Uncertainties

It should be noted that uncertainties in the measurement of parallax generally increase with parallax, so that there is little point in extending the analysis over vast regions of space: the largest sphere analysed was nearly 60 light years radius, and towards the edges of that there must be considerable doubt over the precise position, number and other attributes of stellar systems present.



Fig. 2. Major routes in the Galactic plane and south of it.

Fig. 1. Major routes for the Sun.

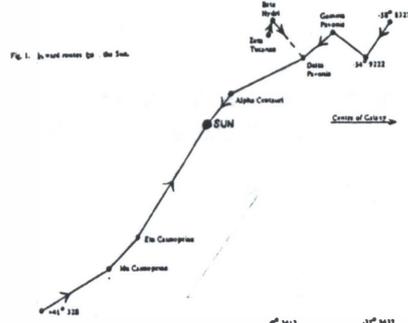


Fig. 3. Major routes north of the Galactic plane.

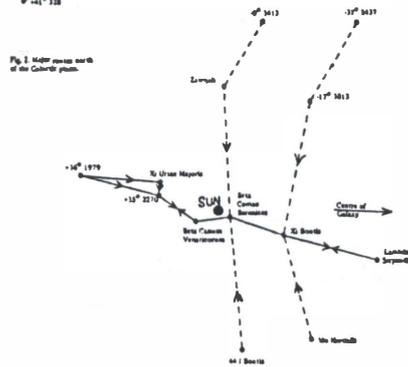
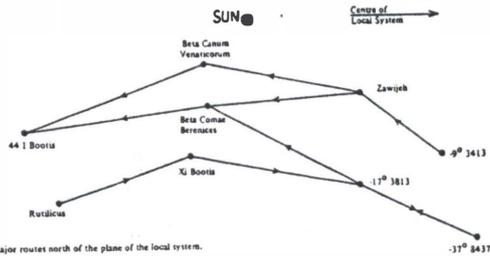


Fig. 4. Major routes north of the plane of the local system.



The diagrams are projections of three-dimensional space onto a plane containing the Sun. In Fig 2 and subsequently, radial routes are shown as full lines, tangential routes as dotted lines.

Investigation of cubes of space was prompted by the question: "What, if any, are the natural routes in this part of space?" The question that follows from it is: "Where would alien travellers be coming from?"

Because attraction is dependant upon destination - our Solar System - and the square of its distance, the direction of travel between opposite sides of the hypothetical cube has important effects. Consider the diagrams of routes referred to the plane of the Galaxy (figs 2 & 3). They naturally fall into two groups and have been separately mapped because they would otherwise overlap.

The best route towards and away from the Galactic centre, in fact, lies in a region between 20 and 30 light years North of the plane of the diagrams, which later include the line between the Sun and the Galactic centre. This route, or at least the part here discovered, goes from +36 deg 1979 to Lambda Serpentis, and incorporates two stars on other routes, Beta Comae Berenices and Xi Bootis.

These other two routes lie tangential to the Galactic radius vector, and one of them contains the double star system 44 I Bootis (Spectral type G1 and G2), noteworthy for being more suitable for life than Alpha Centauri, although nine times more distant.

Nearer the Sun, the only good route for travel is one lying between Gamma Pavonis and Gamma Leporis, suitable for travel in both directions. However, there are no suitable "lead-ins" to the starting members from outside of the space investigated. Clearly the Solar System is not on the schedule of anyone travelling to or from the Galactic centre, provided the initial assumptions are correct.

There are several routes tangential to the radius vector and close to the Sun. In particular, the route going from Alpha Mensae to Mu Cassiopeiae passes through the Sun on one direction, while in the other leads directly from Eta Cassiopeiae to Alpha Centauri. Since the centre of the Local System lies beyond the tops of Figs 2 & 3, it follows that the Solar System may be in the path of any travellers leaving the Local System centre tangential to the main Galaxy.

Suitable Pathways

This last conclusion is reinforced by examination of Figure 5. Here, calculating directions referred to the Local System centre, it is found that the path from Alpha Mensae to Mu Cassiopeiae is still suitable for travelling and that the Sun lies on the outward path of it. This route ranges between 0 and 13 light years South of the plane of the diagram. From figures 3 & 5 it may be seen that important "junctions" of path exist in Alpha Centauri, Eta Cassiopeiae, Zeta Tucane, Beta Hydri and 82 Eridani.

