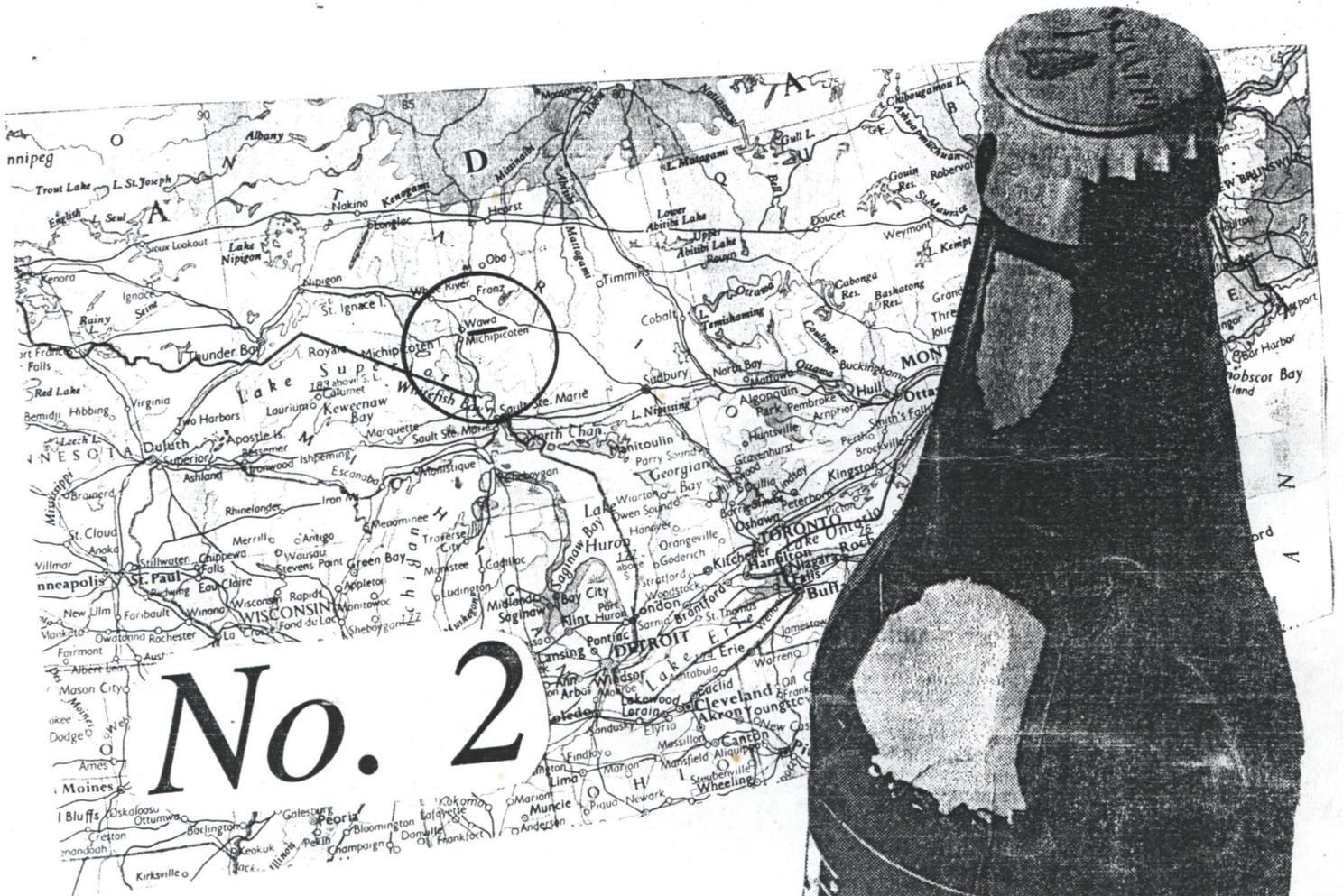


# FOLKLORE FRONTIERS



No. 2

WAWA: Hitch-hiking

GUINNESS: The blonde in the black dress

PLUS book and magazine reviews

An independent non-profitmaking magazine.

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List of issues of The Shaman, Ancient Skills & Wisdom Review and Terrestrial Zodiacs Newsletter available -- please enclose SAE.

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LEAD-IN

A small item in the January "F.L.S. News" is very relevant. It states: "It is fascinating to note that two committee members, both scanning the same daily newspaper, came up with a totally different set of cuttings, which only goes to show that the more people involved in the cuttings scheme the better our coverage will be."

Only a few readers have been sending "folkloric and Fortean" cuttings (special honours to Andy Roberts, S. Gray-Thompson, Bob Skinner and the Bords), but we need a good network and particularly local newspapers' coverage. Specialist journals also have their own mythologies: the railway Press being particularly rich in dubious platform end rumour.

Yet it is still the daily tabloids where the action is. Whether it is just a plethora of offbeat news or many well-connected avaricious journalists in the vicinity, but what I have dubbed the Rotherham Triangle seems to have an unusual percentage of strange news stories. This area is basically bounded by Sheffield, Doncaster, and Barnsley. Is the Scargill factor at work? Is it a u.b.t. equivalent of UFO flap areas?

Last issue I pilloried Peter Tory as the arch-foafrepeated journalist. I even sent him a copy of the last issue. I don't think he's mentioned us. No plug. Too close for comfort? However, his column of April 21 has a morsel of interest. He reveals that he regards as a "proud town" Sheffield and that he hails from there. He just had to come from the Rotherham Triangle! I bet he's actually from Rotherham itself.

