

A PUBLICATION OF PAGANISM, FORTEAN & EARTH MYSTERIES, etc.

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This magazine is forever dedicated to Jonathon Livingston Seagulls everywhere,
And to Jon Tilleard...

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Please - please - please - everyone note that your editor has changed address and did so some while back. I'm still getting letters sent to my old address and it must be driving the poor guy who lives there crazy. So - take note and scrawl me down as soon as possible (those of you who haven't). Aaahh, that's better...

An editorial change at the very last minute. We were about to highlight a particularly annoying case, but have left it pending further action. Some of you may well read of it in other mags though. Anyhow - back to work. Earth looks as if its gonna be back with its normal two-monthly routine slot once again - perhaps more if we're lucky. Sorry about all of the delays which you've all had to put up with over the last nine months - but, virtually everything's behind us now and all looks hunky-dory for the future. I have a book coming out soon on our psychoactive herbs. Following that, I'm hoping to get another two out before the end of the year: one, a sociological report on cannabis use in West Yorkshire; and the other is to be a concise guide to the monoliths and megaliths of Yorkshire. Both of these are to be out by the end of the year. So look out for them!

The Yorkshire PaganLink Library scheme is something that's to take off within a few or months (or at least it's hoped so!). This works within the discount card scheme augmented by Yorkshire PaganLink members, which entitles the holder to get cheaper products from a number of shops around the North of England - and spreading gradually south - but it also gives the holder access to the Yorkshire PaganLink Library system...to be held (guess where?)...yes - here! At the moment we have around 1200 books covering virtually every aspect of the esoteric. More are being

added to the Library all the time. A number of people have kindly donated books/mags, encouraging the library and giving it as diverse a selection as possible. If anyone in Yorkshire has books/mags they're wanting to get rid of or sell off cheap, lemme know, as they can be put to good use in the Library scheme. Membership in the Library system gives people access to books and mags, many of which are unavailable elsewhere. Final details as to how the Library will work has yet to be ironed out fully; but once done they'll be reported, and those with PaganLink Discount Cards will be sent a full list of books/mags upon request.



This is the first in a series of articles in which meditation - its methods, technique and attributes - shall be discussed. It is hoped that the reader may adopt some, if not all of the meditative techniques mentioned during the course of these articles as part of a meditation programme - the objectives of which shall be:

- To keep in touch with ourselves, with our real feelings, our emotions, our hidden motives and subconscious desires; to truthfully assess, be aware of and live with these aspects of our personalities.
- To "come home"; to centralise ourselves and return to our true nature/essence/spirit, whatever... through meditation.
- To recognise the hidden Eternal within us and perhaps one day to merge, to be as one, absorbed in God, Brahman, the Absolute, the One, the Tao, the Source, the Primordial Spirit, Nirvana - whatever you care to call it.
- To relax the body and mind; to experience the peace of innermost, deepest meditation, regulating emotions and thought - a good stress reducer.

Firstly, what is meditation? The meditation we shall be talking about is the process whereby the mind is stilled, and when this state of mind is attained the truth, or reality, surfaces and one feels as though another world is being entered, as the unconscious becomes conscious. One feels more elated, in touch with oneself and the Cosmos of which we are all a part. All sorts of subjective experiences may occur and this is largely due to the meditator's previous conditioning through his/her culture, religion and/or belief system. Different sensations (bodily and mental) may arise and one can explore them if you so wish, or they may be rejected in further of developing the will to build on concentration with the aim of discovering one's "essential nature".

This inward search (or rather, permittance of oneself to be) is at the heart of all spiritual and religious systems. Indeed, it is a great pity that the exoteric (not the esoteric) establishments have forgotten this and that the return to our spiritual root of freedom and immortality is repressed and imposed in the form of prayer to the patriarchal tyrant of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. This is one of the reasons for the spiritual death in these religions, in addition to their acceptance of Western "civilised" values and materialism (undoubtedly one of the reasons for the neo-Pagan and occult tidal wave is a rejection, on the part of sensitive and spiritually aspiring people, of these values and associated rubbish which contributes to our exclusive "living in" the external world).

There are many, many ways for obtaining mental quiet as we shall see later. But the mind is a very difficult thing to subdue. To demonstrate what I mean, simply sit yourself down and watch yourself think. As soon as you realise you're doing it, detach yourself from your thoughts and watch as the mortgage, the meeting, the job, the boss, the car, etc, arise and fall, each in rapid succession. However, do not despair, as with practice you may gradually become quieter and stilled and eventually a very different state of mind may be encountered, where peace and serenity rise temporarily and one can find inner freedom growing more and more, like a flower. But a flower needs looking after and if you are to sustain this state, to nurture and cultivate it, one must observe for oneself certain rules (not as dictatorial observances, but as meeting again and again the conditions under which this meditative state will arise).

The advantages of including this state of mind in your life are numerous. Indeed, this state of mind may pervade your life, enhance it, make you feel more sensitive to how you are really feeling and how everyone else around you is feeling; sensitive to light and colour, to beauty, to Truth - the ultimate, irreducible principle in the Universe.

So to sustain this state of mind one requires:

- The dedication to attempt practicing meditation at least once, a day - twice a day is preferable.

- b) To meet physiological and psychological criteria - the right bodily and mental circumstances for the meditative state to arise.
- c) Patience, and a little (not too much) will power, perseverance.

Ideally one should meditate first thing in the morning and last thing in the evening. When the sun rises, life is beginning to buzz and instead of watching TV AM's fitness freak wasting an awful lot of energy, one would be better off attuning to this natural process of nature and getting in touch with oneself before going to work, shopping, etc. If you are of an occult disposition, meditation - as you'll all know - is a perfect way to start one's regime of invocations, spells, etc.

You should stick to meditating twice daily, even if at first you don't receive any results, because if you give up or become erratic with your meditation times, the chances are you won't meditate successfully at all. So each day strengthen with the meditation routine and one day it may become the heart of your life.

Before we go into the "how" of meditation, we should do a few things before sitting in front of the fire at sunrise, chanting mantras and talking to God! Psychologically, it's advantageous to wash oneself thoroughly before meditation - see it as a kind of purification act, of cleansing. Brush your teeth, have a shower, a bath, preferably a stimulating shower if you're still feeling sleepy; and a relaxing bath if your mind is enthusiastically shrieking, "I must meditate." (Heart beating, lungs madly pumping and hyperventilating all the way down the steps!) Prior to meditation it also helps if you go to the toilet (it's better than entering Samadhi with wet legs!).

Then, lie down in what the Indians call the Corpse Posture. This is so as to relax you before meditating. You should ideally stay in this posture for fifteen to twenty minutes at least - you won't get bored if you know what to do. Just relax at first. Breathe, breathe, and let your heart slow down. Relax. Legs apart; arms apart; comfortably lying down flat - relax. One should then attempt to eliminate all the "tense spots" we all have, such as a furrowed brow, clenched fists, a tightened jaw, tense bowels (I thought I told you to go the toilet!). Relax these tense parts and you will begin to liberate vast resources of energy. As you daily become accustomed to this pre-meditative exercise you will become aware of feelings of heaviness at first, then lightness and euphoria, etc. Work down the body from head to toe and then back again, relaxing, relaxing. Don't forget ones toes and fingers, etc. Sink deep inside yourself. Stay there awhile and then come back out.

Now slowly sit up and prepare yourself for meditation. To do this you need a posture that will serve as an anchor for the body. If the body is moving about all over the place, your mind will not be still. Your spine needs to be straight, and though relaxed your head needs to be held high in a straight line with the spine. You should also breathe deeply into the abdomen. This is the best type of breathing: it is slow and relaxing and manages the internal organs. Less oxygen is consumed and mental quietitude is easier to enter.

So for suggestions for posture we have:

- a) Cross-legged: okay, but one may rock a little to and fro. A more balanced posture is,
- b) Half-lotus, or Lotus: if you are supple sit as a yogi does. The legs are folded over each other, the feet touching the thighs. The back is straight with the head held up. If you can't get into the full Lotus, try the Half-lotus where only one leg is folded over. If you want to achieve the Lotus posture get a good book from the library on yoga and follow the exercises for suppleness which ensure muscular stretching in the legs. A good one is Light on Yoga, by Iyengar. Another is The Complete Illustrated Book of Yoga, by the Sivananda Yoga Centre.
- c) Sit as the Chinese alchemists used to: bottom resting on feet, hands on legs, back straight with the head held in alignment with the spine.
- d) Sit in a straight-backed chair. Do this at first when meditating, then move into one of the above possible postures.

Having established the posture of meditation and the pre-meditative observances and relaxation, we shall now talk about our technique. Which one are we to use in order to induce this state? Well, in the last section of this article and in the first half of the next we shall turn our attention to the methods of meditation.

The most common meditative technique is the use of a mantra. A mantra is a word or syllable which is repeated in harmony with the meditator's breathing. One's awareness and concentration is directed towards the word, the mantra, and assists the process of *one-pointedness* whereby the mind is quietened and the sole object of concentration exists. Consciousness is unified into one continuous stream of thought and after practice the meditation state comes of itself, and reveals one or two surprises as you shall see for yourself! I will not dwell on the outcome of this technique as I don't want to programme anybody's mind - but once experienced, one finds it easier to return to this state of consciousness.

In the East it is the spiritual tradition which maintains that a true mantra has many qualities:

1. That it is representative of a sound or wavelength energy that has always existed in the Universe and cannot be created or destroyed.
2. It has a bija, or seed, which is its essence and which invests it with a special power that is the dynamic, creative, Shakti. This power is released upon uttering the mantra and makes itself felt to the meditator in a very distinct way.
3. That the mantra be a syllable, word or phrase from the Sanskrit alphabet, purportedly resulting from the natural "sonics" in the microcosm/macrocsm.
4. That the mantra be transmitted to the meditator from a guru who has invested it with his/her own *pranic* energy.
5. That the mantra was originally handed down from a sage, rishi or yogi who attained self-realisation through it.

We will not investigate these claims for the time being, but it is sufficient to know that one should use a word that is relaxing and pleasant, with positive connotations. Such a word will resonate deep within us a chord of feeling/emotion, and successful meditation on this mantra will bring good results. Practice makes perfect however! Don't be put off if you find yourself straying from concentrating on the mantra. Remember, don't strain or try too hard, as this will result in tension, and the prerequisite of the exercise is to be relaxed but still aware. If you find that you're wandering off at a tangent don't get too cross with yourself. Simply bring yourself gently back to the mantra and the job at hand. Suggestions for mantras are, *AUM, OM, LOVE, PEACE*, etc. And if you are interested in Eastern mantras, their meaning and philosophies, consult many of the books on yoga, in particular Raja and Kundalini Yoga.

The mantra should be unified with your deep breathing. Breathing in, concentrate. A-U-M. Let the mantra filter out and breathe out. Breathe in, letting the mantra fill your awareness. A-U-M :- breathe out, letting the "mmm" create a delightful little vibration which brings peace.

