

EARTHQUEST NEWS

The Andrew Collins and Questing Conference Newsletter,
Vol. 7, No. 1, Spring 2004

Greetings to everyone. Let me begin by giving you the stunning line up for this year's Questing Conference, QuestCon04, which takes place on Saturday, 6 November at Cecil Sharp House (home of the English Folk, Dance and Song Society (EFDSS)), 2 Regents Park Road, London NW1, from 10 am onwards (doors open 9.15 am).

Lynn Picknett and Clive Prince – The Priory of Sion: the Whole Truth

Lynn Picknett and Clive Prince's classic work *THE TEMPLAR REVELATION* (1997), was unquestionably the inspiration for Dan Brown's world super-seller *THE DA VINCI CODE*. It utilises their entire thesis on the hidden symbolism found in the paintings of Leonardo da Vinci, their concept of the importance of female sexuality and the sacred feminine in early Christianity, along with their findings regarding the mysterious organisation known as the Priory of Sion. Lynn and Clive were the true pioneers of this genre of esoterica, and in an exclusive presentation for QuestCon04 they are intent on revealing the real history of the Priory, culled from research they have been conducting ahead of a book being put together at this time. They will outline da Vinci's true role in the modern evolution of the Priory, and reveal the sequence of events that led to the organisation's modern-day emergence in 1950s. In the light of this new information, the two authors will review their own theories on John the Baptist as the true identity of Christ, and the role played in this mystery by Rennes-le-Château.

Robert Feather – Uncovering the Spear of Destiny

Robert is a trained metallurgist and technical engineering writer of 25 years standing. His work on Jewish and Middle Eastern history and the Dead Sea Scrolls resulted in his book *THE COPPER SCROLL DECODED* (1999), which showed the undeniable link between the Dead Sea community responsible for the scrolls and the religion of dynastic Egypt. Yet some years ago he embarked on new research into the true history of one of the world's most enigmatic religious artefacts – the Spear of Destiny, or Spear of Christ, housed in the Hofsburg Museum, Vienna. Coveted by emperors and kings, this relic has the strongest claim to be the authentic weapon that pierced the side of Jesus at his crucifixion. Legend has it that the Spear passed from the Roman Centurion Longinus into the hands of St Maurice, Emperor Constantine, Charlemagne, Charles IV of Bohemia. Moreover, it was this single, immensely potent artefact that Adolf Hitler seized following the Nazis' successful invasion of Austria in 1938. In a manner unprecedented before this time, Robert Feather was able to gain permission not merely to examine this priceless treasure in a laboratory environment, but also to *take apart* the delicate bands that hold it together. Using this invaluable information alongside the spear's known provenance, Robert will present an unmissable audio-visual presentation in which he reconstructs the relic's fascinating history, which goes back *at least* 1500 years.

Paul Broadhurst – Exploring Europe's Sacred Axis

Imagine a straight corridor of sacred places - all linked with the archangel Michael and dedicated to his name - crossing Europe from Ireland to Italy. Moreover, a line that is targeted on key oracle and temple sites in Greece, and terminates at Megiddo, ancient Armageddon, the place of the final confrontation between good and evil in Revelations. Sounds fantastic, I know, but such an incredible concept of sacred geography forming the backbone of Europe was quite literally dreamed of in the 1950s by Frenchman Jean Richer, and later investigated by his brother Lucien (author of *THE ST MICHAEL-APOLLO AXIS*, English trans., Gatekeeper Trust, 1994).

In 1998, earth mysteries writer **Paul Broadhurst** and dowser Hamish Miller, the co-authors of the ever popular book *THE SUN AND THE SERPENT*, about Britain's own St Michael-Mayday sunrise line, decided to investigate the St Michael-Apollo axis. They travelled its entire course, beginning at Skellig Michael in southern Ireland and taking in St Michael's Mount, Cornwall; Mont St Michel in Brittany, Bourges in central France; Sacra di San Michele in Piedmont, Italy, before going on to explore the sites linked to it in Greece and the Holy Land.

