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MYSTERY SHARK OFF THE FLORIDA COAST

JOHN HAIRR

The Palm Beach waterfront was a hive of activity on a sunny spring day in late May of 1903. Tourists were admiring the usual spectacle of fishermen unloading their catch. But on this particular day there was something else which captured everyone's attention. A huge shark—over 18 feet long—was suspended above the dock, where visitors and natives alike tried to figure out the identity of the strange-looking monstrous shark.

Doubtless there have been many such episodes as this which have played out on the dock that were soon forgotten after the participants moved on or passed away. Fortunately, one of the witnesses at the dock in Palm Beach was a local government official from Chicago, Illinois, who later regaled his friends back home with stories of his adventures in Florida, including the story about this large shark. One of these friends happened to be a writer for the *Chicago Inter Ocean*, who was intrigued by the tale and decided to investigate the matter further. When he was finished, the anonymous writer had chronicled one of the most interesting sharks caught in Florida waters in the early years of the twentieth century.

The shark was caught off the southeast coast of Florida by a fisherman who, like other people involved with the incident, was not identified in the original account. We do know how he caught the fish. The shark was attracted to the bright reflection of something moving erratically along the surface of the ocean. Unfortunately for the shark, what at first might have looked like a shiny tuna or amberjack turned out to be a shiny metal can that

concealed a large steel hook which in turn was attached to a thick rope. When the hook was set firmly in the shark's mouth, the anonymous fisherman pulled the large shark to his boat, not with a traditional rod and reel, but with a heavy-duty windlass he had rigged for landing large sharks.

The shark put up quite a fight, but in the end it was unable to shake the hook from its mouth. The exhausted fish was secured to the boat, and towed back to Palm Beach where it was landed on the dock. Several people were on hand to watch the fisherman hoist the big fish ashore, including the aforementioned man from Chicago.

The huge shark was hung upside down there on the waterfront, where those present made a thorough examination of the monstrous shark. The writer from Chicago described the huge fish. "It was one of the biggest sharks ever caught in Florida waters and was evidently a sailor of many years. The animal measured eighteen feet long, and had a sword attachment that was as long as an arm and was of the leopard variety, stamping it as one of the man eating variety, a dangerous beast" (Anonymous, 1903).

The description of the shark leads to many questions. Perhaps the most problematic part of the description is the sword-like appendage. The chronicler gives too few details to explain exactly what was meant by "sword attachment." He notes that the sword was as long as a man's arm, so from that we can estimate that it was roughly three feet long.

But he does not mention where this appendage was attached. Most would assume that it was protruding forward from the shark's skull in the same fashion as a billfish such as a sailfish, marlin or swordfish. If we grant that the captain of the shark-fishing vessel was competent enough to distinguish the difference between sharks and billfish, then we can rule out the possibility that this was a swordfish or marlin that was misidentified. Later discussion of the examination of the contents of the animal's stomach will also argue against this fish being any type of billfish.

Another family of fish with an appendage extending forward from its head are the various species of the family Pristidae, the sawfish. Although these animals look much like a species of shark,

they are actually classified as a type of skate or ray, having gills on the underside of its body and eyes on top of the head. There are only two species of sawfish that have been caught in the waters off Florida: the smalltooth sawfish, *Pristis pectinata*, and the largetooth sawfish, *Pristis peroteti*. Very little is known about the life history of either the largetooth or smalltooth sawfish. Sawfish have a long flat rostrum protruding forward from the snout, on the side of which are several pairs of conical teeth.

Sawfish are reported to reach some rather large sizes. Allen (1996) noted a 46-footer caught 37 miles up the Chao Phya River in Thailand. The largest species known in Florida, the largetooth sawfish, are known to grow in excess of twenty feet long. Thus, the 18-foot recorded for the Palm Beach shark is well within the maximum size range for several species of sawsharks.

The most important aspect of sawfish behavior, at least as far as this study is concerned, is the way in which they kill and consume prey. These animals utilize their lethal blade by swinging it back and forth in the water, either slashing their prey into pieces or impaling the meat on their sharp teeth. Like other skates and rays, the mouth of a sawfish is located on the underside of its body. Thus, it mainly consumes food with a strong sucking action. Instead of biting large chunks of flesh from its victims, sawfish allow the smaller pieces to fall to the bottom, where they are consumed in the same fashion they would consume any bottom dwelling animals like shrimp and crustaceans (Allen, 1996).

The Palm Beach shark could have been one of the shark species that make up the Order Pristiophoriformes, or the sawsharks. The most distinguishing feature of the pristiophroids is the set of nasal barbells that hang down from the underside of their saw. They use these barbells, along with their ampullae of Lorenzini on the underside of their saw, to locate food on the bottom of the ocean. These sharks have a small mouth and small cuspidate teeth, and eat correspondingly small prey they find on the bottom of the ocean, including small fish and crustaceans.

Campagno, et al., (2005) identify nine species of sawsharks, most of which live in the waters of the Indian and Pacific oceans.

There is one species, the Bahamas sawshark, *Pristiophorus schroederi*, found in the waters off the southeast coast of North America. This species of sharks was first discovered in June of 1957 in 2,100 feet of water in the Santaren Channel near the Dog Rocks off the Cay Sal Banks by researchers from the U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. Less than a year later, two more specimens of this species were caught by researchers from the same organization in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean on the north side of Little Bahama Bank. Springer and Bullis (1960) wrote of the significance of the specimens, "These specimens are the only sawsharks known from the Western Hemisphere and are of unusual interest because they represent the Pristiophoridae, a poorly known family of great antiquity."

The Bahamas sawsharks are generally smaller and more slender than sawfish. The maximum length recorded for a Bahamas sawshark is a specimen measuring just under three feet caught in the Northwest Providence Channel in 1965. This is well under the 18 feet recorded for the mystery shark caught off Palm Beach.

There is one other shark species that possibly answers the description of the Palm Beach mystery shark—the goblin shark, *Mitsukurina owstoni*. This is one of the more unusual looking species of sharks that spends its life in the deepest part of the world's oceans. The most distinguishing feature of this species of shark is its flat blade-like snout, protrusive jaws, small eyes and pinkish hue to its kin. Many liken these animals to some sort of prehistoric shark.

In July of 2000, commercial deep-sea fishermen working in the Gulf of Mexico 120 miles south of Pascagoula, Mississippi, were reeling in a crabline and inadvertently hooked a large fish at a depth of 3,300 feet. When they got the fish to the surface, they discovered that they had hooked one of the largest and strangest looking creatures any of them had ever seen. They hoisted it out of the water so they could get a photograph of their unusual catch, saved the jaws and discarded the rest of the carcass without weighing or measuring the remains.

Eventually the fish came to the attention of Dr. Glenn Parson of the University of Mississippi. He and his colleagues studied the

photos and came to the conclusion that this was a goblin shark, the first of its kind reported from the Gulf of Mexico, and only the second reported from U.S. waters. "The goblin shark is arguably the rarest (and perhaps ugliest) shark in existence, with only a single specimen caught in the Gulf of Mexico," wrote Parsons (2006). He and his colleagues calculated that the shark caught in 2000 was between 17.7 and 20.2 feet long, making it the largest goblin shark on record.

Since they are infrequently caught and rarely studied, very little is known about goblin sharks, especially their eating habits. They are believed to consume items found in the deepest reaches of the ocean, especially squid. But whether or not they leave the depths to come to the surface of the ocean to hunt for food is unknown.

Which brings us back to the Palm Beach shark. When the fisherman and those assisting him cut open the large fish, they found several notable items. None of these would have been what one would expect to find in the belly of a sawshark or sawfish, and based on the little we know about the eating habits of goblin sharks, not likely one of them either. "It was the interior of the fish, however, that excited the greatest interest," continued the chronicler from Chicago. "When he was cut open, a whole porpoise was found in the stomach. There was also a large piece of partly digested shark and the head of an ostrich. The piece of shark inside the monster was out of the back and contained the backbone of the dead animal.

"A careful examination showed that the backbones were larger than the backbones of the captured shark. A number of scars on his body showed that he had been in conflict with another shark, and the finding of a piece of the adversary showed that the conflict had ended with the death of the opponent, and the victor had then swallowed a juicy portion of his adversary" (Anonymous, 1903).

The contents of the stomach clearly demonstrate that this was no bottom-feeding sawshark or sawfish, as there were no hacked up chunks of flesh or small crustaceans, but instead large items, including an entire porpoise swallowed whole. There are only two known species of sharks in Florida waters large enough to

consume the prey items found inside the Palm Beach shark—the tiger shark, *Galeocerdo cuvier*, and the great white shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*. Both are large species of sharks, and the 18-foot total length is within the maximum size range of both species.

Unfortunately, shark nomenclature will not help unravel the mystery. The shark was described as belonging to, “. . . the leopard variety, stamping it as one of the man eating variety, a dangerous beast.” First, we can rule out the present shark currently referred to as the leopard shark, *Triakis semifasciata*. These sharks are frequently seen in public aquaria because of their distinctive color pattern. However, they are not the same species of sharks as the one referred to in the 19th and early 20th centuries as leopard sharks in Florida. Not only are *Triakis semifasciata* too small, maxing out at approximately five feet total length, but these sharks are native to the Pacific Ocean, especially the coast around California and northern Mexico (Allen, 1996).

Shark nomenclature was a haphazard affair, especially at the turn of the 20th century. Press accounts used mainly localized names, and these were often different from town to town. Fishermen of that era usually had three main groupings for sharks—sandsharks, hammerheads and man-eaters. All the species we identify today as hammerheads would have been known as a hammerhead back then. The small varieties of sharks found close inshore such as the Atlantic sharpnose shark, *Rhizoprionodon terraenovae*, and the sandbar shark, *Carcharhinus plumbeus*, would have been known as sandsharks. Bulls, great whites, tigers and other large pelagic sharks would have been considered a man-eater. Even relatively harmless whale sharks, *Rhincodon typus*, and basking sharks, *Cetorhinus maximus*, were viewed as man-eaters and treated accordingly.

As time went by, other names were applied within the groupings. In the case of the leopard shark, the name was applied to white sharks, especially in South Florida. But the name was also applied to tiger sharks. This latter designation is easy enough to understand, since young tiger sharks often have stripes and mottling that fades as the shark gets older.

With the use in the local vernacular of the names for both species interchangeably as man-eaters and leopard sharks, it is impossible to distinguish between the two based solely on the name given the shark in the account.

What the people at Palm Beach found especially interesting about the contents of the stomach of the shark was the presence of the remains of a bird's head which they identified as an ostrich, *Struthio camelus*, a bird which is native to Africa. Unfortunately we have no drawings or images of the bird's head. Those who were there and saw it were convinced that it was indeed an ostrich, and this led them to hypothesize on where the shark had been before making its trip to Florida.

"The presence of the ostrich head in the stomach of the man eater was regarded as undoubted proof that the shark had probably just arrived in Florida waters from Africa, and that he had made the trip in two or three days. The head was not digested, and the process of digestion had only just begun. There is only one ostrich farm in Florida, and when that institution was communicated with the owner said that they had not lost an ostrich in a year" (Anonymous, 1903).

Tiger sharks are known to travel great distances. In fact, researchers engaged in various shark tagging studies found proof that tiger sharks cross the Atlantic Ocean when a tiger shark caught and tagged off St. Augustine was recaptured several months later off the African coast near Bolama, which is a small island off the Arquipelago dos Bijagos off Guine-Bissau (Bright, 2000). But tiger sharks are slow swimmers, and would take several months, not three days, to cross the Atlantic.

Like other lamnids, great whites are among the fastest sharks in the ocean. They cruise around at a modest two miles per hour, but when attacking, can reach speeds in excess of twenty miles per hour (Ellis and McCosker, 1991). Even at top speed, a white shark would take several days to make the 4,000-mile passage from Africa to Florida. We know that white sharks thrive off the African coast, especially South Africa where tourists flock to observe these large fish.

Studies (Bonfil, et al., 2005) have shown that white sharks are capable of covering the distance required for making the transatlantic trip. In November of 2003, a white shark identified as P12 was tagged off the coast of South Africa and traveled all the way across the Indian Ocean to the coast of Western Australia, then returned to South Africa. Ramon Bonfil and his colleagues (Bonfil, et al, 2005) noted of this shark, "Shark P12 traveled at minimum speed of 4.7 km hour⁻¹ during its migration to Australia, which is the fastest sustained long-distance speed known among sharks and comparable to that of the fastest swimming tunas."

Even though no one has yet studied similar migratory behavior in white sharks in the Atlantic, it is only a matter of time before a shark tagged off the coast of Morocco, Liberia, Senegal or some other West African country will make its way to the waters off North America. When they do, they will be shown to travel at speeds comparable to those observed at other locales around the world, and not in the three days estimated by those who examined the shark off Palm Beach.

Based on the migratory patterns and swimming speed of large migratory sharks caught off Florida, it is doubtful that the undigested bird's head found inside the shark caught off Palm Beach was really an ostrich. The more likely explanation is the remains were from some type of large sea bird caught in the local area.

As for the identity of the Palm Beach shark, based on the items found inside the shark's stomach, we can rule out billfish, sawfish, sawsharks, whale sharks, and basking sharks. Only two species of large sharks found off the Florida coast answer the description of the shark and its prey: the great white shark and the tiger shark, but neither of these species have an appendage extending from their head that answers to the sword described by the writer from Chicago. A third species of large shark, the goblin shark, is the only species of shark that reaches the size of the shark in question, and has a bladelike appendage extending from its head. Unfortunately, we know too little about the life history of the goblin shark to know whether it consumes the prey items found inside the Palm Beach shark. If the sword was indeed an appendage

protruding from the shark's head, then it is quite possible that this 18-foot fish was a goblin shark. If not, then this mystery shark was some other heretofore unrecorded species of shark unlike any other ever seen in Florida waters.