In the next article we will deal with other methods of meditation drawn from the East and the West. From Hinduism, Buddhism, Sufism...and see the meditation process as part of the self-healing process we should all be devoted to. Also the history and evolution of meditation shall be explored, in addition to further practical aids to meditation. And finally the writer intends to set up an informal meditation group to explore meditative techniques and methods, culminating in collective sensory awareness exercises. Hopefully these meetings will be held in Bradford. Anyone who may be interested should write to the editor, who will forward your address and possible inquiries to me.

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Fable from a Scottish Past - About a mile north of the small town of Comrie, near Loch Earn, runs a long, picturesque brook coming down from the reservoir at Lednoch. At one point along here we meet the Deil's Caldron, where strange legends are known. In years past, a vicar of the surrounding parish was walking his dog through the trees along the old footpath, when a figure appeared ahead of him. Wary of the many stories that surrounded the Deil, the preacher stopped and looked at the figure coming towards him. He looked quite harmless he thought and so continued his stroll. The vicar's dog however, seemed a little reluctant and began whining. As the figure got closer, the vicar noticed that a silence had overcome the woodlands. No birds or wildlife of any kind seemed to be about. The stranger meanwhile, continued walking closer. He was clad in a suit and dark glasses. This seemed a little strange, considering that the afternoon was dull with low clouds. As the man approached, the vicar kindly greeted him. "Good afternoon," he said. Whereupon the figure stopped, removed its glasses and vanished into thin air! On the muddy path where the figure had stood were footprints indicating its presence. Certainly, he thought, he hadn't imagined it. And, somewhat disturbed and frightened by the experience, he promptly returned home.

Folklore at this Deil's Caldron tells of an exorcism that had been done on the area at the turn of the century. Exactly what took place isn't known. Apparently, the people involved were never seen again!

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"For a Wizard read, try"

## PAGAN NEWS

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*From Ray Sherwin, Leeds:*  
 Dear Paul - As you are probably aware, I've been active in Paganism in this area for about twenty years and have attended many a moot in various places throughout the North of the country. I was more than delighted when I heard that a Bradford Moot had been started but, as you must realise yourself, many good ideas never get anywhere - either through lack of support or poor organisation.

I heard on the ever more rapid occult grapevine recently that one of the participants of the Bradford Moot is claiming to have cursed me into ill-health. This is the sort of crass stupidity against which Paganism is fighting and is unworthy of anyone who claims to be following a Pagan way of life - to claim a success out of another's misfortune. Of course cursing may be valid in some cases but it pays, as the Pagan codes of the fifties and sixties insist, to keep silent. That the person responsible is unable to do what has been claimed to have been done is simply by the way.

The Bradford Moot is rapidly earning a bad reputation for itself (mine is not the only case of claimed cursing). This is not a "dark glamour" reputation of the type earned by Crowley and others; simply a nod from the wise to the wise that the Bradford Moot is peopled by bores who don't have a clue about occultism, Paganism, magick or, indeed, anything at all. This is a great shame for the people who sincerely believe in Paganism or spiritual anarchy, because while they permit people whose mouths are bigger than their brains to continue their acrimony they will be tarred with the brush which I and many other people are wielding at the moment.

If the Bradford Moot is to survive, someone with integrity is going to have to take the responsibility for running it, otherwise it will retain its reputation as a pile of ordure and will be unable to perform any of the functions a successful moot might be expected to perform. As a final word, I would recommend the person who claims to have cursed me to confront me with that claim, rather than using it to impress young and inexperienced people who cannot be blamed for not yet knowing any better.

This article is written to introduce a West Yorkshire vicar, whose beliefs on Christian theology may be quite revolutionary as far as Christians and Pagans are concerned. The vicar believes that the conflict between Pagans and Christians arises from a basic misunderstanding between both parties and his views here may well be of interest to Pagans and Christians alike. Understandably, the vicar concerned wishes to remain anonymous for obvious reasons, but is eager to submit his views for publication. The following therefore, is a written interview between him and myself made in his study:

Iain Johnston: How do you regard the old Earth religion?

Vicar: I admire and respect it. Some so-called Pagans are more spiritual and understand more of the universe around them than most people who profess Christianity.

IJ: Can you tell me why a lot of Christian churches abhor Paganism?

Vicar: This arises, through, I believe a confusion between the words "spirituality", "mysticism" and "religion". Many Christians, since ancient times, have lived moral laws because they thought it was a good thing to do, and set so-called civilised standards. These laws, although basically good, were seldom prayed about. So eventually the Christian could not define between what was good or bad. He sees everything in black and white. So all things must be either of God or the Devil. This is defined in individuals' minds and leads to arguments amongst themselves. They forget that they can receive revelation through God by prayer and fasting. The Bible tells us to do this. I am astonished how many Christians, even in high office, such as Bishops, fail to do this - and in some instances don't even know how to go about it! The Christian therefore, labels Paganism as of the Devil because he cannot comprehend it. He labels Hinduism and all the other world religions the same. What in effect he is saying is: I read the Bible; you believe different, so I must be right and everybody else wrong. The Pagan on the other hand continually communes with Nature, is concerned about the brotherhood of man and the environment. That way, he lives God's way anyhow. For God tells us to be concerned about such matters. Not many Christians share these concerns. That is why many great writers such as H.G. Wells condemned them for it: as Charles Dickens did in his time too. The Pagan therefore, is more entitled to be called a son of God than most Christians!

IJ: How do you regard such things as the Inquisition and the Hugueno persecutions, and the witch-hunts in places like New England?

Vicar: With absolute horror! I think my answer to the previous question answers it. But to add, a high degree of spirituality does not necessarily imply a good person. It's what you do with it that counts. Being a highly spiritual person is the same as being a mystic. You can gain a lot of knowledge which is given you to raise up your fellow man. But many through the ages have misinterpreted this. Torquemada was a highly spiritual man, but he took the left hand path instead of the right and used his knowledge the wrong way. The burning of the witches for instance, by the New England brethren, was a crime committed by people whose view of spirit was of black and white. They did not understand, therefore they persecuted and destroyed it, thus condemning themselves.

IJ: Is therefore, their ignorance an excuse?

Vicar: Not really. We are actually warned about this in the Bible, to be wary of false spirit. The Rev Paisley, for instance, is a wolf in sheep's clothing. He wears the garment of a priest and professes to believe in God, but persecutes and denies humanity. His courage is brute courage. That of a tyrant. Is it any wonder people shun Christianity when such men are said to be its figureheads?

IJ: I have mentioned your beliefs to many Pagans who seemed amazed that you, a Christian minister, should express such thoughts.

Vicar: Sadly, that is because they have been set a bad example by many Christians and have been given a warped view of Christianity by people who should have known better. God teaches that we should respect other human beings and their views, and respect our planet. Although we all have faults, we should be striving for a better society and a better world no matter who we are. Too many Christians have become materialistic, thinking they can buy spirituality. This is of course a glaring fault, obvious to people who are not Christians and they justifiably feel let down when Christians not practising what they preach. They should at least make an effort to set an example of their beliefs.

IJ: You are a non-materialist?

Vicar: Certainly! The wealth of the world, its natural resources, is meant to be shared equally among all peoples. They should be held in common and not be the exclusive property of individuals and companies.

IJ: Many Pagans would share that view.

Vicar: That proves they are on the right path, spiritually; and on the same wavelength as the Great Architect.

IJ: That's your name for God isn't it?

Vicar: Yes. If one reads ones Bible properly we know that God was one of a race of beings, the Elohim. God is but one amongst billions. These were once beings like ourselves, who reached such a high plane of spirituality that their bodies and souls reunited in a new phase of existence. They once inhabited worlds like the Earth. We can all achieve this, as any planet-bound being can. This is clearly stated in Genesis. Earth is merely a classroom for embryonic Gods.

IJ: The Elohim created the planets?

Vicar: Yes. They are more or less planetary engineers, and man is in their image both physically and spiritually.

IJ: And they are of two sexes?

Vicar: Yes - as are all higher life forms in the universe.

IJ: I note that you are very sure and have faith in these statements.

Vicar: Yes. I believe this is the true Christian belief. We can find this in the Bible and the Koran.

IJ: You believe both the Bible and the Koran?

Vicar: I believe both are versions of the same thing.

IJ: I suppose some of your brethren in the ministry would regard these views as heretical.

Vicar: Then I would urge them to read their Bibles.

IJ: So what you are saying is that all planets and their inhabitants were created by the Elohim.

Vicar: All life in the universe is created by them. The Earth Mother is the female counterpart of God on this planet. She is in fact, His companion. UFOs do exist and some are spacecraft from other planets older than ours. The ETs are similar to

us, being created after the original Elohim-human form. Therefore their stature and skin colour may be different due to their environment, but they are based on the same stock as us. They could safely interbreed with Earthlings, as in the Villas-Boas case. Earth is not the only planet the Elohim created, nor will it be the last. Look at it this way Iain: you as an artist don't just complete one piece of artwork in your lifetime and then just walk away and give up. It is the same with the Gods. The dinosaur age was the first crude sketch for a complete Sistine Chapel ceiling, as the world is today. That, I think you will agree, is a good analogy. When an artist finishes his sketches he takes them away. And so the dinosaurs vanished to leave the drawing board free for the next phase!

IJ: I hope we can expect an article from you on your theories of the Celtic-Hebrew connection, and of Christ's visits to these islands.

Vicar: I would be glad to. I have evolved this theory through studying both Hebrew and Celtic history and mythology, and of course fasting and praying. I'll write it as soon as possible. END OF INTERVIEW.

This conversation was completely informal and of course does not give all of the vicar's views on Christianity, which are startling and vast to say the least! I believe the vicar is one of that rare breed: a true Christian, and *does* commune with God through prayer. His views, I believe, give a clearer concept of Christianity. His tolerance and respect for other beliefs is one that many Christians should follow.

*Editor: Iain has told me much of this chappie, and although some of his ideas are somewhat dated and considered a little inept, it is nevertheless very good to hear of a vicar who stands up for the beliefs and practises of Pagans. Remarkably, his Sunday morning sermons to the flowery-hat brigade regularly consist of material pertaining to what he has briefly said here! As Iain says, hopefully more from this illuminating man! I look forward to it.*

#### A Calverley Ghost Story

This half-rural village between Leeds and smelly Bradford has a long history of spooks and such things. In 1984, a remarkable earthlight close encounter of the third kind - physical evidence and all - settled into a two-and-a-half-hour rest in the woodlands there! Old Sir Walter Calverley, the most famous of the village ghosts, is said to be seen running through the same woods every now and again, at the end of April. This tale however, is not something we can find records of.

It was Winter, 1981. Andy Tyson, Peter Melan and Dave Illingworth were walking along the track through the woods, heading towards Calverley Church at the top. Stopping half-way on, they puzzled as to whether they should break off and head towards Calverley Cutting (a large geological fault that bisects the wood in half). This they did. Andy Tyson writes: "The road eventually leads to an old quarry. Part of the road is tarmacked for 5-600 yards, then there's a gate which goes across" the track. About 150 yards before the gate on the left, is a large Victorian house.

"We had passed the house," he writes, "And were 100 yards from the gate when we all saw...an old-fashioned lantern on a stick go across the top of the gate and then disappear." The threesome instantly ran like hell! When they got several hundred yards down from where they'd been, they were greeted by a man walking his boarder collie dog up the old cutting. "We asked him where he had come from and he said the old house. Then he told us that he couldn't go near the gate as his dog would start whining. He then continued on his way." Literally within seconds of the three talking to the old fellow however, they turned to watch him walk up the old straight cutting, but him and the dog had vanished! As before, the three ran like hell and could offer no suitable explanation as to where the old man could have gone to.