\*\* Now for the apologies and hopes. Firstly it's been longer than I had expected between issues 1 and 2. Also I had hoped to have more folkloric material in and less reviews. But there are several very interesting books for review for next issue. Also my aim is to have No. 3 onwards professionally printed. Most likely it will be A5 size booklet form. For those of you acquainted with magazines, most likely we will look like a "Fortean Times" format squeezed into a "Magonia" format. I want to have plenty of topical columns as well as articles and a review section. The reviews will become subsidiary with more words they will be just as long, but have less prominence. I am looking to August at the latest for No. 3 publication.

I am particularly looking for articles on general u.b.t subjects. Also round-ups of subjects readers are conversant with where rumour is regular. Feedback letters, too.

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READERS' LETTERS.

From Paul Smith, of Burton-on-Trent: Re page 4 of FF1: "The Priory of Sion" does not fit into the conspiracy theories, if by that you really mean "revolutionary movements manipulated by ancient occult groups"! It would be much better under the category of hoaxes, since "The Priory of Sion" is nothing more than a Plantard confidence trick dating from 1956 (Rennes-le-Chateau "connection" fabricated 1962). Henry Lincoln has lost more arguments than sold copies of "The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail"! Plantard is obsolete in France, where only Louis Vazart takes him seriously. Gerard de Sède gave up on him since publication of the Lincoln book. .... Your "Web of Suspicion" article was excellent and the Andy Roberts piece was intriguing. Keep up the good work on the reviews!"

From Andy Roberts, of Brighouse: "After the recent screening of the TV series "Operation Julie" a discussion was held on the merits of the programme on a Channel 4 TV review slot,

2. the names of which escapes me, but it is chaired by Gus Macdonald. The producer of 'Operation Julie', when questioned about the horrors of drugs, trotted out the story of the sailor on a ship in Portsmouth who after taking some KED thought his arms were so long that they could stretch out of the ship's porthole on around the harbour and he got the horrors and chopped an arm off. When told by both the presenter and guest that the story was untrue and a typical drug rumour he blurted and said it was told to him as true and he would prove it by getting the documentation. Sounds like Mr Tickle from the Mr Men to me." (ED: Why the hysteria over this case? I sent magazines to David Solomon in jail as a by-product. Without condoning what occurred, might it not be more sensible to see the defendants as idealistic hippies?).

## THE WORLD CAPITAL OF HITCH-HIKING STORIES

by Jake Williams

Where is the worst place to hitch-hike? Before you answer "The top of Mount Everest" or "Bikin Atoll", I'll narrow it down a bit --- the worst place on a main road with plenty of traffic, near a town, in a country where there are no wars going on.....

My nomination for the title is the town of Wawa, Ontario, Canada. It's right on the Trans-Canada Highway, where the forests and hills of Ontario (what school geography books call the "Canadian Shield") start to give way to the Great Plains. The highway goes straight east and west for hundreds of miles. But at Wawa, for some reason it splits and for the next few hundred miles there are two trans-Canada highways, parallel and quite far apart. The problem is: east of Wawa there is plenty of medium distance traffic, lorries going to the mining towns and forestry. But west of Wawa the traffic is either very local (just going a few miles up the road to a farm), or else extremely long distance. And anybody who is driving coast-to-coast and who is willing to pick up hitch-hikers has already driven through all the small towns where they have picked up as many people as the car will hold. Or as many people as they want to carry, anyway. So if you get dropped at the Wawa junction, you may be there for quite a while. Or you can take a lift ten or 20 miles out into the prairie, which is as bad or worse.

In 1975, my wife and I were running the Spray River Youth Hostel, in the Rocky Mountains, only a few miles off the highway. We started to hear stories from people who had stood hitch-hiking at Wawa for a day. Or two days. Or three days. And they told stories of people who had had even more difficulty getting a lift ..... There was the man who waited day after day. Once or twice a day he would go into the cafe in the town. This went on for a few weeks, until he married a woman who was working as a waitress. He gave up on wherever he was trying to hitch to, AND HE STILL LIVES THERE. At the time I wasn't really thinking of these stories as a phenomenon. More or less, I took them at face value, maybe with a pinch of salt, but hearing the same story repeated, seemed to me to be confirmation that it was probably "true". But now I wonder. Was the hitch-hiking romeo of Wawa just another story? I have done my share towards perpetuating it -- as far as I can remember I mainly told it as a warning to people who stayed at the hostel and who were hitching eastwards. If they retold it they may have added a bit of authenticity...."the couple who run the youth hostel told me this...."

Here's another Wawa story.....somebody was hitching there in bad weather. They got scrap wood from the town dump or packing cases from the farm machinery dealer and built a hut beside the road, so that they had shelter, but could emerge to hitch whenever a car came by. Later, I met somebody who claimed to be the original of this story....he had built some sort of sentry-box beside the road there.

Once we drove through Wawa ourselves, and, knowing that we had a moral duty to pick up anybody hitching there, we carefully rearranged our stuff so that, with some contortion, somebody could squeeze in and lie on top of the gear in the back of the estate-car. The man we picked up had only been standing there for a few hours, but in the next ten miles out of town there were dozens of stragglers walking or standing or sitting, and hitching, and hitching limply. So that much is established as fact: the place does exist, and there are an enormous number of hitch-hikers there,

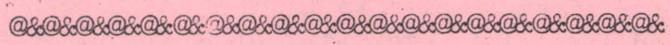
I wrote a reply to somebody who was advertising in the American folksong magazine "Singout". They were researching hitch-hiking stories, and, intending I think, to write a book on the subject. I wrote quite a long letter with the Wawa stories and some of my own adventures. Ever since then I've been waiting for a signed copy of the book with thanks for the information.

I've long since lost the name and address of the advertiser. Does anybody have access to back copies of the magazine? The ad was in Sinout between October 1975 and March 1976.

