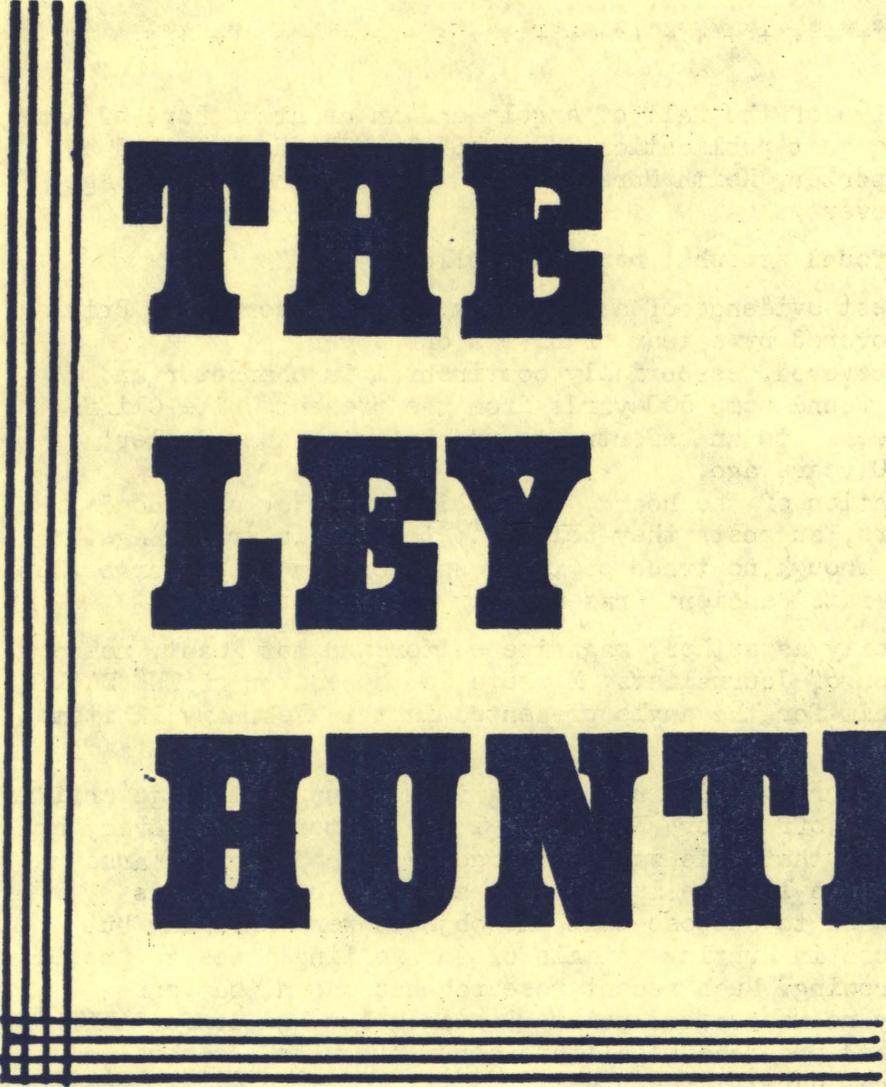


No. 70



THE LEY HUNTER

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LEAD-IN

At the time of the fall of Angola and in an atmosphere of arms and mercenaries, that august publication THE DAILY TELEGRAPH published a piece by their Arts Reporter, Keith Nurse, under the headline "Bronze Age arms hoard found off Dover".

Extracts I found somewhat nauseous follow:

- "Possibly the earliest evidence of a shipwreck so far recorded in British waters has been uncovered by a team of divers off Dover.
- "The 90 objects discovered, essentially continental in character and origin, where (sic) found some 500 yards from the present White Cliffs. They belonged, it seems, to an unfortunate prehistoric 'arms dealer' something like 3,000 years ago.
- "A tentative examination of the hoard, consisting of axes, spearheads, palstaves and doggers, suggests they belong to the middle Bronze Age....
- "There is, naturally enough, no trace of the vessel or any other cargo that belonged to the ill-fated ancient arms mariner...."

In my capacity as author, magazine editor and not least, member of the National Union of Journalists, I wrote to the editor of THE DAILY TELEGRAPH rebuking him for the angle presented in this February 11 item:

"Dear Sir,

I applaud your carrying the interesting item about Bronze Age artifacts uncovered by divers off Dover (Feb. 11). I was disturbed, however, by the inference drawn that this was the cargo of a prehistoric 'arms dealer'. Journalistic licence is all well and good but there is absolutely no reason to suppose that the objects were anything but metal goods for use in hunting animals or for felling trees to provide space for crop growing. Much recent research has shown that our ancestors were by no means woad-painted savages but had comfortable living quarters and produced megalithic monuments with a sophisticated geometry. A general Darwinian mentality exists today to expect prehistoric man to be even more barbaric than we ourselves. Did your supposed arms dealer also carry mercenaries?"

The editor, Mr William Deedees, did not publish my letter for reasons not contained on the standard reply acknowledgment postcard. No doubt he had received too much weightier correspondence from Members of Parliament, peers, old fogeys in exclusive clubs, etc., yet on February 24 the following epistle of earth-shattering consequence appeared:

Wagtail in town

SIR--A few years ago a pied wagtail used to come to the garden in Eaton Square and run up and down the grass collecting insects. When his beak was full he took off on a long flight over the houses towards Eaton Mews South, where presumably he had a nest and family.

CASSANDRA WISE London S.W.1.

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SHARPE'S NETWORK OF RECTANGLES

by GUY RAGLAND PHILLIPS

Michael Burgess's "Objections and Obscurities" (T.L.H. No. 65) was a useful exercise in stemming the tendency to create a cult of Alfred Watkins and reduce him to the size of a human genius again -- even though Michael's own article is, of course, open to objections too. It is a little sad though to find that Watkins suffered from the same jealousies and prejudices which to this day bedevil archaeology. For instance, in The Old Straight Track he never mentions Sir Montagu Sharpe, to whom I think he undoubtedly owed a great debt.

Watkins' book was first published in 1925. Six years earlier appeared the first edition of Sharpe's remarkable study, Middlesex in British, Roman and Saxon Times (1st edn. G. Bell & Sons Ltd., 1919; 2nd edn Methuen & Co. Ltd., 1932); but it was based on papers published between 1906 and 1917. It is beyond the bounds of possibility that Watkins was unaware of them.