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TRINITY RIVER BABOONS

CHAD ARMENT

I should probably explain why I tend to focus on reprinting original sighting reports (where possible) instead of summarizing these old articles and just telling the stories for cryptozoology enthusiasts to enjoy. One problem with that latter approach is that context and details are often removed, as the storyteller weaves these old tales into the broader picture of an alleged mystery animal, glossing over or ignoring those aspects which may contradict the argument being made for a cryptid's actual existence. As cryptozoology researchers, we have a responsibility to be careful not to manipulate evidence to fit our expectations. (That is one reason, for example, I have a problem with even the indexing in certain books. By intentionally calling a particular mystery animal a "black panther," even in the index, when the original sighting details are far too ambiguous, an author is subtly reinforcing a particular belief.) Obviously, archival technology today is light years ahead of the research capabilities of thirty years ago, so I can't fault the simple lack of data in early cryptozoology books—but is it necessary today to force a preferred explanation to fit flimsy arguments with scarce details? No, it's not. A mystery is no less interesting for not having a label. This is not a plea for keeping mysteries mysterious, however. Sometimes the evidence can be rather compelling for a given explanation, and there is a certain satisfaction when the pieces start to fall into place.

Baboon-like animals from the northern Trinity River bottoms (Dallas County) in Texas have been mentioned in the cryptozoological literature, but primarily as a 1970s phenomenon. So I

was a little surprised to find a story from 1929. A baboon-like animal, nicknamed "Little Rollo," was reported from the Trinity River area over several months. Unfortunately, as with many early mystery animal flaps, not all sightings were detailed in the newspapers, and are only referred to after the fact. (Of course, historical local newspapers not yet digitized or available online may still offer yet unnoticed accounts.) "Little Rollo" was the name of a nineteenth-century (1800s) children's book character, and appears to have been occasionally applied to mischievous simians, just as we see "Jacko" or "Jocko" given as a common pet monkey or ape name. The newspaper articles from 1929 show a distinctive humorous bent.

**BONEHEADS MAY LEAD HUNT THROUGH
TRINITY BOTTOMS TO SOLVE "ROLLO" MYSTERY**

Dallas, Texas, *Morning News*, July 16, 1929

An extraordinarily careful check of the membership of the Bonehead Club of Dallas has been completed by Bonehead Secretary John H. Cullom.

The check was made for the purpose, so a member has said, of finding out missing members. Since the baboon, Little Rollo, has terrorized the Trinity River bottoms for six months, certain members of the Bonehead Club have been insistent that one of the club's members has been missing just that long.

That check-up was inspired by a suggestion coming from a prominent citizen of Dallas that the Bonehead Club enlist the assistance of American Legion members and members of Dallas Chapter, American Institute of Banking, in a baboon hunt staged on a colossal scale.

Those in the banking institute chapter would furnish expert help and advice for the chase since they have had several years' experience in conducting annual wolf hunts in Dallas County.

This brought matters in the Bonehead Club to a head, for the club did not want, so it is thought, to start the hunt and then trap one of its own members. It is alleged that as soon as the effects of the trip to Mineral Wells, booked for next Friday by the Boneheads, wears off, the matter of going hunting for Little Rollo will be taken up.

Also it is alleged, said, thought and surmised that one of the near-prominent members of the club will be asked to stay in his room at home on the day of the hunt, thereby avoiding embarrassment for himself and the club in the event of his capture by fellow-club members.

A thoroughgoing hunt by hundreds of Boneheads, legionnaires and members of the Institute of Banking Chapter, started just after the banks closed and continuing through the night, Mr. Cullom said, surely would end for always speculation as to whether or not there actually was a baboon loose in the Trinity bottoms.

**BIG BABOON NOT OF THE GARDEN VARIETY
BREAKS UP BOYS' MARBLE GAME**

Galveston, Texas, *Daily News*, July 20, 1929

By Associated Press.

Dallas, Tex., July 10.—Little Rollo, a big baboon, of unknown residence, made another of his periodic appearances here today.

This time it was a wild-eyed group of boys which reported that Rollo pounced into the middle of their marble ring and broke up the game.

For months, according to the reports, unvarying as to description, the baboon has skulked about the Trinity River bottoms. After each public call he presumably retires to his dark recess.

Officials of local zoos long ago have checked their membership and reported nothing missing and it is assumed Little Rollo is not of the garden variety.

**CRASHING CRATE, SHAG, BABOON PLAYMATE FOR
LITTLE ROLLO, HIES INTO TRINITY BOTTOMS**

Dallas, Texas, *Morning News*, July 25, 1929

Near the west end of the heavily traveled Oak Cliff-Dallas viaduct, a bushy headed playmate for Little Rollo, ninety-pound baboon who has played hide and go seek in Oak Cliff for eight months, broke the bonds of captivity and made for freedom in the Trinity River bottoms.

Exhibiting elusiveness Little Rollo never will have, Shag escaped from a crate in which he was being carried in an automobile and scampered away from his new owner, Carl Steinmann, manager of Kidd Springs.

Mr. Steinmann had bought the monkey from a South Texas man and had just taken him off a train at the Union Terminal.

While Little Rollo thwarts the efforts of zoo keepers and police to capture him in the creek bottoms near Marsalis Park, Shag roams among tall weeds along the Trinity.

Shag is smaller than all descriptions would have Little Rollo. It will be only fifty pounds of horror to greet the motorist whose automobile Shag may board for company.

Little Rollo's last unceremonious appearance was a week ago in the 1100 block of East Eleventh street, Oak Cliff, when a group of boys left their marbles for the ninety-pound monkey to play with. Rollo, however, specializes in breaking up negro fishing parties in the creek bottoms. What Shag's specialty will be remains to be seen.

Capture of Shag has been made tempting by a \$50 reward offered in a newspaper advertisement by his owner.

An enlarged treasury will be among the things discussed by the Dallas Bonehead Club at its meeting Friday, when the proposed baboon hunt comes up. Roy E. Hale, commander of Radio Post, American Legion, is scheduled for one of a Rolloesque appearances without warning.

A couple of points can be brought up here. First, there's a distinct possibility that when witnesses during this period were black, this created a cultural barrier for the sightings to pass with any serious consideration to white officials. Rather (and we can see this in other communities around the country at this time when other mystery animals are reported), when a black witness reported seeing something, it was treated as a joke. As with:

Abilene, Texas, *Morning News*, January 3, 1930
Consternation reigned supreme when a bunch of negro 'possum hunters were treed the other night on the Trinity river by a pet baboon that had escaped.

This is a shame, because there's a good chance that the black community was in a position to offer information on encounters with the "baboon" while fishing or hunting. That information is now lost.

Second, most people don't realize that during the 1920s and 1930s, primates were very popular exotic pets, and quite a few were imported from all over the world: monkeys, chimps, baboons, and lemurs were all fair game. One Brownsville, Texas, rancher with a penchant for exotics ("Snake" King), even owned a real gorilla, which unfortunately died in a fire. (Note, of course, that stories

often misidentified one species of primate for another, so care needs to be taken not to assume that a pet “baboon” was truly a “baboon.” Many times a “gorilla” was just a chimpanzee.) It should surprise no one that sometimes these primates escaped (or even released as pet owners realized their pets required more care than they were willing to give). We know that many exotic ungulates have taken successfully to Texas soil in free-range enclosures, and there is no doubt that many primates could survive and reproduce, establishing their own colonies.

Actually, we know for certain that they can. In 1972, a troop of Japanese macaques, or snow monkeys, was imported by a Texas man after they began causing problems in their native Kyoto. Many did not last long in the much warmer climate, but the survivors and their offspring quickly adapted to the Texas environment. The Texan planned to “free range” the macaques, and catch occasional ones to sell, but he ended up dying in 1973, putting an end to those plans. They roamed free for years, before being rounded up in the 1990s. Today, descendents of that original troop can be seen at the Born Free USA Primate Sanctuary near San Antonio. In a 2000 newspaper article, journalist Marty Racine spoke with Dilley (Frio County) residents who said that locals were very reticent to speak about snow monkey sightings in the early years, as they were afraid they’d be ridiculed. (Apparently the man who released the macaques hadn’t widely advertised his plans to the community, so it surprised more than a few people who ran across them.) Racine noted that some say they still see feral snow monkeys roaming the back country.

These Japanese snow monkeys are almost certainly responsible for one published story. Anon. (1972) noted that Morris Cox, an exotic animal owner, had set a trap for a monkey or ape that was seen by several individuals in the Hardy Road–Campbellion Road area of south Bexar County. One group of youngsters saw a monkey in a tree, and threw stones at it. “The monkey jumped down and chased them off,” said the Sheriff’s office. Cox found tracks in the area and noted “a footprint from a member of the ape family.”

In the same spirit, I suspect the following story, from very South Texas, could be based on an exotic escapee, given its proximity to

Brownsville, Texas, exotics dealers. The primate details are, unfortunately, barely given.

SAFARI FOR HARLINGEN LION
NETS ONLY MONKEY BUSINESS

Harlingen, Texas, *Valley Morning Star*, July 30, 1951
Harlingen—A safari into darkest South Harlingen in search of a lion netted no lion. But the hunter found monkey tracks.

There was also evidence of ocelots, said B. O. Thomas, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service trapper, who spent Sunday trying to track the “big cat” Mrs. H. H. Sublett saw last Thursday near her home here.

Trapper Thomas said Mrs. Sublett’s description of the animal would apply to either a small Mexican lion or a large jaguarundi—or possibly an ocelot, although ocelots are distinctly spotted.

But after a four-hour trek along the Arroyo Colorado south of here, Trapper Thomas bagged no ocelots, no jaguarundi and no lions. Just monkey tracks.

The seasoned trapper’s failure gave a moral victory to Wiley (Trader Horn) Ake, Harlingen’s city poundmaster. Last week Mr. Ake said he intended to track the lion. But when he found that curious bystanders had obliterated the tracks he went back to hunting lost dogs.

Now, we jump to the early 1970s, back to Dallas County, as I have not yet run across any Trinity River baboon stories in the intervening years. Due to copyright restrictions, I can’t reprint these stories in full, but I’ll try to detail the gist.

Anon. (1973a) noted that Lion Country Safari was sending out a team to try and catch the baboons said to be terrorizing a Seagoville trailer park. Locals believed the animals had escaped

from a defunct wildlife park, World of Animals, located about 15 miles down river. The current owner of the park property, Tiger Lake, also had wild animals, but said all of their baboons were accounted for. The Seagoville trailer park manager said the baboons played in her backyard, but side-stepped banana-baited traps. One mobile home resident, Lee Brock, watched an animal emerge from the river bottom brush, climb a fence, and then perch on top of his chicken house. He called police, and an officer arrived and shot the animal. It weighed 25 pounds and stood 35 inches high.

Anon. (1973b) noted that the “baboon” shot by the policeman was actually a vervet monkey, and “probably somebody’s pet.” The Lion Country team thought it was unlikely that a single monkey accounted for all the sightings. Lee Brock noted that he had seen his first primate almost a year ago, nestled in a pecan tree. He said, “I called the police and they asked me what I was drinking.” The trailer park manager, Mrs. W. R. Sims, also said that nobody took her monkey stories seriously until now.

Anon. (1973c) offers a further detail, noting that the “band of baboons” had staked a camp along the river, and at night conducted raiding parties on the trailer park to scrounge for food.

Anon. (1973d) offered a final note, that policemen were looking for ways to catch the baboons without hurting them, after animal lovers bombarded the local SPCA chapter with protest calls over the killing of the vervet monkey. Teams of animal experts, however, failed to find any trace of the baboons.

The newspapers’ interest seems to have died down after this, and I have found no further information on Trinity River baboons. These stories then entered the cryptozoological literature as examples of elusive out-of-place animals, or possible sightings of a North American ape (NAPE).

Now, in evaluating a case like this, there are multiple possible explanations, with varying degrees of likelihood.

Is there evidence here of an unknown, undescribed primate species? The mere presence of out-of-place primates is not evidence of an unknown species. There is nothing in that to distinguish them from accidentals of a known species. We require something more.

At the very least, a consistent pattern of sightings over long periods of time should be accompanied by physical or behavioral descriptions that don't match known species. I might be more open to just a long period of sightings if there were traditional Native American accounts in the Trinity River area. But, we don't have any of that here. I don't think it is responsible to simply "connect the dots" between a few disparate ape-like accounts from widely separated regions and offer this as evidence for a North American ape.

Is there evidence here of a long-term introduced population of a known primate species? Again, I think this is unlikely. If nothing else, both cases (1929 and 1973) show that the primates in question were fairly commonly encountered, with indications of utilizing human resources for food (scrounging). Why wouldn't there be additional mentions, even offhand, in the local newspapers (especially when it is so near Dallas)? I have checked four different archival databases, but can't fill the blank period between these two dates for the Trinity River region. This is not to say that further evidence won't be gathered, but from what we currently have, there's no case for a resident breeding population of baboons or other simians.

Are they simply two unrelated cases of primate accidentals? I doubt very much that misidentifications of known species are responsible for these two accounts. And, we know that primates were especially popular in early traveling menageries and as exotic pets back in the 1920s and 1930s. I suspect that "Little Rollo" was simply an escapee or release, which may have eventually wandered away into the river bottoms, never to be heard from again. I wish there were better details on the 1973 sightings—did anyone ever actually see more than one primate at one time? Or did a "monkey scare" conjure up a troop of simians from a lone vervet monkey? This might be worth investigating, though it is almost 40 years in the past, and the principals may be long gone.