For the two earth mysteries researchers, it was a gargantuan challenge which resulted in many breath-taking revelations outlined in their invaluable book *THE DANCE OF THE DRAGON* (Pendragon Press, 2000), described by visionary and modern antiquarian John Michell as 'A tremendously exciting book... surely the most remarkable antiquarian or questing journey that has ever been undertaken'. Their discoveries take us back to the roots of religion, embedded in the landscape and encoded in legend and myth, and show that in antiquity a highly developed natural science determined the siting and character of sacred sites. During a spectacular audio-visual presentation, Paul will take QuestCon delegates on a sacred journey 2,500 miles in length, which will demonstrate once and for all the hidden reality of Europe's sacred geography and its importance to the evolution of human consciousness.

Alan Alford – Secret Chambers of the Great Pyramid

Ten years ago Dr Robert Schoch, a geologist of Boston University, announced that the water erosion on the Great Sphinx and its surrounding enclosure walls meant that the carved monument must be thousands of years older than had previously been imagined by Egyptologists. It started a revolution in alternative and speculative history whereby the origins of the Giza monuments were brought under a spotlight. Who built the Great Pyramid, and when? What was its true purpose, and did the orientation of its internal air-shafts point towards the conclusion that its architects saw the starry sky as in some way reflecting a distant epoch in which elder gods ruled Egypt?

There were a great many books written on this subject – some good, others terrible – and then the bandwagon, driven by high-profile writers Graham Hancock and Robert Bauval – virtually came to a stand-still as a backlash of criticism brought into question the claims of their bestselling books. Supposedly, there never was any good evidence that the ageing of the Sphinx denoted its much earlier construction, and so the whole matter of ancient Egypt's greater antiquity was quietly put on the back-burner.

Yet one writer of alternative history who refused to give up was **Alan Alford**. He continued to put forward new ideas concerning the origins of the Great Pyramid, and even openly criticized his earlier books on the subject. Through this cathartic process he has become more knowledgeable on the purpose and design of this sacred monument than almost all of his contemporaries. Moreover, major reviews of his most recent book *PYRAMID OF SECRETS* (Eridu, 2003) have hailed it a masterpiece, and this has come purely through Alan's own determination to get to the truth.

In his first ever presentation at QuestCon, Alan reinterprets the Pyramid's architecture in the light of the Egyptian creation myth. For him, there is overwhelming evidence to indicate that the body of the king remains buried beneath the Pyramid, and that the sarcophagus in the King's Chamber enshrined the material of creation (meteoritic iron). More than this, he will conduct an audio-visual tour of the Pyramid's known chambers, while at the same time revealing fresh clues as to the whereabouts of previously unknown chambers, including the intact burial place of Cheops himself.

John Reid – Sonic Technology of the Pyramid Builders

It is no secret that the builders of the Great Pyramid incorporated into its design profound acoustic qualities, which have never been suitably explained or understood by the scholarly community. Moreover, in the late 1990s American researcher Chris Dunn, in a series of detailed articles and in a book on the technology of the Pyramid builders, concluded that they must have used ultrasonic drills to penetrate hard rock such as basalt, granite and diorite. These were bold claims, which have been since been severely criticised and are generally dismissed by other researchers working in the field. However, quite independent to this research, British acoustics engineer John Reid had initiated his own search to understand the sonic technology of the ancient Egyptians. Although his work began with the monuments of the Giza pyramid field, it ultimately led him south to Amarna and Beni Hassan where he was able to study the acoustics of the rock cut tombs, including what is believed to be the royal tomb of Akenhaten.

In his first appearance at QuestCon, John provides firm evidence for the existence of sonic technology in ancient Egypt, yet shows that this is just the tip of an iceberg which reveals the advanced capabilities of the ancient Egyptians. More importantly, his findings – like those of Alan Alford - do not rely on the ageing of the Sphinx or the existence of some kind of prehistoric advanced race inhabiting the Nile Valley before the rise of the Pharaohs. Having already been privileged to John's beautiful audio-visual presentation, I can honestly say that it is so vivid that you feel part of his extraordinary research project.