Spooklights perhaps? In-between a geological fault? - sounds most familiar...

Some of those fuddy-duddy men who like to collect quaint stories - "folklorists" is how they've started to call themselves in the last century or so - come up with some right howlers as they sit in their armchairs getting boozed. Let's you and I get a thing or two straight. The name's Black Annis, but you may call me "Cat" Anna between yourselves - but not to my face, if you value the appearance of yours! As any kid growing up in Leicester would have told you, my home used to be Black Annis' Bower Close - a posh address for a cave, but that's what happens when you're famous. It's in a small natural outcrop on the Dane Hills - that's off to the wets of the city on the way to Glenfield, if you're not from these parts!

When I come into town, most folks know I hang around the gateway of the castle and get some kip in the cellars there. When you've been around as long as me, you'll find out how easy it is to get over to Dane Hills in the flash of a frog's tongue. The locals tell each other I use an underground tunnel to help me travel so quickly. I'll let 'em carry on thinking just that, but perhaps the cunning ones know better!

Many of the folk still remember my prophesies when King Richard went past me on his way to the Battle of Bosworth and his spurs struck a stone pillar on the bridge. Mark my words I said, it'll be his head that'll hit that stone when he comes back. "Silly old fool," they called me, or worse. But I had foreseen clearly and, after loosing the battle, crown and his life, his naked body was thrown across the saddle of a horse and, his head hanging down low to the stirrups, it hit that very stone.

As I'm getting on in years, and there are days when the aches and pains make me a bit crotchety (I'll admit as much myself), I have been known to get a bit upset when silly little kids play around outside my cave and shout rude remarks like me being an old witch. When I've showed them I can still move a bit quicker than them and given them a good hiding they go off howling. There have been just a few occasions - not more than one or two, I'll swear - when I've been real put out and laid into the little brats so hard they don't get up. But they've only got what they asked for, if you want my opinion. There's no reason for their mams to go around inventing tales about me scratching them to death, eating them and saying it's their hides hanging on my tree. And as for that Victorian gentleman, John Heyrick, and his epic effort at prosy, well I'm surprised he could write for so long, being so limp-wristed, as I've heard said. How would you like folks starting to say things like this about you:

Where down the plain the winding pathway falls,  
From Glen-field vill, to Lester's ancient walls;  
Nature, or art, with imitative power,  
Far in the Glenn has plac'd *Black Annis's Bower*.  
'Tis said the soul of mortal man recoil'd  
To view Black Annis's eye, so fierce and wild;  
Vast talons, foul with human flesh, there grew  
In place of hands, and her features livid blue,  
Glar'd in her visage; whilst her obscene waist  
Warm skins of human victims embrac'd.

With all this bad press no doubt you'll guess I've got a bit of a reputation to live down. Every little kid in Leicester used to get told that if they're bad, "Black Annis'll come and get yer!" And the mothers would tittle-tattle about an unpopular neighbour being a "Cat Anna". Let them take my name in vain, see if I care.

But all that didn't stop everyone coming up here to Dane Hills every Easter Monday to see the Mayor and the dignitaries set off for a hare hunt at noon. Well, you know what that type are: they couldn't catch a hare even if a whole coven of witches shape-shifted into furry-form in front of them, so they get a dead cat, soak it in aniseed, tie it to the tail of a horse and set off at full cry after that. Well, I ask you! Still, as long as it's not one of my cats they take and everyone has a good time, I suppose it's all for the good. Anyhow, the fair and the good times got to be more important and it must be four hundred years since anyone did anything

like that - even the fair died out by the mid-seventeen-hundreds, if memory serves me right. If you want to go up to Dane Hills now, there aint no hares to be had - well, you don't find the likes of them in the middle of an housing estate, do yer? Nonetheless, they still have an annual Hare Pie Scramble down at Halaton, which gets lots of people out on easter Monday and is pretty well-known, so it's not just Easter bunnies and a nasty bit of mis-spelling by the clergy that remind me of how sacred the hare was to my cousin Eostre.

Yes, I know you're wise enough to be thinking I'm even older than I appear to be, hideous old crone that I am. Round these parts, when they still respected us Old Ones, they got to know me as Anu, but perhaps the Irish were more proper when they wrote about me as Danu - that's why my temple was in a cave on the Dane Hills - so forget about those ill-bred Scandanavian thugs. And as for the idea that Danu comes from some foreign floozie calling herself Diana - well, what do you expect from some learned professors who spend all their time reading Latin instead of using some common-sense!?

Folk have come down to these parts and talked about me as if I were called Brigit, Brigid, Bride or Brigantia, but I wouldn't know about that. Those names are a bit fancy for round here. But, sitting thinking for a bit, perhaps they're right. All those Black Virigins that go back to the Middle Ages seem to tie in with Brigid, and it was a speciality of these dark madonnas to grant eternal bliss to dead babies. So perhaps with my name being Black too, they are keen to connect me with dead kiddies. But, as for that Geoffrey Dickens saying things about my worshippers molesting and sacrificing their kids - if he choses to come up here from Westminster it'll be his hide I hang out if he doesn't change his tune. Perhaps his time would be better spent finding out rumours about MPs who have interfered with little boys and then try to get all MPs outlawed.

Now - you know I started off by slagging those armchair foklorists. Well, I'll tell you why they get up my orifices. This is what one of them came up with. There's a memorial brass to an Agnes Scott, who died in 1455 in Swithland church (as you probably know, that's about five miles north of here). She was a Dominican nun who is described on this plaque as an anchorite and cave-dweller and ran a leper centre. OK, so you can go there and see that much for yourselves, if you don't mind doing a spot of translating from the dog-Latin. But, according to our folklorist, this leper centre was "probably" near Dane Hills and so "The memory of a solitary nun dressed in black Dominican robes could well have engendered the folk memory of Black Annis." As if to support this he says that, "Curiously, a modern convent now stands in the same area" (he means the Convent of St. Cathering right by Glenfield Road).

Well, if you'll believe all that, you've got so perverted by too much God the Father/God the Son and don't forget the Holy Ghost (whatever anyone can decide that might be), to forget that I, the Old Crone, am part of a much older and wiser three-in-one. I don't care what name you prefer - let's just leave it open - Triple Goddess will do for now.

Which reminds me. There's something them smart-arsed folklorists don't seem to have spotted yet. Out on Sewstern Lane, that really old track which marks the boundary between Leicestershire and Lincolnshire, where another old track crosses it to the east of Croxton Kerrial (No! - pronounce it Crow-ston, like the folks round here do!), there you'll find a farm that used to be a coaching inn and which is still called The Three Queens. Queens my ass - we Goddesses are more important than them mortals. Surprising really, that no-one's spotted this before, because them archaeologists down at Leicester Museum found out quite a bit about the barrow cemetery that is right by there - or was, cos that was all ploughed out yonks ago.

Anyhow, I won't let on everything these folklore geezers have been up to round here when it comes to misunderstanding us Old Ones. They're getting a bit smarter now, and disguising themselves as "earth mysteries researchers", and sit in front of those new-fangled word-processors...but, I'll put you right about their funny ideas another time...



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## Leaves from a Wiccan's Garden

It was Eno's, Moss Garden that exemplified the delights of consciousness through Ambient music. And twas amidst a dense, but great Scottish forest, that a luminous moss-laden Earth augmented a wondrous stillness of mind within Jon Tilleard and myself several years ago - simply from the flora enclosing us...

A thousand species have been identified in Britain alone (8) and although in ye olde days many of these were used in herbal concoctions, only a select few are really employed today. They were written of by medieval herbalists such as Gerard, Parkinson and Culpeper, who in turn cited remarks made by the even earlier classical physicians. Culpeper, as he did with all plants, placed them under the governance of Saturn. But of course there is folklore to these lavish terrestrial carpets, and as to be expected, folklore from many shores.

The erect, Fir Clubmoss, *Lycopodium Pelago*, also known in the past as Club Nose, was probably the cloth or herb of gold, reputed by the druids to be both a remarkable medicine and a protector against supernatural creatures and black magic. This herb was to be collected by someone whose feet were bare and clean, and who had offered sacrifices of bread and wine to the elements. Skinner tells us: "Thus qualified, he picked the moss with his right hand pushed through his left sleeve, and placed it in a new cloth." (9)

On the Isle of Sain, in the Loire, the druidic nuns made the gathering even more eventful, as they gathered the moss for altars of Ceridwen, or for use in poison arrows for use by their warriors. It must be a maiden who collected the plant, naked in her rites so as she might personify the Moon (one of the most sacred celestial objects in Druidism). And in her duty she was to avoid any contact with iron, for if that touched the moss, twas seen as a portent of grave ill-fortune. Once found however, a circle was to be drawn about it. In doing this her hand was to be covered with white cloth, picking the herb with her little finger alone. The cloth was then to be discarded, never to be used again. Strange eh?

Our little people have much to do in preserving the delicate looks of moss. Some of them are covered in the plants for decor, but most of them for camouflage. One such species, not found in this country, but renowned throughout central Europe - from the southerly Alpine forests, to the eastern Bavarian forests, into Poland and Czechoslovakia, and as far west of Flanders, France - are known as the Moss Maidens. Written of by Nancy Arrowsmith and George Moore in their delightful book (1), and between two and three feet tall, these wonderful elementals insist on three philosophies to which humans should adhere. Firstly, nobody should ever peel the bark of trees; secondly, use caraway seeds in bread; and thirdly, ne'er tell anyone of their dreams. In old tradition, people who followed this advice would gain the Moss Maidens as helpers to their homes. Not only were they excellent workers, but they knew the secret curative properties of all herbs, trees and roots in Nature. In particular they knew of the wholesome applications to be made from the blue-flowered, Ache-no-More - said to cure most fatal diseases, and be of great assistance in childbirth. Their entire bodies are usually clad in moss, making them almost indistinguishable from the covered flora around them. Their faces are said to be old and wrinkled; their grey skin covered in hair. And they are said to spend most of their time weaving and laying the subtle, small greenery all through the forests. The Moss Maidens are said to make crops grow much better, as well as turn leaves into gold. A most interesting peculiarity found of them is in them handing down yarns of wool, the end of which never appears. From this, folklore tells that innumerable amounts of clothing were made.

The ruler of the Moss Maidens is the Buschgrossmutter, or Bush-Grandmother, who is a white-haired Dusky Elf, as old as the countryside, and with feet made of moss. She makes sure that the Maidens continue to perform their duties and care for the Earth. Brothers and sisters to the Maidens are the Forest Fathers and Wood Maidens, all of whom are rarely seen. When they are however, it is usually by woodcutters. It is said they rarely venture too far away from their birth-groves, and they bring their

children up in moss-cradles which are raised high in the top branches of trees. Other species of Moss Maidens are scattered across Europe: in the Netherlands they are called, Moswyfjes; in Germany, Lohjungfern and Waldweibchen; and in Bavaria, Finzweiberl. And in each country their duties are typically alike.

