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TERRESTRIAL
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NEWSLETTER

LAST

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ISSUE

Edited and published by
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FAREWELL
CATHEDRALS
OF EARTH

An epitaph
by Paul
Screeton.

When Katherine Maltwood published her discovery of the Glastonbury Zodiac, she played the card that was so high and wild she never needed to deal another. However, she pressed on with her researches and as all readers of this modest, informal newsletter know, many more such landscape astrological effigies have been mooted.

Lack of material submitted for publication -- particularly during the past seven or so months -- and a general seeming downturn in interest has led me to discontinue the newsletter.

It has generally paid for itself and I trust it has given readers enjoyment. It seemed pointless for it to pass to any other editor and any inquiries will be passed on to Nigel Pennick, whose excellent geomantic and lost knowledge magazine, "Ancient Mysteries", has published various terrestrial zodiacs articles and comments and will continue to do so. This is available at the cover price of 65p (add 45p for p&p) from Nigel, at 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8SD. He is also co-author with Robert Lord of "Terrestrial Zodiacs in Britain", also available from him at £2-25, including p&p. This letterpress large format paperback has many illustrations and maps. So here is the last "T.Z.N." -- R.I.P.

CELTIC DEITIES IN THE SOMERSET TERRAIN

by ANTHEA TURNER

In my search for leys in the Somerset area (O.S. map 182) I noticed two woods growing alongside streams following the contours of Pennard Hill. These, while not a mirror image of each other form a near perfect representation of stags antlers. Closer observation revealed that the two roads that converge on West Bradley gave a muscular body to the beast reminiscent of the Lascaux cave paintings. The upper B road to East Pennard forming the back and the rump, and the lower road passing through Parbrook to College Green its lower neck. A stream outlines the stomach.

Could Glastonbury not only be the location of the Zodiac but also the home of the Celtic deities in their animal form? The three principle sacred beasts of the Celts were the stag, boar and wolf, mainly one assumes for their association with the Moon. This is echoed in the "Romance of Math, Son of Mathonwy" wherein Gwydion, as punishment for his mischievous act of starting war with Pryderi, King of Annwm, by stealing his sacred pigs, was changed into a stag, a boar, and a wolf each for one year's duration during which time he had to bring forth offspring from the union with his brother and fellow conspirator, who was similarly metamorphosed.

Llew Llaw, the son of Arianrhod and Gwydion ap Ion's nephew spoke of himself majestically as "the stag of seven fights" and when he saw a stag being baited to death, knowing it to be his soul, immediately died. The stag was the Royal beast of the Irish Danaan. Also there was a deer-goddess, Sabd.

Gwydion has been equated with Merlin, who has been closely associated with stags -- even depicted as a stag in mediaeval paintings. Merlin was reputed to have been fathered by the Devil. Not surprisingly when we consider his prophetic abilities. The Devil was a Christianisation of Cernunnos, the horned (antlered) god. To the Celts a

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symbolisation of wisdom. Merlin was an alchemist and Carl Jung referred to Mercury in alchemy as the "fugitive stag".

Moving west from Pennard we come to the raised villages of High Ham and Low Ham. The shape of the rivers and roads giving us an unmistakable Big Piggy. At the ru p is the small hamlet of Beer, an old word of Dutch origin meaning "boar".

Cerridwen was depicted not only as a cat but also as the Great White Sow Goddess. In "The White Goddess", Robert Graves states that she was also the Barley Goddess Albina from which Albion, the name of Britain, came.

The White Sow's gift to the people was a wolf cub and to find the wolf we travel north to a junction near Bristol Airport called Lye Cross. Lykos is the Greek for wolf and if we invert the map we can find his splendid outline spanning four miles from Winford, the position of his tail, through Kingdown (back) to the south edge of Goblin Combe, his lower jaw. Almost all the "wolf" is visible despite the building of Bristol Airport, which luckily enclosed his shape.

It is possible that these animals do relate to the legend of Gwydion and his brother Gilfaethwy, for if we examine the shapes we find that they are double -- within the larger stag lies a more compact and feminine deer; the swine of High Ham has a superimposed outline of an older more maternal pig. Strangest of all, the wolf is joined to another wolf -- the ears are the same on both animals, that is in the same place, but the body spans a further two miles to the town of Congresbury.

One wonders if the Celts designed and created this landscape or whether the Somerset County Council unwittingly shaped the roads, rivers and paths. Perhaps the sacred beasts grew in the terrain, given energy over thousands of years by the leys themselves.

** Editor: The drawings supplied by Anthea Turner were traced and in colour. Three of the five will hopefully reproduce in a reasonably distinguishable form in this issue. No doubt should serious researchers wishing to know more find her helpful in their quest. If a stamp-addressed envelope is sent to me I will forward it on to her.