In Fig 4 it may be seen that again for travel with respect to the Local System directions, the North offers the best routes. These routes lie between 12 and 28 light years North of the plane of the diagram and, as mentioned before, contain 44 I Bootis.

The results here obtained are based on evidence of heliocentric thinking, and therefore may not be appropriate when considering habitability for alien cultures as this would not be known but as stellar beacons for incoming alien travellers. It has also been difficult to verify zones of densities of stars in order to focus on likely routes due to lack of known information outside 60 light years radius. However there is evidence for concentration of stars in the vicinity of constellation Eridanus and Ophiuchus.

concd p12

CROP CIRCLES HOTLINE

CROP CIRCLES have taken on a new dimension this past winter, according to the Dorset convenor of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies. David Kingston reports that since November spheres of light have appeared over winter crops, prior to circles forming.

He is currently busy building up a research team from his home in Dorchester, having started his own investigations into the mystery during 1989.

The first international conference to discuss the phenomenon will be held in Bath's Guildhall on 7 and 8 August. David Kingston is one of the speakers scheduled and in the meantime he has also established a Circles Sighting Hotline, enabling reports to be telephoned in on: 0305-267392, 0305-250633 and 0202-723127.

STALKING CIRCLES

PAUL FULLER's excellent magazine *The Crop Watcher* carries details in issue #16 of the first reported crop circle for 1993. It was spotted in a field of rapeseed just north of the M40 in Oxfordshire on May 2.

The same issue also provides information on three circle formations that were the only ones to be found in Japan during 1992. One of these is an established hoax.

This island nation has witnessed more than 300 crop circles since 1990, with perhaps a scattering of earlier incidents in the decade preceding it. From other sources I learn that around 100 circles were reported on Hokkaido Island in 1991 alone.



Keeping An Eye

A TOP bird watcher was excited when he spotted an owl very rare to the UK - until he realised it was a shrivelled carrot stuck in a hedge. Another expert "twitcher" is trying to forget the time an excited radio broadcaster had people flocking to his side on the Isle of Scilly. He had proudly announced that he'd spied a nighthawk but it was only when scores of telescopes were focused on the object that it suddenly became clear. It was in fact ... a cowpat!

Action Man

BRITISH ACTOR Brian Blessed hopes to lead a hunt for the Abominable Snowman, or Yeti. He plans to take a TV crew to South China to try and find the legendary creature.

Slow Boat

An explorer is to sail a bamboo raft from Hong Kong in a bid to prove Chinese sailors could have discovered America before Columbus.

Dead Wong

FORTY PEOPLE committed suicide in China last March following a ruling that those who died after April 1 would be cremated rather than buried. Tradition says burial leads to happiness in the afterlife.