Andrew Collins – Twenty-first Century Grail

Three years ago I was charged with a quest to find a representation of the Grail. As mad as such a venture might seem, it was followed by a series of dreams, visions and revelations which led me, and those around me, ever nearer new answers concerning the true origins of the Grail, the ultimate vision quest of the past. Gradually, it became apparent that the true gnosis of Christianity kept alive by the Gnostics of the first centuries of the Christian era, and later adopted by their medieval counterparts, concerned the intervention into human affairs of the divine, the light of God. This was expressed through the nocturnal rite of baptism and a secret communion meal, the cup of which became the symbol not only of Jesus's Agony in the Garden in Gethsemane, but also for the blood which he, and through him every saint and martyr, would shed in the name of Christianity. It was a mystical doctrine embraced wholly by the followers of John the Evangelist, Christianity's first priest and the bearer of the original Grail cup, before a schism forced one half of the community to merge with the orthodox Church of Rome, leaving the rest to become outright Gnostics. These same individuals revered Mary Magdalene as Jesus's successor and an apostle in her own right. Yet very gradually her role in the foundation of Christianity was not only suppressed, but altered into that of her shadow, her male counterpart John the Evangelist. The two individuals became one androgynous figure, which merged with the memory of the Beloved Disciple of John's Gospel. His dual nature was preserved within the underground stream of occult activity known to the Cathars, the Knights Templar and the renaissance artist Leonardo da Vinci, who portrayed the Beloved Disciple as distinctly feminine in his famous fresco of the Last Supper.

These discoveries were, however, merely the beginning of an amazing Grail quest across the British countryside, which brought with it revelation after revelation as we were led ever closer towards our goal. Eventually, we were to take possession under mysterious circumstances of a small green stone cup, which becomes arguably the most authentic physical Grail in the world today. It is an extraordinary story, which also throws an entirely new perspective on the mystery of Rennes-le-Chateau. It also initiates a separate quest for a Templar relic, a representation of their idol Baphomet, known as the Head of God, spirited out of Britain following the arrest of the English Templars in January 1308.

This then is the subject of my presentation during the day at QuestCon04. I will initiate delegates into this divine quest, and reveal the identity of the Grail, before providing the very latest evidence towards its authentication as a religious object of incredible spiritual value.

25TH Anniversary Green Stone Presentation

It was 25 years ago this October that Graham Phillips and I instituted the modern era of psychic questing with the discovery at a place called Knights Hill Pool, Worcestershire, of a short steel sword bearing the inscription MEONIA FORE MARYE. Its location helped lead Graham to retrieve a small green cabochon stone found hidden in a seventeenth-century brass casket. Since then, we have independently taken part in literally dozens of psychic quests, which have often involved the discovery of hidden artefacts, all described, traced and retrieved by psychic processes alone. No one has ever been able to suitably explain these acts of paranormal adventure, and still they continue to occur on a frequent basis.

Thus in order to celebrate 25 years of psychic questing, I have hired Cecil Sharp House for the evening of the conference in order to present a special audio-visual presentation. This will not only feature new questing stories and revelations, but for the very first time publicly I will show a digital recording that records the actual discovery of an artefact by psychic means. This incident occurred on Saturday, 17 April 2004, when myself, my wife Sue and Richard Ward were led to an Essex churchyard by psychic means and here unearthed what we refer to as the Pan dagger – an antique brass paper knife with a handle fashioned into a representation of the god of nature playing the syrinx. Other recordings record how persons unknown attempted to block our vehicle's exit from the site, and how the final recording on the digital camera somehow caught for posterity mysterious voices which have had a profound effect on those who have heard them. The presentation – which will be less formal than the round of talks scheduled for the day - will take place following a break of an hour or so after the last lecture, scheduled to finish at 6.30pm. This means that QuestCon04 should end around ten o'clock that evening, and so staying in London might be a good option (see the site for a list of hotels close to the venue).