If anybody can give me the address, I'll write and ask how the book is coming on. I wonder if this was the very first "academic" interest in this branch of folklore?

Now that I'm thinking about it, it strikes me that I have never heard any stories of phantom hitch-hikers. I wonder if hitch-hiking stories naturally divide into two types: stories of drivers' experiences (including phantoms) which would be mainly recounted by drivers to other drivers. And tales of hitch-hikers' experiences (unlikely to include phantoms, unless there were two hitch-hikers in the car at the same time, one phantom and one "flesh and blood"). Hitch-hikers would be more likely to identify with the Wawa group of stories, about the exploits of other hitch-hikers, and to recount them to others they met at roadsides or in hostels. I think there must be another complete set of Wawa stories, which would reflect the experiences of drivers there. And there must be different tales circulating among the inhabitants of the town itself. Would the waitress who married the hitch-hiker please come forward and tell your story?

-- Jake Williams, Bogancloch, by Rhynie, Aberdeenshire.



GUINNESS IS GOOD FOR IT

By Tony "Doc" Shiels

This is my ninth attempt, in three days, to write a short piece about the extraordinary powers attributed to Guinness stout. I have been repeatedly forced to seek inspiration and to conduct in-depth research at my local pub, Paddy Maguire's, which serves the best pint of draught black stuff for miles around. This morning...one of those mornings-after-the-night-before... I've chained myself to the typewriter, determined to complete this task before opening time.

It's a "well-known fact" that Arthur's extra special stout and porter has amazing apocryphallic aphrodisiac properties. Guinness "puts lead in your pencil", which may account for much of the randy, triple-X certificate, graffiti scribbled on pub lavatory walls, from Ardfert to Antrim and beyond, suggesting that the ubiquitous Irish "hard man" never suffers the curse of "brewer's droop." Large families are the norm in Ireland, proving, if proof be needed, the virility and fertility-enhancing qualities of the national drink. A pint of Irish Guinness is often called "the blonde in the long black skirt", a term which can confuse innocent strangers when they receive the whispered information that, for example, "Old Dinny's in love with that blonde in the black skirt", delivered with a nudge and a wink. "Old Dinny", himself, is more than likely to compound the confusion by raising his jar, smiling lewdly, and announcing with pride, "I'm after having her six times already this morning." Thus, from such small beginnings, are great legends born. It's certainly true that many an Irish mother, pregnant again for the umpteenth time, has blamed her condition on the potent black brew, and many a sweet child has been "conceived in a state of insobriety."

The very name "extra stout" suggests something solid, bold and proudly upstanding. "Guinness is Good for You" and "Guinness for Strength" are famous advertising phrases, combined with images of happy he-men carrying girders or grand-pianos on their heads. Two years ago a Guinness calendar presented the unfortunate "Guinnless" as wimpish losers who never made it with the opposite sex.

We are told that Guinness enriches the blood and that is a very important element in rising to a sexual occasion. Interestingly, from a Fortean point of view, the main bottlers and exporters of Guinness, in the early years of this century, were Blood, Wolfe & Co., of Liverpool. That gives the stuff a lycanthropic quality, with a touch of animal lust. In Malaysia Guinness is actually sold as "Wolf Stout." There's a hint of Count Dracula, too, in Irish tales of corpses being revived at wakes, sitting up in their coffins when a drop of stout is spilt on their lips. Bram Stoker was, of course, a Dubliner!



"RAILWAY GHOSTS" by W.B. HERBERT (David & Charles, £6-95)

Thirty years of trainspotting, some of it in the remotest of locations, has taught me that the human mind can imagine the worst quite easily on British Rail's "We Once Got There" network. If a system is made to be a skeleton of its former self, there would naturally be expected spooks. Take away the staff and make station architecture resemble soccer ground dugouts, then expect spectral porters -- whether you've drunk porter or not.

I've heard various supernatural railway stories, from that the people on the Welwyn crash being "frozen" as the train raced to disaster, to a wide range of platform end rumours. In fact, I sent material to author Herbert on the strategic steam reserve and he hopes to use this in a second volume.

As for this book, it fulfills a real need. Only recently have railwaymen's reminiscences become a substantial part of the railway literature and to add to this human dimension a supernatural one is a novel addition. The episodes are kept reasonably brief and the style is easygoing. It will please the casual reader but have little value for and possibly antagonise the in-depth researcher.

But it must be remembered that it comes from a publisher with a huge list of railway titles and no doubt this accounts for some of the writing assuming a comprehension of complex technicalities, such as signalling operation and geographical locations without even county recognition.

But it is a book of reminiscences and on this level it works well. The railway fraternity are raconteurs and like to relive the past. They tell some wild tales. They enjoy the odd. Yet what comes over strongly in Herbert's book is the overall genuineness of the tales. I'm sure there's some embroidery about locomotive 47299, but it is essentially true. We are generally asked to forget our doubts. Many tales have classic themes, others have motifs associated with other paranormal occurrences, c.f. equipment malfunction and vehicle interference. This all makes it either more or less real from whichever side of the occult fence you sit, but either way makes for excellent folklore. Folklorists always win.

Traditional ghost fare are such stories as the spook which caused the brake to be applied to avoid a crash with wagons and the oft-repeated misfortune associated with the removal of a special object, in this case to cause malfunction at a modern pump-house and strike physically at one of those concerned.

Sovereignty is ubiquitous throughout myth and here a moth may have saved Queen Victoria's life (she would draw the curtains of the Royal train when travelling through Sunderland, I'm told, because of some argument with, I believe, one of the twon's MPs).