Sharpe's attitude is that a remarkable network of rectangles in Middlesex, groups around the great "Roman" roads, were an example of Roman "decuriation" or land measurement and parcelling-out. But read this (pp 90/1/3): 'The sites of over forty-eight out of fifty-six mother churches of ancient parishes in Middlesex are situated on the quintarial lines (semitivae) defined by the Roman surveyors' landmarks...and the inference prima facie is that such churches occupy the sites of compita, or other sacred places existing in Romano-British times.' To this Sharpe appends a footnote quoting Johnson's Byways in British Archaeology (1912, p1), arguing for 100 pages "that many of our churches stand on pagan sites" and that "in some cases there has been almost continuous site occupancy since the first Christian church was reared". Sharpe quotes Pope Gregory's famous instructions to Abbot Miletus (and an earlier edict of AD392 by the Emperor Theodosius) that in Britain pagan sites must be used for churches, and Sharpe then gives a description of the "wayside chapels" (compita) and sacred groves which the missionaries adapted to Christian uses" and "instances of pagan practises adapted by the Church for Christian uses".

On p.98 Sharpe says that those who wish to extend this research into other districts should "mark the once existing fens, and forests, undoubted Roman towns, stations, and villas upon an early edition of the ordnance survey sheet of one inch to the mile. Next should be emphasised the state of mother churches, ancient stones, and other landmarks, boundaries of hundreds and parishes, together with the trend of immemorial roadways, and paths, especially those in parallel courses, with crossways at right angles. Then with rule, and compass set to nine furlongs, and having special regard to church sites, the quintarial lines of the ancient survey of a Romanized district may possibly be traced and recovered, for upon and parallel to them rural roads frequently ran. Mainly by these means many marks and stones upon the countryside hitherto unexplained, and maybe even unnoticed, will fall into line, and their use become evident, while at the same time it will become apparent how much the present setting of the face of the land, its roads and bounds, derives its origin from the Roman Survey in the first and second centuries of our era."

On p.87 Sharpe says it is "manifest" that "neither the rude Saxons nor their Norman successors were capable of designing or carrying out such a comprehensive undertaking, and that only the Roman agrimensores were able thus to lay out the countryside." To this he has a footnote: "Similar results are obtained in other Romanized districts in England, viz. Essex, Kent, Hants, Isle of Wight, Yorks, etc!" No doubt this is what Watkins had in mind in pointing out that in Ireland the Romans were never present, but the leys are as extensive there as in England.

Sharpe quotes Col. Sir H.G. Lyones FRS, on "Ancient and Modern Land Measurement" in The Geographical Teacher, No. 76, vol. xii, pt 6, 182, as describing the Roman professional surveyors, the agrimensores and the gromatici, the latter of whom used the groma (a forked stick), a roughly made form of which was in use in Egypt a century or two earlier than the Pompeii disaster (AD 79). This, of course, is Watkins' sighting stick, the modern hiker's thumb-stick.

The Roman landmarks listed by Sharpe (p.82) read just like Watkins'. "The finita linea, or outermost line within a pagus /a territorial area/, was marked by mounds of earth (botantini) usually containing charcoal, broken crockery, and other matter foreign to the spot, and the internal divisions by holes (arcae) stones, trenches (fossae) particularly trees (arbores antemissae), etc." Facing p.88 he gives four excellent drawings of botantini, at Syon Park, Hampstead, Cranford House park, and Salt Hill, Slough. The Hampstead one is the well-known and highly evocative pine-crowned tump by Ken Wood, where I once watched a magnificent sunset and wrote a poem.

Four botantini are precisely what Watkins would have called tumuli or tumps. In a footnote Sharpe said charcoal was found in it. One wonders whether broken crockery was also found, and, if so, whether it is now in a museum where it could be examined and dated -- or whether any of the specimens of charcoal still exist to be carbon-dated. Sharpe adds: "These terminal mounds have received various names, e.g. Tothill, Greenhill, Salthill, Hlaw, Smallbury, Fairymount, Coldharbour." See what I mean about Watkins' lack of acknowledgment?

Sharpe's spattering of Latin names and phrases are not enough to prove his point that alignments are Roman only. Indeed, it would be very useful to apply Watkins' viewpoint to Sharpe's data and maps. Meanwhile it is instructive to note that the bias shown by Watkins did to some extent explain, if it did not excuse, the scorn which was showered upon him by professional archaeologists. Prejudice dies hard. As late as 1967 and 1968 in two editions of his Fieldwork in Local History, W.G. Hoskins ridiculously dismisses Watkins as the "most dangerous" of all books about old roads, and endorses O.G.S. Crawford's remark (Archaeology in the Field, p.75n) that it was "based upon a mis-conception of primitive society, and supported by no evidence. His writings on the subject are quite valueless." Alas! Hoskins can scarcely have read Watkins or he would have realised that he himself has produced lots of evidence in support of Watkins' ideas.

But he can also not have read Sharpe. Hoskins approvingly quotes I.D. Margary's Roman Ways in the Weald (1948), including Margary's statement that Roman land settlement markings, still traceable in Italy and North Africa, "had not hitherto been definitely proved to exist in Britain" (that is, not until Margary did it!).

Mr Hoskins makes a great point of the well-known technique of estimating the age of a hedge from the number of kinds of shrub in it, for which he gives some of the credit to Dr Max Hooper of the Nature Conservancy. It is a reasonably useful technique; but the evidence in support of it, strong though it is, is nowhere near as strong as that for Watkins' leys. It is time he had a proper look at them.

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THE WALLS OF FEIZOR

by CIRCUMLIBRA

I was staying with a party of outdoor folk the last week-end in September. The venue for Saturday was the Walls of Feizor, something I had not previously known about. Elevenes at Settle in the Craven district of Yorkshire and the assault began in pouring rain. Undaunted the party of 14 set out not really with any other intention but to enjoy the journey and to scorn the elements.

I asked what these Walls might be but no one seemed to know beyond them being of unknown age and probably built for the defence of some settlement perched on top of a rather steep hill overlooking a small valley. We scrambled up to them, two in line, there may have been more. They are built of rather large stones maybe brought from elsewhere and made into a wall about six feet thick. No doubt they have been used as a quarry since, for one is about five feet high and the other much reduced in size. They are in line and a gap of about 20 or 30 yards separates them.

We viewed them in a casual way and passed through the gap to another point of interest, Dead Man's Cave. Passing through the gap to the cave I felt nothing

out of the ordinary but on returning a little later I noticed a distinct flow of energy. As I have no detailed map of this area I have not checked the alignment but would say it is more or less east-west. The time of our visit was around noon. Was the surge I felt the noon-tide surge on a north-south ley which ran between the wall ends?

If the walls had been erected for defence I would have expected a much narrower gap. To me they had some other reason for their existence and knowing of the existence of ley energies and the apparent knowledge of ancient peoples I am inclined to think the walls were built as some kind of battery, Maybe the distance between the ends was completed at certain times by an assembly of people or by whatever they chose to catch the energy which passed through or arced across. On other sites circles, mounds, stones, etc., are to be found but here a new aspect of energy arrestors is brought to notice.

For me^{and}/I assume for others leys act as carriers of energies when the Tides flow. When the noon-tide flowed and energised the leys around the walls I not only felt the energy but also became aware of other entities who communicated with me and informed me of what they were doing in a direction that was of value to me. I wonder if any other member of the party was conscious of this flow of energy. Nobody gave any indication of having noticed anything out of the ordinary being more intent on "drummin' up" under adverse conditions.