Graham Phillips has said that he will attend QuestCon04, subject to availability. He is currently putting the finishing touches on two books. One, **THE TEMPLARS AND THE ARK OF THE COVENANT** (published by Inner Traditions, 2004) is a part historical, part questing book (his first since **THE EYE OF FIRE** in 1986), involving his friends Graham and Jodi Russell from the USA. It concerns the search for the Ark of the Covenant both in the region of Mount Sinai, which he (and I) see as located at Petra in Jordan, and in this country. This British leg includes the retrieval of some semi-precious stones thought to be linked with the breastplate of Aaron, the high-priest of Israel and brother of Moses in Jewish tradition. Graham's other book is **ALEXANDER THE GREAT: MURDER IN BABYLON**, which, as the title suggests, concerns the likely theory that Alexander was put to death in Babylon, following his ill-fated campaign in India. Its publication in October-November is tied in with the release of a new film on the life of Alexander the Great starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Nicole Kidman.

QuestCon04 Extra

What an extraordinary line-up, you might think. Yet this is by no means all you'll get for your £30 ticket in advance, for on Sunday, 7 November, the day following the lectures, I intend to conduct QuestCon delegates around the British Museum to see various items of interest to us all. This will include the Franks Casket, an eighth century carved whale-bone box, which my friend and colleague the artist Yuri Leitch has recently identified as bearing an image of the Holy Grail, plausibly the oldest physical representation existing today. It is a subject I cover in some depth within the book, even though I see the Franks Casket symbolism slightly differently to that of Yuri.

There will be no fringe talks at the conference this year since they succeed mainly in confusing people, some of whom feel they are being cheated out of seeing presentations going on in other rooms at the same time. Obviously, the concept of split stages, like those at major gigs, does not work at events such as QuestCon, and so it is best to focus the whole show on the main hall alone.

Tickets for the event are on sale now. You can either purchase them via the website by going to www.questingconference.com and using our secure on-line server. They can be purchased using your credit card by ringing Atlantis Bookshop on 020 405 2120 (+44.207.405.2120), although remember there is a GBP £1 handling charge *per ticket* if you do it this way. On the other hand, you can send off for tickets either using the reply coupon found on-line or on the flyer, or you can simply send the correct money and your details, and a **STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE**, to Questing Conference, PO Box 189, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 1NF. **Cheques should be made out to 'Questing Conference' and NOTHING ELSE PLEASE.** Tickets will be available on the day, priced at £32, and as in previous years there is a 10 percent discount on all bookings – advance or on the day – of four or more tickets purchased by any of the means stated here.

We realise also that some questing aficionados might only wish to come along to the 25th Anniversary Green Stone Presentation, and to them we say a certain number of evening-only tickets will be available *on the day* priced at GBP £10 (they will *not* be available in advance). However, exactly how many are available can only be based on the amount of spare seats freed up by those people who will not wish to stay for the evening's entertainment (Please note that the £30 day ticket covers you for the evening show).

By my reckoning, this will be the 18th Questing Conference, which began in 1986, and by all accounts, with the line-up we have this year, it should be the best ever. So help us by supporting it, for nowhere else in Britain is there an annual event with such a calibre of speakers as those you will find on stage that day.



What the FORTEAN TIMES had to say about QuestCon03:

'Andrew Collins, the mercurial, dapperly gothic *maitre d'*, regularly puts together a high-class cast for his annual foray into the leading edges of alternative theorising. In the investigative arena, Collins is no slouch himself; and the conference he engineers at the austere but lovable Cecil Sharp House is a highlight of the fortean calendar.' (Noel Rooney, FT181, p. 27.)