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T.Z.N. BIBLIOGRAPHY (continued from previous issues):

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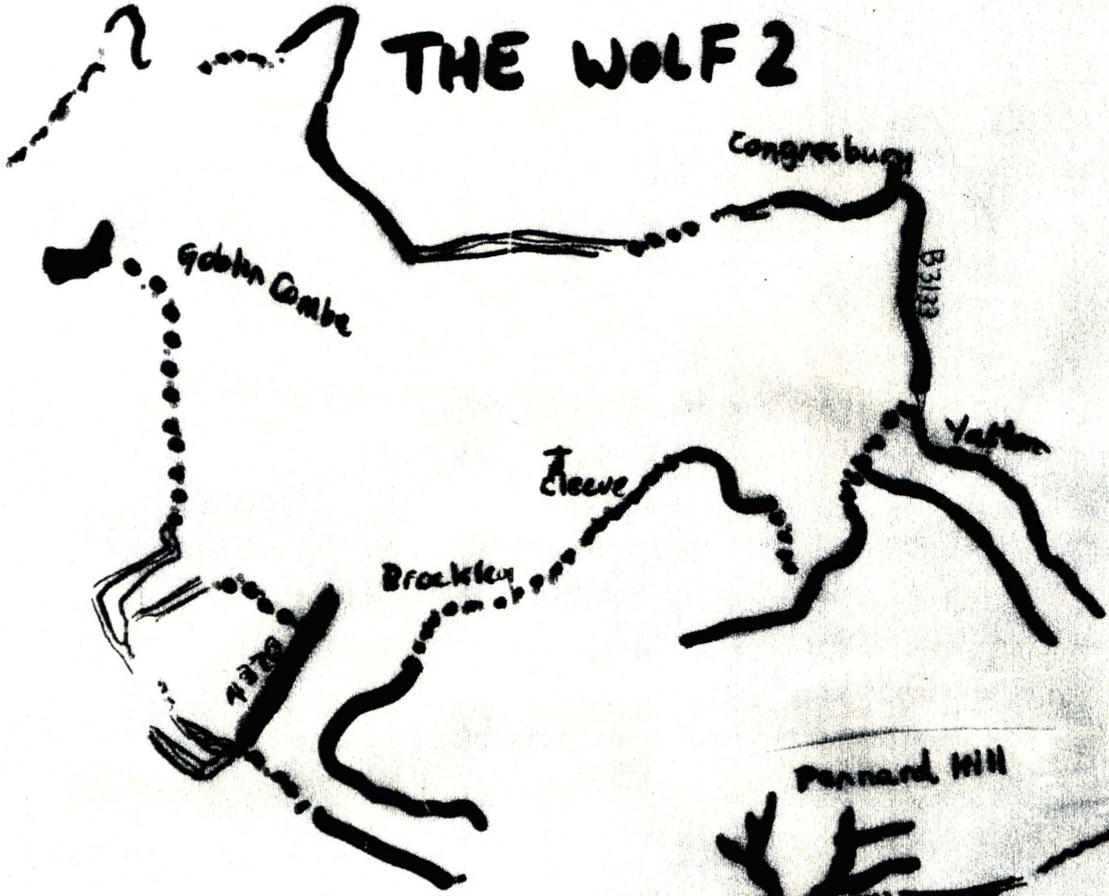
Donations gratefully acknowledged from Clive Harper and Philip Jones:

Letter from Bob Forrest: As regards Peter Hughes's near-vesica in TZN 9, Peter writes: "I calculate by Mr Forrest's method that there is still a greater than 120 to 1 chance in favour of deliberate placement." Though Peter calculated what he set out to calculate correctly, he didn't set out to calculate the right thing. His model was over-particularised (a posteriori), and so the odds of 120 to 1 were too high on that account. Also his definition of how a random point could align with two fixed points was too stringent, again putting the odds artificially high. All in all, when Peter sent his scheme to me for an analytical opinion, I expressed the opinion that his scheme just wouldn't stand up in statistical court. On a different level entirely, I feel that his "near align ents" are really just "excused misses". Surely anyone taking the trouble to align sites would do it better than this? Meanwhile I'd like to thank Peter for the nice things he said on p6 of TZN 9 and to express the wish that more people would take the same view of the Ulro Zodiac as he does!

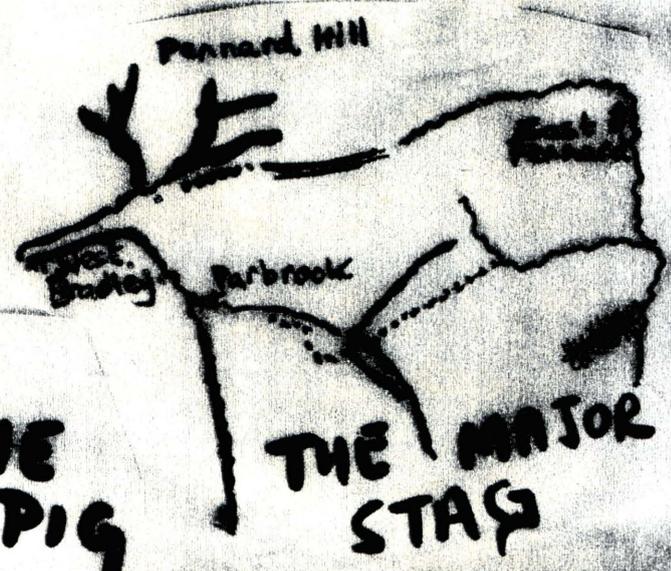
OBITUARY: SAM WILDMAN. It is with regret that I record here the death on July 21, aged 67, of S.G. Wildman, author of "The Black Horsemen". A keen reader of T.Z.N. he contributed an article on the age of the Glastonbury Zodiac in No. 6 and an interesting letter to No. 7. Our sympathy goes out to his family.

Jill Bruce & Bruce Lacey will be exhibiting their "Year Round the Bury St Edmunds Zodiac" at Norwich School of Art from April 27 to May 16, plus '77 Glastonbury Zodiac, too, by way of contrast.

THE WOLF 2



Pennard Hill



THE PIG