I do think it is interesting that the Trinity River baboon story emerged at the same time that snow monkeys began to take root on Texas soil further south. I have to wonder if there wasn't an ill-advised attempt to introduce a primate in the river bottoms that

was less successful than with the Japanese macaques. Of course, I would be very interested in hearing about any further stories that cryptozoology enthusiasts might run across.

If there is one thing we can learn from this, though, it is that witnesses should be encouraged to tell their stories. There are too many cases of people being afraid to mention what they've seen, or of officials laughing at them when they do. That's not to say we should listen uncritically, or believe them unconditionally—but we can empathize with those who have seen something out of the ordinary with the point of investigating and educating, rather than ridiculing.

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THE “FREAK” CARIBOU
CHAD ARMENT

I recently came across mention in a book on Oklahoma strangeness (PJ Lassek's *Oklahoma Curiosities*, Guilford, CT: Globe Pequot Press, 2008) the following mention of the Midgley Museum of Enid, Oklahoma: “The Midgleys were expert hunters and skilled marksmen, and there is a trophy room, displaying many of their kills ranging from buffalo to a ‘freak caribou,’ which is a cross between a cow and caribou.” Now, hybridization between cattle species is known, as well as between deer species, but a hybrid caribou-cow just didn't seem likely. I contacted the museum, asking for further details on the specimen.

Museum volunteer Mike Smith kindly replied to my query. He found the specimen in question and provided photographs. The caribou is simply a “caribou cow,” or female caribou. Apparently this was misinterpreted by Lassek as a caribou-cow cross. The mistake was probably influenced by the specimen's atrophied antlers, though these antlers are within the species' natural range of variation. So, don't believe everything you read in those popular state-by-state books on strange phenomena. Sometimes a caribou is just a caribou.

(Thanks to Mike Smith for permission to reproduce the accompanying photographs.)





UNEXPECTED TORTOISES AND TURTLES OF THE WORLD
RICHARD MUIRHEAD

This research attempts to collate data on mystery tortoises and turtles from around the world into as thorough an account as possible. I have divided the research into seven sections: Africa, North and Central America, South America, Asia, Australia, Europe, and Oceans (including islands).

It was found that Asia and Europe have had the most stories and South America the least. But this does not necessarily reflect “reality” (whatever that is!), just my own research. However it probably comes pretty close. No examples were found in polar regions, but note the white carapace of the *Rhapsody* ship giant turtle sighting. Perhaps this was a kind of camouflage, seeing as this sighting took place off Newfoundland? If this turtle originated further north in Arctic regions, then it may well have been concealment. Other alleged turtles with white carapaces may have been dead whales floating upside down. It has to be said that all the European examples are to be found in the United Kingdom. I have deliberately not included well-known tortoises and turtles such as the Beast of 'Busco, the pet tortoise of Gilbert White the naturalist, and the large *Rafetus swinhoei* turtle in the Hoan Kiem lake in Hanoi, Vietnam.

AFRICA

1) The most famous African turtle cryptid is the *Ndendeki*. Dr Roy Mackal (1987) wrote in *A Living Dinosaur?*: “We first heard about

the 'dinosaur turtle' from Gilbert Bonguenele Manengue, the agent de la Sécurité Publique at Brazzaville. . . . He reported that he had received his information from eyewitness observers living in the village of Boha; data obtained from him, therefore, were second hand. Informants may have felt it was quite enough simply to say 'giant turtle' about an animal whose shell was some 4 to 5 metres (12 to 15 feet) in diameter. Such a giant turtle hardly seems believable, yet the fossil record includes both marine (*Archelon ischyros*) and land turtles (*Colossochelys atlas*), their remains indicating animals 6 metres (20 feet) in length. However, not even the giant tortoises of the Seychelles Islands (1.2 metres, or 4 feet) approach the reported dimensions of *Ndendecki*. The leatherback turtle, a living species (*Dermochelys coriacea*) does reach a length of 3 metres (10 feet), but it is found only in the sea.

"The shell of the *Ndendecki* was described as more rounded than other kinds of turtles. In spite of its size the natives neither fear it nor consider it dangerous. Although information on its diet was generally vague, a few informants suggested that it fed on detritus, the rich organic matter found at the bottom of rivers, lakes, and pools. . . . [L]et us try to identify the *Ndendecki*. Based on reported descriptions, we require a very large, freshwater turtle, both carnivorous (or omnivorous) and amphibious. Marcellin Agagna was able to identify the *Ndendecki* as one and the same with *Trionyx triunguis*. . . this species fulfils all of the descriptive features rather well. I find this is gratifying indeed because it adds greatly to the degree of confidence we may place on other descriptions provided by our indigenous observers. Agagna sets the maximum size of the turtles at 2 metres (6 ½ feet), which allows a factor of roughly '2' for exaggeration by informants—not unreasonable in my experience. . . . The animal is considered to be quite aggressive and makes frequent excursions onto land, pulling itself up steep riverbanks by its strong claws. Along the Nile, according to local Arabs, this turtle searches for and feeds on crocodile eggs. Others report that it also eats crocodile hatchlings. The major food supply appears to be fish and shellfish which it can consume underwater."

2) In April 2011 Dale Drinnon posted in his *Frontiers of Zoology* blog the following comments under the headline “Titanic Turtles of Tele”: “*Ndenki* (sic) is spoken of as a truly tremendous freshwater turtle in parts of the Congo River drainage and especially around Lake Tele. This is another matter of some confusion in Cryptozoology. Some individual softshell turtles of the known, identified species can grow to quite enormous sizes. A pertinent example comes from Darren Naish’s blog:

“‘Anyway, Asia isn’t the only continent with giant softshells. There are also giant African species (or one anyway: the African softshell *Trionyx triunguis*), and in October 2009 post on the SA Reptiles discussion board, forum-user Herphabitat posted several photos of a huge, dead softshell he and colleagues discovered on a peninsula in the mouth of the Congo River. From a distance, they first assumed that the carcass was that of a dead sea turtle (perhaps a Leatherback *Dermochelys coriacea*). On discovering that it was a softshell, they assumed that it had died further up-river and had then been washed down.’”

Dale also commented: “The statements made by the Native informants about giant turtles were taken down by Roy Mackal are published in a book about looking for living dinosaurs in the Congo basin; and the giant softshell turtles as described would be truly incredible if the dimensions that were alleged would be true. It is conceded by all parties that the figures given by the Natives are very badly exaggerated when they are talking about turtles three and four metres in carapace diameter, six to eight metres or more counting the outstretched neck. Most experts pick up their suitcases and leave in a hurry with a crisp ‘Good Day to you!’ when they hear that part.

“The south Asian turtles are also alleged to grow very large, as big as an oceanic leatherback turtle in the Ganges according to

stories *there* and the proponents of the Hoan Kiem turtle's special status have stated that it is the largest known turtle on earth. Those statements are also generally taken with a grain of salt. . . ."

NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

1) "A creature called the Carvana was described from the swamplands and lagoons of eastern Texas: 'This insidious predator of swamplands and lagoons in eastern Texas was described by a Mexican migrant named Aluna, who allegedly lost livestock to the creature in the mid nineteenth century. According to Aluna's story, no Carvana was ever seen alive, though its remains were sometimes found during droughts, when its marshy habitat evaporated. On those occasions, local settlers and aboriginal tribesmen allegedly discovered skeletons resembling those of large turtles, with shells 10-12 feet long and 6 feet wide, while the beasts head and tail resembled an alligator's. In life, the Caravana lay submerged in mud, waiting to pounce on prey that included livestock and human beings. Skeptics suggest that tales of monsters "never seen alive" refer to early discovery of fossil dinosaurs or Ice Age megafauna.'" (Newton 2005)

2) There was also a story of an American hairy tortoise (Battaile 1879). See the Asia section for similar tales.

To the editors of the *Popular Science Monthly*:

Noticing your interesting extract from "Land and Water" concerning the "hairy tortoise", I take the liberty of mentioning a similar species found to my knowledge in the lakes of this valley. Its description tallies almost exactly with that of the Chinese variety, except perhaps in size. It is about three inches in length by two and a half breadth, is very closely covered by its shell, the carapace is not hinged, and out of some dozen specimens examined by me not one was without the coat of water-grass. Its habitat

is at the bottom of shallow lakes and ponds, and near the submerged roots of trees, where it is often caught with the hook. It has a remarkably fetid odour. The grassy or confervoid covering is not of any great length, generally about one half or three fourths of an inch. It is, I believe an undescribed species, though Mr. Aggasiz may have had a specimen among his collection of tortoises from the Mississippi Valley.

Very Respectfully, J. F. Battaile, Yazoo City,
December 8, 1878.

3) A case of a tortoise or turtle falling from the sky is by no means a one-off occurrence:

Liverpool Echo, September 13, 1884

During a heavy rain storm at Canton, Ohio, a few days ago, a two-and-a-half-pound snapping turtle fell from the sky with such force that its shell was cracked. It rebounded like a ball. It is still alive.

Sheffield Evening Telegraph, August 20, 1887

Half-a-dozen turtles fell with rain at New Brunswick, New Jersey, recently, and scientific theories were thickly advanced until it was discovered that they had been left on a neighbouring roof to sun, and had been washed off with the very rain that flooded the town.

Monthly Weather Review (May 1917) cites *The Monthly Weather Review* for May, 1884 (p. 215) for the account that during a severe hailstorm "at Bovina, 8 miles east of Vicksburg, Miss., a gopher turtle 6 by 8 inches and entirely encased in ice fell with the hail."

Turtle Mystery Solved at St. Cloud

Fergus Falls (MN) Daily Journal, July 6, 1955

St. Cloud, Minn. (AP)—A six-inch turtle perched

on a cluster of telephone cables 30 feet above the ground posed as a mystery for awhile here today. Guessers first tried to link it with the rainstorm which brought nearly an inch of rain during the night. Others theorized they had spotted a kind of flying turtle. The neighbourhood children came forward with an explanation. They said a man had found the turtle in the street. Fearing it might be run over, he picked it up to toss it into a vacant lot. His toss was high and wide and the turtle landed on the cables, where it stayed until this morning when a telephone lineman brought it down.

According to *Living Wonders* by John Michell and Robert Rickard (1982), "in August 1975, during construction work at Fort Worth, Texas, a green terrapin was found embedded under a mound of hardened concrete which had presumably been poured onto it. It was thought to have been there for at least a year. It died 36 hours after its rescue." A photograph is in *Living Wonders*.

Here is a testimony from a gentleman who narrowly escaped being struck on the head by a tortoise which fell out of a clear blue sky. Thanks to Bob Skinner who alerted me to his friend to whom this happened in Mexico City circa 1980.

"At about 7 a.m., after pegging an item of clothing to the washing line I turned and stepped back inside the flat when I heard a sharp thump. In the exact spot where a few seconds before I had been standing, I saw a tortoise lying on its back in a pool of blood. It had a brown shell, 6-7 inches long, and was still alive despite what appeared to be serious injury: its shell was badly cracked and by the end of the day it had lost a lot of blood. After a couple of days its wounds became infested with maggots, but treating them with Gentian violet killed the maggots and the tortoise made a complete recovery.

"I speculated that the tortoise might have been thrown from a nearby rooftop or dropped by an eagle. I've only recently learned

that Golden Eagles pick up tortoises and drop them to break the shell, and it was known that a smaller species of eagle sometimes escaped from a nearby rooftop where it was kept as a pet.

“In true Fortean manner, it could have just fallen from directly above for no good reason.”

4) In 1994 the magazine *Omni* reported on “Moby Turtle” as follows: “Move over Nessie. Recent reports tell of a giant killer turtle living in Island Lake, Illinois, some 40 miles north-west of Chicago.

“It all started about a year ago, when resident Liz Herman spotted two large snapping turtles mating in the water just beyond her backyard sea wall. ‘These turtles were huge, maybe three feet long’, says Herman. ‘My husband Kevin didn’t believe me until he saw my photos. Then he showed them around town.’ ‘Soon rumors were flying,’ says Georgine Cooper, a town trustee. ‘The turtle was said to be anywhere from the size of a small pickup truck to an 18-wheel semi.’

“‘Our Water Department supervisor, Neil DeYoung, tried to catch the turtle,’ adds local police chief Eugene Bach. ‘All he got for his trouble was bent hooks.’

“Bach refuses to fuel the killer-turtle rumours. In fact, he thinks the turtle may be an alligator snapper released into the lake some years ago by a local boy. ‘Alligator snappers,’ he says, ‘can grow to more than 60 pounds and can be 25 inches long. Listen,’ he adds. ‘I could tell you that when kids hang their feet over the pier they get chewed up, but that wouldn’t be true.’—Anita Baskin.”

SOUTH AMERICA

1) In January 2013 came the heart-warming story from a family in Brazil who found their pet tortoise Manuela, 30 years after she had disappeared. She was found in a box of rubbish in a room which hadn’t been accessible for that period of time. A BBC media source in the UK (BBC Radio 4) said it had survived by eating termites.