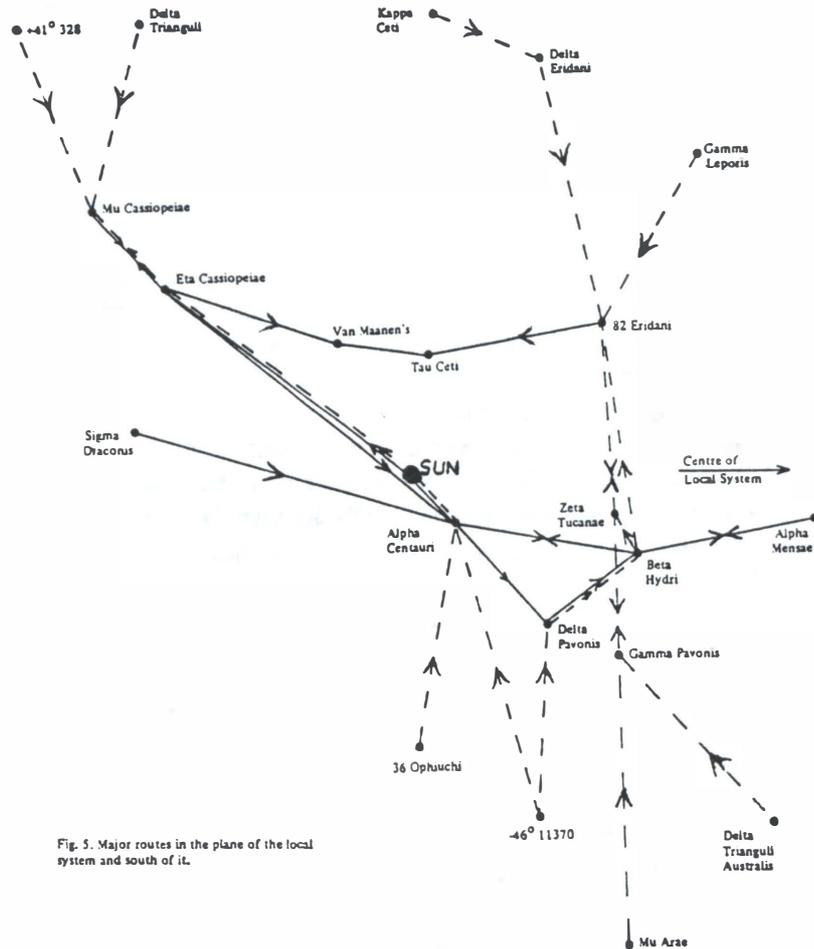


Fig. 5. Major routes in the plane of the local system and south of it.

The weight of our galaxy has been calculated recently for the first time. Scientists took complicated measurements of the Milky Way and proved the galaxy contains 10 times as much matter as we can see. This means the galaxy - or huge groups of stars - are only a tiny part of what makes up the Universe.

Author and AIDS expert Dr Patrick Dixon published a book in May in which he reports that British scientists have cloned human embryos in secret research.

The Mystery of The Weeping Madonna

JOHN MACKLIN

YOU CAN buy similar reproductions in religious bookshops for just a few dollars, but to Anton Koulis and his wife Marika, their icon portraying the Virgin Mary and the Christ Child is beyond price ... and thousands of American churchgoers agree.

For ever since the picture was given to the Koulis family by a visiting Greek Orthodox bishop, some 30 years ago, it has been hailed as both a minor miracle ... or a brilliant fraud. The reason in simple ... the Virgin Mary on the cardboard lithograph weeps almost continuously. Tears flow down her cheeks, but the surface of the picture bears no damp marks ...

Experts gathered to examine the painting when the phenomenon became known. Despite subjecting it to X-ray analysis and other tests, they have remained mystified.

Says Professor Donal Chiles of New York University: "There appears to be nothing in the paper which would produce moisture. And yet we have seen - and photographed - tears running from the Madonna's eyes. We confess we are totally baffled."

Mr. Koulis himself is utterly at a loss to explain the riddle of the weeping Madonna: "We were given the icon by Archbishop Athenagoras, and hung it on the wall in May, 1960. It started weeping a few days later, and has continued to do so ever since."

"There are times when it remains dry, but most of the time tears are running down the figure's cheeks. At first we thought there must be damp in the paper, but these are real tears - they have been analysed and found to be identical to tears produced by humans!"

A Roman Catholic priest, the Rev. Edward Shamon, said: "I saw tears streaming from the eyes of the Virgin Mary. The tears are colourless and I could smell a distinct fragrance of incense. It was fantastic - unbelievable until you actually see it."

Naturally many people suspected that the whole thing was a hoax.

"If I were the owner of that icon and it was a sham, I'd be extremely careful that it wouldn't be out of my sight or out of my hands at any time. But Mr. and Mrs. Koulis leave the icon at churches in the hands of strangers. They are very free with it," said the Rev. Michael Makridis, pastor of the Greek Orthodox church in Canton, Ohio.

"I for one can verify that the Madonna weeps and so can scores of my parishioners. We had the icon here for three days last August and the Blessed Mother wept continuously. Some people believe that the icon weeps over the sad state of the world. Others think that the crying is a manifestation of the Lord - to give us back our faith."

Most people agree on one point: seeing the icon weep is an unforgettable experience. "The tears well up out of each eye," said Maria Gerstner, a member of a Rochester church which exhibited the icon. "They run down the face. Seeing it affected me so much that I don't think I've ever felt the same since."

Scientists at nearby Belvedere College felt cynical - before they had witnessed the weeping picture. Samples of the paper were analysed and found to contain no appreciable water level. The scientists were also allowed to examine the icon for possible signs of fraud but absolutely nothing was found.

The following day, as they were about to start other tests, the icon started to weep. Said physicist David Develin: "We all watched the tears coursing down the face, but no marks were left on the paper. After about ten minutes the weeping stopped. It was incredible. We could not discover any rational explanation for what we had seen."