Several others passed through the gap at the same time as I did and it must have touched a number of the party. Perhaps if they had commented on what they felt each one's description would have been entirely different. To some it could have been physical, to others emotional or purely mental according to their own personal content.

Questions are always coming to mind, questions for which there seems no answer, but for me many of these questions are answered and so my knowledge of the unseen increases. Had our visit to the Walls of Feizor at that time any real significance? Those who decided it was to be the venue for the day, were they influenced by unknown entities to take our party there? I am not sure but I do know that many of our activities are arranged for us without us being aware of it.

The grid system of the leys is like an electronic circuit capable of transmitting a multitude of wavelengths and being used by any number of transmitters. In fact all living creatures are attuned whether they know it or not. There are other levels of matter and so man can be active in other spheres which the normal consciousness does not cover. It is as well we are limited for to be aware all the time of several levels would be far too confusing. All the same it is good to be alert to the rarer levels, which often impinge upon our minds and emotions, and to consciously try to analyse them.

Hunting out the leys is one thing, seeking out the rhythms another but trying to understand what and who are working and using the energies on the more rare levels totally different and yet perhaps the most important of all. This side is so vast with so many facets man is bewildered. Yet there must be a simple answer to it all. Maybe those who live closer to nature and have little education along sophisticated lines to confuse them but are observant of what is going on around them and can tune in and hear what is good for them to do are nearer finding this simple answer than the most erudite of all.

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CONTACT COLUMN

Jeff Howell would like to contact fellow ley hunters in his area. His address is Tyn Llidiart, Brynsiencyn, Gwynedd.....this also applies to Diana T. Meekings of 41 Bayhall Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UG.....The editor has noted in his reading a reference to a now destroyed stone circle at Gingomyres, Hill of Milleath, Banffshire, with ground around "moor-like" but "the interior of a rich green colour" which indicated to the local minister to dig and find a layer of charcoal and animal bones. I don't believe this explains the phenomenon and I have noted this in front of an unrecorded dolmen in Wensleydale, Yorks. I would welcome readers' opinions and other such instances of this.

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From Norman Field, of Birmingham.: I wonder if I could just briefly make a point which I would very much like to hear from an expert on. If by any chance the coincidence has not already been noted it could provide a most useful starting point for a different line of approach for ley study and might throw some extra light, in the long run. It concerns the figure 2.72. This is, of course, the number of feet in a megalithic yard, as I read in "The View Over Atlantis" (by John Michell). I have corresponded with Mr Charlton, in the Bath area, and he mentioned churches, mounds, etc., are frequently found 2.72 miles apart. I replied, having confirmed this from maps of the Birmingham area, and simply said that 2.72 already being known, it was an elegant relationship as far as Mr Michell would be concerned, and not over-surprising that it existed--(2.72 miles being called by John Neal the geomantic mile: see "The View Over Atlantis")--in view of all the many ratios, dimensions, etc., that seem to have correspondence with each other. Now the whole point is that this 2.72 seemed familiar to me and I have just remembered that it is the value of "e" (2.7183 to be exact), which is a mathematical constant like pi. e is most commonly encountered in special logarithm tables to the base e, although it is very widespread throughout all "higher" maths. I feel sure it cannot just be a coincidence and would like to hear what readers think.

From N.H. Webb, of Norfolk: Following the article on Leicestershire and a letter on folklore with megaliths one might take a look at Britain's geology: Iona, Bardsey, Anglesey, St Michael's Mount, and the Scilly Isles all lie on pre-Cambrian rock (pre-570million years ago). Our oldest rocks are all on the western side -- the first pre-Cambrian rocks are found in Leicestershire. Except for high areas or centres (e.g. Thetford-Breckland, Chiselhurst Caves) or man-made sites (Canterbury, etc.) the legends and folklore surrounding our stone circles is in the West. Not only is this due to Celtic rather than English culture, but perhaps more strongly founded memories emit from that atmosphere. It is also interesting that the "sacred" stones are often also the oldest. What retaining power is there in such stones? I would be interested to hear from anyone who has made a psychic or otherwise approach to the various geological types both used at megaliths and spiritual centres.

((Replies to readers' letters are welcomed by the editor; also comments on articles and contact column notices)).

CONTACT: J. Warlock, of 24 Lockerley Road, West Leigh, Havant, Hants, is interested in corresponding/contacting persons in his area to discuss Hampshire leys.....

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FRENCH AND BELGIAN LITERATURE ON SACRED GEOGRAPHY

by EUGÈNE ZIMMER

When one has had the opportunity of analysing the birth of "Sacred Geography" on both sides of the Channel in the French and English languages one realises that the first original publications on this new concept were the result of spontaneous intuitions from their authors. Except for earth currents and dowsing where there are cross-channel references in some books (Guy Underwood's in particular) the first French spoken authors on the subject, at the start knew nothing of each other and were evidently not aware of the achievements of Alfred Watkins and of the The Old Straight Track Club.

In order of publication (all post-war) the most interesting books in French are by the French Jean Richer and Louis Charpentier and the Belgians Brou brothers and Alfred Weysen. I will attempt to summarise their findings and give the French-reading ley hunter an appreciation of a good buy in this field:

Jean Richer - Geographie Sacree du Monder Grec, 1967, Hachette, Paris.
Delphes Delos et Cumes, 1970, Julliard, Paris.

This outstanding scholar who believes in premonitory dreams had the first revelation of the sacred division of Ancient Greece in a dream in 1958. His principle findings, wll proven by archaeological evidence are:--

*Ancient Greece was divided into zodiacal zones whose centres were Delphes, Delos and Sardes. The theory behind this kind of territorial division can be found in Plato's Laws, the main evidence coming from the coins and the temple frontons of the regions concerned.

Greek coins bear on one side the emblem of King or State and on the other side a symbol directly related to the zodiacal sign of the region they are in. Richer states that once he knew the sign under which a City State was protected he would know in advance the kind of coin symbol he would find in the local museums. Similar allusions can be found on the fronton of local temples and in the local cults.

*Temples are often astronomically oriented, but when they are not they are oriented with great precision over several hundred miles towards the main centre of their tutelary God's worship (e.g.: the temple of Bassae is oriented towards Delphi).

*Richer finds other alignments whose signification is too complicated to be explained here. For example the straight line joining Delphi, Athens and Delos. Equilateral triangles are also found.

*In his second book, Richer expands his theory towards Cumes in Italy and states other centres of zodiacal division in Europe. Here are some of them:

*Jerusalem for Palestine; Enna for Sicily; Arezzo and Milan (medionlanum) for the Etrusques; Saint Benoit sur Loire (another mediolanum) for Gaul; Meath for Ireland; Toledo for Spain; Rome for Central Italy.