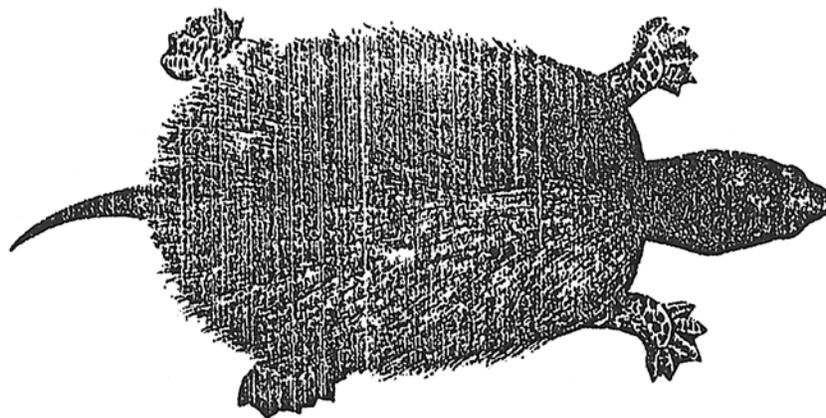
ASIA

1) The following story of a “hairy tortoise” appeared in the *Bradford Observer* of March 13, 1875:

Telescopic Fish and Hairy Tortoise: “. . . A gentleman, Mr. John Meaney, of the Imperial Customs, Hankow, recently arrived from China, brought with him with great care, and most kindly presented to the Aquarium, a little tortoise covered with a singular growth on the shell, three or four inches long, which he believed to be hair. This erroneous (?) belief is doubtless fostered by the Chinese, who induce Europeans to purchase, as great curiosities, their ‘hairy tortoise,’ as some rogues in England sell painted canaries. The so-called ‘hair’ is a filamentous alga, or water weed, which grows on the back of the animal in the pond or tank in which it is kept exposed to the light. I remember examining with Mr. Buckland, some years ago, a similar specimen which had been sent to him. The microscope soon showed us the character of the filiform growth.”—*Land and Water*.



From Cooper (1871)



“Hairy Tortoise” from an ancient Chinese medica (Read, 1977)

“In *The Travels of a Pioneer of Commerce in Pigtails and Petticoats* by T. T. Cooper there is a plate of one of these hairy tortoises from the lakes of Ha-su above Hankow. These curious little animals were two inches long, and covered on the back with a long . . . growth resembling hair. The tortoise being a sacred emblem in China, the Chinese make pets of the hairy tortoise which they keep in basins of water during the summer months, and bury in sand during the winter” (Anonymous, 1878).

2) The Pearl turtle (not to be confused with the North American one) “looks like a lung with eyes and six feet. Found near Canton” (Schafer, 1967). According to Brad LaGrange (pers. comm., 1999):

“Could this be an arthropod of some sort? Not sure about the ‘lung shape’, but the six legs and turtle like appearance sounds like a beetle.” Schafer (1967) continues: “The Vermilion Turtle is found in the South Seas and is as large as a coin. The underside is blood red in colour. Could this be similar as the ‘red softshell’ of the T’ang Dynasty in the fresh waters of Lo-chou and Pien-chou, just north of the Lei-chou Peninsula which had a malignant nature or the Nam-Viet ‘vermilion softshell’ with a blood red belly worn as an amulet by men and women against sword wounds and by women to gain beauty?”

3) Up until at least 1898 there were occasional, (it must be admitted, very occasional) reports of a land tortoise on Hong Kong island. In *The Journal of the Royal Geographical Society of London*, vol. 14, 1844, a land tortoise was reported. This may have been one of the tortoises mentioned as possibly being part of Hong Kong’s fauna by British naturalist Geoffrey Herklots in *The Hong Kong Countryside* as a “big headed tortoise.” There is a big headed turtle in Hong Kong, *Platysternon megacephalum*. During World War Two, a single specimen of *Ocadia sinensis* turned up buried in a dried-up pond and came to the attention of the British naturalist. It is still not known how it got there. But specimens have turned up since.

4) This image here (opposite) of a giant turtle being carried at a Taoist funeral in Hong Kong on a sedan chair indicates a species of some sort of very large Chinese softshell. Its exact provenance is unknown.

5) According to *A General Collection of . . . Voyages and Travels*, digested by J. Pinkerton, in 1690 a Portuguese ship was lost on one of the northernmost of the Paracel islands with only three or four survivors, “Their food was sea fowls, and tortoises which frequented that island in great numbers.” By 1701, only one man had survived and in this year he was rescued by a passing vessel and taken to Macao.



Turtle at Taoist Funeral

On a Vietnamese web site of the pro-government Nguyen Thai Foundation, quoting from the Encyclopaedist Le Qui Don (1726-1784) in his work *Phu Bien Tap Luc (Miscellaneous Records on the Pacification of the Frontiers)* is this: “the fauna and flora of the Paracels, [a group of islands in the South China Sea disputed by Vietnam, China, Taiwan and the Philippines] are described in detail, thus allowing one to compare them with later scientific descriptions made in the twentieth century: sea-swallows and their valuable nests (among the thousands of varieties of birds found on the islands), giant conches called ‘elephant-ear conches’, mother-of-pearls, giant tortoises and smaller varieties of turtles, sea urchins, and so forth.”

On June 18, 1947, *The China Mail* reported:

Canton Loses Its Tortoise

The “City of Rams” has lost its 1000-year-old giant tortoise, which died yesterday, according to Chinese press dispatches from Canton. The tortoise, originally from the Paracels Islands, was one of the main attractions in Canton’s Han Min Public Park. With its passing away, the City Government’s daily budget has been reduced by CNC\$4,000, the amount which had to be paid out daily for the tortoise’s meals.

Dale Drinnon in January 2013 (pers. comm.) pointed out that there was no way of knowing if scientific tests had been carried out to establish whether or not this tortoise really was 1000 years old.

In September 2010 Dale Drinnon posted on the Cryptozoology Online blog on “Galapagos” tortoises in China, as follows: “A while back there was a posting to the CFZ blog on the supposition that giant tortoises were brought back during a supposed Ming Dynasty circumnavigation of the Earth. I did not know what they were talking about at the time, but I think I know better now.

“The supposition that the Chinese were aware of giant tortoises is based on statues of Dragon Turtles in Beijing (Peking) and elsewhere,

and Dragon Turtles are traditional auspicious Chinese legendary creatures. They do not mean the same thing as the Black Warrior Tortoise of the North, which is a constellation. Looking at the depictions of the Dragon turtles you can see that the heads are vaguely shaped like a Galapagos tortoise (Freely interpreted to add 'Dragonlike' features such as whiskers) and the long neck is similar. *But* there are Tortoises nearly as large and of much the same anatomy at the Aldabara Islands near Madagascar, and while it is theory that the Ming Chinese made it to the Galapagos Islands, it is on the other hand a plain fact that we know the Ming Chinese reached East Africa and Madagascar. Their distinctive chin is found all over the place.

“Besides that much, there used to be many other islands with giant tortoises, including some islands of Indonesia. And at one point cryptid Giant Tortoises could well have co-existed with humans in India and China—old Greek records imply that much. So



Dragon Tortoise (CC) Jonathan O'Donnell

there are any number of alternative candidates that would be more likely than the Galapagos giant tortoises, with a favouritism on Aldabara ones. (But not discounting the possibility that the Chinese also knew of such tortoises on Madagascar or any of a number of other places. Chinese were fond of drawing Dragon Tortoises all over their maps in the spirit of 'Here There Be Dragons.')

6) According to Chad Arment (2000): "This past December [1999] I was contacted by a Russian zoologist who had come across my site and wished to know if I knew of anyone who might wish to sponsor a trip to Northern Mongolia. It seems that a Russian geologist came across some strange 'turtle like' traces on the sandy bank of one of the North-Mongolian lakes. The large tracks were seen annually between 1985 and 1991.

"In a very cursory search I was unable to find much info on Mongolian herps. I don't have access to the Russian herp journals, unfortunately, so have no idea as to which turtles are found in Mongolia. I did find an older book that mentioned seals in some of Mongolia's inland lakes, but I haven't been able to confirm that. Would a seal's flippers create turtle like impressions?"

AUSTRALIA

1) The Moka Moka was supposedly a giant turtle from Queensland:

"Gigantic Sea Turtle". Examples of this very large species of marine turtle have been recorded in areas of the South Pacific, and some fine skeletal remains have been recovered in Australia. Relatively current reports say that in Queensland there is a massive turtle known as Moka Moka. One report by a young woman named Lovell, a resident of that area, was recorded in 1890. She said that the sea turtle had either teeth or serrated jaw bones. She went on to state that "what I saw of it was about 27 or 28 feet, but I think it must be 30 feet in all. Whilst its head

was out of the water it kept its mouth open, and, as I could not see any nostrils, I fancy it breaths through its mouth. The jaws are about 18 inches in length; the head and neck greenish white, with large white spots on the neck, and a band of white round a very black eye” (Sweeney, 1972).

- 2) The Effects of the Recent Rains
 The Strange Discovery of a Turtle
 The West Australian, February 10, 1896

Masters and party caught a turtle the other day in one of the trenches. This catch aroused a mild sensation, the turtle being discovered far from anything like permanent water.

EUROPE

- 1) There are several cases of sea turtles in UK waters:

Oxford Journal, December 20, 1766

Dublin, Dec. 6: A Turtle was caught on the coast of Fingal, which measures four Feet in Length, and weighs 500 Weight. This is the first turtle that ever was taken on this coast, which makes it much feared that some ship from the West Indies has been wrecked.

Oxford Journal, March 5, 1768:

A few Days ago a live West India Turtle was caught near Portland, four feet long, and near five hundred weight having the Letters W R engraved on its back.

According to the fourth edition of R. Lee’s *Anecdotes of the Habits and Instincts of Birds, Reptiles and Fishes*, “A hawksbill turtle was once caught in the Severn, and kept in a gentleman’s pond ’til the ensuing winter.” Thomas Bell (1839) gave more details:

“The history of this species as a British visitant is confined to the mere notice of its accidental occurrence on three different occasions on the shores of Great Britain. Sibbald states that he received the shell of one which ‘came into Orkney;’ Dr. Fleming says, ‘I have credible testimony of its having been taken at Papa Stour, one of the West Zetland Islands;’ and the late Dr. Turton has mentioned an instance of one which ‘in the year 1774 was taken in the Severn, and placed in the fish-ponds of author’s father, where it lived till winter.’ The West Zetland Islands and Papa Stour are off the Shetland Islands.”

A Turtle Caught off Co. Cork

Belfast Newsletter, January 17, 1834

A few days ago, a turtle weighing above 2 cwt. was hooked off Castlehaven, by some fishermen, who had never seen such a fish before, and some of them being unwilling to make acquaintance with it, the captor was obliged to take a turn of a rope round his prize and tow it into Castle Townshend, when the offer of 30s. had a quick effect in removing the prejudices of the fishermen against their capture. It is a very rare occurrence to find turtle in these seas.

Hampshire Advertiser, January 6, 1838

This week a fine large green turtle was caught on the north shore, and retailed in this town at the low price of eight pence per lb. It is supposed to have escaped, or been thrown overboard, from some homeward bound Indiaman. It weighed 3 cwt.

Freeman’s Journal, July 9, 1849

A fine young turtle was caught in the Cork channel, on Friday, contiguous to the city.

Sussex Advertiser June 21, 1859

One day last week a very small turtle was caught in Yarmouth Haven, in a net. According to those

most conversant with the fishing interest of the town, this is the first time that ever such a circumstance has occurred, and speculation, therefore, is rife as to where it could possibly have come from.

A Natural Curiosity at Bridlington Quay

Leeds Mercury, October 27, 1871

On Wednesday last, John Barnett and William Sawdon, of Bridlington Quay, fishermen, caught in their net in the bay a very large turtle. They towed it into the harbour, and landed it on the shore between seven and eight p.m. It is something over 7ft long, and 3ft. 6 inches across. It is conjectured to weigh from six to seven hundredweight. It is said to be the first turtle ever caught or seen at Bridlington. It has come just in time for the grand banquet to be given on the Monday next to the Prince and Princess of Wales and the other distinguished guests expected to be then at Scarborough. In June, 1870, a large turtle was caught in the Downs, and taken to Ramsgate. It was a puzzle to all who saw it, how it had come there. Some supposed it might have got into the Gulf Stream, while others thought it had gone with a ship that had been wrecked. The same question may arise as to the turtle landed at Bridlington, viz., How it got into Bridlington Bay?

A Turtle Caught at the Broomielaw, Glasgow

Evening Telegraph, June 12, 1877

Yesterday morning, shortly after nine o'clock, as one of the boatmen who attend ships mooring in the stream carrying their hawsers ashore, etc, was out, saw what at first was thought to be a large skate or fish of similar description coming up with the tide near the surface of the water, and alive. He managed to get it lifted into his boat, but by the time he reached the quay it was dead. It proved to be an ordinary

sized turtle, and the lucky finder at once conveyed it home. Various conjectures were made at the time of its landing as to the reason of its appearance in the foetid waters of Glasgow harbour, but the one most generally credited was that it had slipped overboard from some ship coming up the river.

Belfast Newsletter, January 16, 1882

A turtle was caught in the Solent last week by the crew of one of the Portsmouth and Ryde steam packets. The appearance of a turtle in such a latitude is regarded as an extraordinary circumstance, and the fish has been forwarded to the Brighton Aquarium.

Hampshire Telegraph, March 19, 1887

The dinners at the Sun and the Green Dragon [Newport, Isle of Wight] were greatly in request. It was at the latter house that the historic 200 lb turtle, caught in the mud at Newport on November 18th, 1799, found a peaceful sepulchre in the grateful stomachs of Lord Holmes and the Newport Corporation.

The Country-side Magazine of July 25, 1908, mentioned a large leatherback turtle measuring just over 7 feet long and nearly the same wide: "A very fine specimen of the Leathery Turtle . . . was recently captured at Pwhelli, a Cardigan Bay fishing port and a fashionable North Wales health resort. Its appearance in such northerly latitudes naturally elicited considerable conjectures as to its presence in such unfrequented quarters inasmuch as the scope of its perambulations is confined to the tropical and subtropical seas of both hemispheres although instances of its presence in northerly latitudes are recorded, but only once or twice has it made its appearance in British waters within the last century" (Owen, 1908).



Leatherback captured at Pwhelli (Owen, 1908)

Turtle and Shark Caught in Same Net
Dundee Courier, June 19, 1916

A remarkable turtle, weighing nearly a ton, was landed at Penzance yesterday. It measured about 8 feet long by 4 feet broad, and was caught alive in a net off Scilly. It is one of the most remarkable specimens of the species—the usual habitat of which is the Brazilian coast—ever seen in British waters. In the same net was caught a thresher shark, the body of which was nearly 12 feet long excluding the tail measurement.