The Moss Wives, regarded as synonymous with the Maidens, are good faerie who live in hollow trees. Their time is mainly spent weaving moss into clothes and fabrics that are as soft as silk. These are luminous and coloured green, gold and brown. Moss cloaks are given to those who have done a good deed for the Wives. In one tale from Germany, a poor young girl searched high and low to collect strawberries for her sick mother. On walking home she was met by a tiny Moss Wife who asked politely for some berries. The little girl kindly obliged, allowing the little person to take as much as she wanted from the basket. Then, on reaching home, she discovered that all the remaining berries had turned to gold. (9) In another tale, a poor man came across a Waldweibchen who was trying to mend a wheelbarrow. Being a carpenter, he kindly offered help to the little person and after a while completed the task. Thanking him most kindly, as a gift she gave the carpenter the splinters that had fallen from the barrow and, not wanting to be disrespectful, put them in his pocket and walked home. After a few minutes however, he threw out the small wooden fragments and forgot all about it. Upon reaching home later, he found that a piece of wood was still left and had got stuck in his pocket. It had turned to gold. (1)

One type of moss, *Supercilium Veneris*, or Hair Moss, was claimed by Freya and Thor's wife, Sif. It has also been considered that the *Byrum* - a powerful medicinal moss - or "Hyssop of Solomon" which was said to have spread over the Walls of Jericho, is the same moss that allegedly worked miracles after covering the cross of King Oswald in Northumbria following his death. The story peculiar to this, tells of a man who was crossing the ice towards the venerated cross and who fell, breaking his arm. A friend quickly tore some moss from the altar, applied it to the afflicted part, whereby it was cured instantly! (9) This was most probably *Sphagnum Cymbifolium*, or the much respected Sphagnum Moss.

Of course, herbal practitioners have made great use of these plants. It would be absurd to think otherwise. Today, the principal species used are *Lycopodium Clavatum*, or Common Club Moss; *Cetraria Islandica*, or Iceland Moss; and the aforementioned Sphagnum Moss. There are only a few others having edible and medicinal properties,\* but these are the main ones.

The Common Club Moss (not to be confused with the allied species, American Club Moss, *Lycopodium Complanatum*) - also known as Stagshorn Moss, Vegetable Sulphur, Wolf's Claw, *Muscus Clavatum* and *Muscus Terrestris Repens* - generally ripens between June and September, when the spores are released. This is the only part of the plant that can be administered internally - the rest of the plant being toxic, unless taken in extremely small doses. Christian herbal practitioner, Maria Treben, promotes its value extensively, citing it as being an effective cure against gout, rheumatism, chronic constipation, piles, inflammation or hardening of the testes, gravel in the kidneys, renal colic, cirrhosis of the liver, shortness of breath, cramps, high blood pressure, bedsores and open sores...ohew! Each of these anatomical disorders may well be affected beneficially by Club Moss, but their applications vary depending upon the afflicting condition. For example, if one has sores, one should gently spread Club Moss powder (spores) over the affected region. If one is suffering from cramps, a Club Moss Pillow (100, 200 or 300g of spores stuffed into a pillow, depending on size of affected area) is advised, and then one should apply this to the aching part overnight. (10) Prior to the seventeenth century, *L.clavatum* was powdered as a whole plant and the spores weren't used. Treben's promotion of its use in kidney disorders was first identified more than two millenia ago. Since then, it has also been found to be useful in drowsy, diarrhoea, eczema, erysipelas (skin disease), bladder disorders and as an antispasmodic in convulsions, delirium tremens and epilepsy (3,4). American Indians have long used

\* They include *Lycopodium Campanatum*; *Fucus Helminthocorton*; *Cladonia Pyxidata*; *Polytrichum Juniperum* and *Lobaria Pulmonaria*.

it to stop nose-bleeds. (7) For just a moss, this plant has found to be utterly remarkable in its curative capacities.

Iceland Moss, unlike our previous species, is not toxic, and has been used as a wild food for hundreds, probably thousands of years, and certainly by the Lapps, Icelanders and North American Indians. And, although called a Moss, it is in fact a lichen. In Britain it is particularly common in northern England and Scotland, where it is profusely found on moors and heaths. Also known as *Cetraria*, Iceland Lichen, Reindeer Moss, Eryngo-leaved Liverwort and Consumption Moss, this plant has been used by man in Arctic lands when conditions are so bad that all other plant life has ceased. Its nutritional content is not too valuable, but enough exists for it to be worthy of eating. The principal nutritive constituents are Vitamin A, mucilage, cetrarin, iodine, sugar, lichen-stearic acid, fumaric acid, oxalic acid and carbohydrates. The mucilage gives it expectorant and antitussive properties, thus making it good for chronic pulmonary troubles, catarrh, digestive disturbances, dysentery, hoarseness and advanced tuberculosis! (2,3) Hoffmann reports that its internal administration generally soothes the mucous membranes, and can be useful in the treatment of gastritis and vomiting. (6) Mothers who find problems breast-feeding their children may be encouraged to use *C.islandica* as it stimulates milk flow. (7) The British herbal pharmacopoeia of 1905 recommended Iceland Moss and milk as a good dietary meal. But, as a food, two things are generally done with this plant. Eaten fresh is usually not advisable due the extreme bitterness of the thing; hence it is formed into a jelly or mucilage. A jelly may be made by washing a handful (or whatever) under cold water, before simmering it in a quart or more of boiling water until it dissolves. Just before it looks like the the water's about the completely vapourise, add honey and lemon. In the case of the mucilage, wash with cold water before stirring a handful of it into a pint of boiling water. Cover and leave to stand for at least three hours. Flavour as before. (5)

The final moss here, Sphagnum, also known as Bog Moss, was used in the First World War for the dressing of wounds and injuries - a discovery that, in recent times, came out of Germany in the 1880s. However, a Gaelic chronicle dating from 1014 AD relates that those wounded in the Battle of Clontarf, "stuffed their wounds with moss." Highlanders have also used this moss for hundreds of years, stuffing it up their noses at the onset of nosebleeds. Deer, stricken with wounded limbs, are known to drag themselves to beds of Sphagnum where they stay until recovery. The Irish have known of its use for hundreds of years. (4) Grieve tells us that the Lapps, Esquimaux and Kashmiri have used Sphagnum "from time immemorial". (3) As an absorbent, Sphagnum even betters cotton-wool in efficiency (it can absorb 50% more than the finest cotton-wool available), although its use by industry has declined remarkably over the last twenty or thirty years, for reasons best known to itself. The plant was also used in WW1 in combination with garlic, to create what was - and still is in most departments - one of the best antiseptics.

Unfortunately these days, although the three species here mentioned are being applied once again amidst herbal scientific circles, much of the other mosses have been left alone. Some may say that there's little medicinal use within the others - but there are about another 990 of them! There's much hidden in there...

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Most well-authenticated ghost sightings involve either the re-enactment of a violent scene involving death, or the reappearance of a person in places frequented during life. Ghostly sounds include clanking chains and voices from the bottom of a mine shaft: what causes the reproduction of these sights and sounds?

Several years ago I read of some experiments involving marine organisms. Instruments fitted to the tank recorded electronic impulses from the life forms. When a poison was introduced into the water, a strong discharge was recorded at the moment of death.

Seemingly, in cases of sudden death, all of the body's electricity is released at once (instead of dissipating slowly as in natural death) and is fused into the surrounding stonework which retains it in a similar way to a computer memory. This does not explain the sighting of people who died naturally but who continue to be seen in situations which were familiar during their life. The lady in white who walked down the same corridor at midnight for most of her life could be expected to leave an impression on her surroundings, for the body continuously emits electronic vibes. Fright (especially when death is impending) can cause a person to discharge most of their electricity and, when rescued, such people are invariably in a state of collapse. Thus, the voices from the mine shaft in which a disaster occurred.

The fact that inanimate objects can store energy has been proved by means of Kirlian photography. A leading researcher in this field, biophysicist Harry Oldfield, has found that pieces of stone taken from reputedly haunted locations emit energy, whereas control samples do not.

Whilst I was watching Harry Oldfield's demonstration at Hourne Farm in Sussex, on April 5, 1980, Elizabeth von Buren, who had just returned from Egypt, produced a small piece of stone which she had taken from an excavation inside the Great Pyramid. When photographed, the corona filled the picture. Oldfield was amazed by the high energy discharge. (Another similar piece of stone picked up outside the pyramid produced very little energy.) The stone had been inside the pyramid from the time it was built, and the demonstration provides further proof that pyramid shapes attract external vibes and energise whatever is inside. I believe that this adds weight to a theory promoted in my books (1) that energy contained in the two tablets of stone on which the Ten Commandments were written, provided the power by which the Ark of the Covenant functioned as an electronic weapon.

At another demonstration in London, on May 12, 1980, Harry Oldfield showed slides of a small metal crucifix photographed before and after it had been blessed. The vibrant aura of the object after the blessing convinced me that the priest had directed energy into it. Possibly this is why ghosts cease to haunt buildings which have been exorcised.

Photographs of hands produce horrent lines around the perimeter, particularly the fingertips. Differences in the brush effect around the fingers indicate whether or not the subjects meditate; whether they are agitated or calm; and other things besides. Healers' hands produce very long brush prominences, seemingly proving that powerful vibes emanate from them. And from the very research that has been done along the avenues here promulgated, it appears that everything living, whether animal or plant, has an aura (or corona) which, except in the case of glow-worms, is visible only to gifted people. (2) Kirlian photographs, which are taken with no light source other than that produced by the sample in the camera's high voltage/high frequency electrical field, can record these auras either in colour or black and white. The Russian husband and wife team (from whom the technique takes its name) discovered that when a portion of a leaf is amputated, the aura of the whole leaf is produced in the photograph. This is known as the "phantom leaf" effect. Harry Oldfield discovered that the same effect could be obtained from a leaf stripped of everything except the middle rib, provided that it is photographed within thirty seconds.

The "phantom limb" effect is well known. Amputees sometimes feel pain, for example, in the area where the hand of a recently amputated arm once was. In the editorial of Foresight magazine, No.58, John W.B. Barklam suggested that physical limbs have psychic counterparts. And in the previous issue (No.57) research was mentioned into the regrowth of limbs in frogs and salamanders, in which it was found that a change of magnetic field at the stump of the limbs attracts new body cells! Perhaps the Lakhovsky Multiple Wave Oscillator (3) could be adapted to change the polarity in the stumps of human amputees. Lakhovsky, author of The Secret of Life (True Health Publishing Co., 1963), invented the MWO early this century and the improved portable models, now available from Copen Laboratories in Sussex, are described by Dr Bruce Copen in Radiobiology Therapy (Academic Publications, 1975). The device can be safely used to treat any disorder, and remarkable cures have resulted from its use.

One of Lakhovsky's many interests was the vibes emitted by insects. He discovered that the male bombyx does not home in on the female by use of the olfactory sense, but radiation in the ether. Also, there is a beetle that feeds upon the decaying flesh of mice and birds; but the beetles are not attracted to the remains until about ten days after death, by which time the bacteria begin emitting vibrations.