So brief a summary is doing quite an injustice to Richer's work, which is full of insights on other subjects such as the interpretation of vase and shield decoration, animal symbolism, etc....All of it breath-taking, even when one is not a Greek scholar. Both books are hard to get by and the first one, the most complete, is a luxurious costly edition.

Louis Charpentier - Les Geants et les mysteres des origines, 1969,
Les Jacques et le mystere de Compostelle, 1971,
Ed.: Robert Laffont, Paris.

Louis Charpentier is probably known to ley hunter public by his translated work on Chartres Cathedral. In the two above works there are allusions to Sacred Geography.

I purposely use the word "allusion" because with Charpentier as with most of the other findings I will mention, you will find none of the practical, down to earth substantiation of leys and other findings through field work.

Charpentier's contribution:-

*The Notre Dame Cathedrals of Northern France link up in a pattern similar to that of the Virgo (Vierge) constellation.

* Places dedicated to the pre-Celtic Ligurian God Lug are grouped in areas which linked up, from a huge spiral across the French territory. This spiral is linked to the "jeu de l'oe" which was a rite of initiation practised by the masons who built the cathedrals.

*Pilgrims' ways to Jacques de Compostelle in Galicia align on two equinoxial leys crossing Northern Spain passing on places with "Star" names (Compos-Stella = field of Stars)

* Charpentier states two other equinoxial leys going west (to the Atlantide initiators?) in France through Chartres and in Great Britain through Canterbury, Maid Stone, Knole House, Godstone, Red Hill, Avebury, Stonehenge, Glastonbury, Barnstaple. This last ley seems to go off the mark at some stages, hence my preliminary remarks.

Although Charpentier's hypotheses do not bear any resemblance to ley hunting as you practise it they are, however, along with a wealth of other knowledge which I cannot condense here, excellent food for thought. Indeed it is my belief that some of Richer's and Charpentier's rather large-scale systems, proven or unproven, can be found on a smaller scale thus lending credibility to the idea that the geomancers of old did not limit themselves to straight ley lines to link up their sacred places. Best buy: all Charpentier's books are easily found.

Willy and Marcel Brou - Le Secret des Druides, 1970, Ke. Secret d'Adam, 1971, Office International de Librairie, Brussels.

The work of these brothers present a problem because along with findings of genuine interest practically akin to Watkins they have mixed up large-scale generalisations which, as with Charpentier, are rather hard to swallow.

The Brou brothers came upon the subject of intuition in Perulwez (S. Belgium) when they found that megaliths lined up in a solstitial direction. They then investigated other megaliths in Belgium and hit upon some authentic solstitial leys substantiated by the frequent presence of churches, chapels, roads on the ley. Disregarding this evidence they proceeded to draw an impossible grid of lines taking into account only the few remaining megaliths of Northern Gaul, pretending that the scarcity of these stones had enabled them to find the directional principles of this prehistoric system. Needless to say the majority of lines thus drawn are not leys at all, having no intermediate points to substantiate them, and disregarding as they do the numerous leys made up of other sacred elements. Furthermore the whole system is falling apart as other megaliths and mark stones are being discovered quite outside the first grid.

This has not undaunted the Brou brothers, who in their second book are now contemplating Pan European leys such as one between Avebury and Mt. Cervin, in Switzerland. This exaggerated aspect of the Brou work should not obliterate their very penetrating research of the prehistoric road network stemming from Bavay in Northern France. According to rather convincing proof the very long straight roads leading to faraway towns like Gembloux in Belgium correspond to directions from the polar star to leading constellations in circa 3000BC. Furthermore the names, the historical associations, the heraldry of these towns present striking analogies with the mythological aspects of these constellations (e.g. Gembloux = Geminiacum = Gemini = The Twins = Castor and Pollux). This I think is a most exciting find, very much similar to that of Jean Richer. It has been taken up by another Belgian, Mr de Saint Hilaire, author of *La Belgique Mystérieuse*, 1974, ed. Rossel, Bruxelles.

Mr de Saint Hilaire pretends that the capitals of all the Celtic tribes had seven roads leading from them in the directions corresponding to the position of the planets at the moment of their foundation. (understand the term planet as it was then understood: Sun, moon, mercury, mars, jupiter, saturn). Another example of this road structure radiates from Cassel in Northern France. I am just mentioning Saint Hilaire in passing because up to now his contribution to Sacred Geography is still very much diluted in a wealth of other underground knowledge which he is giving out bit by bit in pocket books and interesting conferences. I feel he is certainly keeping a lot up his sleeve and when it breaks forth I will certainly keep you informed. Best buy: Brou Brothers: *Secret des Druides* - Saint Hilaire, *La Belgique Mystérieuse* (contains summary of Brou findings).

Alfred Weysen - *L'Île des Vâilleurs*, 1972, Ed. Arcadie, Paris. This is a 500-page book on the discovery of a giant zodiac in the "Gorges du Verdon", Vercors, S. France. It is a rather fantastic compendium of esoteric and historic knowledge on the Templars, Grail, etc. In the end one remains with the impression that everything has been proven except the zodiac itself, which is drawn out on a map with very little explanation. If K.E. Maltwood is not very easy going to the average reader, I would think Weysen is almost impossible except to the most erudite French speaking ley hunters. In all fairness I should mention that this book has a most complete bibliography. Indeed it is the first in French to my knowledge to mention Alfred Watkins.

A last remark: In the precise field of Sacred Geography few of the books I have mentioned can really compare with Watkins's practical and scientific outlook. Too many authors attempt sensationalism and improveable theories. In Great Britain the original ley theory has been amplified and substantiated and it is now used to defend your cultural heritage. Over here there is still nothing of the sort: Sacred Geography is a pretext for best sellers and it will be some time before it will help us Belgians to save the quaint little chapels, old sacred trees, tumuli, etc...of our countryside. At least Alfred Watkins has given me the most rewarding hobby a countryman can have and to him above all I pay tribute.

T.L.H. 70 will include reviews of several important new books by Guy Ragland Phillips, Evan Hadingham, Charles Berlitz, etc....

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NOTICES

STONEHENGE VIEWPOINT. First quarter 1976 issue includes the anti-metrication fete, Priddy Circles, Hidden Halos in Ireland, Glastonbury, Nuthampstead Zodiac. Send 31½p (inc p&p) to 51 Charminster Avenue, Bournemouth, Dorset.

QUEST includes material on the Mysteries of Britain, witchcraft, magical techniques and all operative systems of Western occultism. Magazine by subscription only. Latest issue (including article on leys by Paul Screeton) 35p (2 dollars U.S.) post free. Annual sub. £1-20. Quarterly. Send for mags, list of other publications, courses of instruction, information on annual conference to BCM - S C L Quest, London WC1V 6XX. Sterling payments to Marian Green; please send stamp unless with cash order.