Twenty-first Century Grail

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY GRAIL is the title of my tenth international release (not counting various self-financed booklets), published by Virgin in the UK and USA in October, and I am proud to say that it is back to my old roots – I am finally writing how and what I want to write. I know this might sound like a strange thing, and don't get me wrong I have enjoyed writing all my existing books, it is just that with TUTANKHAMUN: THE EXODUS CONSPIRACY, co-authored with Chris Ogilvie-Herald, I tried to write towards a scholarly market. Whereas this is not a bad thing in itself, the point is no orthodox scholar will even be bothered to give it a second glance. It was with such thoughts, and, in my opinion, a nasty (and unjust) review of the book in FORTEAN TIMES, that convinced me to throw caution to the wind and do my first questing book since THE SECOND COMING (1993).

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY GRAIL shows the Grail's darker side. Previously, this holy vessel – seen generally as the cup of the Last Supper, but which is more correctly the symbol of the earliest communion meals of the first Christians – has been attached too much to the fluffy new age Celtic genre of books. I have no doubt that to the earliest Christians the communion cup, known in the Gospels as the Bitter Cup, was a powerful symbol connected more with violent and bloody martyrdom than the words of Christ. Moreover, it is important to put yourself into the minds of those who wrote the first Grail romances at the end of the twelfth century. They were in a world in which heresy was creeping into every strata of European society, and there was every reason to suppose that your patrons might well be sympathetic to these increasingly popular views on the religion of Jesus Christ and the sacred feminine outside of the Catholic Church.

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY GRAIL is a harbinger set to devour the public's long held beliefs of what they perceive the Grail to be. For instance, in addition to everything alluded to so far, it dispels the long-held belief that Joseph of Arimathea ever possessed the Holy Grail or even came to Britain. In addition to this, the book questions the popular view that the Grail is either the bloodline of Christ or the womb of the Magdalene. It shows also that the cult of the Magdalene only arrived in France during the eleventh century, and almost certainly replaced a much older cult of Venus, the classical goddess of sex and love, so integral to the Grail myths.

Reading List

These points aside, the book is the culmination of what happens when the long-dead occultist Aleister Crowley comes through and says I want you to find the Grail, and all that this means. As one person has described it, it is the DA VINCI CODE's darker big brother, which I am very proud of indeed, especially with the book's powerful cover illustration courtesy of SheerFaith. I shall be presenting more information about the book over the next few months, so watch out. In the meantime, if you want to get into the spirit of the Grail myth I suggest the following books, which all come highly recommended:

Allegro, John M., *The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross*; Baigent, Michael, Richard Leigh and Henry Lincoln, *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail*; Begg, Ean, and Deike Begg, *In Search of the Holy Grail and the Precious Blood*; Brown, Raymond E., *The Community of the Beloved Disciple*; Bryant, Nigel, trans., *Merlin and the Grail: Joseph of Arimathea, Merlin, Perceval: The Trilogy of Prose Romances Attributed to Robert de Boron*; Green-Armytage, A.H.N., *John Who Saw*; Haskins, Susan, *Mary Magdalen: Myth and Metaphor*; Kahane, Henry, and Renée Kahane, written in collaboration with Angelina Pietrangeli, *The Krater and the Grail*; Malvern, Marjorie M., *Venus in Sackcloth: The Magdalen's Origins and Metamorphoses*; Michell, John, and Christine Rhone, *Twelve-Tribe Nations and the Science of Enchanting the Landscape*; Olschki, Leonardo, *The Grail Castle and Its Mysteries*; Pagels, Elaine, *The Gnostic Gospels*; Picknett, Lynn, *Mary Magdalene: Christianity's Hidden Goddess*; Picknett, Lynn, and Clive Prince, *The Templar Revelation; Secret Guardians of the True Identity of Christ*; Robinson, James M., general ed., *The Nag Hammadi Library*; Robinson, John J., *Born in Blood: The Lost Secrets of Freemasonry*; Schonfield, Hugh J., *The Essene Odyssey*; Shah, Idris, *The Sufis*; Smith, Morton, *The Secret Gospel*; Stein, W.J., *The Ninth Century and the Holy Grail*; Subhan, John A., *Sufism: Its Saints and Shrines*; Wolfram von Eschenbach, *Parzival*; Weston, Jessie, *The Quest of the Grail*.