It occurs to me that the minute electronic radiations from insects may be as beneficial to human health as those produced by the MWO. Perhaps this is one of the reasons why country dwellers (in general) enjoy better health than city people. Ill health in areas where insecticides have been used, may not be attributable to the poison entering the ground, but to the absence of insects (Ed - hence it's the insecticides that are to blame anyhow!).

Dr George Starr-White discovered that trees produce more fruit, and plants grow better, when encircled by a copper wire band. After Georges Lakhovsky discovered that open-ended copper wire circuits restored the health of geraniums which had been deliberately infected with cancer, doctors in several countries used the method to cure patients of various ailments, including cancer. The case histories are set out in a monograph, The Waves that Heal, by Mark Clement (True Health Publishing Co., 1949). A local library obtained a copy of this small book for me, but I was not allowed to take it away; but on the page before last (p.83), the author points out that satisfactory results from open-ended circuits worn as belts, bracelets and collars, can only be expected where they are made as specified by Lakhovsky. The last half page containing the instructions had a piece of black paper glued securely across it! Both Lakhovsky and Clement would have wanted this information to be available: who is it that doesn't want the public to know that self-cure kits can be easily made for less than one pound sterling? (Ed - Does anyone have any spare copies of this work that they could send me?)

Editor's Notes:

1. David has written his ideas up in the works, Elohim's Nursery and God's Weapon. Available from him at, 6 Grant Court, 18 Spencer Hill, London SW19 4NY.
2. There are also a very small number of aquatic animals and several species of fungi which produce their own luminosity under specific conditions. Ludicrous remarks have been made in the past about these mycological curiosities: one occasion acquainting the rhizomorphs of *Armillaria mellea* as being explanatory for a UFO sighting, after a hypothetical owl had found it had been latched onto by them! A phenomenon that is probably much rarer than UFOs themselves.
3. A fascinating-sounding machine that rectifies diseases and disorders resulting from cellular oscillatory disequilibrium, by harmonising the natural bioelectrical vibrations (I think!). See Earth, No.12, pp.6-7.



**Beowulf**

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In response to the mass-media bullshit being disseminated by politicians and media, Chris Bray (Ed of LOT, and proprietor of SA) has set up a service that encourages people (you included) to submit info/articles/happenings/gossip of what's going on around this Pagan land. This'll be added to the Occult Information Interchange Bulletin and sent free to clipping-donators upon submission of an SAE. Hence, if people encourage this system, it'll remain self-sustaining by the people it's hoping to stick up for. It asks that cuttings or other such work be sent in, pertinent to the esoteric, to give a clear, regular and updated publication of just what's being said to who, by who, and about who. Get the drift? Christians who waffle their verbal excrement on occultism, or commit acts that they postulate occultists to do, may be of interest. This effectively creates a regular information scheme which can only be beneficial to the Pagan/occult genre. The service obviously respects anonymity. We urge people to use this system to encourage a greater promotion of positive feedback. Enquiries/letters should be sent to, The Occult Info Exchange Bureaux, c/o The Sorcerer's Apprentice, The Crescent, Hyde Park, Leeds LS6 2NW.

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Yorkshire Holy Wells & Sacred Springs - by Ian Taylor

The title of this article is the same as that of Northern Lights Publications' forthcoming book on this most fascinating of subjects. Co-author Edna Whelan and I, have spent the last four years searching out the known history and folklore of as many of these sites in the county as possible. The task was difficult due to the fragmented nature of written references which are scattered through an assortment of 19th and early 20th century volumes of local history and folklore. For some sites we could find little or no documentation at all. Locations were imprecise and subsequent fieldwork was hampered by the absence of present day knowledge. This latter aspect indicated the extent to which Holy Wells have declined in importance generally, and the degree to which the very survival of some is threatened.

Some Well sites were in a depressingly neglected condition. However, a start has been made on restoration work as detailed in our forthcoming book. One Well was virtually lost, but is now restored with a well-house and newly planted trees. Another site has been purchased from builders by a local Civic Trust with a view to future excavation and restoration. Yet another site, which has become dry, is presently being investigated by the local town council who are hopeful that the water can be reintroduced. So our research has already borne some fruit even before the book sees publication. We hope that this spirit of change will continue.

As Bob Stewart, Kaledon Naddair and other explorers of our western esoteric traditions have pointed out, many Wells may have been used for the purpose of initiation into our ancient Mysteries. They are sites which feature prominently as places of inner transformation and mystical experience. Many were healing Wells. These associations reinforce the special sanctity of Holy Wells and their strange but beneficial powers.

It is important that we reconnect with our sacred landscape. As the materialist ethos falls in the minds of many people, a new cosmology needs to be found which is profound, simple and natural. What better place to begin the process of personal change than the Holy Well - mysterious, powerful and timeless...?

.....

COMING SOON :

Yorkshire Holy Wells & Sacred Springs - by Edna Whelan & Ian Taylor @ 2.95
To be made available this coming May, detailing more than eighty holy wells from around Yorkshire - the very first detailed local work of its kind. Contents include: Wells' Lures & Legends; Ghosts, Goddesses & Holy Wells; Lost Sites Rediscovered; Restorations of Well Sites; and plenty more of course! Advance orders are best applied for, from Northern Lights, PO Box 113, Dunnington, York YO1 5NG.

We are all part of Operation Mindfuck: the control programme developed by our society's power-holders. The mindfuck operates via all channels of information - both overt and covert - to engineer the appropriate attitudes in the target populations: subservience, trust in leaders, blind obedience, dogmatism - the Slave-God mentality that has proved so successful. Continual exposure to the Mindfuck programme blunts our sensitivity to its operation. Our so-called "leaders" do not appear to be perturbed when they are apparently "caught out" exercising their increasingly horrible behaviour. They know that they're safe. What galls is not so much that they lie to us, but that they do it so badly.

One of their more forceful tools is their assuredness of being right. Once you are utterly convinced of the "right"-ness of your own view, then you can justify any action: segregation, discrimination, subjugation, extermination. Beware of the self-righteous: they're going to save the rest of us - even if they have to kill us to do it. The "right" are even more effective when they absolve themselves of any responsibility, in the service of some higher ideal. Charlie Manson justified the Sharron Tate murder with his vision of "Helter Skelter". Lieutenant Calley (Me Lay Massacre, Vietnam), "Carried out his orders" and did not discriminate between men, women or children; and the SLA were obeying the "will" of the people.

(....."It's God's Will"....."I have my orders"....."As any right-thinking person knows".....etc) The same conditioning programme can produce both guard dogs and fanatics of any principle: subjugation to a Master; being right; being territorial, and getting even.

Being right and getting even are two powerful demons that can impel individuals and groups towards mutually assured destruction. Getting even results in pipe bombs in Woolworths, or landmines planted in your neighbour's garden. We are right to get even, as the enemy is less than us: a mass of subhumans; statistics to be surgically trimmed; an ants nest that needs wiping out before they overrun us. "Pigs," "Trots," "Gooks," "Argies," "Yobs" - the list is endless - and the mindless hatred goes on and on. Divide and rule keeps us snapping at each other's throats. (....."It's safer not to get involved"....."Every man for himself"....."It couldn't happen to me".....)

Escape Routes: Contemporary magick is characterised by an increasing use of techniques designed to counter the Mindfuck programme: the use of humour, guerrilla ontology, paradox, self-analysis, and the juggling of beliefs. There is a recognition of the need to say, "Non Serviam," and to focus on direct experience rather than armchair appreciation. As such, Magick becomes an escape route from the stultifying effects of Operation Mindfuck - and perhaps one of the very few with any real chance of success. Many escape-routes are well-signposted: fantasy, sex, drugs, religion, mindgames, "safe" occultism, revolution - these are deceptive dead-ends that support, rather than threaten the Mindfuck programme.

No doubt there are those who would say that Magick, as a 'path of Spiritual Development' has nothing to do with mundane affairs. Fair enough, if "Spiritual Development" is no more than a selfish trip around the confines of your own head-space. The belief has grown that spiritual development is the province of an elite few, who are somehow "above" the rest of humanity. Let there be an end to this "holier-than-thou" preening! This "lofty purpose" is no more than another survival technique, to gain an edge within an increasingly hostile environment.

"Illumination" is a revolution in consciousness. As awareness of both the self and others is enhanced, the magickian becomes aware of participation in the Mindfuck programme and the ways in which each person can unwittingly support and propagate it. A large proportion of ones initial magickal learning consists of deliberate psychic dissection and of examining ones own beliefs and attitudes: subverting the subprogrammes of Operation Mindfuck, that limit freedom of experience into fixed reality-tunnels, patterns of tastes and preferences. Once aware of the programme,

having "awakened" from its parameters, it becomes necessary to guard against becoming enmeshed in its snares. This gives modern magick a subversive quality. It is an attitude which the Mindfuck doesn't quite understand, since it is programmed to feed off attempts to attack it that use its own routines.

Increased civil unrest = increased state control over individual "rights". Attempts to implement change using political means are strangled by the bureaucratic machinery of government. Once we begin to think in terms of "us" and "them", we are back within the programme. It can never be subverted using its own tools. It is the programme itself that is the problem.

The Titans and the Nuclear Gnosis: The roots of Operation Mindfuck lie in what psychoanalysts have termed, "the Will to Power," and it appears increasingly likely that the continuing reliance on the guard dog mentality, backed up by nuclear weapons, will erupt into genocide. Through science the Mindfuck programme has attempted to harness the "Titans", the primal catabolic energies of creation and destruction, who appear in various cultural myths as terrible Creator Gods and Giants, and who, after completing their work of constructing Cosmos out of Chaos, are "banished", or return to a primal sleep. The Titans stir into renewed activity when their catabolic energies are required to facilitate radical changes in the evolution of the Supersystem and its substrates - species of which the Human Race is but a tiny fraction. Our nuclear-obsessed politicians constitute the Priesthood of the Titans, and any magickian who wishes to evoke the Great Old Ones of the Cthulhu Mythos should visit any nuclear power station, as a zone where the "Spheres" meet. Psychics who have visited these stations often speak of the malaise, or anti-life, that surrounds them; or of the mutant elementals being generated by them.

It is encouraging to hear of "reclaim the land" rituals being conducted at military sites. Any kind of gesture towards survival is preferable above hopelessness, indifference or suicide. It may be that the increasing threat of extinction at the hands of the priests of power, who naively believe that the Titans, once invited in, can be controlled, and will provide the Gnosis: the impetus to enable individuals to awaken and make the leap beyond Operation Mindfuck. Each nuclear crisis may be another step towards liberation or annihilation, but how many more Chernobyls must the planet endure before the Human Race (as a long-term project) either advances a step, or is shelved for the duration?

There is a growing consensus of opinion amongst prognosticators, occultists, hippies, anarchists, etc, that the 1980s are producing some "weird scenes." Whether you blame the influence of Pluto, the stars, or the death-throes of the Old Aeon, it is becoming accepted that Western Society is entering a phase of fluctuation which may eventually lead to an evolutionary "leap" or "crash". On the one hand there is the ascending arc - the growth of holistic awareness, the search for alternative lifestyles and the increasing importance of transpersonal development; and on the other hand, the descending arc which, at its nadir, manifests as extreme egocentricity and the subordination of human values to "inevitable" historic or economic concepts.