Mr. and Mrs. Koulis, who are happy to allow any scientific investigation, are quite convinced that the weeping picture is a miracle.

"It makes you certain there really is a God above," said Mrs. Koulis. "What other explanation can there possibly be?"

Certainly, after 30-plus years of regular investigation, no one seems able to produce any plausible alternative.

Professor Bizarre's Column



When the Chinese space agency launched a \$90 million satellite for Opus Communications of Australia into space recently, messages of congratulations were sent by politicians and there were banner headlines in the newspapers in Beijing praising the achievement.

The trouble is, the launch by the Great Wall Industry Corporation produced one minor problem. The satellite which they launched has totally vanished, and the space agency doesn't know where it has gone!

Hypnotist Filadelfio Munafò attempted to hypnotise two armed men who broke into his office in Milan, Italy, in order to prevent them robbing him. He thought he had succeeded and told them to hand him their guns, but instead they shot him twice in the legs and escaped with his wallet and his valuable watch.

A woman suffered pins and needles for eight years before discovering she had a real needle buried in her leg.

Jean Clemence, 26, of Canton, Cardiff, complained to doctors of mysterious pricking pains in her left thigh but none could ever find anything. X-rays revealed a 2 inch sewing needle in her leg.



BVM EVENT IN IRELAND DURING MAY

A BVM event occurred in Co. Mayo, Ireland, on May 6, of this year to Mrs Christina Gallagher. The message imparted was that time was short and the world was racing headlong to a doom of wars and disease.

When receiving her message Mrs Gallagher said later that "All the while (...) I was looking at an angel, in total light, without wings, who was like a person in a long garment. I could see Ireland and the angel was passing over different cities and towns, some of which I did not recognise. The light was so blinding from the angel that I could hardly look at it. When it was passing over some places, it was as if light came from the angel and this would form into a cloud and then disperse like a mist down on the particular place. I didn't know what it meant."

CAN SOME people identify metals with their fingertips? Can the history of things be learned by touching them? And are ghosts nothing more than "tape recordings"?

The literal meaning of the word psychometry, according to its originator, is "soul measurement", but the definition favoured by the Concise Oxford Dictionary, is "the supposed divination of facts about events, people, etc., from inanimate objects associated with them."

The known history of psychometry begins in the mid nineteenth century when a professor named Joseph Rhodes Buchanan was told by Bishop Polk that he could detect brass simply by touching it on account of the unpleasant taste it produced in his mouth. Tests conducted on the Bishop proved his claim to be true and Buchanan concluded that human beings possess a sixth sense, which is suppressed in nearly all of us, called the "nerve aura".

A colleague of Buchanan's, Professor William Denton, wrapped a lump of volcanic rock in brown paper and gave it to a "sensitive", who saw instantly a vision of blue seas, a tropical island and an erupting volcano. The same sensitive "saw" fields of ice when handed a piece of glacier, and twinkling stars when given a particle of meteor. Denton believed he had re-discovered a "telescope into the past" which, in some degree, we all possess, and he named the phenomenon Psychometry.

As well as with objects, Denton tested "sensitives" with sealed letters, of which they were able to describe the contents, and even the character of the writers. Photographs were "read" just as successfully, even newspaper reproductions. Details of most of the experiments were enthusiastically recounted in *The Soul of Things*, written by Denton, in 1888, and in Buchanan's *Manual of Psychometry*.

Over a century later, a retired archaeologist named Tom Lethbridge arrived at similar conclusions after a series of experiments at his home in Devon. Lethbridge and his wife Mina had been collecting seaweed for their garden one day on the beach at Ladram Bay when he was suddenly overcome with inexplicable feelings of gloom and despair. Mentioning nothing to his wife he continued walking, until a few minutes later, Mina turned to him and implored, "Let's go home. I can stand this place not a minute longer. There's something frightful here."

The incident reminded Tom of an occasion when, as a child, he had gone with his mother for a walk in the Great Wood near Wokingham. "Quite suddenly," he recalled, "a horrible feeling of gloom and depression crept upon us like a blanket of fog over the surface of the sea." They hastily departed. A few days later the body of a suicide was discovered in the bushes near the spot.