According to Neil Arnold's (2011) *Mystery Animals of London*, "During the Summer of 1998 a very 'out of place' creature was found in the Thames. A Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) the largest of the sea turtles which can reach a weight of 1770 lb—was found washed up in east London by Tony Clancy and Steve Connor."

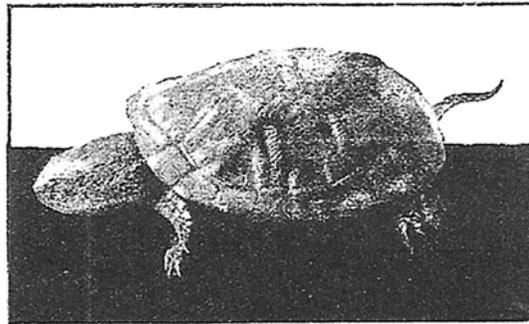
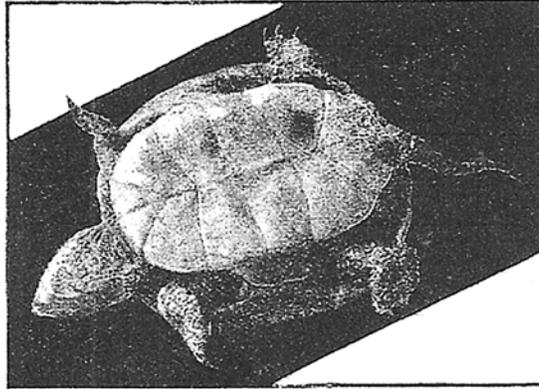
2) In England, in Blaxhall, Suffolk, in 1889 to be precise, "eleven examples of the European water tortoise were placed in a pond . . . ,

but most of them soon wandered away in different directions. During the three following years specimens were from time to time found about the village and in 1894, 2 were discovered in the river Alde at about the same distance in an opposite direction, and a third in a ditch at Iken Cliff, more than two miles off. During the years 1894 and 1895, 49 of these tortoises were turned into ditches and ponds in Blaxhall. A few were at the same time liberated in some water adjoining a garden at Little Glemham. These latter appeared regularly near the same spot for several summers in succession, but have now ceased to do so. In all cases the tortoises remained in a healthy and thriving condition, but no young ones have been seen.”

Blackburn Standard, September 27, 1898

Thames Tortoises. An interesting addition to the British fauna is reported from the Thames Valley. A wild tortoise or turtle has been taken from the river, and is now contentedly living upon a diet of worms in a glass bowl. It belongs to the order of New World marsh tortoises, of which the formidable alligator tortoise of North America is the best example. This creature will snap off half your hand if you put it within reach; but boating parties on the Thames need not fear the loss of any extremities on account of the discovery under notice: for the marsh tortoise which has been caught is only the small tortoise of America, measuring about four inches, exclusive of tail, and can only cope with small worms. Yet he resembles the alligator tortoise in every essential detail except size and strength; and differs from the common or garden tortoise of the street barrows in possessing a rather thinner and flatter shell, and in being ornamented with bright yellow speckles and splashes. He is, however, extremely active on land, and can swim with agility, and may therefore be able to hold his own in the amphibious struggle for existence in the shallows of the Thames.

Fresh Water Tortoise. This creature possesses special interest because it seems likely that it will become established in Britain. The writer has taken one specimen in a



Photos.]

[J. T. Newman.]

Fresh-water Tortoise (*Emys*) under and upper sides.

This interesting creature is occasionally found now in English rivers, etc.

Thames backwater, and several have been taken by anglers. It is common in Southern and East Central Europe, and is eaten wherever it is found. The genus (*Emys*) is distinguished from all other tortoises except the box-tortoises, by a hinge across the plastron—the armour on the underside, shown in the upper picture—whereby, after withdrawing inside the shell, it can close both ends. The lower figure shows the shelving carapace, or upper armour, and long tail, by which it is distinguished from the box-tortoises.

In 1906 these tortoises were still surviving in the Thames Valley and other parts of England according to *The Country-side* of July 21, 1906.

According to *British Reptiles and Amphibians* by E. A. Ellis the European Pond Tortoise bred successfully in Suffolk in 1929. "By 1929 they were very numerous in one spot; in the spring of 1932 a nearly mature tortoise was seen and two years later one was found in the adjacent parish of Snape." R. S. R. Fitter in *The Ark in Our Midst* said: "Other introductions are known to have been made at Shere, Surrey, in 1890-91; Old Park pond, St. Lawrence, Isle of Wight, some years before 1907; Frensham Hall ponds near Haslemere, Surrey, in 1905-10; Lambay Island, Co. Dublin, in 1906; and Woburn Park, Bedfordshire, where some still remained in 1950. There is no evidence that any of these tortoises bred, but several were still alive at St. Lawrence in November 1907 and in that summer one was seen in the millpond at Carisbrooke, about eight miles away, where perhaps it had been put independently.

"Certainly these tortoises must either have been introduced on other occasions or have a tendency to wander quite a distance, for there are a surprising number of casual records in South-east England, starting with one that was dug up, evidently hibernating, in fen peat at Ludham, Norfolk, in February 1904, some forty miles from the Blaxhall district. Three odd specimens have been seen in Surrey; one in a gravel-pit at Beddington in April 1933; one basking on a log in the upper Pen Pond in Richmond Park in July 1934, and one in a pond on Bookham Common before 1935. Another was found in the Royal Military Canal at Appledore, Kent, in 1938. . . . In 1905-10 a number of Snapper Terrapins (*Chelydra serpentina*) and Painted Terrapins (*Chrysemys picta*), both from North America, were put in the Frensham Hall ponds in Surrey. When Mr. D. F. Leney came to drain these ponds about ten years ago [i.e. about 1949—Richard] he found two or three snappers and a dozen painted, still there and sent most of them to the London Zoo."

3) On July 16, 1766, *The London Magazine or Gentleman's Monthly Intelligencer*, vol. 35, said:

A land tortoise was taken out of farmer Platt's pond, at Hendon; it has been there some years, though no one can tell how it came there.

The following letter indicates to my mind that in Essex, south-east England about 55 years ago a small colony of tortoises established more than a transitory presence, at least:

Dear Mr. Muirhead:

By luck I saw your letter about tortoises in the wild in a recent issue of the *Cambridge Evening News*. I hope the following information helps you.

Between 1959 and 1964 my uncle kept a caravan for weekend and holiday use at Great Gibcracks Farm, near Chelmsford in Essex. The farm was about half a mile from the road, up a long and rutted drive. It was an extraordinary place, an Edwardian model farm built by an eccentric who placed busts of Dante and other poets in copses, had a swimming pool dug and planted exotic trees and shrubs. By the 1960s it was falling to pieces about the current owner.

Beyond the farm were two cottages and then woodland. The nearest houses to the farm, apart from the cottages, were almost a mile away.

In late May or early June 1964 my younger brother, Nigel, and I found a tortoise moving along a furrow in a ploughed field immediately alongside the farm. (The field had been ploughed at Easter then left.) I can't be more precise about the date; I do know that I'd been given a weekend away from preparing for the O levels looming over me.

The tortoise just fitted on my palm so would have been almost 6" long. We had kept several tortoises

as pets in the past; this one had a darker shell than I could recall seeing before and yellow mottling between the eyes. It appeared to be a spur thighed tortoise.

We went to the farm, the cottages and then to the houses nearest the field but no one knew anything about the tortoise. Using the local bush telegraph we let people living farther away know but the tortoise was never claimed and became our pet, with the name Shostakovich—why that name was selected I can't remember. Shostakovich was found dead in summer, 1967.

In 1980 Nigel mentioned he had talked with a man who lived in a village called Bicknacre in the 1950s and 1960s; Bicknacre is not far from Gt. Gibcracks and we sometimes walked there through the woods. The man said that he twice found tortoises in the fields but had never traced their owners. Sadly, Nigel died in 1990 and I remember no details, like the man's name.

I hope that your research is fruitful; the adjustment of animals to British conditions has always interested me. I have wondered if the Surrey puma and Exmoor beast are abandoned pets that are now acclimatized. I am sure you know about the scorpions that colonized the railways station at Ongar in Essex.

It would be more interesting though to discover native tortoises and native pumas. I hope one day to read about your research.

Yours sincerely,

J.S. Holford-Miettinen

OCEANS AND ISLANDS

- 1) The British paper the *Alnwick Mercury* (August 14, 1880) carried the following story about an event off New Jersey:

A Sea of Turtles. If the *Galveston News* is to be believed, Captain Rodgers, owner of the schooner *James Andrews*, has witnessed a sight which would have gladdened the heart of many an alderman (says the *Daily Telegraph*). Passing between Sabine and Calcasian his vessel encountered bad weather, and the sea became very lumpy, when the schooner suddenly entered a field of green turtles, "some of them being as large as an ordinary-sized round table." Strange to relate, the skipper observed that they were all on their backs, and noting this he proceeded to measure the area they covered when he found the space to be eight miles in width and ten miles in length, wondered why the Spanish mackerel were seen leaping high in the air in every direction, as if determined to escape from the sea. Neither the mackerel, any more than Captain Rodgers, could understand where all these monsters had come from, and he has applied to the nautical authorities of the American Government for an explanation of how it happened that the turtles were on their backs. A still more remarkable thing in connection with the spectacle which Captain Rodgers thus beheld is the statement that wherever the turtles went they seemed to carry the storm with them; so that while in their vicinity the schooner *James Andrews* very nearly foundered, no sooner had she passed by the monsters "as large as round tables", then fair weather and a good sea presented themselves, and she was able to make satisfactory headway. Evidently Captain Rodgers has reason to be surprised. What with the eight miles by ten miles of turtles, flying sea mackerel, and the storm that passed in so strange a manner, he had good ground for asking somebody to assist him in explaining this phenomenon.

2) In 1883 *Scientific American* reported the following fascinating story of a giant turtle off Newfoundland (not far from the case of the *Rhapsody* below):

A Large Turtle

“Captain Augustus G. Hall and the crew of the schooner *Annie L. Hall* vouch for the following: On March 30, while on the Grand Bank, in latitude 40° 10', longitude 33°, they discovered an immense live trunk turtle, which was at first thought to be a vessel bottom up. The schooner passed within twenty-five feet of the monster, and those on board had ample opportunity to estimate its dimensions by a comparison with the length of the schooner. The turtle was at least 40 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 30 feet from the apex of the back to the bottom of the under shell. The flippers were 20 feet long. It was not deemed advisable to attempt its capture.”

According to Dale Drinnon (2009): “There is a semi-legendary turtle called the ‘Father of All Turtles’ by Sumatrans. I say ‘semi-legendary’ because huge turtles have been reported from various parts of the world’s oceans.

“Accounts of these remarkable animals first reached Europe in the early nineteenth century when Dutch settlers in what is now Indonesia reported native legends of enormous turtles. These stories eventually filtered back to their homeland in western Europe. However sightings of such beasts are not confined to the tropical waters of the East Indies. In June 1956 seamen of the cargo steamer *Rhapsody*, reported that they had seen a huge turtle about 45 feet long with an all-white shell south of Nova Scotia. The Canadian coastguards warned local boats about this gigantic reptile with flippers 15 feet long and capable of raising its head 8 feet out of the water. Seventy three years earlier, not far away on the Newfoundland Banks, a turtle 60 feet long and 40 feet wide had been reported.”

In September 1959 Tex Geddes and James Gavin “saw a giant turtle in the sea off the small island of Soay in the Inner Hebrides for an hour. . . . They had been watching marine creatures including some killer-whales and a basking shark, when Gavin noticed a black shape on the water about two miles away in the direction of the Skye shore. Although this was where the killer-whales had last been seen, Geddes was convinced that this was something new. He later wrote: ‘I am afraid we both stared in amazement as the object came towards us, for this beast steaming slowly in our direction was like some hellish monster of prehistoric times. The head was definitely reptilian, about two feet six high with large protruding eyes. There was no visible nasal organs, but a large red gash of a mouth which seemed to cut the head in half and which appeared to have distinct lips. There was at least two feet of clear water behind the neck, less than a foot of which we could see, and the creature’s back which rose sharply to its highest point some three to four feet out of the water and fell away gradually towards the after end. I would say we saw 8 to 10 ft. of back on the water line.’ . . . However there is a great deal of evidence for the existence of giant marine chelonians. In the cretaceous period . . . there was a giant turtle called *Archelon*. It was found in the sea of Niobrara over what is now the state of Kansas in the U.S.A. The carapace was twelve feet long and the skull was three feet long. Some zoologists have speculated that ‘The Father of all the Turtles’ is a surviving population of *Archelon*.” (Drinnon, 2009)

In fact giant turtles have been reported since Roman times:

“The gigantic Chelonians which once abounded in India and the Indian seas are now entirely extinct; but we have had little difficulty in believing the accounts of their actual and late existence contained in the works of Pliny and Ælian since the discovery of the *Colossochelys*, described by Dr. Falconer, in the Upper Miocene deposits of the Siwalik Hills in North-Western India. The shell of *Colossochelys Atlas* (Falconer and Cantley) measured twelve feet, and the whole animal nearly twenty.

“Pliny, [*The Natural History of Pliny*. Translated by J. Bostock and H. T. Biley, 6 vols.] who published his work on Natural History

about A. D. 77, states that the turtles of the Indian Sea are of such vast size that a single shell is sufficient to roof a habitable cottage, and that among the islands of the Red Sea the navigation is mostly carried on in boats formed from this shell.