It is not enough to extol the virtues of one "current" over the other. Those who belong to one arc will always see the other as "Black"; but it is necessary to understand that both arcs complement each other. It could be argued that the increasing attempts of power-holders to protect their position by control, produces the very entropy required to transcend this present phase of development. The tighter the clampdown, the more individuals "awaken" to what is going on. Could it be that O.M. is a vast convoluted Zen koan, working to produce Illumination through agencies that are unaware of this aim!?

The Individual as Centre of Power: The core of current magickal philosophy is the perceived need for self-determination, a turning away from oppressive ideologies, such as those codes of rightness that sanction deliberate persecution, etc. But if Magick is such a personal revolution for the

individual, then what impact can this have on society in general?

In a recent interview, Psychedelic Prophet Timothy Leary was asked, "What happened to all the Flower People?" To which he replied, "They've gone to seed."

"Autarchy" is government by the Self. The direct experience of Illumination and the enhanced transpersonal awareness of continuing self-initiation must necessarily alter our perception of power-relationships. Whilst opposing the Mindfuck programme, magickians can afford a more positive view of our species, having demonstrated - if only to ourselves - that imagination + will = Reality. This "power" is seen as something that anyone who is determined enough may attain, rather than being restricted to a privileged few. Quality of life becomes more important than the quantities of money/modern fetishes that we tend to accumulate. The recognition of the power or self-transformation to alter societies has appeared many times throughout history. Mahatma Gandhi for example, introduced the principle of "Satyagraha" - a determined autonomy coupled with an awareness that attitudes were the problems to overcome, not people as enemies.

Evolution is happening now. We are all involved. By sharing ones experiences and insights, the transpersonal development of one individual may have a ripple effect on others, until it can appear that a whole group of people are resonating to a current of change and innovation, with no identifiable centre or leader as such. Each individual becomes a "star" - a centre for transformation in a spreading network of interconnections.

A role of the magickian in this process is to facilitate "shifts in awareness" in others, to perturb, to awaken - or in other words, to initiate. The experiences that give us glimpses of other possibilities should also serve to diminish the egocentricity that accompanies the inward-turning process. The competition and jealousy that has existed between magickal groups is starting to be replaced by communication and consensus. There is a growing awareness that it is the diversity of approach which keeps "the current" from stagnating.

It is these kinds of transformations that will usher in the New Aeon. There should be no need for evangelising. Simply enough to live according to what Jung called "Obedience to awareness" and, by doing so, demonstrate the possibilities which may be embraced. There is much written about "opening the heart centre" - of working from the Heart, and countless hours can be spent in meditation trying to awaken it through various exercises. This is all very well, for to work from the Heart is a way of action and it is only by our actions that our ideals will come into fruition. Surely this is enough of a Great Work?

Academy 23: Academy 23 is a loose collection of individuals and groups currently working to subvert the Mindfuck programme. It is perhaps fortunate (from a survival point of view) that magickians presently remain a tiny minority who prefer to work "behind the scenes," as it is possible that if Magick became a "movement" it could be perceived as a threat to the Mindfuck programme, and acted against. The new generation of would-be magickians are becoming streetwise shamans of this Kali Yuga. Just as we are all members of Operation Mindfuck, we are all potential candidates for Academy 23, where there are no teachers, only fellow students. And there are no prescriptions for action, only consequences...

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FOR SALE...FOR SALE...FOR SALE...FOR SALE...  
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The Complete Cannabis Cultivator - Mary Jane Superweed. 1.20 from your editor. The booklet that details, "Everything you need to know about growing Pot." Seed preparations; using lights; dealing with pests or infestations; how to breed female only plants, and more. The Psilocybin Producer's Guide - Adam Gottlieb. 1.50 from your editor. This one not only tells you the "shrooms to look out for, it gives you the right info on "How to Produce 5000 doses of organic psilocybin every week in a small room"! Fancy giving it a go? Get this booklet and see how you manage.

A necessary regular page to keep all of you fruitcakes out there up to date on what goes on around us, both on the Pagan Moots front, and anything else that might crop up. By the time the next Earth comes out we'll know whether or not we have another PaganLink gathering in Bradford - but this time in the town centre, and hopefully on a fortnightly basis. This will be universally advertised and should attract a minimal hundred regular attenders. If it takes off there'll be regular gigs and other such activities. Keep your fingers crossed all ye West Yorkshire folk - and send in some positive vibes, man. It'll be brilliant if it goes through.

On Sat April 22, a BUFORA talk is to be held on the on-going Ilkley Moor CE3 case - plus other bits no doubt - at the Central Library, Bradford, 2-5pm. Admission 2.00. Apart from that, Psychic Fairs are forthcoming. The first is in Dewsbury, at the Duke of Wellington pub, Westgate, on Saturday, March 25, from midday to 9pm. The second is in sacred smelly Bradford at the Park Hotel (right next door to my local), 6 Oak Avenue, Manningham - about a mile out of the city centre, heading towards Bingley, just by the entrance to Manningham Park. This runs from 10.30am - 7.30pm. For further info on either stalls or prices, ring Bob France (0532 863355) or Ken Burrow (0532 733021) for help.

Birmingham - Pagans meet on the third Thursday of every month in The Brook, Selly Oak, Birmingham, from 8pm. Next moots on Mar 16 & Apr 20. Bradford - Pagans meet on the first Friday of every month at The Crossroads Club, Leeds Rd, Laisterdyke, from 8pm. Next moots on Apr 7 & May 5. Harrogate - Pagans meet monthly. Contact Chris Smith for details on Harrogate 60683. Leeds - A new venue is to be arranged for the Leeds Moot. At the mo I don't have details on when/where the place is gonna be. Write Pagan News address, or ring me for possible info. London - Regular meetings on alternate Thursdays at The White Lion of Mortimer, Stroud Green Rd, London N4. Ring Gary Todd, 01-801-6502 for details. London - Meetings each Friday at The Catford Ram. Ring Hasta Tyrspriest on 01-708-4629 for info. Manchester - Gatherings on the first Thursday of the month (change the date chaps - Leeds Moot clashes). Ring Gordon (the toad!) 061-905-1100 for details. Sheffield - Pagans gather on the last Thursday of the month at The Pomona, Eccleshall Rd, from 7.30pm. Next at Mar 30. Wakefield - Pagans meet on the first Wednesday of the month at The Beer Engine, Westgate, from 7.30pm. Next on Apr 5. If there are any others around the Midlands to the North, let us know and we'll mention it. If there are similar such goings-on (Psychic Fairs, etc) gimme the details and I'll mention them.

Sorry that there isn't a listing of PaganLink Newsletters this time round, but some of the addresses have changed, some publications stopped, and as yet I don't have a concise, correct assessment of em all.

COMING VERY SOON :

"The British Magickal Herbal: A Concise Guide to the Psychoactive Flora of Albion" For the very first time in one book comes the collected material of all Britain's mind-expanding plants. Herbs, roots, fungi and seeds: their legends, medicinal properties and magickal uses, detailed to the finest available points: indicating methods of extraction; administration of dosage; side- and after-effects, as related by the acclaimed scientific authorities and recognised pharmacopoeia of the times. The first concise British work of its kind. Look out for this limited edition publication - coming soon to your head!

WANTED - John Keel's Jadoo; back-issues of The Ley Hunter magazine, pre-No.73; copies of Man, Myth & Magic magazines, Nos. 2,9,14,21,22,23,26-29,37,38,40,41,43,50, 52-55,60,67,68,72,74,78,80,82,83,84 and all issues following; any copies of the Sixties mag, Gandalf's Garden; any copies of the American, High Times magazine; any copies of The Psychedelic Review magazine. Donations of any of these gives free access to PaganLink Library (UK only). Otherwise, lemme know what you want for them!

The Malleus Maleficarum is one of the most infamous works ever written and the baneful influence it had extended over a period of three centuries. It was written by Heinrich Kramer and James Sprenger as a direct result of a Papal Bull issued by Pope Innocent VIII in 1484. Both Kramer and Sprenger were Dominicans of high distinction. They were well educated, and by the time of writing the Malleus in 1486, both had risen to the position of Inquisitor. Just the men for the job you would have thought.

The Papal Bull of Pope Innocent VIII referred only to Germany, but other popes i.e. Leo X, issued bulls in much the same spirit to cover the whole of Christendom. These bulls were designed to instill fanatical zeal in the inquisitors so that they could do their best to purify and strengthen the Catholic Faith and stamp out the hideous crimes and horrible excesses of witchcraft, i.e. "We must not omit to mention the injuries done to children by witches, first by killing them, secondly by offering them to devils."! Mmmm, babies - yum yum!

The Bull approved the punishing of witchcraft only "In so far as it does not contradict the sacred canons." Naturally this wasn't enough for the incisors who were champing at the bit in a frenzy to punish "perps". Hence the Malleus appeared and was given a Papal, "it's fine by me, matey boy!"

The title, Malleus Maleficarum (Witch Hammer) indicated that its primary purpose was to crush witchcraft. Instead of being an intellectual treatise on the subject it was bosh. Its style was weak, its ideas ridiculous and the advice it contained concerning procedure betrayed a suspiciously brutal intent. The book is crammed with misconceptions, superstition, nonsense and is often self-contradictory, i.e. typical of Christians at that time. For example a model trial would begin by asking the accused whether they believed in witchcraft or not, adding that witches generally denied any knowledge of the subject. If the subject denied, then torture and possibly death were guaranteed because, as the Malleus states, "The greatest heresy of all is not to believe in witchcraft." Of course if the culprit affirmed a belief in witchcraft, then he was horribly tortured to reveal all he knew. Even pleading ignorance was no escape as that was a crime under the name of *Maleficium Taciturnitatis*. The best policy was to confess instantly for this abbreviated the torture procedure with all its resulting horrors. Usually prisoners would ask for death as a favour, or commit suicide to avoid life as a hopeless cripple, sacrificing their chances of acquittal. But then, acquittals were rare. In fact inquisitors were advised never to acquit by the Malleus. The culprit was then handed over to the secular authorities for capital punishment, i.e. burning at the stake, or perhaps decapitation if the judge was feeling merciful.

As if all this wasn't enough for the unfortunate prisoner, one last chance was offered him: a confessor and/or a judge speaking to him privately. Here it would be said, "If you confess fully I shall not condemn you to death." If no confession resulted? Death. But if a confession was obtained? Death! Because then another judge would be brought in to sentence the individual to death after the confession!!

The victims of the Inquisition were without assistance, as witchcraft was considered a heinous crime and beyond the usual procedures of law. As good old Pope Boniface VIII put it, the culprit should be dealt with "simply, squarely and without the noise and form of lawyers and judges."

Nowadays, it is difficult to believe how the Malleus Maleficarum could have been given so much credence and respect. But, in a sense, similar ludicrous misconceptions exist today... *fin.*

"The article which appeared in Earth 12, p.21 from Bryn Ormsford, and all the contents and characters referred to therein were purely fictional and did not refer to any person living or dead." (Get the message, Editor)

If there is one feature common to all true monsters, it is simply that they are immortal - undying. Dr Frankenstein's creation exhibits this characteristic to a marked degree. So too does Dracula. So does Fu Manchu, and Jason from the Friday the 13th films. Each of these characters have been killed repeatedly, both in fiction and (especially) on the screen. And yet, despite all the immolation, despite all the burnings, beatings and bodily impalements, they still keep coming back for more. They are archetypes you see - and archetypes cannot be killed.