THE ATLANTEANS seek awareness of the Oneness of all life and an understanding of the Father/Mother god. Send large S.A.E. for details of healing, meditation courses, diary of events, etc. Sample copy of magazine THE ATLANTEAN 30, post free. From The Atlanteans, House of Isis, 42 St. George's Street, Cheltenham, GL50 4AF.

JOHN MASON: second-hand, scarce, out-of-print books on all aspects of the occult, mythology, folklore. Postal service. For free lists write: 12 Birdsfoot Lane, Luton, Beds. LU3 2DN.

PHENOMENA OF EARTH AND SKY. Between August 4-18 the Dorman Museum, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, will have on display the Art Council's exhibition of Peruvian ground drawings. In conjunction with this Nazca landscape drawings exhibition there will be a one-day seminar on Saturday, August 7, on the theme "Phenomena of Earth and Sky". Details of times and speakers will be announced later.

THE NEWS. A bi-monthly review of Fortean events -- falls of things from the sky, teleportations, poltergeists, mystery lights, spontaneous combustions, strange creatures (Loch Ness monster featured in latest issue), etc. Current issue 50p; annual sub. £3. From R.J.M. Rickard, P.O. Stores, Aldermaston, Bucks.

SPECTRUM: Quarterly occult magazine. Single issue 35p. Annual sub. £1-40. Cheques/P.O.s payable to M.A. Howard, at 18a Church Hill, Purley, Surrey, CR2 3QN.

GNOSTICA: America's most respected occult journal. Monthly newspaper featuring articles on all aspects of the occult. Sample copies 50 cents or seven dollars a year overseas. P.O. Box 3383-S, St Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A., 55165.

SOCIETY FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES REVIEW. Vol.1, No.1 includes "Myth and Method", "Electricity in Astronomy", "In Defence of the Revised Chronology", "Aphrodite -- The Moon or Venus?", book reviews, etc. Details from the secretary, H. Tresman, 18 Fir Tree Court, Allum Lane, Elstree, Herts.

THE LEY HUNTER can be purchased at Atlantis Bookshop, 49a Museum Street, London; Dark They Were and Golden-Eyed, 10 Berwick Street, London; and Compendium Bookshop, 240 Camden High Street, London. These establishments may also be able to supply back numbers.

When answering notices above please mention you read them in
THE LEY HUNTER

A COMPUTER STUDY OF THE MEGALITHIC ALIGNMENTS OF LAND'S END

Prepared by Pat Gadsby and Chris Hutton Squire of the Undercurrents Alternative Science Research Unit.

'All that can be learn'd of them is, That *here they are.*'
Daniel Defoe, *Itinerary*

INTRODUCTION

In 1925 the Herefordshire antiquarian Alfred Watkins put forward the hypothesis that the ancient sites of pre-Roman Britain were deliberately aligned with one another. In his book describing this hypothesis, *The Old Straight Track* (Garnstone, 1970), he christened these alignments 'leys.' In the fifty years since then his theory has never been scientifically tested, though many 'ley-hunters' have succeeded in establishing to their own satisfaction, if to no-one else's, the reality of the ley system. There were three reasons for this omission:

- i) Orthodox scientists and archaeologists saw no reason to investigate phenomena they 'knew' to be imaginary.
- ii) There was a shortage of reliable evidence.
- iii) Before the advent of the computer, there was a natural reluctance to undertake the back-breaking task of tabulating the many thousand possible alignments between a set of sites and calculating the 'best fit' straight lines through them. For example, one hundred sites — a modest number in practice — would generate 161,700 *triads* (sets of three points) and 3,921,225 *tetrads* (four points). Such is the awful power of the laws of combination and permutation.

The lack of reliable data was made good by John Michell in 1974 when he published a description of the alignments that he had found between the fifty plus surviving standing stones of the Land's End peninsula in Cornwall (*The Old Stones of Land's End*, Garnstone). These stones, although some of them are twelve feet high, are small well-defined sties compared with those used by earlier less critical ley-hunters. Nevertheless, Michell claims that they are aligned over distances of up to ten kilometres to 'rifle barrel' accuracy. This display is the first independent test of his claim.

This study is the first research undertaken by the Undercurrents Alternative Science Research Unit, an offshoot of Undercurrents Ltd (213 Archway Rd, London N6), publishers of *Undercurrents*, the magazine of radical science and technology. Although the study is not yet complete, we feel that the results obtained so far are sufficiently definite and interesting to justify setting them before the public at this time. A full account will be published in *Undercurrents* at a later date.

OBJECT

1. To check the accuracy of the 22 alignments between the 53 sites described by John Michell in *The Old Stones of Land's End*.
2. To tabulate all of the other alignments between these sites.
3. To tabulate the alignments between a similar set of randomly placed sites.

METHOD

1. To attempt to describe the programs used in the computer runs would take a great deal more space than is available here. It is sufficient to state that they work and that further details can be obtained by anyone who is interested.
2. The computer was used to calculate the best fitting straight line through each of the 23,426 possible *triads* (set of three points) by the standard statistical method of linear regression. This method minimises the sum of the squares of the displacements of the points from the line.
3. The *triads* that matched our standards of accuracy were tabulated. The two standards that were applied were:
 - i) width needed to cover all three points to be less than 10 metres
 - ii) ratio of width to length to be less than 1:100 (i.e. 1 metre per kilometre)
4. It is important to note that these standards are arbitrary; in fact they derive from a study of the preliminary runs we did. There is no theory of leys that says how narrow they should be. Some dowsers that we have spoken to consider that leys are no more than two metres wide.
5. Best fitting straight lines were calculated by the same method for potential high-order alignments that the first run had revealed.
6. The same exercise was carried out on the simulated data.