When an undergraduate at Cambridge Tom had seen a strange top-hatted figure in the room of a friend. On enquiring the identity of the man from the friend he was told that no-one save himself had visited the rooms that evening - a statement corroborated afterwards by the porter, whose station was almost directly outside. On reflection, after considering that while he could distinctly recall the man's dress, he hadn't been able to distinguish any noticeable colours - the stranger had appeared

black and white, as in an old photograph - he realised that he had seen a ghost.

Lethbridge was convinced that the three incidents were connected, and that the connection was water (there had been a stream flowing beneath his friend's window at Cambridge, and there was running water near the spot where the suicide was found in the Great Wood). Over the next decade or so he developed the theory that ghosts are merely "tape recordings" - images and strong emotions imprinted on the magnetic field of water, much the same way as sounds and pictures are recorded on video tape, which can then be "picked up" by certain receptive people. After all, emotions are basically electrical pulses in the human brain and body.

Boyle Somerville, a Naval officer by profession, a surveyor by vocation and a brother of the artist and writer Edith Somerville, conducted a series of psychometric experiments in the late nineteen twenties in Castlehaven, on the coast of County Cork. Over 5,000 troops of the Spanish Fleet under Don Juan del Anguela landed at Castlehaven in December 1601 with a battery of siege guns. The almost forgotten Battle of Castlehaven began, and to Galleon Point, near where seventeen or eighteen of the invaders lie buried, Boyle brought, in September 1928, a known "sensitive", whom he alludes to in his notes by her initials, J.E.M. (undoubtedly she was Jem Barlow, a local medium.) He watched as she passed into a semi-trance and spoke, describing what she could see and hear.

She said she saw a man "come straying out of the past", in a dark cloak and broad-brimmed hat, he was very old and feeble and spoke to her in Spanish of his comrades. Although she did not speak Spanish, what the old man was saying was somehow made clear to her. "He comes from a city full of bells," she said (her words, halting and vague, were recorded by Boyle), "and in the sea he hears them chiming continually. He hates the guns - the gun is terrible. He can't stay here."

SWARMS 3 HUMANS 0

A plague of caterpillars struck the island of Lewis, Scotland, and Sutherland in England during May. The insects are putting millions of trees at risk in woodland areas.

Swarms of locusts have destroyed crops in parts of Hungary. The government is organising emergency spraying of insecticide to bring the swarms of locusts under control. The locusts - understood to be from Morocco - are said to have devastated 1,000 hectares of land.

[Source: Ceefax 23 June 1993]

Students at a graduation ceremony had to dash for cover when a swarm of 50 vultures swooped down on them. Experts think the angry birds mistook the feathered hats worn by students at Morocco's University of Sefrou for rivals. [Source: Sunday Mail 30 May 1993]

Boyle was astounded, while researching the battle at the British Library, how accurate in many respects J.E.M.'s report had been, even down to physical descriptions. More apparent proof of psychometry came forward in the twenties. Dr Eugene Osty, director of the Metaphysical Institute, describes in his book *Supernormal Faculties in Man* many successful experiments conducted by himself, including one in which the psychic Madame Moral was shown a photograph of a phial of liquid which had been found near a temple at Baalbek. She said she saw a place like a huge church, and a man later identified as a high priest. In fact, the phial in the photograph contained the blood of a human sacrifice, and it had been found in the grave of a high priest.

But what is psychometry? Is it, as Buchanan and Denton believed, a sixth sense, with which we can read the history of objects, or is it, as Lethbridge thought, a question of magnetic fields? The answer may even be found in the study of another branch of the paranormal, such as clairvoyancy.

Vengeance of the Werewolf

JOHN MACKLIN

Matthieu, a wealthy French businessman related to the millionaire Renault car family, who in the summer of 1920 had bought the empty and decaying Chateau Gregoire in south-west France and immediately set about restoring and modernising it.

There was plenty to do. The chateau had been derelict for over a century... and with good reason, so it was said.

It had once been the home of the notorious Count Bernard de Fiere, a legendary practitioner of the black arts, who had supposedly terrorised the area as a werewolf at the beginning of the 19th century. He was eventually murdered and buried by the villagers after a series of grisly murders for which they had believed he was responsible.

According to contemporary 19th century accounts, the Count turned into a werewolf every full moon. Over a period of time at least a dozen girls from the neighbourhood were murdered, one of them having been the daughter of the Count of Lautrec.