In a sense this also applies to Adolf Hitler. He too was a "monster" in human form. And, like Dracula and Dr Fu Manchu, he has achieved a kind of immortality in the realm of the imagination. American conspiracy researcher, Mae Brussell, seriously postulates that Hitler may still be alive. Not only alive, but in full possession (more or less) of his faculties and actively involved in US government policy! She cites as evidence the fact that many of Hitler's top advisers were secretly flown into the States at the close of World War II. They were given new identities, new status, and put to work on a variety of government projects relating to defence, etc. The question of Hitler's advanced age (if alive today he would be in the region of 100 years old) in no way deters Brussell from her theory. She responds by drawing attention to the case of Mikhailovich Molotov, who worked for many years with Stalin during the twenties and thirties. Molotov went into political exile in the mid-fifties and was expelled from the Communist Party in 1964. In 1964 however, he was reinstated and now received a full Soviet pension. He is, apparently, of sound mind, and still speaks lucidly of his aims and ideas. Brussell continues:

"The main argument that I receive when I talk about the possibility that Adolf Hitler is still alive is that he's too old, and that if he's too old he can't make decisions, and he has to be senile. And I have said that there's no physical evidence of any kind - and this is written up in many books, about the fact that Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun didn't die in the bunker; and there is a possibility that Hitler has been directing a lot of activity that has been going on since World War II, from Antarctica, from Argentina, then Brazil and then into Switzerland, where he can have his mind, he can have his protectors, and where people *know* that Hitler is alive. The people who want to tell you that Hitler is dead have nothing to fall back on except the reasoning that even if he were alive he could do no harm; and you see that Mr Molotov, who has a good mind, who can speak, who talks about his activities, his desires - this throws aside the possibility that all 96-year-olds necessarily have to be senile and don't know what's happening. To say that Molotov is alive therefore, Hitler is alive is ridiculous, but there is a possibility that, in conjunction with top people in our (the US) defence department, such as the late Otto Skorzeny; or Klaus Barbie; or the mysterious Fritz Kramer with the monocle; or Peter Drucker and the management of our money and our multinational empire, there is no way of knowing if the genius of that man isn't still around... I have every reason to believe that things have gone too smoothly for everyone around Hitler... And there hasn't been a break in what he had or did, with his top intelligence chief Reinhardt Galen coming into the USA and so forth..."

Mae Brussell isn't alone in believing that Hitler may be alive and kicking (however feebly). According to Gunther Rosenberg of the European Occult Research Society:

"One persistent rumour in occultism is that Hitler, Martin Bormann and many of the missing Nazis were spirited out of Germany. Some claim they are in South America, and as we know, Eichmann was found there. Others who believe in the Hollow Earth theory claim that a fleet of Nazi submarines took Hitler and his henchmen to a Nazi base set up under the ice-cap at the South Pole..."

The Hollow Earth theory referred to by Rosenberg derives from a curious amalgamation of ancient and modern myths. According to numerous texts on the subject, our planet is actually a hollow sphere with access points at the North and South poles. These access points, enormous holes some 1,500 miles across, have allegedly been photographed on several occasions, notably by ESSA 3 and ESSA 7 satellites in 1967-68. Author and ufologist, Brinsley Le poer Trench, describes the ESSA photos as "the

most exciting and remarkable ever taken." They prove, he says, that UFOs emanate from a mysterious region hidden in the bowels of the Earth - the Agharti of legend.

A variation of this theory is known to ufologists as the Nazi hypothesis. It proposes that UFOs are actually secret weapons developed by Hitler and his aides during the latter days of World War II, and now headquartered in a tropical base beneath the Antarctic. Believers in this theory claim that international Arctic expeditions conducted in 1946-47 were actually searches for Hitler, who was thought to be still alive. Contemporary UFO flaps are explained as reconnaissance trips by Nazi aeronauts at the control of flying saucers. Among the chief proponents of this theory are a group based in Toronto, Canada, known as "Samisdat" (actually a faction of the neo-Nazi Western Guard). Their propaganda speculates that Nazi forces may one day return to the surface world and there wreak vengeance on Britain and her wartime allies. Because of this, most UFO pundits feel that the group is merely using UFO imagery to promote a groundswell of Nazi sentiment. Nevertheless, despite its sheer improbability, the Nazi hypothesis has supporters in virtually every country on Earth.*

I wrote to the the Samisdat group some time ago, requesting further information on their Nazi-UFO connections. In reply I was sent details of several relevant publications, including, Secret Nazi Polar Expeditions - Nazi UFO Bases Under the Poles? (a snip at only \$10) and, UFOs - Nazi Secret Weapons (again at \$10). Also contained in the Samisdat info-pack was a list of 64 posters depicting Nazi secret weapons for use on land, sea and air. It contains drawings of such marvellous Heath Robinson gadgets as the "Bachstelze U-Boot Rotordrachen" (a rickety-looking one-man gyrocopter), and the "Krummlaufgewehr" (a rifle with a bent barrel for shooting around corners!). Sure enough, poster no.51, the "Fliegende Scheibe (Flugkreisel)" shows three gleaming discoid UFOs drifting across an inky black background. Even in such a ridiculous setting as this, it remains an image of considerable force and appeal.

Another staunch believer in the Nazi hypothesis is Dr Frank E. Stranges, California's self-styled UFO evangelist. Dr Stranges is perhaps best known for his book, Stranger at the Pentagon, a particularly wolly-minded entry in the contactee sweepstakes. He is also author of Flying Saucerama, My Friend Beyond the Earth and Nazi UFO Secrets and Bases Exposed.

A complete list of Dr Stranges' inanities would fill a book. In common with the members of Samisdat he is fascinated by the idea of Nazi secret weaponry. "Towards the end of the war," he says, "Things were going so badly against the Germans that Adolf Hitler called all his scientists together and he threatened them with death. He said, 'I will shoot you where you stand unless you completely develop for me a disc-shaped craft that can be used against the allies.'"

Germany's top boffins were allegedly thrown into a panic by this terrible threat. They responded by developing a completely new range of weapons for use against Britain and her allies. These included the KM-2 electromagnetic rocket, the paralysing ray gun, the flaming artificial cloud, the electronic ball lightning ("This is what the United States Air Force called 'foo fighters'"; Dr Stranges explains hopefully), and the flying bottle. Their most remarkable invention was, however, the V-7 flying disc, which had a diameter of 49 feet and "could carry between two and three persons." The V-7 saucers differ from "the outer space variety," says Dr Stranges, because "they make a lot of noise, they shoot off a lot of flame, orange flame, and they emit huge black puffs of smoke."

According to Dr Stranges, Hitler and his cronies escaped from Berlin at the close of the war and established a network of V-7 bases in locales as far afield as Johannesburg, Milan, Northern Siberia, Taormina and Reno, Nevada. And it was in the region of Reno airfield that Dr Stranges allegedly had a close encounter with a grounded V-7 and its pilot. The incident is said to have happened on June 8, 1966,

* The Yorkshire UFO Society, for one, ally to this crackpot hypothesis. - Editor.

when he was approached by "a gentleman who was staying in the same hotel that I was." This unnamed fellow guest wasted no time on preliminaries.

"Were you aware," he asked, "That there is a UFO sitting on the ground not too far from the control tower in Reno?" Dr Stranges was understandably sceptical of this claim, but nevertheless allowed himself to be led to a nearby ravine where one of Hitler's "smoky saucers" was indeed resting on three legs among the dunes.

"My first impression," he said later, "Was that if this thing is from outer space it must be one of the early models, because from the experiences that I'd had up to that point with UFOs, those things have the ultimate in streamlining, design and whatever."

It was at this point that a comic-opera German, complete with Heidelberg duelling car, appeared in the doorway of the craft. Like so many ufonauts before them, he and his colleagues had apparently made a bit of a cock-up on the catering front. "He held out brand-new, crisp tens and twenties in US currency and he begged us, please go down to the market and buy us some food!" Dr Stranges took a step forward to get a better look at the craft and its occupant, "And as God is my witness, I saw a swastika behind the man, draped against whatever bulkhead was inside the door!"

Further investigation was precluded when a highway patrol car suddenly appeared on the scene, causing Herman the German to duck for cover. The saucer took off with a deafening roar ("It sounded like an automobile that is sadly in need of a good lube job.") and Dr Stranges retired precipitately to the safety of his hotel room. Of his companion in this adventure, nothing further is recorded.

The brain reels at the sheer absurdity involved here. The events described may have been a complicated hoax played on Dr Stranges by persons unknown. But why? To what ends? For what purpose? It is far more likely that the entire scenario originated in Dr Stranges own imagination. A man capable of writing a stinker like Stranger at the Pentagon is capable of anything.

Here in Britain the Nazi hypothesis was given new impetus in the seventies when an organisation known as APEN, or the Aerial Phenomena Enquiry Network, began to make its presence felt in UFO circles. The story has been told in detail elsewhere, so I will limit myself to a brief outline of the facts. APEN first appeared on the scene circa 1974, commencing its activities with a sustained propoganda campaign. Leading UFO researchers were bombarded with letters, articles and other written material for a period spanning almost four years. Tape recordings interspersed with Nazi war broadcasts and martial music were also circulated. At no time did the members of APEN identify themselves or specify their objectives. Ties with the American government or secret services were implied, but these were never proven. In fact the structure and tactics of APEN were more reminiscent of Hitler's Nazi party than anything else. (This impression was reinforced by the title of the organisation's "in-house" magazine, a German phrase meaning "spearhead".) APEN went underground in 1978, but resurfaced some six years later with a renewed bout of activity. As leading ufologist, Jenny Randles remarks in her book, Skycrash, "One or two UFO investigators have speculated that a fantastic UFO technology was handed on from the dying remnants of the Third Reich in 1945. And indeed, we know that experimental weapons of a distinctly UFO-like appearance were tested during the last few months of the war. It is said that a Fourth Reich exists, and is readying itself for future world leadership. Perhaps there is a group of Nazis flying around the world in UFOs. Perhaps APEN are (sic) their spy network."

Perhaps...

However, the real answer to the mystery of APEN is likely to be far more mundane. A personal anecdote will serve to illustrate what I mean. Some months prior to the time of this writing, my wife and I began to experience various unpleasant depredations. Our nights together were frequently disturbed by an unknown crawler with a particularly nasty turn of mind. One of his favourite tricks was to shove

dog-dirt through our letterbox. Another was to vandalise our garden, uprooting plants and breaking down fences before disappearing into the darkness. Various types of filth were left on our doorstep and pathways, and on one occasion I found a scattering of air-gun pellets, suggesting that someone had been taking pot-shots at my beloved cats. Frightened and disturbed by these incidents, my wife and I could only speculate as to who was responsible. Mentally we began to personify him as a vicious thug, obviously an adult, perhaps one of the gypsies from the nearby M19 encampment. Imagine our surprise, therefore, when he turned out to be a perfectly ordinary ten-year-old boy, well-dressed, well-spoken and obviously the product of a fairly affluent family background. He had, he explained, picked us out at random and kept up his attacks because he "felt like it."