“Ælian, [*Æliani de Natura Animalium*, F. Jacobs. Jenæ, 1832.] about the middle of the third century of our era, is more specific in his statement, and says that the Indian river-tortoise is very large, and in size not less than a boat of fair magnitude; also, in speaking of the Great Sea in which is Taprobana (Ceylon), he says: ‘There are very large tortoises generated in this sea, the shell of which is large enough to make an entire roof; for a single one reaches the length of fifteen cubits, so that not a few people are able to live beneath it, and certainly secure themselves from the vehement rays of the sun; they make a broad shade, and so resist rain that they are preferable for this purpose to tiles, nor does the rain beating against them sound otherwise than if it were falling on tiles. Nor, indeed, do those who inhabit them have any necessity for repairing them, as in the case of broken tiles, for the whole roof is made out of a solid shell so that it has the appearance of a cavernous or undermined rock, and of a natural roof.’

“El Edrisi, in his great geographical work, [*Géographie d’Edrisi*, traduite de l’Arabe en Français] 2 Vols. completed A.D. 1154, speaks of them as existing down to his day, but as his book is admitted to be a compilation from all preceding geographical works, he may have been simply quoting, without special acknowledgment, the statements given above. He says, speaking of the Sea of Herkend (the Indian Ocean west of Ceylon), ‘It contains turtles twenty cubits long, containing within them as many as one thousand eggs’” (Gould, 1992).

“In the T’ang Dynasty (618-907 A.D.) there were stories of giant turtles in the South China Sea;” the seas off Canton also produced a large “osprey turtle” (whatever that may mean) not especially numinous (Schafer, E 1967).

“According to a Chinese Materia Medica dating from around

1597 and published by Bernard Read in the *Peking Natural History Bulletin* in the 1930s there was a creature called the Yuan or Great Sea Turtle. . . . *Li Shih-chen* states that according to the *Shuo Wen* . . . the *yuan* is a big turtle, the largest of all the scaly animals. Hence the written character yuan is used, because yuan means big. . . . Su Sung states the *yuan* comes from rivers and lakes of the South. (The *Ling-wai-tai-ta* describes the big sea-turtle found near K'in chou, the westernmost part of Kwangtung, and which it calls *pi tai mao*.) It is big being 10 to 20 feet in circumference. Southerners prepare it for food. The flesh has five colours but it is chiefly white. The eggs are round as large as chicken's or ducks eggs, one to two hundred are laid at one time. People dig them out and salt them for food. When boiled the white does not congeal." . . .

"*T'ao Hung-cheng*. It is said when this turtle is old it is able to change into a dryad . . . so if it is not an urgent matter it is best not eaten. *Li Shih-chen* states that the *yuan* is like the soft shelled turtle but it is large. On its back it has protuberances. It is yellowish green in colour, it has a big head with a yellow neck, the bowels are connected with the head. It mates with the female *pieh*. The eggs are hatched by its thoughtful care. Hence the saying, when the *yuan* calls the *pieh* answers. *Huai Nan Tzu* states that burning the fat of the *yuan* will attract the *pieh*, it is influenced by the familiar smell. *Chang Ting* (Shih Liao Pen T'sao) states that the fat rubbed on iron makes it bright. It is also said that it eats fish in the water, and has a human like body. It has twelve kinds of flesh (That of the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, chicken, dog, pig. This is not explained but probably refers to its bird like head, its rat like tail, its dragon like scaly coat, its fat like a sheep, claws like a tiger, all these qualities combined in a great archetype.) or organs, which when sliced and hung up overnight extend in length (and thus show their snake like character.) There was also a turtle called the Vermillion Turtle found in the South Seas as large as a coin. The underside was blood red in colour" (Tsu-k'uang, 1997).

3) On July 19, 1924, the *Townsville Daily Bulletin* reported thus:

Lived For 1000 Years

The other day a cable from the island of Samoa in the South Pacific announced the discovery on one of the Tonga Islands of a giant Galapagos turtle. What made the discovery important enough to be sent over the cables was that upon the turtles back was engraved the name of that redoubtable explorer, Captain Cook, and the date 1773.

The great turtle must have been old when Captain Cook found it 150 years ago for the despatches said he was blind and his joints creaked as he walked (says *Popular Science*.)

In March 1972, the Abingdon (Pinta) Island giant tortoise, *G. elephantopus abingdoni* was found after supposedly being extinct since the early 1960s. “Even more mysterious than the current status of Abingdon’s giant tortoise is that of *G. e. phantastica*—the subspecies of Galapagos giant tortoise endemic to Narborough Island. It is presently known only from a single specimen, obtained there in 1906 by Rollo H. Beck, leader of an expedition from the California Academy of Sciences. Yet in 1964, several fresh faecal droppings were found by J. Hendrickson on Narborough’s southern slopes, implying that this is another subspecies skilled in the art of eluding scientific searches.”

In early 2010 Cryptomundo reported (Coleman 2010) that nine captive Galápagos tortoises were actually representatives of an extinct species: “Nine captive Galápagos tortoises have turned out to be an extinct species. New genetic research has identified the captive giant tortoises as descendants of an ‘extinct’ species formerly endemic to Floreana Island in the Pacific’s Galápagos Islands. In an article published this week in the peer-reviewed online Public Library of Science journal *PloS ONE*, the abstract notes:

“Although not unusual to find captive relicts of species lost in the wild, rarely are presumed extinct species rediscovered outside of their native range. A recent study detected living descendents of an extinct Galápagos tortoise species (*Chelonoidis elephantopus*) once endemic to Floreana Island on the neighbouring island of Isabela. This finding adds to the growing cryptic diversity detected among these species in the wild. There also exists a large number of Galápagos tortoises in captivity of ambiguous origin. The recently accumulated population-level haplotypic and genotypic data now available for *C. elephantopus* add a critical reference population to the existing database of 11 extant species for investigating the origin of captive individuals of unknown ancestry.”

4) In September 1998 *The Guardian* reported on a race of swift, lightweight tortoises which lived on the Mascarene Islands in the south-west Indian Ocean until the early 1800s:

“Jeremy Austin, of the Natural History Museum, told the British Association festival of science in Cardiff yesterday that the three Mascarene islands of Reunion, Mauritius and Rodrigues, in the south-west Indian Ocean, may have had six species of giant tortoise. On each island there was a round shelled tortoise, and sometimes a second species in which the front of the shell was raised.

“Most tortoises have thick shells. ‘The thick, bony shells also make tortoises heavy and slow,’ said Dr Austin. ‘In the Mascarene Islands there were no large predators, so the tortoises adapted to the enemy free island life by reducing the thickness of their shell to the bare minimum, and having much larger openings for the legs and head. This would have reduced the weight of the shell enormously, leading to the possibility that these animals were the world’s only lightweight racing tortoise.’ . . . ‘We now know that the Mascarene islands were colonised only once by tortoises,’ said Dr Austin. ‘The two species on Rodrigues evolved there

independently of the other two islands, and at least one of the Reunion species arrived from Mauritius in quite recent times.”

5) “Sea-Mystery Turtle” Captured

Popular Mechanics, Sept. 1907, Vol. 9, No. 9

One of the puzzles of the ocean has just come to the surface at San Diego Bay, California, when a gigantic sea turtle was captured by Julius Solissa, a Greek fisherman, in whose net the huge creature was became entangled. This giant turtle weighed 1,902 lb—almost a ton—and its shell measures 5 ft and 2 in from tip to tip. The strangest feature of it all was, that on the top of this turtle’s shell somewhat plainly carved or burned was the following inscription:

“British Ship ‘Sea Bride’ August 12 1881 3 South, 86, West. If found, please notify Thomas Fletcher, Brawley Road, Revington, England.”

From this brand it would appear that this huge turtle was captured 26 years ago in the South Pacific, and after being lettered, was again committed to the mercies of the sea. If the creature was caught where the marking indicates, then his turtleship must have travelled hundreds of leagues in order to reach San Diego Bay. The shell with the mysterious inscription, will be shortly added to the Museum of the California State University.

6) On February 18, 1925, *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported a sea serpent with some similarities to a turtle in Australian waters:

The Sea Serpent

To the Editor of the *Herald*

Sir,—In your leader of last Saturday you mention that the recent report of the appearance of a “sea serpent” is the first record from Australian waters.

In Saville-Kent's book on the Great Barrier Reef, published in 1893, there is a full description, with drawings, of an alleged sea serpent, seen by Miss Lovell at the Sandy Island lighthouse, Queensland. The description is given in great detail, and is signed also by six other witnesses including two of the lightkeepers, namely, James Alsbury and William Lees; and is dated June 8, 1890. The report was also published in "Land and Water" of January 3, 1891. In some respects it resembled a giant turtle, with a carapace "quite five feet high". In front there was a long neck, with the head showing a large mouth well supplied with teeth. Behind there was a long, scaly tail, "quite twelve feet long. It had a thick fleshy fin near the end, about three feet from the flukes." The flukes forming the tail "were semi-transparent." The rest of the beast was of a "beautiful silver-grey, shading to white." When first seen it was apparently stranded in shallow water.

I am etc
F.A.R.

Another turtle-like animal of an unidentified nature is sometimes seen at sea. On August 25, 1934, *The Western Australian* reported:

Sea Monster
Launch Party's Report
Turtle-headed "Snake" Sighted

Brisbane, Aug 24—Following reports of the sighting of a sea monster by Innisfail and Townsville fishermen on August 13, a party from Bowen has had a similar experience. Three men aboard a launch in the vicinity of Gloucester Passage noticed a dark object on the surface of the water. At first they thought the object was a whale, but suddenly it raised its

head eight or ten feet out of the water. Then they saw that it was a huge creature resembling a snake, 30 to 35 feet long. It had a head like a turtle and a body like a big-ribbed hose. The men had no rifle aboard and did not stop the launch. When last seen the monster was making towards the opposite side of the harbour from Bowen.

6) In 1993 and March 18-19, 1994, there were sightings of an unidentified marine animal by some fishermen off the coast of Bahia de los Vientos, near Necochea, Argentina. It was nicknamed “Joselito” (because it was sighted on March 19, the day of “Saint Joseph” in Spanish San José). The colour of the animal was dark brown to black—“with an enormous head, very big and its neck and back with a serrated edge.” It was also seen in August 2007: Austin Whittal, on his Patagonian Monsters website, says it could have been a leatherback turtle. The local museum (Museo De Ciencias Naturales), on its website, says a leatherback was caught by some fishermen in 1995.

Animals and Men (Anonymous 2007) gives more information:

Turtle or Sea Monster

“In August, Argentine fishermen saw and photographed what they believe is a sea monster. They saw the creature’s back rise back rise up from the sea off the coast of Bahia de los Vientos, near to where a sea monster, that was christened Joselito, was seen in March 1994.

“Around 20 people, including Juan Iniguez, Carlos Mino and his son Fabián, saw the creature in 1994. Iniguez and the Minos said they had seen a black thing 10-12 metres from their boat as they pulled up their fishing nets. This sighting was collaborated by other nearby fishing vessels, and people with whom they were in radio contact. Joselito was apparently peaceful and showed no interest in the

fishermen and their boat so they were able to view it for a few minutes, the fishermen said that they only ever saw part of its back but it was very large and had staggered fins 'like a dinosaur'.

“The 2007 sighting and photograph is of an animal approximately 2 metres long, and only the back of the creature breaks the surface of the water. Local news reports postulate that the image is that of a known animal, the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) which is almost certainly correct. The 1994 sighting of Joselito may also have been of a leatherback turtle based on similarities between leatherbacks and the sighting. It is likely that the fishermen would not have recognised it when they saw it because Argentina is out of the leatherback's normal range, with individuals only turning up very rarely.”

The largest leatherback turtle ever discovered measures almost 3 m (9 ft) in length and weighed 914 kg (2,016 lb) and is on permanent display in the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff.

The Winter 1990 (Vol. 9, No. 4) issue of the now defunct *International Society of Cryptozoology Newsletter* reported on the above mentioned leatherback thus: “New Turtle Record. The largest chelonian species known is the marine leatherback, *Dermochelys coriacea*, the Indo-Pacific subspecies of which—*D. c. schlegeli*—has been thought to be the biggest. The record was held by a specimen of this subspecies, which weighed 1,908 lb (865 kg) and measured 8 feet, 4 inches (2.54 m). It was caught alive in Monterey Bay, California in August of 1961 (see *Wood's Animal Facts, Newsletter*, Summer, 1984). However, this record has recently been surpassed by a specimen of the Atlantic sub-specimen of the Atlantic subspecies, *D. c. coriacea*, indicating that there is probably little difference in size between the two subspecies. The record was broken on September 23, 1988, when an enormous leatherback turtle was found dead on a beach in Wales. Now on permanent display in

the National Museum of Wales, the giant weighed 2,016 lb (916 kg), and had a total length of 9 feet (2.7 m), and its curved carapace length was 8 feet, 5 inches (2.56 m)—1 inch (2.5 cm) longer than the entire length of the previous record-holder.

“The cause of death was found to be drowning—a piece of ingested plastic may have been a contributing factor. How much bigger might it have grown had it not died? Might there be other, larger leatherback turtles in the oceans? Who knows?”

The late, tireless collector of anomalies William Corliss (1994) pointed out the following about the leatherback:

The leatherback is the only turtle without a rigid shell. Perhaps it needs a flexible shell for its deep dives?

These turtles are *warm blooded*.

Bones of the leatherback are more like marine mammals.

“No one seems to understand the evolutionary implications of this.”

Leatherbacks dive as deeply as 3000 feet, which is strange because they feed almost exclusively on jellyfish, most of which are surface feeders.

They can stay submerged for up to 48 hours. How?

Their brains weigh 4 grams, 4 grams less than a rat's!

Leatherbacks' intestines contain waxy balls, rather like the ambergris found in whales' intestines.