When the authorities finally broke into the castle in June 1819, they found horribly mutilated bodies in an underground chapel which had obviously been used for black magic sacrifices. Count de Fiere and a defrocked local priest named Francois Minquel were arrested on charges of murder and outraging public decency, and locked in the local police station to await trial.

But that night the people of St.Avette took justice into their own hands. The gaol was broken into and the prisoners taken away to a secret meeting of villagers in the hills. What actually happened to the pair was never known in detail, but they were certainly murdered after some type of impromptu trial and buried, after the performance of a ritual designed to cast out the malign influence said to possess them.

An official public inquiry failed to discover the culprits and eventually the Count and his accomplice were forgotten. The chateau crumbled in the sun and the memory of the ghastly deeds it had witnessed faded too.

Then the news that the place had been bought and was to be modernised and developed filtered through the district and the case of the werewolf baron was remembered once more.

So convinced were the villagers that any tampering with the building would disturb things best left alone, that a deputation visited Henri Matthieu in June 1920 and asked him not to disturb the building. Politely, but firmly, Matthieu declined to co-operate. He had, he said, already spent a good deal of money on the house and could hardly back out now. The villagers warned him that anything might happen and Matthieu promised to bear that in mind.

Two weeks later the first incident occurred which made it look as though the people of St.Avette knew what they were talking about.

One night the village was woken by piercing screams from the house of a water bailiff named Rene

WHEN THE workmen moved in, the people of St.Avette said no good would come of it. The past should remain undisturbed, they muttered darkly. The district was peaceful, and that's how they liked it. Why should a stranger stir things up?

The stranger they were referring to was Henri



Froberte. They came from the room occupied by his 18 year old daughter Marie-Clare. Froberte rushed in to find his daughter lying on the floor in a pool of blood, her face and neck scarred by deep gashes. The window was open. In the morning the paw marks of some huge creature were found outside the window!

A week later, a similar fate befell another village girl. This time she was able to tell of a "great wolf that came at me and tore my face.

"There was a cross hanging above my bed and I was able to grasp it and hold it up. Then the creature immediately vanished."

It was against this background of fear and apprehension that workmen continued the reconstruction of the Chateau Gregoire. Then, one morning in August, while digging trenches outside the chateau walls for new water mains, they made a macabre discovery.

In a shallow grave they came across two rotting coffins. As they gingerly lifted the lids, a grisly sight met their eyes. Two human skeletons were inside the coffins and each had an iron stake driven through the chest where the hearts would have been.

One of the skeletons had a curiously developed jaw structure and witnesses insisted that the bones of the hands somehow resembled the paws of an animal. "And there were deep scratches on the lid of the coffin that looked like claw marks," said one of the workmen.

The following day the local priest Father Paul Catelle carried out a Christian burial service and evoked God's blessing "on these tortured beings."

The werewolf was never seen again. Coincidence, possibly. But the people of St.Avette were sure that at last a malignant force had been properly laid to rest.

Earl Spencer has revealed that parts of the Spencer family estate opened up to the public are being used for devil worship and other rituals. At least 50 families in a West Java village are living in fear after finding bloodstains on doors. [Source: Teletext 16 Apr 1993]

**WHAT
THE
DEVIL!**

When The Lights Go Out

ARE WE talking about a new or previously overlooked phenomenon when we address the curious subject of 'Street Lamp Interference' (SLI)? This is something that the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena (ASSAP) have put forward in a publication entitled 'The SLI Effect'.

Many people, and not just in the UK, have reported instances of street lamps extinguishing in a spontaneous manner while in their vicinity. In some cases this has involved a whole row of lamps. Initially this might be regarded by the witness as a coincidental event but can often re-occur when in close proximity to a light and even at will in some instances.

SLIers, as these people have come to be known, sometimes exert unexplained effects in other areas also, and this can include TVs, videos and radios, watches, car electrical systems etc.

A considered and always questioning appraisal of the known facts is dealt with within the 52 pages of witness testimony, analysis, the options for alternatives and the relationship to related anomalous phenomena such as telekinesis.

Hilary Evans, who compiled what has been termed a "provisional assessment" of SLI has adopted a careful and measured approach in his attempts to define the proposed phenomenon for the first time. The SLIDE Project is a fine beginning that, up until now, he has handled almost single-handedly. An intriguing introduction into what may be a new phenomenon.