Crowley's Book of the Law

That should keep you going for a while, and if these titles might seem a little too heavy, then I suggest going for Dan Brown's THE DA VINCI CODE, which I read recently on a trip to Cairo. Sue and I were there to mark the

100th anniversary of Aleister Crowley achieving communication with his holy guardian angel Aiwass, and thereafter channeling a cryptic philosophical tome known as the Book of the Law. This was apparently dictated each day by Aiwass, who appeared on three successive days between twelve o'clock midday and one o'clock at Crowley's apartment in 26th July Street. The dates given for this monumental event, which Crowley saw as the beginning of a new aeon in the name of the Egyptian sun-god Horus, are the 8th, 9th and 10th April 1904, but I am hearing strong rumours to the contrary (watch this space). At precisely midday on Thursday, 8th April, Sue and I settled down in a garden café on 26th July Street just as the call to prayer began. I marked the anniversary by reading aloud the first chapter of the Book of the Law, which took exactly fifteen minutes, its completion accompanied once more by the call to prayer. Thereafter we went into meditation as we did every day we were out there, with some interesting results leading eventually to the discovery of the Pan dagger mentioned above.

Plasma Balls – Key to UFO Origins and Life on Earth?

I was intrigued to read recently in NEW SCIENTIST that scientists in Romania have been able to create layered spheres of gaseous plasma which are able to grow, replicate and communicate with each other. Moreover, their existence is being hailed as radical new evidence of how life might have begun on this planet. Yet over and beyond this is the possibility that their discovery could throw light on the nature of certain UFO phenomena, namely earthlights.

For years biologists have believed that living cells are generated through a complicated process that requires the lengthy evolution of chemicals which takes millions of years, starting with primary molecules and ending with amino acids, primitive proteins and then what might be described as an organised structure. Yet Romanian scientists led by Mircea Sanduloviciu of Cuza University now believe that the self-organisation of cell-like structures can occur in a mere matter of microseconds.

Examining the supposed environmental conditions which were thought to exist on earth before life began, when the planet was subjected to constant electric storms causing ionised gases called plasmas to form in the atmosphere, the scientists attempted to re-create such gaseous plasmas in the laboratory. They projected a pair of electrodes into a chamber filled with low-temperature plasma of argon. This is a gas whereby some of the atoms have been split into electrons and charged ions. A high voltage was applied to the electrodes by Sanduloviciu and his colleagues, and this instantly created an arc of energy that sparked across the gap between them, like a mini lightning strike. The result of this was the creation of an intense concentration of ions and electrons that accumulated at the positively charged electrode, producing the aforementioned spheres, each of which was made up of two layers – the outer one of negatively charged electrons and an inner one of positively charged ions. Contained inside was the inner nucleus made up of gas atoms. The size and lifespan of the spheres was dependant upon the energy created by the initial spark, meaning that they could be anything between a few micrometres and three centimetres in diameter.

Apparently, a distinct boundary layer which confines and separates an object from its environment is deemed one of the four principal criteria that defines a living cell, causing Sanduloviciu to investigate whether any of the other criteria for living cells could be established with respect to the spheres. They included the ability to communicate information, to replicate, to metabolise and to grow. As a result of new experiments, the scientist discovered that they do indeed have the ability to split in two, and under certain conditions to enlarge by acquiring neutral argon atoms and dividing them into ions and electrons to replenish their boundary layers. More significantly, Sanduloviciu found that they could actually communicate information through emitting electromagnetic energy, causing the atoms within other spheres to vibrate at a particular frequency.

Although it is accepted that the spheres are by no means the only things to meet all of these requirements, they could be classed as the first gaseous 'cells'. Sanduloviciu is now of the opinion that such spheres might have been the first cells on earth, being created within the primordial storms. 'The emergence of such spheres seems likely to be a prerequisite for biochemical evolution,' he commented on his findings.