But ghostlore has kept pace with modern traction and Herbert includes the spooky tale of jinxed locomotive 47299 (see The Shaman, No. 9). This rogue machine was predicted by a psychic to be heading to create a fatal accident as 47216. Renumbering to 47299 failed to deflect fate and a mysterious points switch sent it on to the wrong line and destiny. Just as such engines have received modifications and livery changes, Herbert has made his own additions and coloured the tale.

Another diesel locomotive, 55029 Nimbus, seemingly reappeared seven months after having been cut up to pass in ghostly fashion through Hadley Wood station.

And not just gaslit Victorian-style branch line stations take on an eerie air at night, for the ultra-modern electrical multiple unit carriage sheds at Addiscombe are the scene of unexplainable movements and sounds.

Plenty of locations are detailed which you can pass with trepidation in a speeding HST or visit and feel the cold atmosphere and maybe meet the haunting spectre. The reminiscences of the late photographer Derek Cross I found specially convincing and also those of sound recordist Peter Handford. It was also interesting that one spot was to the dislike of the late Bishop Eric Treacy, doyen of railway snappers, who himself died on a railway platform. But even he, perhaps, would have been shocked by a dwarf-like apparition which manifested briefly in a railway carriage reported by Herbert. I recall an old article of an elemental seen from a train stripping petals off a flower

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reported in The Atlantean. Laugh? Well, no, I once saw what I suppose was a wood gnome. Yes, really. It was in sight of Carlishe traction maintenance depot. Ayrshire's Derek Cross would have known the spot. I wish we could have met to discuss it. He once suggested naming the class 50 diesels after the worst excesses of modern life and I suggested Page 3 girls in the article already referred to.

Fairyfolk and nubles aside, this book shows how the supernatural has kept track with railway development.

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"EARTH MYSTERIES: AN EXPLORATORY INTRODUCTION" by PHILIP HESELTON and BRIAN LARKMAN. "GLIOMANTIC SURVIVALS IN YORK" by BEN FERNEE. "ASTROLOGICAL GEOMANCY: AN INTRODUCTION" by PATRICK McFADZEAN. (Northern Earth Mysteries Group, £1 each plus postage from Philip Heselton, 170 Victoria Avenue, Hull, HU5 3EN)

So much downright nonsense is written, talked and broadcast about earth mysteries that Heselton and Larkman's handy-sized and cheaply-priced introductory guide is timely and worthy. Novice ley hunters turn maps into Clapham Junctions of graphite and see huge menageries of figures delineated by a thousand by-passes. Their enthusiasm is commendable, but a work such as this puts on useful brakes of caution.

Here is explained the framework of earth mysteries reference: leys from old to new straight track taking in Watkins, statistics, astroarchaeology and the psychic dimension; the earth spirit through folklore, earth energy, fairies and earthlights; meanings such as scientific and intuitive approaches; wider ramifications such as terrestrial zodiacs, geomancy, religion and ritual. There are lists of recommended books and publications, plus a glossary of terms used.

The two well-known writers have compiled a splendid primer to a subject which must seem quite complex to the newcomer. There could be no better introduction.

Ben Fernee looks at my favourite city of York and finds a continuous tradition of siting and design from boundary markers to relatively modern times. Fernee pays tribute to Larkman's "corridor of sanctity" ley in the city and McFadzean's Templar work.

Fernee has some thought-provoking comments on plague stones and beating the bounds. The work then outlines the work of the 19th century York architect John Browne, a pioneer in the study of sacred geometry, and diagrams from his "The Inventor's Assistant" are reproduced

Freemasonry accorded York, and particularly the Minster, with great importance and the author explains why. He also spends time on the Minster crypt's significance and it was here some years ago that I almost passed out in this edifice from the overwhelming concentration of energy. It is the strongest earth energy spot I have experienced.

He also considers fire festivals, lunar religion and the red rose significance. All in all, an erudite non-technical glimpse into some more arcane aspects of the City of York.

McFadzean also looks at Yprk, commenting on and reproducing astrological charts for three major fires at the Minster and also an animal rights demonstration in 1924. For E.M. buffs he gives an astrological dimension to Alfred Watkins's ley discovery.

However, the book is primarily an account of how and why astrology was used to determine the most appropriate time to lay foundation stones and consecrate sacred buildings. It also explores the correspondence between a building's astrological "birth chart" and events in history from medieval times to the present.

Neither as abstruse or as heavy-going as might be thought. A pertinent publication.

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Your editor has various issues of The Shaman, Ancient Skills & Wisdom Review, and Terrestrial Zodiacs Newsletter for sale. Also "Tales of the Hexham Heads" -- a moden mystery -- at 80p, inc. postage. Full list of material for sale from 5, Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland; TS25 2AT. SAE please.

Also reader Bob Skinner, of 16 Hillside Lane, Heath End, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 0LB, has access to a small number of new copies of Rodney Dale's "The Tumour in the Whale" (1978) which he is prepared to sell for £3 each (inc. p&p). First come first served (cwo and sae please).

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B4. The fairies, whose land we have raped, get their revenge with accidents when motorways bulldoze through sacred trees and stones. They were once will o' the wisps on trackways through forests, mischievously leading travellers astray; today they are the phantom hitch-hikers of urban lore, uttering dire but incorrect prophecies as they use our modern roads and transport. The location is the same, only relocated in time. Yet all is not so gloomy as Roberts imagines, for there would seem to be evidence of their appearance as a warning mechanism.

If we teach our children that fairies are not imaginary, we will enrich their lives. To say, "I don't believe in fairies" to spitefully speculate if a fairy really will die is as malicious as physically reducing a captive fly's wings. No wonder we don't see many fairies; no surprise they can be vengeful. No wonder harmony is lost.