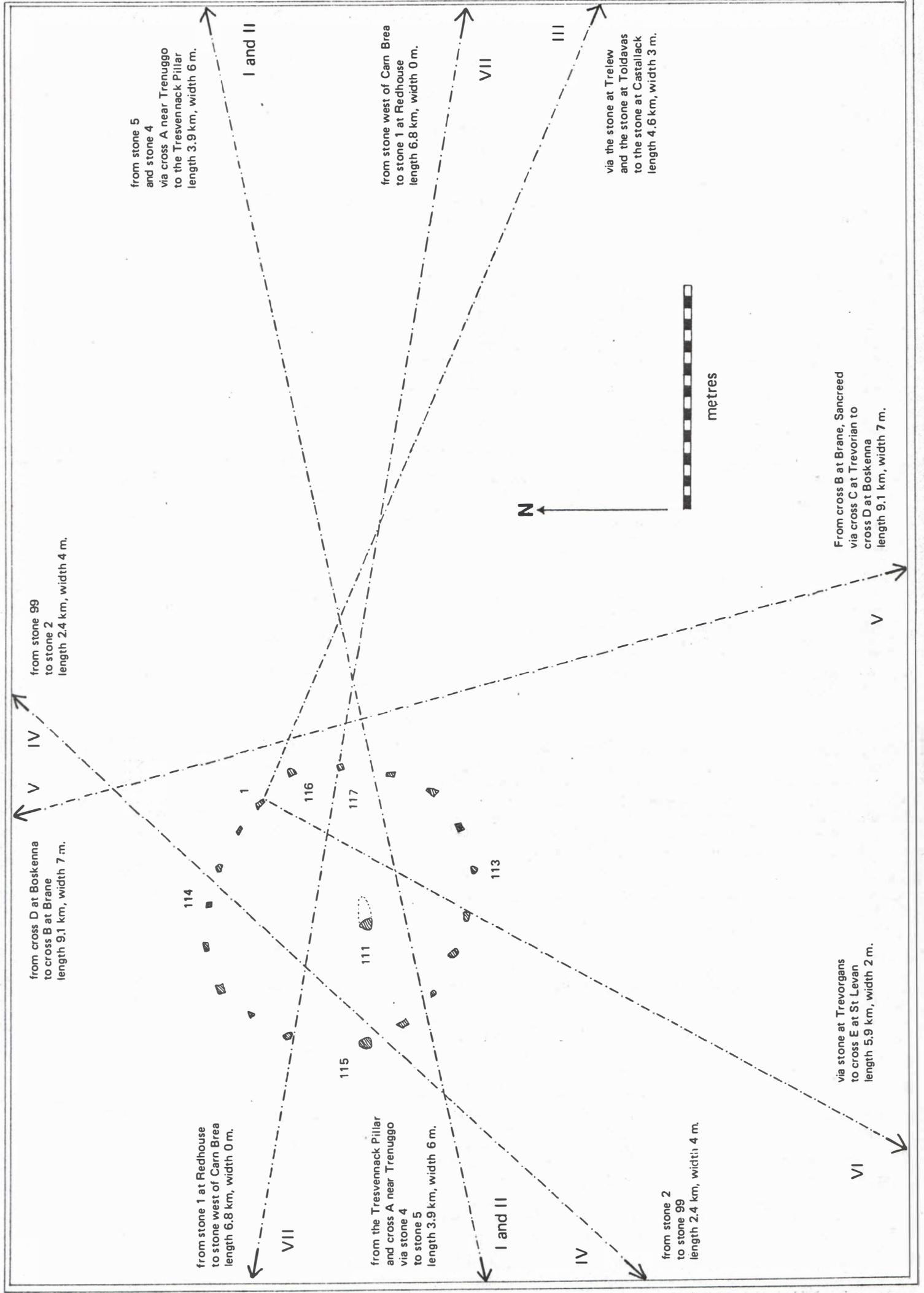
DATA

1. In *The Old Stones of Land's End* John Michell lists 53 sites comprising:
 - 4 stone circles
 - 5 quoits (i.e. three or more stones piled on each other)
 - 7 crosses
 - 36 standing stones
 - and 1 holed stone ('Men an Tol')
2. The National Grid references of 45 of these sites were re-estimated to ten figures (i.e. to the nearest metre) using 6 inch Ordnance Survey maps and a plan-digitiser.
3. The remaining stones were discovered by John Michell during his field-work and are not marked on the Ordnance Survey maps. He has accurately surveyed the location of four of these but only estimated the location of the others.
4. The ten figure grid references of the seven most important stones in the Boscawen-un Circle were taken from the 1:2500 (25 inch: 1 mile) Ordnance Survey plan of the area.
5. The Ordnance Survey states that positions taken from these maps are subject to statistical uncertainty inherent in the mapping process. The average error is not more than 3.5 metres but our results suggest that the positions taken are accurate to 1 metre.
6. Random number tables were used to generate a set of imaginary references for the 53 points. Only the final three figures of each reference were changed, so that the imaginary points each lie in the same kilometre square of the National Grid as their real counterparts. This ensured that while the deliberate alignment (if any) of the real points was destroyed in the simulation data, their distinctly non-random clustering was not.

RESULTS

1. John Michell lists 22 alignments between the 53 sites. We found that 20 of these alignments match our standards. The two that failed are both aligned on site 28 (the Merry Maidens stone circle). One alignment is 12 metres wide and the other is 2 metres wide but only 1 kilometre long. Both are probably aligned on the circumference of the circle rather than its centre, but we have not yet been able to test this.

The average width of the 20 lines is 1 metre, the maximum width is 7 metres and 7 alignments are exact fits (to the nearest metre).
2. John Michell gives 7 alignments on the stones of Boscawen-un-Circle. We have confirmed all of these (see the accompanying plan and table). Note that we regard Line I and II as forming a single five-point line, while John Michell considers that they are distinct.



from stone 5
and stone 4
via cross A near Trenuggo
to the Tresvenack Pillar
length 3.9 km, width 6 m.

I and II

from stone west of Carn Brea
to stone 1 at Redhouse
length 6.8 km, width 0 m.

VII

III

via the stone at Trelew
and the stone at Toldavas
to the stone at Castallack
length 4.6 km, width 3 m.

metres

From cross B at Brane, Sancreed
via cross C at Trevorrian to
cross D at Boskenna
length 9.1 km, width 7 m.

from stone 99
to stone 2
length 2.4 km, width 4 m.

from cross D at Boskenna
to cross B at Brane
length 9.1 km, width 7 m.

from stone 1 at Redhouse
to stone west of Carn Brea
length 6.8 km, width 0 m.

VII

from the Tresvenack Pillar
and cross A near Trenuggo
via stone 4
to stone 5
length 3.9 km, width 6 m.

I and II

IV

from stone 2
to stone 99
length 2.4 km, width 4 m.

via stone at Trevorgans
to cross E at St Levan
length 5.9 km, width 2 m.

VI

IV

V

114

116

117

113

115

111

N

V

3. Allowing a maximum width of 20 metres, we found only one five-point alignment, the one mentioned above. We confirmed the three four-point alignments claimed by John Michell:

sites	1 - 6 - 7 - 8	(width 3 m, length 4.6 km)
	46 - 116 - 47 - 48	(width 7 m, length 4.8 km)
and	4 - 9 - 16 - 17	(width 2 m, length 8.7 km)

and we found two more:

sites	2 - 12 - 16 - 17	(width 14 m, length 6.7 km)
(this is close to, but distinct from, the previous line; it is in fact an extension of a triad (2 - 12 - 16) listed by John Michell)		
and	7 - 14 - 18 - 99	(width 6 m, length 4.9 km)

(this is a completely new alignment).

These five lines are shown on the map.

4. We found 29 new triads making a total of 51. The full list is given on the computer printout headed 'analysis.'
5. We found that site 17 ('A stone in the hedge at Sennen') also has 7 alignments running through it. This stone stands near Land's End itself, opposite the First and Last Inn. In addition to the three alignments listed by John Michell:

	4 - 9 - 16 - 17
	20 - 18 - 17
and	42 - 36 - 17

we found:

2 - 12 - 16 - 17 (already mentioned)

and three new triads:

	6 - 15 - 17
	50 - 27 - 17
and	26 - 19 - 17

The average width of these 7 lines is 4 metres.