I suspect that the people behind APEN, if they are ever unmasked, will prove to be equally mundane - bored or frustrated researchers, shoving their own brand of dog-shit through the door of ufology purely for the hell of it.

On the other hand their Nazi affiliations may be bona fide. There is some precedent for this type of thing in the annals of ufology. Jacques Vallee points out that George Adamski, "Had pre-war connections with American fascist leader William Dudley Pelley, who...was the leader of the Silver Shirts, an American Nazi group which began its activities in 1932." Another seminal contactee, George Hunt Williamson, aka Michel d'Obrenovic, was a member of Pelley's racist occult group, Soulcraft, in the fifties. But no real evidence exists to link Hitler's Reich with the development of UFOs.

In fact, most official accounts suggest that the development of Nazi aero-technology was actually delayed by Hitler's planning methods. Convinced that victory would be in his grasp by 1942, he refused to sanction costly new research into such weapons as jet-planes, atom bombs and rocketry. Even the legendary V-2 came too late to turn the tide in his favour.

When it was all over, Werner von Braun and others from Peenemunde (the Axis powers' rocket-base island) were taken to the USA, where missile technology was already far in advance of the rest of the world. Their help in the development of America's space programme is a matter of public record. Their alleged UFO-building activities on behalf of der Fuehrer, on the other hand, must be regarded with grave doubt.

Scores of possible explanations have been held up for examination over the past four decades of UFO investigation. Of them, the Nazi hypothesis has never been among the front-runners. Borderline publications like We Want You ("Is Hitler Alive?"), by Michael X. Barton, attest to its continuing fascination. But as an experimental model for explaining all but a tiny minority of UFO sightings, it falls woefully short of the mark. Indeed, it's probably true to say that after forty years of painstaking research, we are still no closer to understanding what is going on. As the German-born science writer, Willy Ley, is said to have replied when asked about UFOs: "Vun, dere iss someting dere. Two, I don't know vot it iss."

I know of no more penetrating analysis of the subject...!

~~~~~ FOR SALE: ~~~~~

A Guide to British Psilocybin Mushrooms - Richard Cooper. 1.70 from 20 Stonegate Road, Thorpe Edge, Bradford BD10 8BT. Copies of this classic little manual are available again. Detailing a select number of Britain's psychoactive fungi, with illustrations of the ones to look out for, the author outlines the chemistry and dosage of each specimen. He also gives guidelines on score printing and cultivation techniques for these wondrous mycological beasts! Their histories and detailed identifications are sensibly covered - so, any of thee out there who haven't got this classic little guide, and who enjoy the visionary effects of Mother Earth's magic, ought to be after it! Only one word of caution though: ignore the Amanita pantherinas he talks about. They're much nastier than he thinks - leave em well alone unless you really know your subject. 32pp. 400 photos.



### Coming in the Next Edition of Earth:

Examination of Possible Earth Lights in West Yorkshire - Peter Chattaway  
Techniques of Meditation - Stephen Hart  
Right Hand, Left Hand - Bryn Ormsford  
Pterodactyls in the Aire Valley?

- David Barclay

The Screaming Skulls of England

- Steve Jones

The Faulty Megaliths of Rombald's Moor  
A Leaf from *The British Magickal Herbal*

Plus lots more besides...

although the article, *Do You Thou Wilt*, leaves the impression that we've all been down this road before. Others in DD produce similar sentiments. The Intro to Wicca, Freedom or Dogma and Pagan Sites, are personal and pertinent comments, but there's no substance. DD's nevertheless OK on the News-front side of things. Wanna know what's going on and what's coming up? Here be info. But, the most eye-catching piece here has to be the page telling of visions experienced after application of Wiccekraefte's Flying Ointment. As I'm half-way through a book on just such things (*The Magickal Herbal*) I'd like to know about this stuff, but one remark at the end has me doubting its authenticity. "Totally safe," it says. If so I'd like to know what's in it. So, save me having to go through the full analysis of the stuff, lemme know what's in it and I'll let you know what's what. 24pp.

The Silver Wheel, Yule 88 - (44 Factory Rd, Hinckley, Leics. 1.00 each) The Journal of the Coranieid, as it describes itself. There are really only two articles here to write of. The first, Yule, covers the general Pagan history of this time of year. And the second, *The History of Witchcraft*, makes an attempt to cover Paganism from the year dot until present days. A hard thing to do in 1800 words. Apart from these two, there's little else. 10pp.

Pagan News, Feb & Mar 89 - Going strong and little sign of trouble. In February we had a crammed issue. That chap Hine was responsible for most of it: talking of the 20th Century's magical appliances; and of mind-control and brain-washing using - amidst other media - that most powerful of hallucinogens. The Temple of Psychic

Youth (of Genesis P-Orridge fame) is interviewed, and amidst the news and reviews, there's the story of one Ragnar Blacktrousers. In March meanwhile, American magickian Stephen Mace gives us the news on how occultism fairs in the US - better than over here it seems! Whilst Tanith Livingston writes a very good viewpoint, questioning the New Age growth, against the adherence of total experiential Being. And then finally, there's a new Pagan News Goes Shopping series, beginning with *Id Aromatics*. And, with photo in tow, do I see a receding hairline cursing its way up a brow?! 12pp.

## RYDER PUBLISHING

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at how ufologists should handle sceptics, and urges investigators to know every aspect of their subject. The journal ends with some very interesting letters from readers. On the whole, an excellent publication. I have only one criticism - it isn't big enough! But one can have too much of a good thing I suppose! 24pp. Reviewed by Iain Johnston.

The Deasil Dance, No.14 - (254 High St, Canvey Island, Essex, 1.00 each) Previously *The New Equinox*, DD has since halved its format and fortunately improved a little -

## EXCHANGE MAGAZINES

The Ley Hunter - The Magazine of Earth Mysteries, and probably the world's No.1 on EM, EL & other such matters. Excellent! Subscription is 6.00 for 4 issues, or 1.50 each from, PO Box 5, Brecon, Powys LD3 7LU, Wales.

Fortean Times - The Foremost Journal of Strange Phenomena. Quite brilliant! 1.75 each or 7.00 for 4 from, Bob Rickard, 96 Mansfield Road, London NW3 2HX.

The Lamp of Thoth - Quarterly publication of the Sorcerer's Apprentice, covering all aspects of the occult, magick & Pagan matters, etc. 2.75 each or 10.60 for 6 successive copies from, 4-8 Burley Lodge Road, Leeds LS6 1QP, West Yorkshire.

Meyn Mamvro - Ancient Stones & Sacred Sites of West Penwith, Cornwall. A Pagan-orientated earth mysteries mag. Sample copy 1.50 or 4.50 per annum from, 51 Carn Bosavern, St. Just, Penzance, Cornwall TR19 7QX.

Moonshine - A lively, informative 40+ page Pagan magazine. Out 8 times a year. 1.75 each or 12.00 a year from, 498 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6BD.

The Hookah - Publication of the Legalise Cannabis Campaign. Occasional mag based on donations (send 95p and you'll get a Hookah). Back issues are available. For info on both the mag & the LCC write, BM Cannabis 2455, London WC1N 3XX.

New Dimensions - The Monthly Educational Magazine of Esoteric Law. 95p each or 9.00 per annum from, Mark Saunders Publications (cheques/PDs to them), 1 Austin Close, Irchester, Northants NN9 7AX.

Vision Seeker & Sharer - Quarterly eco-Pagan, Amerindian & Aboriginal support mag, very good for just 75p each or 3.00 per annum from, Rainbow Publications (cheques/PDs to them), PO Box HK9, Leeds LS11 8JP, West Yorkshire.

Sut Anubis - The magazine of the occult & esoteric. Original articles on wicca, Crowleianity, ceremonial magick, Paganism, etc. 1.50 each or 5.75 for 4 from, Occultique, 73 Kettering Road, Northampton NN1 4AW.

Nox - The magazine of the Abyss. Magick, Chaos, Lovecraft, etc. 3.00 per annum from, Stephen Sennitt, 15 Oxford Stree, Mexborough S64 9RL, South Yorkshire.

International UFO Reporter - Mag of the J.Allen Hynek Centre for UFO Studies. \$35 per annum from, 2457 West Peterson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60659, USA.

Northern Earth Mysteries - publication of the group of the same name. 1.00 each or 2.50 per annum from, Rob Wilson, 103 Derbyshire Lane, Norton Lees, Sheffield S8 9EN

The Kabbalist - Quarterly publication of the International Order of Kabbalists. 3.00 per annum or 1.00 each from, 25 Circle Gardens, Merton Park, London SW19 3JX.

Northern UFO News - Mag of the Northern UFO Network. 1.00 each or 6.00 per annum from, Jenney Randles, 37 Heathbank Rd, Cheadle Heath, Stockport SK3 0UP, Cheshire.

Dalriada - Pagan Celtic Journal. Quarterly publication @ 1.00 each or 3.00 per annum from, Dun-na-Beatha, 2 Brathwic Place, Brodick, Arran KA27 8BN, Scotland.

The Scotie Pagan - Published on the 8 major festivals of the year, covering Paganism, wicca, EM, etc. 5.00 per annum or 75p each from, 16 Glen Kinglas Road, Greenock, Inverclyde PA16 9NW, Scotland.

Out from the Core - A magazine about radical healing. Single copies 85p each or 2.50 for 3 issues from, Nick Totton, 23 Knowle Rd, Leeds LS4 2FJ, West Yorkshire.

UFO Brigantia - Magazine of the Independent UFO Network. 7.00 for 6 copies per annum or 1.25 each from, 84 Elland Road, Brighouse HD6 2QR, West Yorkshire.

Cosmology Newslink - International Magazine of the Cosmos. Bi-monthly UFO, ghost, parapsi mag from, 16 Newton Green, Great Dunmow, Essex CM6 1DU (no prices given).

UFO Newscipping Service - Large monthly UFO/Fortean mag. \$7 each or \$80 per annum from, Lucius Farish, Route 1 - Box 220, Plumerville, Arkansas 72127, USA.

Franz Bardon Foundation, 1388 Garrison, No.A307, Lakewood, Colorado 80215, USA.

Magonia - UFOs, Society & the Individual. Quarterly publication @ 95p each or 3.00 per annum from, John Dee Cottage, Mortlake Churchyard, London SW14 8HB.

Gnomon - Paganism, festivals, EM & UFOs. Quarterly publication at 44p each or 1.50 per annum from, John Harrison, 2 Baggrave View, Barsby, Leicestershire LE7 8RB.

Pagan News - Monthly newspaper of the Northern PaganLink. 30p + SAE each or 3.00 in stamps for 6 months from, Pagan News, Box 175, 52 Call Lane, Leeds LS1 5DT.

Greenpeace, 29-35 Gladstone Road, Croydon, Surrey CR9 3RP.

Friends of the Earth, 26-28 Underwood Street, London N1 7JQ.

Ark - The promising new global conservation organisation, expanding rapidly. Info/details from, The Ark Office, 500 Harrow Rd, London W9 3QN. Tel. 01-968-6780.

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