Roberts' argument is that: "The geomantic balance must always be restored no matter what the cost or life on earth will become intolerable." There is plenty of chaos around, but is it imaginary or perverse to think the present is any less caring than any other era? The Sixties finally showed a reversal in values and attitudes. Undoubtedly most New Age outpourings were and are sheer crap. From the start Mammon became involved, but at least many people at last actively chose to believe there is an alternative to scientific reductionism, Darwinian mechanics and desecralization.

Geomantic balance? A return of equilibrium? Well, for a start we could start saying: "I believe in fairies."

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"THE BRENTFORD GRIFFIN" by ANDY COLLINS (Part of Earthquest subscription. Inquiries to Earthquest Books, 19 St David's Way, Wickford, Essex, SS11 2EX.).

It proclaims boldly on the cover that here is "At last, a comprehensive report on London's most bizarre supernatural visitor for a very long time." The visitor -- griffin or just a media hype? TV and the Press gave coverage to reports of a strange flying phenomenon in the skies of West London's Brentford district.

There were local place names with a griffin connection -- the football club, the coat of arms, and more to the liking of debunkers, a brewery and pub. There was also the intervention of a local novelist, famous for sending up earth mysteries and occult matters, and his involvement with publicizing an arts centre and UFO conference.

On the face of it an open and shut case of creating the climate for a spoof and hype with attendant harmless publicity. But as Andrew Collins points out, it is not quite so simple.

Having written and published a similar investigation myself ("Tales of the Hexham Heads") which had elements of counter-veracity and hype, I would be wary of condemning the Brentford episode as being a hoax masterminded by Robert Rankin and Magonia magazine. Equally, on a realistic basis I wonder if what was being reported was a cormorant (or other bird), or that witness Kevin Chippendale misidentified an exotic form of kite being flown.

In the end you make up your own mind and decide for yourself. Andy has presented the facts, maybe not got his E.M. boots dirty but his trainers dusty, and told it like it is from his viewpoint the best as he can. It makes a smashing read and is well detailed. The presentation and illustrative content cannot be faulted. Read it and decide whether it is all hype or whether at some point the Cosmic Joker concept hijacked the affair, and blurred the always indistinct line between natural and supernatural.

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STRANGE WYCOMBE edited by ALAN CLEAVER (Strange Publications, 65 Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks., HP13 5AA. First edition of 600 copies sold out, but you could seek a copy in a bookshop or maybe there's a second issue).

If only there were such groups as Strange elsewhere to record local folklore and present it so splendidly. Here the group have recorded a selection of aspects of the Wycombe's area's, mysteries in highly-readable articles. There are plenty of hauntings, ranging from ghostly riders on the hills, the spirit in the inn, the white lady of Bisham Abbey and a spook bishop. How a vision committed a man to the gallows and another who saw his own funeral. Plus turf-cut crosses, mummers, miracles and standing stones. The booklet was produced to commemorate the 700th mayoral anniversary of High Wycombe and there are pieces on the revival of beating the bounds and the presence of a revived town crier. Let's hope there will be more like it in ASSAP's Project Albion series.

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THE LEY HUNTER. Senior E.M. (earth mysteries) mag, dealing with ancient alignments and all aspects of geomancy, folklore, prehistoric and ancient sites, possible earth energies, strange phenomena, and so on. Autumn/autumn sub (3 issues + supplement) £4: US 15 dollars (surface) 20 (air). From: The Coach House, Mount St., Brecon, Powys, LD3 7LU.

No. 99. Editor Paul Devereux looks at the appalling situation over Stonehenge in 1985 and concludes bitterly and angrily that "In a seasonal and symbolic sense, the sun did not rise at Stonehenge on June 21st 1985"; while John Goulstone argues the case for a continuity of observance at Stonehenge extending back to pre-Christian times seemingly conclusive. As for gathering that did go ahead, E. Blair Wilkins writes of the 1985 York Minster Moot with enthusiasm. A Welsh fairytale is found to contain such E.M. motifs as sighting upon a stone, earthquakes, mystery light and ultraterrestrials. John Michell has been described as a giant among researchers, but when pictured by an 8ft. slab newly-found in Penwith, he looks to be a clear 18in. taller! Rose Heaword discusses Hermes. Among regular features are the monitoring at Roolright; Paul Screeton on the double-sided coinage of remaindered books; Sig Lonegren's dowsing telling him differences in alignments; strange 192's Cotswolds lights for the Earthlights sceptics to ponder; the Llangynwryrd Line being this issue's ley; books reviews and readers' letters.

QUICK SILVER MESSENGER. Mag of landscape, myth and consciousness. Three-issue sub: UK £4; US 16 dollars. From Chris Ashton, c/o ELTI, Hotel Wisata International, Jl, Thamrin, P.O. Box 2457 Jkt., Jakarta, Indonesia. You can send subs here, cheques only.

No. 11. Following previous interviews with other E.M. and cosmic luminaries, the spotlight falls on geomancer par excellence Nigel Pennick (concluded with much lucid opinion in 12). Plus in-depth book review. No. 12. Topical for a mag published in so exotic a location are Colin Bloy's thoughts on differences between European leys and Oriental dragon lines.

QUEST. Western Mystery Tradition by living authors for novice and expert. Q. Sub £4 or 10 dollars. From BCM -- SCL Quest, London WC1N 8XX. No. 64. Editor Marian Green on witchcraft via the intelligent "Real Lives -- Earth Magic" TV film, and separately on how magic is rewarding but hard work. Plus rune reading, Alfred Noyes reassessed and trees. No. 65. Marian on magical books. Plus performance rituals in Glastonbury, runes, astrology, Maori moon myth. Plus each issue book reviews, announcements and courses.