Seeing that electrical storms produce plasma balls, known generally as ball lightning, which have often been compared with strange light phenomena witnessed by individuals all over the world, might the spheres created by Sanduloviciu reflect microscopic versions of such energy forms? If so, then his discovery that the layered spheres are able to communicate information to each other through emitting electromagnetic energy, making other spheres vibrate at the same frequency, is also highly significant. The effects of electro-magnetic pulses are a common feature in UFO lore, and have been cited in connection with the creation in the human mind

of so-called abduction or time loss experiences, especially by American scientist Michael Persinger. Such pulses are able to stimulate areas of the brain not usually used resulting in the production of visionary or dreamlike sequences which might just help explain encounters with alleged extra-terrestrial entities or intelligences.

So if earthlights or unidentified light forms are thus the big brothers of Sandulovicu's spheres of gaseous plasma, then his findings indicating that they can communicate with each other and are intelligent in their own right, suggests that this is the true nature of alien contact either on a microcosmic or macrocosmic level. I admit I don't know enough about this topic to be able to comment further, but I do feel there is enough here to raise a debate among those interested in the origins of the UFO phenomena. (Source NEW SCIENTIST website 17 September 03. Thanks to Adam Crowl for bringing the original report to my attention).

ARE Symposium on Psychic Questing

For those in the United States, I shall be doing a two-day workshop on psychic questing, complete with a series of meditations using creative visualisation, at the ARE headquarters at Virginia Beach, Virginia, between 9th and 11th July 2004. The programme reads as follows:

PSYCHIC QUESTING: Use Your Intuition, Dreams and Psychic Work to Locate Lost Treasures.

Psychic Questing as re-invented by our speaker, Andrew Collins, is a specific meditative way to explore ancient archeological sites as well as other mysteries from the past. For thousands of years enlightened individuals all over the world who were inspired to find hidden relics have used similar processes and methods of discovery. You will learn about the ancient treasures discovered through this method and you will use the technique to explore on your own. Training in advanced visualization techniques will enable you to experience the moment of first creation through the multi-faceted "Crystal of First Creation."

How does psychic questing work? What do I need to do? How can I get involved?

You will learn to develop your capability to attune to ancient and sacred sites through special meditations. You will also learn how to work with psychics and psychic information, and how to look for cues to begin actual questing work in the field.

Meditation Workshops

You will begin with a series of brief yet very specific visualizations - easy exercises - that gradually become harder and harder, such as: visualizing holding a rose, passing into and out of a matchbox, seeing a cube from all sides, holding your concentration on one thing, and attempting to hit a target site. The weekend includes several of these experiential, targeted workshops.

For more information and registration go to www.edgarcayce.org/conferences. During this same period Sue and I will be accompanying Greg and Lora Little to Memphis via Point Pleasant, West Virginia, where in 1966 UFO writer John Keel began investigating claims of alleged mothman sightings, leading eventually to the book THE MOTHMAN PROPHECIES (1975), popularised recently in the block-busting film of the same name. Hopefully, we should be able to visit the abandoned TNT plant, which was the scene of one of the most dramatic sightings of mothman during this period. Strangely, on the same trip, we will probably visit Graceland – which should be a culture shock, if ever there was one!

Strange Attractor

I recently received for review issue one of a brand new monograph journal entitled STRANGE ATTRACTOR, put together mainly by Mark Pilkington, better known for his work in FORTEAN TIMES, and crop circle artist John Lundberg. It styles itself an anthology of writings on esoteric culture, art, anthropology and literature, and certainly from the eclectic selection of articles, set against a backdrop of beautiful Victorian-style artwork, there is much here for everyone. For me, the pieces which most took my interest were: 'The Psychology of Electronic Voice Phenomena', 'Imaginary Cults of London', 'H P Lovecraft, 9/11 and the Return of the Great Old Ones', 'Greenham Common and Mind Control', 'Eric Count Stenbock & the Myth of Punch' and 'Monte Veritas: 19th Century Artists' Commune'. All very good, and all worth the GBP £2 cover price for those in the UK (GBP £3 for Ireland and GBP £4 for USA and the rest of the world). Suggest that you check out the STRANGE ATTRACTOR

website at www.strangeattractor.co.uk, or write to STRANGE ATTRACTOR JOURNAL, PO Box 961, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2TS, UK.