The stomachs of leatherbacks seem to contain nothing but jellyfish, which are 97% water. How can the leatherback find enough jellyfish to sustain itself?

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CREATURE STORIES FROM THE FIFE FOLKLORE ARCHIVES,
USU LIBRARY, UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
CHAD ARMENT

Some time back, after the television show *Finding Bigfoot* visited Utah, a newspaper article quoted Dr. Lynne McNeill, a Utah State University professor who teaches folklore, regarding a number of Bigfoot stories in the university's Fife Folklore Archives. The archives hold a large collection of folklore-related studies and interviews, and there are several items of cryptozoological interest, particularly regarding Sasquatch and the Bear Lake Monster.

As I noted in *Cryptozoology: Science & Speculation*, all cryptids are folkloric. They are ethnoknown, in that people report seeing them, even if they have not been determined to have a true biological reality (and if they do exist, whether they are mistaken accounts of known species or are as yet unidentified). But, there are differences between folklore studies and cryptozoology. In folklore studies, the "truth" behind the legend is not as important as in simply collecting the story, and analyzing patterns of story telling or how such stories spread. Cryptozoology has a specific purpose—to determine whether there is an unknown creature behind such stories, and to find physical confirmative evidence of such.

Still, there is overlap, as part of the cryptozoological methodology is to collect folkloric accounts (e.g. eyewitness sightings, etc.), and there probably is something to be learned on both sides. Some differences are more apparent than others. For example, in interviewing witnesses, a folklorist overlooks many basic questions that a cryptozoology researcher would ask (or should ask) about habitat, environmental conditions, morphological details, and

more. A folklorist may not be familiar enough with native wildlife to be able to recognize red flags or characteristics that point to known species or natural phenomena. And, of course, folklorists put as much effort in collecting obvious tall tales and campfire stories as they do on first-person sightings. On the other hand, I've seen many cryptozoology enthusiasts write about mystery animal stories they've collected without any awareness of common folkloric elements that might warrant careful evaluation.

In any case, folklore archives may provide a good starting point for determining regions worth a closer cryptozoological look. Here I present some stories from the Fife Folklore Archives. I've tried to stick to direct eyewitness stories (and occasional second-hand stories), rather than including generic "campfire" monster tales and the like. Per archive regulations, I am not reprinting witness statements, so I will simply summarize stories with brief descriptions. Many of these stories were for class projects, where the student either interviewed someone or related a personal story. My appreciation goes to Dr. Lynne McNeill and archives curator Randy Williams and staff.

BIGFOOT

Rumors of Bigfoot (Collection 08, Group 07, Box 10, Folder 11, Item 2.2.2.10.5)

INFORMANT: William Draper

DATE: July 1972

STORY COLLECTED: October 1981

LOCATION: Providence Canyon

William and four friends (all 18 years old) were camping in Providence Canyon. One night they heard something rummaging through their food and gear. Looking out, they saw red eyes. When things got quiet, they started looking around (armed with rifles and knives), and William saw a "big hairy critter, standing upright

on two legs” nearby. It watched for a minute, then dropped to all fours and ran off up the mountain. “Size 15” tracks were found the next morning. Others in the area believed in the “Providence Monsters.”

Untitled (Collection 08, Group 07, Box 12, Folder 14, Item 2.5.4.1.6)

INFORMANT: H. F. Jackson

DATE: Summer 1970

STORY COLLECTED: Summer 1970

LOCATION: North Fork, Salmon River (northern Idaho)

Jackson was fishing with others when they heard noises (rustling) behind them. They thought it was probably a bear, so quietly investigated. Three “ape-men” ran, but they “got a good look at them.” The creatures were six feet in height, about 450-500 pounds each. They ran upright and “made grunting noises.”

A Summer with Bigfoot (Collection 08, Group 07, Box 12, Folder 14, Item 2.5.4.1.7)

INFORMANT: Collected received information from unidentified witness (television repairman)

DATE: “15 or 20 years ago”

STORY COLLECTED: July 1984

LOCATION: Unknown

Witness was an ex-logger living in Camas, UT. While at a logging camp, he and other loggers heard a strange noise that scared the camp dog. The horses also became very nervous. A “real rotten kinda smell” was noticed. For three months that summer, whatever it was stayed in the area. Years later, the witness watched a television documentary about Bigfoot, and recognized a scream on the show as the one he had heard before.

The Scream of Sasquatch (Collection 08, Group 07, Box 12, Folder 14, Item 2.5.4.1.8)

INFORMANT: Alan Pitt

DATE: Unknown

STORY COLLECTED: July 1984

LOCATION: Unknown

Pitt had been logging “about 12 miles even from the nearest dirt road that intersected the logging road we were on.” After eating lunch, he and a friend were heading back in the woods when they heard a noise about a hundred yards away. It started as a “low growl that rose in pitch almost to a scream.” The sound repeated a few times, so they decided to head back to the truck and go home. They made sure to carry rifles the rest of the time they were in the area.

Close Encounter of the Worst Kind—Bigfoot (Collection 08, Group 07, Box 12, Folder 14, Item 2.5.4.1.14)

INFORMANT: Robert Bates, Jr.

DATE: Fall 1977

STORY COLLECTED: January 1987 (personal story)

LOCATION: Mountain near Elbe, Washington

Bates was serving in the Army, based in Ft. Lewis. On a weekend hunt with a couple of friends, they set up near a slope by a river and waited for a bull elk. Hearing what sounded like a large bull elk in the brush, they looked for a shot, but as the creature stepped out of the woods they saw a “Big-foot.” The sight of the creature “was enough to make use turn and run as fast as we could run.” One friend dropped his rifle. After several hours they cautiously returned to find it, and discovered that its stock was shattered and the barrel was bent. Nearby they found large human-like footprints. After reaching a pay phone, they contacted the Sheriff’s department. A skeptical deputy returned with them to the area, and changed his mind. They later spoke with Bigfoot researchers out of Portland, and passed a polygraph test.

Bigfoot and the U.S. Army (Collection 08, Group 07, Box 12, Folder 14, Item 2.5.4.1.16)

INFORMANT: Robert Bates, Jr.

DATE: Fall 1980

STORY COLLECTED: January 1987 (personal story)

LOCATION: Ft. Lewis, Washington

Bates was part of a platoon assigned to act as an aggressor force against a Signal Unit setting up in a remote eastern wooded area of Ft. Lewis. On the fourth night of operations, his squad discovered that the Signal Unit was without power and there were no signs of activity, so they checked in on them. The Signal Unit leader showed them that the generator trailer had been overturned and other equipment damaged. The Unit had been in the Commo Van, and had stayed in the van while it was being rocked back and forth. They didn't leave the van until the squad had showed up. Due to the damage, military investigators were called in, who, after looking into it for several days, cleared anyone of wrong-doing—Bates said his men were told to “keep our mouths shut about it.” After talking to a Signal Unit sergeant, he learned that investigators had found the area covered in bare human footprints, “about twice the size of any that the Army even thought about making boots for!”

Bigfoot (Collection 08, Group 07, Box 12, Folder 14, Item 2.5.4.1.23)

INFORMANT: Jim Burmester

DATE: 1984

STORY COLLECTED: 1986

LOCATION: Cherry Creek Road, Downey, ID

Jim and a date met up with friends for a campfire in a canyon. They heard a high pitched scream, then heard it again as it came closer. They all took off in their cars. As they drove out of the canyon on Cherry Creek Road, they saw a “huge black-haired creature” cross the road ahead of them.

Bigfoot in Blackfoot (Collection 08, Group 07, Box 12, Folder 14,
Item 2.5.4.1.30)

INFORMANT: Brenda Heslop

DATE: 1950s or 1960s

STORY COLLECTED: 2002

LOCATION: American Falls Reservoir, Idaho

This happened to Brenda's great uncle, and is a family story told at campfires. While camping in late fall, the door of their small camper opened one night and a "big, big hairy arm" came in. They hit it with a frying pan, and the creature cried out. It ran away, but its smell remained. They locked up and huddled inside all night. They found some long reddish hair on a barbwire fence nearby. Some of the family treats it as a joke, that it probably was a bear, while others are more serious about it.

Bigfoot Encounter (Collection 08, Group 07, Box 12, Folder 14,
Item 2.5.4.1.33)

INFORMANT: Sandy Bosgieter

DATE: early 1960s

STORY COLLECTED: 1990

LOCATION: North Ogden Canyon, Utah

While in high school, Bosgieter exercised horses for extra money. While riding one summer, she went up North Ogden Canyon, then went up a box canyon called Right Hand Canyon. She heard a strange scream, and decided to turn around just to be safe. While heading back, she found 3- to 4-inch diameter limbs broken off on the pass, too large for horses to break at a walking pace. She also smelled something foul. Leaving the canyon, she heard the scream again.

Bigfoot Story (Collection 08, Group 07, Box 12, Folder 14, Item
2.5.4.1.34)

INFORMANT: John Weaver

DATE: Summer 1982
STORY COLLECTED: 1990 (personal story)
LOCATION: Oxford Peak, Idaho

After spending the day exploring trails with a friend, they stopped on a bluff to watch the sunset. They smelled what they thought was a dead animal, then saw a “brown, man-like shape in the trees,” prompting their immediate departure.

The Maybe Bigfoot Story (Collection 08, Group 07, Box 12, Folder 14, Item 2.5.4.1.39)

INFORMANT: Kit Sheldon Kinsel
DATE: Unknown
STORY COLLECTED: 2000
LOCATION: East side of the Washington peninsula

While flying low over a ridge as an air observer on smoke patrol, Kinsel saw a large black creature that he assumed was a bear, but didn't seem to be running on all fours. It didn't lope, but was moving “very fast on two feet down the ridge.” He told the pilot and they swung around, but didn't see it again. [The archives has the same story, about the same witness and written by the same student, but collected in 1997 (probably written for a different class), which has a few differences, though the main details are similar.]

Sighting of Bigfoot (Collection 08, Group 07, Box 12, Folder 14, Item 2.5.4.1.43)

INFORMANT: E. Kent Williams
DATE: 1960
STORY COLLECTED: 1997
LOCATION: Near Bluebell, Utah (?)

Williams and a friend were spotlighting and hunting jackrabbits after sunset. While driving along, they saw something unusual in

the spotlight and stopped. It looked like a “round gray object” but then stood up into a manlike figure about seven feet tall and three feet wide. Unlike other animals they had seen at night, its eyes had no shine in the spotlight. Williams put the gun on it, but couldn’t bring himself to pull the trigger. A few months later he saw a report on the news about a Bigfoot sighting, and recognized it as being similar to what they had seen.

THE BEAR LAKE MONSTER

The typical Bear Lake Monster story is simply a campfire tale. Those that attempt to give early details on the monster relate that in the early days, ranchers would send their cattle or horses through the narrows, or over the frozen ice, and an occasional animal would be disappear, sometimes along with the brief appearance of a large scaly object. One frequent feature in the stories is the belief that Bear Lake is bottomless and that it somehow connects to Loch Ness. Supposedly, Bear Lake’s Bonneville cisco (a whitefish) is only found there and in Loch Ness. (There is, of course, no truth to that; it is a Bear Lake endemic.) Another common origin story involves *Deseret News* correspondent Joseph C. Rich creating the Bear Lake monster myth as a way to stir up excitement. Only a few of the collected stories involve first person (or even second person) sightings.

Bear Lake Monster (Collection 08, Group 07, Box 12, Folder 16, Item 2.5.5.10.62)

INFORMANT: Milton Sealy

DATE: Unknown

STORY COLLECTED: 1995 (told in the 1980s)

LOCATION: Bear Lake

Sealy’s father and a friend were fishing in a small boat. Finding a good spot close to shore, they stopped to get out on the bank. The friend went to step on what he thought was a log, but it swam away.

It wasn't fishlike, and was "green brown" in color. They tried to find it again, but it had disappeared.

Bear Lake Monster (Collection 08, Group 07, Box 12, Folder 16, Item 2.5.5.10.73)

INFORMANT: Ruth Bassett

DATE: Unknown

STORY COLLECTED: 1974

LOCATION: Bear Lake

Bassett's parents were vacationing near the lake, and while sitting on the shore saw a large object emerge slowly from the water partially onto the bank. It was as large as a piano and was dark brown in color. They weren't afraid, and watched it for some time. When her father went back to the car to grab his camera, shutting the door scared the creature off.

OTHER

There are a handful of stories of strange monsters (lizardman, sheepman, etc.) that are simply "scare your friend" inventions. There are a couple of "little people" stories that are interesting, though not all are from Utah or nearby regions, and most are simply folk tales.

The Elusive Little Men (Collection 08, Group 07, Box 12, Folder 13, Item 2.5.3.4.1)

INFORMANT: Val Snow

DATE: Unknown

STORY COLLECTED: 1971

LOCATION: Southern Utah wilderness

Informant was told the story on a BYU survival trip by two leaders, Max and Larry Smith. The Smiths were out hiking and found

small human like footprints in the sand. As they looked around, they saw a “little human” running over the rocks. He was about four feet high and was covered in red hair. They said that this “type of Indian” lives in remote areas (“dark underbrush in a rainforest type terrain”) and hardly ever come out, being “real primitive” and “real savage.” It’s not noted whether this was a camp fire story or seriously related.

Cheenans (Collection 08, Group 07, Box 12, Folder 13, Item 2.5.3.6.1)

INFORMANT: Karen Stamnes

DATE: Unknown

STORY COLLECTED: 1973

LOCATION: Near Gulfport, Mississippi

After visiting the Stamnes family, the collector and an Elder were told to “watch out for ‘the Cheenans.’” When asked what Cheenans [phonetic spelling] were, they were told that they were “little men, about one and one-half feet tall” that come out at night and create mischief. The backwoods folk have many stories about them.