The simulated site 17 has only one line through it, so this appears to be good evidence of deliberate alignment.

6. The simulated data yielded one tetrad and only 34 triads (i.e. two-thirds of the yield from the real data).
7. On average, each real site lies on three lines; each simulated site on only two.
8. The sites that score an above average number of lines on the real data, score below average on the simulated run (e.g. site 17 already mentioned). And *vice versa*: the bottom 9 real sites lie on only 7 lines between them; the same 9 simulated sites lie on 28 lines. This appears to be evidence of the deliberate non-alignment of these low-scoring sites.
9. The average width of the 20 alignments of John Michell is 1 metre; that of the new triads between the real sites is 4 metres. The combined average (3 metres) is the same as that of the triads between the simulated sites.

STATISTICAL REMARKS

- Robert Forrest has shown (*The Linear Dream*, p.3) that if the sites are scattered at random over the map, then the number of alignments with three, four, five, etc. sites on them will follow a Poisson distribution with parameter k , where k is the expected number of sites on a line drawn between any two sites and (roughly) the probability that any line will have one or more sites on it. The Poisson analysis must be used cautiously in this case as it is clear that the sites are not scattered at random, but it does cast an interesting light on the results we have got:
- The formula for k is:

$$k = Nxy/A$$
 where

	N is the number of sites (53)
	x is the width allowed (10 metres)
	y is the average length (6.5 km for the simulation)
and	A is the area of map (140 km ²).

 These values give a result for k of 0.025.
- This means that, on average, only one line in forty will have a third site on it. The number of possible lines between points is 1,378. So we would expect about 34 triads from the simulated data. The actual score is 36.
- Similarly, we can calculate that the expected number of tetrads is only 0.4 (i.e. we would expect to get four tetrads from every ten simulation runs carried out). The score from this run was one tetrad.
- The results of the run using the real sites (1 pentad, 5 tetrads and 51 triads) are well above chance. Unfortunately, we cannot put a figure on the odds against this result occurring by chance alone (what statisticians call the *significance level*) as we do not know the actual probability distribution of alignment numbers. What we can say is that the expected number of pentads, according to the Poisson formula, is only 0.004. This means, roughly, that we would expect to get one pentad by chance from 250 runs. The odds against getting 51 triads are about 160 to 1.

DISCUSSION

The question that we must ask is: Are these results sufficient to justify us rejecting what statisticians call the *Null Hypothesis*, (i.e. the hypothesis that the stones are clustered but not aligned), so that the alignments are no more than chance effects?

This question is usually answered by calculating the odds against the observed result being the work of chance alone and rejecting the null hypothesis if these odds are higher than some conventional figure, 20 to 1 or 100 to 1. This straightforward approach is not open to us as it is apparent, and quite easy to prove statistically, that the sites are not randomly distributed but are clustered together in particular areas. This means that the only way that we can discover the odds against a set of sites aligning by chance is by doing a series of simulation experiments similar to the one described here.

What we can say is that these results are sufficiently striking to justify further research.

The first task is to re-survey the sites. We are investigating the possibility of using sophisticated electronic measuring equipment to obtain positions accurate to the nearest foot (i.e. three times as good as those we have now). Looking further ahead, a multi-disciplinary programme of research has been drawn up. It combines the skills and talents of a statistician, a computer scientist, a geologist, a surveyor and an expert in ultrasonics. Additionally, in view of the success of dowzers in establishing the path of alignments, a parallel investigation will be undertaken this summer by a team from America led by a white magician and mind-control expert. This team will include a leading English dowser. It will be interesting to compare their results with ours.

THE BOSCAWEN-UN CIRCLE ALIGNMENTS

This plan shows how the six alignments that converge on Boscawen-un Circle are aligned onto individual stones of the circle. The Roman numerals are those used by John Michell. The stone numbers refer to the computer listing. The plan is derived from the survey made by Professor Thom. Note that we regard lines I and II as forming a single five-point line, while John Michell considers that they are distinct.

DESCRIPTION

The following descriptions are taken from the *Old Stones of Land's End* by John Michell (Garnstone Press, 1974).

- I. Boscawen-un Circle — stretch of old walled track towards Boscawen-un Farm — Cross A — Stone 3 — Church of St Piran, Perranuthnoe. This is an extension of Lockyer's line 5.
 - II. Stretch of walled track — Boscawen-un Circle — Stone 4 — Stone 5. This line deviates by no more than one degree from alignment I. From the Circle Stone 4 stands out on the skyline, and when this stone is approached from the direction of the circle, Stone 5 appears in view behind it. These two stones are placed like surveyor's rods, one on the near and one on the far side of a ridge as seen from the Circle.
 - III. Boscawen-un Circle — fallen stone at 41822707 — Stone 6 — fallen stone [?] at 42432682 — Stone 7 — Stone 8. Lockyer's line 6 in his astronomical survey of Boscawen-un is drawn from the Circle to Stone 6, marking the November sunrise. In fact Stone 6 could never have been visible from the Circle, but on the same line, nearer the Circle and at the point of extreme visibility from it, a tall pillar lies recumbent and half buried a few yards from Stone II. This fallen stone must have been the original November sunrise marker. Following the line eastward, a large erect boulder, Stone 7, was found at Toldavas Farm, and another, indented with cup marks and also previously unrecorded, at Castallack [Stone 8]. Stones 6 and 7 are not intervisible, and there was probably once a stone between them, visible from both. This would have been where a cattle trough rests on what may well be the fragments of a fallen longstone. Thus between the Circle and the sea at Pezner Point are three standing and one, possibly two, fallen stones placed on one straight line.
 - IV. Stone 2 — Boscawen-un Circle — Stone marked on 6-inch O.S. map at 39782594.
 - V. Centre of disc barrow at Botrea, 40313133 — 'courtyard house', 40423076 — Cross B — Boscawen-un Circle — Cross C — Cross D.
 - VI. Boscawen-un Circle — Stone 18 — Cross E.
 - VII. Stone 19 — Boscawen-un Circle — Stone 20 — approximate site of lost stone at 45592648 — St Clement's Isle.
- The survey by Sir Norman Lockyer referred to is in Chapter XLI of his classic work, *Stonehenge And Other British Stone Monuments Astronomically considered* (London 1909).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our thanks are due to:

- Vivien Russell, whose excellent field work among the ancient sites of the Land's End peninsula (published as *West Penwith Survey*) was the foundation on which this study has been built.
- Robert Forrest of Bury, Lancashire, whose unpublished essay *The Linear Dream* provided the stimulus for this work.
- Galdor Computer Centre of Surbiton, Surrey, whose generous gift of free computer time made it possible.
- John Michell for friendly criticism.
- John Cox of the ICA for the two maps and for inviting us to this exhibition.
- Martyn Partridge of *Undercurrents* for the plan of Boscawen-un stone circle and for help with layout and design.