The SLI Effect, 52pp Price: £3.00 Available from:
ASSAP, 20 Paul Street, Frome, Somerset BA11 1DX

STAMPING OUT VERMIN

IF YOU want to send a dead mouse through the mail, think again. The Royal Mail says dead mice, voles and shrews are being posted to a nature group who has asked people to send any rodents they find. The group is trying to find out how well the animals are doing. A Royal Mail spokesman said that the parcels jam their stamping machine and some of them leak.

OUT OF THIS WORLD

A 40 year old New York woman pronounced dead by medics is recovering at home. A coroner noticed she was breathing after more than two hours in a mortuary.

[Source: Ceefax 16 June 1993]

A SIX year old Florida girl killed herself by stepping in front of a tram "so she could become an angel and watch over her terminally-ill mother".

[Source: Teletex3 16 June 1993]

A GURU pronounced dead by doctors more than a month ago is in a state of deep meditation and will wake up in

[Source: Teletex13 11 June 1993]

COOL HAND FLUKE

A CARD player from Plymouth has been dealt the hand of a lifetime. Marcus Benorthan was playing bridge with his wife and two friends. The pack was dealt between them and when Benorthan picked up his pile he saw he had all 13 spades.

The chance of that happening is said to be more than 2,000 million, million, million, million to one!

[Source: Ceefax 13 May 1993]



Another Slow Boat

SCIENTISTS EXAMINING a shipwreck off the coast of south east Australia say Captain Cook may not have been the first European there. Tests on the vessel show that its timbers come from Europe's Mediterranean region and that it sank between 1450 and 1660. Capt James Cook turned up years later - in 1770 to be exact.

MONSTEROUS MISTAKE IN CARBON DATING

WITH THE movie Jurassic Park swiftly becoming the hit of 1993, the question is, did our ancestors ever share the planet with dinosaurs?

Most scientists agree that the creatures became extinct more than 60million years before the advent of modern man, but certain findings suggest otherwise.

For example, in 1924 the Doheny Expedition found very ancient rock paintings in the Hovospai Canyon near the Grand Canyon, showing a tyrannosaurus standing on its tail, a stegosaurus, and men attacking a mammoth, along with other prehistoric animals.

In 1945, near the village of Acambaro, Mexico, clay statuettes were unearthed depicting monkeys, camels, horses, rhinos, and dinosaurs of the Mesozoic era (225million to 65million years ago). One figure closely resembled a brachiosaur, suggesting the artist had actually seen the creature. Carbon tests conducted on the figures showed they were 3,000 to 6,500 years old.

Images of stegosaurus have also been found scratched on a rock formation at Big Sandy River, Oregon. The puzzle has never been solved and such 'evidence' of co-existence only serves to cast further doubt on the validity of carbon dating, and clouds our textbook view of the world's history as we have allowed ourselves to be taught it.



FLIP-FLOP TRIBE

FROM THE depths of the jungle of Papua New Guinea came the kind of news to set any anthropologist's heart aflutter - and then again, maybe not.

Wearing only crude clothing woven from vines and leaves and clutching flint axes, 79 members of a 'lost tribe' were found by a government patrol.

The 'Stone Age' clan were apparently roaming around worshipping a rock, which travels with them, and when approached jabbered in an unknown tongue.

Anthropologists and historians worldwide could hardly contain their excitement when the news broke. But in Port Moresby, Papua, the reaction was more laid-back.

'Oh no, not them again,' said a spokesman at the Institute of Medical Research. 'This tribe was first 'discovered' in 1990, and even then there was a great deal of scepticism.'

Australian broadcasting correspondent Sean Dorney, who has lived in Papua for 20 years, said: 'These so-called lost tribes surface from time to time, but then you find they're wearing T-shirts and rubber thongs. So much for the Stone Age.'

[Source: D Mail 26 June 1993]

Demons, Doctors And Aliens

WHILST IT may not be an entirely new theory, the idea that present day growth in alleged alien abductions is the continuation of a myth and that in some way it can be linked historically to the evidence of witch trials and sexual-medical, folklore traditions, should be of interest to Ufologists in particular.

'Demons, Doctors, and Aliens,' written by American James Pontolillo and published by The International Fortean Organization, explores within its pages these relationships. Pontolillo's thesis encompasses the view that sexual fantasies and hatred of women are the basis for 'abduction fakery'. Indeed many abductees are women - but not all, of course.