RILKO NEWSLETTER. Varied bag from Research into Lost Knowledge Organisation; sometimes obscure. Membership sub: London & Home Counties £5-50; UK elsewhere £4-50; overseas £7. Newsletters twice yearly. Lectures and postal book service. Inquiries to Miss E. Leader, 25a Danvers Street, London SW3 5AY.

No. 25. David Tilt on divining in Sussex with interesting observations on "UFO circles". Book reviews in Paul Screeton on "The Evidence for..." series. No. 26. Elizabeth Leader intelligently suggests a project for members on innsigns (I hope she can decipher the field reports!). John E. Palmer writes up a collection of notes of regained knowledge of Brittany megaliths (cont. 27) and John Dixon on spiral growth of plants. W.P. Boswell's continuing essay on links between Africa and Britain suggests Avebury stones having been fashioned into animal shapes. No. 27. Epigraph Fuminary Barry Fell writes on some American inscriptions and Chris Lovegrove on King Arthur and Glastonbury.

STONEHENGE VIEWPOINT. Frreethinking mag of archaeology, astronomy, geology and related arts and sciences on newsprint. Provocative and entertaining with emphasis on halo hypothesis of ancient skies. Professionally laid out with many illustrations. Sun 10 dollars for 14 issues from 2821 De La Vina Street, Santa Barbara, Calif., 93105, USA. UK agent L. C. Smith, 16 Solstice Rise, Amesbury, Salisbury, Wilts., SP4 7NQ.

No. 63. Begins Bob Forrest's "A Guide to Velikovsky's Sources" (previously privately printed by author)(64-70), where like von Daniken, Velikovsky is seen to have used a process of selection and rejection to create his hypotheses, whereas Forrest has gone back to basics and presented the sources in their original context. Editor Donald L. Cyr continues his autobiographical "In Search of Intelligence" series with part 7 discussing "The Western Epigraphic Society", members of which "read messages on rocks and as well as other artifacts of archaeology including woven material." It is highly-challenging pre-Columbian contact material. Part 8 questions "Ley-Lines in Question", where as the battle lines over leys are drawn, Cyr thinks "in this one instance...the array of forces at the moment leaves the outcome in doubt," and in a well-argued case explains why. Isaac N. Vail's canopy hypothesis is promulgated in a reprinted work (also in other issues). However, I found boring L.K. Bell's Greek coins analysis (also measures in 66). Editor Cyr's ice crystal

M2.

planetary canopy hobbyhorse is given weight by Dr Louis Winkler in a lengthy and detailed thesis (why won't UK academics get involved in "fringe" mags and theories?). This leads to a new comparison of canopy models by Cyr, giving details of several proponents of the scenario. But more interestingly to me was Cyr's discovery of the drawing of the naked Lady of Bidston. I enjoy these adventures by others and by myself. His conclusions are naturally open to conjecture. The King Arthur debate threatens to outdo Pendragon with a piece by P.K. Johnstone, a lengthy and well-argued letter from P.M. Hughes suggesting Arthur had Roman support for his kingship, but more importantly Mary Caine argues persuasively for a non-human Arthur. Her wise words I entirely agree with: "I believe that in searching for Arthur at this period we are chasing a shadow of himself. We are looking for him not only in the wrong time, but in the wrong plane. He does belong to history, and British history in particular; but it is another kind of history, the history of thought, philosophy, cosmology, the science of the Inner Man, his purpose and his relation to the stars of the universe, that he illuminated -- and still can. Will the real Arthur please stand up. All obscure British chieftains of the Dark Ages may remain seated." And so say I. No. 65. Cyr relates the Vailian canopy theory to astrology, with correspondence from the turn of this century. He continues with an article, "Ice Crystal Halo Origin of Zodiac Patterns". DR Louis Winkler contributes again on a possible earth canopy after cometary capture. No. 66. P.K. Johnstone is back in the Dark Ages (also 67) and Cyr considers the patterns on ancient Mexican bricks. Cyr also begins a two-part greenhouse world account pointing out that the nuclear winter and Cretaceous dinosaur scenarios are flawed. No. 67. Paul Screeton celebrates St. Margaret of Cliterow of York. Cyr introduces the whys and wherefores of the long-running magazine. No. 68. Cyr on Love Goddess representations. David J. Ride posits a solar Stonehenge alignment from the Cerne Abbas hill figure. Tribute to late P.K. Johnstone. No. 69. Cyr's visit to a Swedish Stone Age village reconstruction. Johnstone on Merlin (cont. 70) and plenty on canopies. No. 70. John G. Williams presents his SCEMB line synthesis of 14 prehistoric alignments at Stonehenge, while Aubrey Burl attacks Ride's claims in 68. Cyr writes up more of his expedition to Scandinavian epigraphic and megalithic sites.

NORTHERN UFO NEWS. Handy size closely typed mag to keep the ufologist up to date with happenings and reading matter. Sub payable to NUFON for 1986 is £5-40. Address 8 White-throat Walk, Birchwood, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 6PQ.

No. 115. Editor Jenny Randles looks at the possibility of a mind/matter interaction hypothesis to explain ufological phenomena, using the idea of a "doorman" filtering our sensory input and ufos having a "quasi-reality". Follows usual format with plenty of news and views in such features as news round-up; for your perusal (major articles elsewhere); books of the moment; media matters (UFOs in the public eye); sightings and case histories (with new light on the 1973 Peter Day film). No. 116. The ethics of "The Uninvited" series debated. Sighting cases include one from Hartlepool and another from nearby Greatham, an area quiet until 1985 on the UFO front. Interesting activity in North Wales with Army involvement and did an aircraft hit a UFO over Rendlesham Forest? No. 117. "Forget Rendlesham" urged J.R. in her editorial. Strange with her paperback on the subject due.