Publishing seems to be in a remarkable state of flux. I have experienced recently both

THE MEGALITHIC VISIONS SERIES by
NIGEL PENNICK

the lavish extreme (QUICKSILVER HERITAGE) and the halting, inflation-squeezing regional state (THE LAMBTON WORM). It is certain that the whole world of publishing is going to be altered drastically and one of the brightest signs is that individuals are now willing to go ahead on their own with modest booklets.

The area of ancient skills and wisdom is one of the few where definite growth is apparent, but when it comes to brief works there has been a need for a means of publishing work with graphic quality. The magazines in the field have been, to be blunt, rather primitive, and THE LEY HUNTER is no exception. So much material within our field requires visual presentation and Nigel Pennick, no mean artist in his own right, has admirably illustrated and written a series of books of his own. I cannot stress too strongly the importance of bringing to notice works which present a cogent and individualistic view of our past, and feel jealous -- a vice many share -- of the access orthodox and academic persons have to State machinery to produce glossy yet turgid propaganda which I find hopelessly distorted. But here we enter the old "jealous professors" domain....and let's look instead at some genuine artifacts of 1970s Aquarian literature.

What is gratifying is that Pennick has varied interests, as shown in his productions, and also this is discerning. He is obviously nobody's fool, and though some of his subject matter may appear exceptionally esoteric he has a way of putting over his enthusiasm without being either pedantic and dull or simplistic and popularistic. He is one of the few writers who treat the reader as an adult; does not titillate or be over-bearing.

So, what has he to offer: Let's start with No. 1 and work onwards -----

RUNIC: Little known, runic was the Germanic and Norse system of sacred and secret writing known to but a few; invested with mystery and magical powers. It is a fine introduction to this fascinating system. An appendix on Ogham script is included.

CAERDROIA: Janet Bord has produced a large-scale book upon ancient turf, stone and pavement mazes and here is a precursor. This is a finely researched work which is far more than a mere introduction. More needs to be done in this area obviously.

HOLY SEPULCHRE: this booklet details the history of the Knights Templar and describes the round churches they built, which though extant were all modified by the Victorians, the lore which the Templars inherited will be of interest to all who study either the megalithic society or the Qabalah. Researches into almost any aspect of occult lore will see the Templars cropping up somewhere along the line.

EUROPEAN METROLOGY: See review in T.L.H. 68.

LEYS AND ZODIACS: Here is a potted history of ley research, the theory, method of ley hunting and diagrams. Also the initial work upon terrestrial zodiacs in Britain is briefly examined. This booklet can be recommended as an introduction to these important facets of ancient lore.

LOST TOWNS AND SUNKEN LANDS: At Hartlepool lies a "submerged forest" where one can occasionally find Stone Age implements, revealing that prehistoric man walked among trees where now sea coal gatherers scoop their livelihood and dogs and racehorses are exercised. Across the bay lies St Hilda's Church and Headland Hartlepool which was once an island, but as on two previous occasions opposite forces of the sea have piled up sand to join it to the mainland. The booklet here details denudations to the coasts of Essex, Yorkshire, Cornwall, Wirral, Kent, Sussex and Norfolk. It is a useful work on a neglected subject and gives more than "A" level physical geography. Also it provides before/after illustrations.

MADAGASCAR DIVINATION: The sikidy is a means of divination and as an omen it can be likened to the I Ching. Indeed the Chinese system along with the geomantic material of Eitel echo the data here collected by a sceptical missionary. A slim but stimulating work.

DENE-HOLES: Not by Nigel but wife Ann. My experience of subterranean prehistoric edifices includes seeing two Scottish souterrains and banging my head in Culsh earth house. There was also a passage in Wensleydale I saw where a hermit once lived and another in which the aluminium of a crashed aircraft was stored -- and may still be. I recently saw a map of Co. Durham with many daneholes (dene=dane; the Danes being at one time regarded as the creators of these) and hope to follow this up after reading of these odd relics of the past.

EAST ANGLIAN GEOMANCY: The Heinsch/Behrend metrological system is applied to a specific area to produce a terrestrial geometry, though I find this not wholly convincing. Speculation is given on geomantic matters, hill figures, the pudding-stonetrack and Alfred Watkins's Cambridge leys. Naturally, the material here is of a special interest to people in the area under the microscope, but also its philosophical base is internationally applicable.

*The latter costs 30p, the others 20p, but enclose postage when ordering. From: N. Pennick, 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8SD.

PASSPORT TO MAGONIA

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(Tandem,45p)

By Jaques Vallee

This is a serious book subtitled "From Folklore to Flying Saucers", and hopefully the bare-breasted fairies on the cover will titillate (no pun intended) the casual reader and draw him to read this thoughtful book though it may repel the more sophisticated sensibilities of others. This is Vallee's third book on the UFO phenomenon and having read around half the complete UFO output I can safely estimate that this must be one of the half dozen best of all. It is not projected as a sensationalized vision of the mystery but is gently insistent that "the continuum leads directly from primitive magic, through mystical experience, the fairy-faith, and religion, to modern flying saucers," and I would agree with the author that there is a necessity to include modern psychiatry and the problem of contactees, though this does not infer lunacy of the observers. It was published in 1970, the same year as John Michell's "The View Over Atlantis" started with equal vision that UFOs "seem to be related geographically to fairyland rather than to Cape Kennedy."

Everything about the UFO phenomenon is suggestive of fairylore in that no physical evidence is available for analysis and the entities in both cases bear similarities. He relies heavily on W.Y. Evans Wentz's research and I must state that my recent close reading of this work did not draw so direct a correlation. It is an impressive and challenging approach to ufology and though we disagree in many ways I am convinced that the "central question...has always been that of the controlling intelligence behind the objects' apparently purposeful behaviour". The book is argued clearly and coherently and is not in the brash and superficial category of 90% of UFO literature. Highly recommended.

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THE LANDSCAPE GEOMETRY OF SOUTHERN BRITAIN by MICHAEL BEHREND (Institute of Geomantic Research Occasional Paper No. 1. Price 75p inc. p&p. From N. Pennick 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8SD)

In "Memorials of Old Derbyshire", W.J. Andrew noted that the county's stone circles were distributed at regular intervals of eight miles. The uniformity allowed him on mapworking to find lacunae where a stone circle might be expected but was not marked. However, fieldwork proved the circles were there but not recorded. It seemed baffling that the distribution in a rugged countryside where correct measurement of horizontal distances is very difficult was so exact and he had to confess that it must be intentional and the work of competent mathematicians and surveyors. Today, such probable arrangements around the world are being examined and this work postulates correspondences apparently significant in England. Not having attempted so far to verify his results, I must take his theses on trust, but there is plenty of meaty data and he is a pioneer -- yes, we are still at the frontier -- on work leading to new associations.