Musical Things

I can say that rumours concerning the new release of brand new material from the Nephilim are true, and would advise those interested to keep their eyes on the official site at www.fields-of-the-nephilim.com for any announcements in this respect. I recently spoke at the Thelema Beyond Crowley symposium, organised by Mick Staley and Caroline Wise (who got married recently - congratulations to you both), and was approached afterwards by Darryl Kruger of gothic rock act DESCENDANTS OF CAIN, which, I have to admit, I had not heard of before. He gave me a CD sampler entitled 'The Book of Changes', which is a prelude to the band's new album 'Yetzirah', inspired apparently by my work, particularly FROM THE ASHES OF ANGELS (1996). One track, entitled 'The Real' is dedicated to me, which is nice, and it's excellent as well! I like what I have heard so far, and so check out their existing albums 'Atziluth' and 'Briah: Of Man and Magician', the second of which is available via the band's website at www.descendantsofcain.co.uk. Other music on the CD player recently: Finish rockers Him's 'Love Metal'; Guns n' Roses 'Greatest Hits'; The Rasmus 'In the Shadows', Scissor Sisters 'Comfortably Numb', Snow Patrol 'Run', Keane 'Somewhere only we know', and US DJ/producer Armen van Helden's sleazy but brilliant 70s disco stomp 'Hear my name', featuring rising NY electro girl duo SPALDING ROCKWELL.

My Old Books

Seems as if copies of my old books are still commanding high prices. You can obtain copies of THE SEVENTH SWORD, the original hardback (Century, 1991) from around £40 upwards on [ABE Books](http://www.abebooks.com), although prices do rise to around £150, while copies of THE BLACK ALCHEMIST first edition (ABC Books, 1988) generally go for between £30 and £100. My books are also very often available on eBay. For instance, a copy of my 1982 booklet THE SWORD AND THE STONE (about the Green Stone story) went on there for GBP £79. I do still intend to publish a brand new version of THE BLACK ALCHEMIST, but its all about time, as I was late delivering the manuscript for the Grail book. This has led straight in to promoting QuestCon04, and so I have not had time to do too much else at the moment, but it will happen I promise!

Montague Keen

I was saddened to hear of the unexpected death of Montague Keen (1925-2004), the agronomist, journalist and long-time member and psychic researcher for the Society of Psychical Research (SPR). Indeed, he died in January, just two months after he spoke at QuestCon03 on the subject of the activities surrounding the Scole Group, who produced extraordinary evidence of physical paranormal manifestations during the mid to late 1990s. His was the author of the Scole Report, published in the Proceedings of the SPR in 1999, written in collaboration with Professors Arthur Ellison and David Fontana. He was also adviser for three years to the Centre of Crop Circle Studies (CCCS), but left to concentrate his efforts on proof of survival. He collapsed of a heart attack whilst speaking from the audience during a debate on telepathy between his good friend Rupert Sheldrake and Lewis Wolpert at the Royal Society of Arts in London. I always found him a fount of knowledge, wisdom and understanding, with an incredible patience and compassion for others. My condolences go out to his family; he will be greatly missed.

Mickey Mouse in Cave Art

Archaeologists are baffled by the discovery on a 700-year old church wall in Malta, Carinthia, modern southern Austria, of a mural which looks dangerously like Walt Disney creation Mickey Mouse (and, BTW, this is not an April Fool's joke). The resemblance is striking, raising the question of which came first – the church art or the cartoon character! Looking at it another way, perhaps the artist who created this image was inspired by a vision of the future as seen through the eyes of a Walt Disney fan. Either that, or Walt Disney was inspired to create Mickey following visions of this mouse-headed anthromorph revered by the townspeople of Malta, Carinthia several hundred years ago. You judge! (Source: Ananova at www.ananova.com/news/story/sm_709660.html)