PRACTICAL GEOMANCY. Mag of geomantic practice of the past, present and future, published 3 times a year for furtherance of geomantic research, knowledge and intercommunication. Sub £3-40; cheques/POs to N. Pennick, 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8SD.

Vol. 1, No. 1. Ben Fernee points to the geomantic examples in York. Other articles cover hi-tech supposedly damaging health; the strange energies of T. Henry Moray and Nikola Tesla; weathervanes; labyrinths; geomantic mirrors; astrology and orientation; excellent book reviews section and miscellany. Vol. 1, No. 2. Timely essay on what a Watkinsian ley is and what it is not for the unenlightened, with a Hereford city example. Plus articles on an Indian version of astrological geomancy, yoga, introduction to geomancy and a news and comment round-up.

PSI-EYE. New critical digest of the paranormal summarising recent research and publications. Q. Single issue 60p inc p&p; sub £2-25 (£3-25 overseas). Cheques/POs payable to Emjay, 17 Langbank Avenue, Rise Park, Nottingham, NG5 5BU.

No. 1. Editor Mike Costello begins a lengthy overview of the near death experience which is more readable than he gives himself credit for. He also provides constructive criticism of ASSAP. Mag and book reviews. I hope this mag will go for the ground lost which Common Ground vacated.

FORTEAN TIMES. The foremost journal of strange phenomena. Four issues £6 or 12 dollars  $\frac{1}{2}$

From 96 Mansfield Road, London NW3 2HX.

No. 45. Ron Westrum's phantom attackers piece was not made more non-mundane by length or obvious belief-orientation, while editor Bob Rickard looks at two other phantom sieges -- one by goblin-like entities and the other giant apemen. Nigel Watson returns to his airship panics and Dwight Whalen looks at pioneer stuntwoman Annie Taylor and falling rocks. Among the topics covered are alien big cats of Moray, Irish perambulating porcelain, statues, crosses in the sky and mystery mushroom cloud; fish falls and singing toadfish mating; grid-gambolling nimble sheep, six-legged lambs and goat-unicorns; crying from the womb; lightning strikes; bounding wallabies; whale beachings, whale in ice block and humans frozen alive.

ANOMALY. Journal of research into the paranormal published by the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena. Inquiries to membership secretary C. Wise, 36 Telemann Square, Kidbrook, London SE3.

No. 1. Excellent synthesis of the earth lights theory by its main protagonists (Devereaux, McCartney & Robins). State of the art pieces by Hugh Pincott on psychic research; anomalous phenomena research during 1984 by editor Alan Cleaver; three years of progress by ASSAP by Maurice Townshend; plus Jenny Randles on investigations carried out and Caroline Wise on Polish phenomena.

MAGONIA. Independent journal devoted to broad examination of anomalous phenomena and their interaction with society and the individual. Basically ufology from a psycho-sociological viewpoint. Well laid out with illos; A5; boosted to 28pp; Q. Sub. ~~UK~~. £2-50 for four issues; U.S. 5 dollars. Cheques and money orders should be made out to John Rimmer. From 64 Alric Avenue, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4JW.

No. 18. Mag joined by Kevin McClure (of late lamented Common Ground) who calls for paranormal cases from readers most comprehensively suggesting the work and existence of an agency external to humanity. Peter Rogerson parallels witchcraft and broomsticks with ufonauts, abductions and oobes under the reference "participative folklore." The great Liverpool leprechaun panic is a great investigation of immense interest to anyone studying rumours and urban belief tales. Roger Sandell is sceptical about aspects of the Rendlesham Forest "Sky Crash" book. Separately Roger Sandell and Wojtek Gaworzewski write on prophecy. Nigel Watson speculates on the possibility of one or more SF writers deliberately creating the rumour which has become known as the "Philadelphia experiment". Enlarged and erudite book reviews section.

No. 19. Spiffing new U.b.t. -- "The Maniac on the Platform". By coincidence I read this piece by Michael Goss on the train from Hartlepool to Kings Cross and then spent the day using the Maniac's sphere of activity, the London Underground, to get between termini for trainspotting purposes. More on Rendlesham saga while Shirley McIver asks what ufology needs to be a science; Maurizio Verga looks at what it means to be a ufo investigator (cont. 21); John Harney looks at reincarnation and personal identity; Nigel Watson evaluates the films of Steven Spielberg; Brentford griffin spoof; plus letters, journal and book reviews.

No. 20. American airship sightings of 1896/7 as handled by the Press leading to an overview of the alleged spaceman's grave at Aurora, Texas. Peter Rogerson writes on the theme of divine children and its association with changelings and aliens. Peter Hough recounts the adventures of a man which include oobe-related events. Nigel Watson on attempts by would-be inventors to build their own spacecraft and in his own column writes of mystical stones in recent films. The "notes and queries" section records events at the Brentford Wonderquest and griffin hoax. Hilary Evans reviews a French book whose subject is the relationship between UFO reports and how they can provide lessons for folklorists about their old narratives. Plenty of letters, particularly on Maniac tale.

No. 21. Michael Goss brings down to earth the French pterodactyl story; a myth I, among many, have perpetuated (a real salutary warning to those who do not check original sources). What Galileo really said and more on Rendlesham. Skit by novelist Robert Rankin and unconvincing "Men in Black" scenario.

EARTHQUEST NEWS. Belief-oriented mag of psychic questing edited by prodigious researcher and writer Andy Collins. Bi-annually; £3-80 for 4 issues. Cheques/POs to Earthquest News, 19 St Davids Way, Wickford, Essex, S11 8EX.