The author draws on a great many sources of reference in his spirited bid to support these theories and certainly comparisons can be drawn. That the case is adequately proven in this publication must lie with the reader.

In his conclusions Pontolillo states: 'The alien abduction phenomenon is best classified as a delusional belief since it possesses a self-fulfilling, self-reverential verification system that has no demonstrable basis in objective reality.'

Well, as incidents of professed alien abduction are still continuing in our society, we may yet still have an opportunity to judge the long-term validity of such a statement.

Demons, Doctors, And Aliens, 22pp Price: \$10.00 • p&p.
Available from: International Fortean Organization, P.O.
Box 367, Arlington, Virginia 22210-0367, USA.

England - Hire This Man!

WITCH DOCTOR Agustin Machado says he can guarantee a World Cup place for the Bolivian national football team. But he wants the same pay and bonuses as players plus a coaching job.

UFO Magazine

A CHANCE encounter at an obscure newsstand recently brought me face-to-face with the American magazine UFO UNIVERSE. Yes, it's full of stories about 'alien implants', 'devil men', and even a UFO crash in New York City.

A giant, full-page fuzzy black and white picture of a man's heel brought puzzlement on my part. The heel was alleged to contain an alien implant inside the heel bone. Page 60 was a blow-up picture of someone's awful attempt at making a model alien. Real 'Blue Peter' stuff. They say 'a picture is worth a thousand words' - give me the words!

This quarterly publication, imported by Comag so your newsagent should be able to get it for you, has its UK Editor on the masthead listed as Jenny Randles. Does she know, I wonder? Does she care?!



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LEFTOVERS

A two-day search for a human body seen falling from the sky ended when police discovered ... a plane's cargo net.

"There seems little doubt that the net was the object which several people thought was a human body falling to earth," said Gloucestershire police on June 30.

The netting was found near a radio mast at Bagendon, Glos, as police, soldiers and firefighters scoured the countryside.

A bailiff who broke into a apartment in Vienna to claim unpaid rent found the occupant had been dead for the last four years. [Source: Teletex3 21 April 1993]

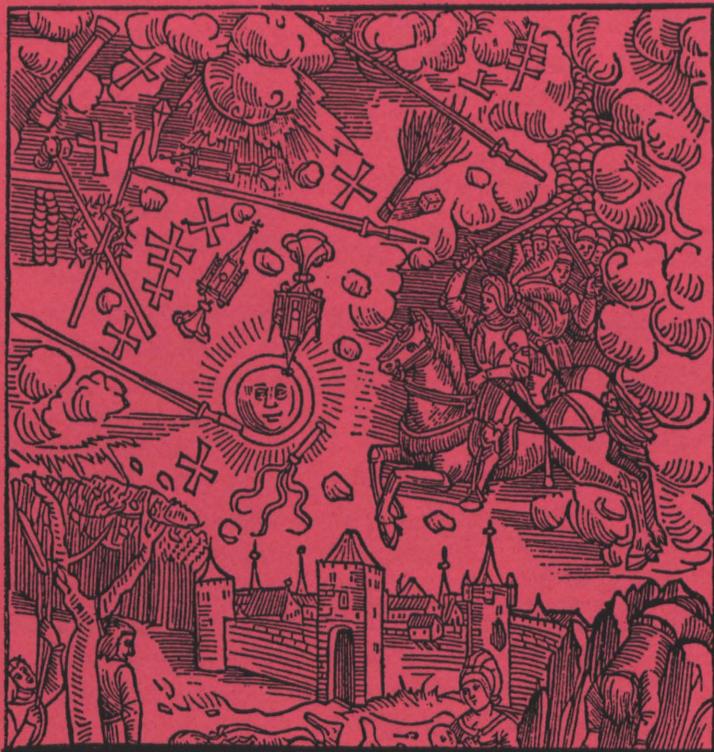
Police in Thailand have put a meteorite under armed guard. The football-sized lump, weighing 17 killogrammes, fell to earth near a village last week.

Officers decided to take it away after villagers began worshipping the ball of silver-grey material. [Source: Ceefax 24 June 1993]

New signs being put up in a town in the US state of Minnesota in June are enough to make anyone drive off the road. They say: "Doq ngeng pum Daq majghos nadey hingau hol jatlu". It means "Welcome" Klingon spoken here".

Klingons are the baddies in some of the Star Trek films. The Klingons aren't invading - it is just a summer camp for fans of the movies!

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