No. 14. Newsy introduction and then articles with questing themes such as Joan of Arc's visionary discovery of her sword; Mormon founder Joseph Smith's treasure hunting; book guide to subject. The Stumps Cross Birdman appears to have been someone flying a kite -- literally. Update on Park Wood sacred centre sale. Plus round-up of various paranormal, Fortean and E.M. topics.

NEARA JOURNAL. New England Antiquities Association's entertaining and erudite mag on the origins and forms of anomalous artifacts. Professionally laid out with challenging articles inc. photographs and diagrams. Sub believed to be 10 dollars p.a.; overseas 14. From Constance M. Reece, P.O. Box 123, Amherst, N.H., 03031, U.S.A.

No. 70. "When at the age of ten, I rediscovered the 'Horizontal Venus' equation from something I read in Revelation, I was unable to recreate the fertility figure associated with it." Clever little bugger but not quite clever enough. And so Bart Jordan begins his pertail catalogue of recreated early calendrical art. He claims Acheulian man, about 300,000 years ago, knew about Saturn's synodical revolution, precession of the equinoxes and much more. But he doesn't explain how. More sensible is Jon Woodson, who pays tribute to the researches of James Arnold, "the original discoverer of megalithic New England." A romantic, he invoked Atlaneans and Druids, and why not? C.M. Devine urges megalithic proponents to be cautious in their conclusions while Sig Lonegren applies dowsing to sacred sites.

No. 71. Major report on a New Hampshire site survey. The awesomely precocious Jordan is back relating how at ten (again) he was questioning why Methusaleh lived so long -- it's a pity the parents of Boring Bard didn't strangle him at birth.

No. 72. And Jordan begat more generations of obscuratantism and "The Fatima sequence, equationized by me at age ten..." (again). Little Turtle provides a fair critique of the work of Barry Fell with synopses of Fell's books.

AMSKAYA. Newsletter of the STAR Fellowship. Q. Annual membership £2, incs. sub. Cheques made payable to J. Goddard, 25 Albert Road, Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey, KT15 2PX.

No. 1. Announces revival of the STAR Fellowship -- founded by the late Tony Wedd -- because of the rejection and ridicule of the idea of TEH visitors by many in the E.M. and ufology camps. Reprints a Wedd article from 1961 and Philip Heselton begins a brief history of the fellowship.

TOUCHSTONE. Modest newsletter of the Surrey Earth Mysteries Group. £2 for 4 issues. Same address as Amskaya.

No. 7. Editor Jimmy Goddard expresses his distress at some reviews of his co-authored "'Skyways and Landmarks' Revisited" booklet, and reprints from a 1970 The Ley Hunter article by the late Tony Wedd, whose original "S&L" first drew attention to the significant link between prehistoric sites and the flying saucer phenomenon. Goddard writes of an idyllic ley hunt in Oxfordshire and Chris Hall continues a survey of old stones of the Surrey/Hants. borders. Articles welcome and meetings held monthly.

PENDRAGON. Journal of the Pendragon Society investigating Arthurian history and archaeology, and the mystery and mythology of the Matter of Britain. Witty and friendly atmosphere. Sub. £4-50 or 10 dollars for 4 issues, inc. society membership. From 42 Burghley Road, St Andrew, Bristol, BS6 5BN.

Vol. XVII No. 1. Glastonbury theme with articles on Mendips as cradle of civilisation, matrifocal society as seen in M. of B., Joseph of Arimathea, Christian relics, atmosphere at Glastonbury, and Eddie Tooke with gems from theoreticians.

Vol. XVII No. 2. Maze theme but before this interesting pieces arguing for a 3rd century AD Stonehenge and Shakespeare's co-authorship of the play "The Birth of Merlin." As for mazes, find out why a pig's colon is involved, the society's agm informal doings, Spiral Castle and Newcastle University Arthurian Society's Samhain celebration wargames cum beach party.

Vol. XVII No. 3. Theme of relationship between Christianity and the Celtic West in several articles. Also a Northern Arthur, modernish winged serpents, and Paul Smith on Rennes-le-C.

UFO BRIGANTIA. Mag of West Yorks UFO Reseach Group. Sub. £7-50 for 12; £3-80 for 6 monthly issues. Cheques should be made payable to WYUFORG. From 84 Elland Road, Brighouse, West Yorks., HD6 2QR.

No. 9. Fascinating possibility of pterodactyl from Devil's Punchbowl area of Shipley Glen with UFO and hooded figures ramifications. Also multiple witness sighting near Leeds in June, 1985. Iain Johnstone begins an article on the source of UFOs (cont. 10). Green humanoid bedroom encounter report.

No. 10. Part 2 (from 8) of a correlation between UFO activity and Yorkshire Ripper murders which I feel entirely spurious (cont. 11 & 12). Six-month cases register.

No. 11. Dowsing experiments at UFO-related sites seemingly prove positive of something and it is said that where earth had been scorched plant life refused to grow (or at others became particularly luxuriant). Angels of Mons and UFO experience. No. 12 Iain Johnstone begins a series on alien intelligences and ponders their nature. Issues include recommended reading lists, cartoon strips, skywatch reports, cases under investigation.

No. 17. Under new management with Andy Roberts as new editor. Paul Bennett writes on strange experiences on Arran. Part 1 of an in-depth report on a Lincs. coast case. Iain Johnstone compares Fifties SF with ufological happenings, Nigel Watson & looks at Sunderland Family and Jimmy Goddard at Tony Wedd and STAR Fellowship, while Parren Chanter resurrects the Mantell incident.