The Promise of the Little People (Collection 08, Group 07, Box 12, Folder 13, Item 2.5.3.7.1)

INFORMANT: Roger Snow Trimnal (family story)

DATE: “About fifty years ago.”

STORY COLLECTED: Probably 1970s

LOCATION: Rock Hill, South Carolina

Roger’s great uncle was fourteen years old when he hiked into the woods near the river, looking for “the little people” (“Pigmy Indians”) whose tracks he had noticed. His parents found him the next morning sitting on a stump, confused and hysterical. He said that he had gotten tired, fallen asleep, and awoken to find the little people around him. They told him if he promised not to tell

anyone he had seen them, they would give him an all-powerful herb that cured illness. If he did tell about them, he would die. His parents took him home, and not long after, he died. Roger's grandfather had a similar story told to him by his grandmother (illustrating that though there were some changes as the story passed from one generation to the next, main details remained the same).

BOOK REVIEW

Snarls from the Tea-tree: Big Cat Folklore

David Waldron and Simon Townsend

2012. Arcadia, North Melbourne, Victoria.

Reviewed by Chad Arment

One aspect of cryptozoology that I (and some other researchers) tend to harp on is that mystery animals must be studied with two lenses: a folkloric lens and a biological lens. All mystery animals are folkloric, whether or not they biological. Listening to witnesses, evaluating patterns, distinguishing mistaken identifications, even sorting out our own speculation, invariably involves folkloric interpretations that we may or may not recognize. There is far too much conclusion jumping in cryptozoology when it comes to promoting the biological reality of certain cryptids or specific identifications (i.e. favored theories). Worse, there is a false notion prevalent that pits folklore versus biology—that if stories of an alleged animal are “folklore,” then it cannot be an unknown species.

So, it is refreshing to see a book in which both sides are represented, providing a broader and more illuminating discussion of the controversy. This particular book tackles the phenomenon of “big cats” in southeast Australia. Now whether or not Australian Big Cats (ABCs) are cryptozoological (and I think a good case can be made that they are, unless we are going to dismiss *a priori* certain candidates), they certainly incorporate all of the features of a

cryptozoological mystery: allegations of a population of unknown species supported by often ambiguous or circumstantial physical and testimonial evidence, creating a distinctive presence in popular culture.

The two authors show the parallel sides of an investigation. Dr. David Waldron lectures in History and Anthropology at the University of Ballarat, and provides the folkloric perspective on these creature accounts. Simon Townsend is a big cat researcher (co-founder of Big Cats Victoria) with practical zoo experience, and discusses the scientific direction needed to investigate sightings and alleged kills.

Waldron discusses the big cat stories from their earliest accounts, noting personalities, major flaps, and the cultural fascination surrounding them. He delves into the folkloric origin stories (where the “pumas” and “panthers” may have come from) as well as folk knowledge (inaccuracies included) regarding these animals and their depredations. There are numerous points of tension where different perspectives find themselves in conflict: believers vs. skeptics, fact vs. embellishment, nature vs. society, etc. Each side brings their own interpretation of events and data, and as folk beliefs form and gel, these create an environment where similar beliefs proliferate, regardless of their accuracy.

Townsend introduces the reader to the scientific methodology behind cryptozoology, showing how it can be applied to gather and analyze forensic data. He then covers the types of evidence that have been linked to ABCs (including an honest evaluation of the contributory value of such evidence), the various candidates proposed as explanations to the problem, and the strategy that should be utilized when undertaking further field investigations

I think this volume is an excellent model for future books looking at cryptozoological problems. We’ve seen some cryptozoology books in recent years coming from sociological or anthropological perspectives, but they rarely have a solid (and objective) biological accompaniment. And, no surprise, most cryptozoology books don’t have a good grasp of the folkloric atmosphere that surrounds mystery animals. One doesn’t have to believe (or disbelieve) in

order to investigate—but we should certainly be aware of cultural influences on cryptozoological material.

This 190-page text includes index, endnotes, and a few photos. It should be of great interest to anyone interested in Australian cryptozoology, or the intersection of folklore and practical cryptozoological investigation. It can be acquired from certain Australian booksellers including Readings (www.readings.com.au) and Abbey's (www.abbey.com.au), or directly from Australian Scholarly Publishing (www.scholarly.info).

THE ANTIQUITY OF THE LION IN GREECE
ADOLF BERNHARD MEYER

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE FOR 1903
(1904) PP. 661-667.



COLOSSAL MARBLE LION FROM A POLYANDREION OR MAUSOLEUM NEAR CNIDUS, SUPPOSED TO COMMEMORATE VICTORY BY
ATHENIAN ADMIRAL CONON OVER LACEDEMONIANS, 394 B. C. (ABOUT B. C. 300.)

THE ANTIQUITY OF THE LION IN GREECE.

By A. B. MEYER.^a

The descriptive images of the lion by the earliest Greek author, Homer,^b are so realistic and true to nature (compare especially in the *Iliad*, xi, 544 sqq.), that they must be ascribed to direct observation,^c yet this does not prove the existence of that animal in Greece in historic time. Aside from other possibilities, it is uncertain whether the passages in question originated as late as the entire Homeric epic on the soil of Asia Minor (*Æolia*, *Ionia*), or whether they belong to earlier continental (*Thessalian*) collections of hymns. Herodotus, from about 484 to about 430 B. C., records, in volume vii, pages 124–126, of his history, that there are many lions between the Achelous River in *Acarmania* and the Nestus, which flows through *Abdera*, and this he mentions in connection with the description of *Xerxes's* expedition through *Macedonia* in 480 B. C., when lions killed some draft camels. This passage is often cited. Aristotle (384–322 B. C.), in *Hist. anim.*, viii, 28, gives the same range, but seems to have taken it only from Herodotus.^d

On this G. C. Lewis^e remarks:

The scientific character of Aristotle's researches in natural history gives great weight to his testimony. As he was a native of *Stagira* and had resided in *Macedonia*, he may be supposed to have had opportunities for verifying it; and we can not assume that he blindly followed the account of Herodotus, although at an interval of about a century he defines the range of the lion by the same two rivers.

^aTranslation of A. B. Meyer's "Bis wie weit in der historischen Zeit zurück ist der Löwe in Griechenland nachweisbar?" Reprint from *Der Zoologische Garten*, vol. XLIV, 1903, pp. 65–73.

^bThe most important passages among ancient authors who refer to the lion have been brought together in an interesting manner by H. O. Lenz, in "Zoologie der Alten Griechen und Römer," pp. 126–140, Gotha, 1886. Compare also O. Keller, *Tiere des klassischen Altertums*, Innsbruck, 1887, and L. Meyer, *Handbuch der griechischen Etymologie*, vol. iv., p. 498 sq., Leipzig, 1902.

^cThus already Pictet, *Les origines indo-européennes*, vol. i, p. 422, Paris, 1859, and O. Schade, *Altdeutsches Wörterbuch*, 2d ed., vol. ii, p. 548a, Halle, 1872–1882.

^dAccording to Pausanias (second century A. D.), vi, 5, 3, lions sometimes came down as far as Mount Olympus. The famous athlete (*pancratiast*) Polydamus, without shield or weapon, is said to have there slain a large and powerful lion. Comp. Lenz, *Zoologie der Griechen und Römer*, p. 34, note 78, 1856.

^eThe Lion in Greece; *Notes and Queries*, second series, vol. viii, p. 82, 1859.

Further, after calling attention to the fact that Aristotle corrected a nonsensical statement of Herodotus on the act of parturition of the lion, he adds:

* * * It seems very unlikely that Aristotle should have been able to correct the historian's account of the parturition of the lioness but not have thought it worth his while to verify the more obvious and patent fact of the occurrence of the lion in northern Greece.^a

And on page 59 he says:

It is very improbable that * * * he should in two places (i. e., also vi, 31) have repeated so important a statement as that of the presence of the lion in the whole of northern Greece, from Abdera in Thrace to the confines of Æolia, without verification and upon the mere credit of Herodotus, whom he elsewhere designates as a fabulist and whose errors in natural history he points out and rectifies in several places.

All this, though not cogent, is so obvious that it is easily understood when the philologist and the historian do not question Herodotus's "account, so definitely presented and twice repeated by Aristotle, a native of that region."^b Nay, J. Beloch^c even adds: "That it [the lion] once spread over the whole peninsula (i. e., also over middle Greece and the Peloponnesus) is shown by the myths of the Nemean and Cithæronian lions."^d On the part of philology there is thus apparently no ground to doubt the ancient tradition that even in historic time, about 500 B. C., there were lions in a part of Europe situated near Asia.

Turning from the ancient tradition to the domain of linguistic facts, we find among the Greeks a high antiquity of the lion's name,^e unpar-

^a Loc. cit., vol. ix, p. 56, 1860.

^b O. Schrader, *Reallexikon der indo-germanischen Altertumskunde*, vol. i, p. 508 1901.

^c *Griechische Geschichte*, vol. i, p. 37, note 1, 1893.

^d The same was already maintained by Lewis, loc. cit., 1860, and Dawkins and Sanford have adopted it, as we shall see below, in 1869.

^e Compare, in the first place, W. Schulze, *Quæstiones epicæ*, p. 70 et seq., *Gueterslohæ*, 1892; so already Th. Benfey, *Griechisches Wurzellexikon*, ii, 1, Berlin, 1842; F. A. Pott, *Etymologische Forschungen auf dem Gebiete der Indo-Germanischen Sprachen*, 2d ed., ii, p. 1261, Lemgo, 1867; F. Kauffmann, in Paul und Braune's *Beiträgen*, vol. xii, p. 210, 1887. For the Celtic forms see W. Stokes, *Urkeltischer Sprachschatz*, edited by A. Bezzenger (= A. Fick, *Vergleichendes Wörterbuch der Indogermanischen Sprachen*, 4th ed., vol. ii), p. 242, Göttingen, 1894; for the Slavo-Lettonian, J. Kartowicz (V. Jagic) in the *Archiv für Slavische Philologie*, vol. ii, p. 364 1877, and A. Brückner, *Die Slavischen Fremdwörter im Litauischen*, pp. 103 and 105, Weimar, 1877; for the old high German, besides O. Schade, *Altdeutsches Wörterbuch*, 2d ed., vol. ii, p. 547 sq., Halle, 1872-1882; also O. Bremer in Paul und Braune's *Beiträgen*, vol. xiii, p. 384-387, 1888, against F. Kauffmann, *ibid.*, vol. xii, p. 207-210, 1887, and H. Palander, *Die althochdeutschen Tiernamen*, vol. i, p. 46 sq., Darmstadt, 1899. Schulze (loc. cit.) considers the Greek name as the final source of all the other European designations, as a genuine Greek word, while L. Meyer (*Handbuch der griechischen Etymologie*, vol. iv, p. 499,

alleled in European Indo-Germanic languages, and this antiquity of the name makes it probable that it originally denoted an indigenous animal which could not have been other than the lion. But the existence of that animal in historic time is not thus proved, and the fact that philological studies leave us uncertain as to whether the name originally designated an indigenous animal leads us now to turn to zoology^a for a possible solution of the problem.

Likewise, if we search among the place names for traces of the existence of the lion we gain nothing. True, the word *λέων* (*leon*) occurs as the name of a cape near Eretria and Lebena^b in Crete, but these names certainly do not refer to the animal as native to the region, but merely indicate that the rock suggests a lion in shape.^c What, then, is the attitude of zoologists and paleontologists toward this question?

C. I. Sundevall^d expresses himself as follows: "From all this it becomes very probable that in 330 B. C. lions were still encountered in Macedonia, though very rare." It is as little doubted by A. Newton,^e Dupont, Nehring, von Zittel (see below), and others. Dawkins^f also refers, in agreement with Lewis,^g to Xenophon^h (from about 428 until after 355 B. C.) in regard to the occurrence of the lion in historic time in South Thracia, and adds: "It may have extended far over the Balkan Range into the valley of the Danube within the historic period of Greece."ⁱ Flower and Lydekker^j follow Dawkins and Sanford without reserve.

1902) thinks it possibly a word borrowed from a non-Greek linguistic sphere. The primitive relationship between the European Indo-Germanic lion names is of late upheld particularly by O. Schrader (*Sprachvergleichung und Urgeschichte*, p. 362 sq., Jena, 1890, comp. *Reallexikon der indogermanischen Altertumskunde*, vol. 1, p. 508 sq., Strassburg, 1901). I am indebted for the linguistic references to Dr. Oswald Richter, assistant in the Royal Ethnographical Museum at Dresden.

^a As did already Förstemann, *Zeitschrift für vergleichende Sprachforschung*, 1852, vol. 1, p. 495.

^b Lebena itself, which was a Phœnician colony, is named after the cape. Compare Hebrew *labi*, "lion;" comp. J. J. Egli, *Nom. geogr.*, 2d ed., p. 531, Leipzig, 1898, and H. Lewy, *Die semitischen Fremdwörter im Griechischen*, p. 7, Berlin, 1895.

^c Philostratus expressly mentions *λέων* as well as *δράκων* among the plays of nature: Nature causes mountains and mountain peaks to resemble animals as . . . the Cretan lion . . ." Comp. A. Fick in *Bezzenberger's Beiträgen*, vol. xxi, p. 265, 1896.

^d *Die Tierarten des Aristoteles*, p. 47 sq., Stockholm, 1863.

^e *On the Zoology of Ancient Europe*, p. 7, London, 1862.

^f *British Pleistocene Mammalia*, pt. A, p. xxxiv, 1878.

^g *Loc. cit.*, vol. viii, p. 82, 1859.

^h *Cynegaticus* xi, 1.

ⁱ See also Dawkins and Sanford, *British Pleistocene Mammalia*, pt. iii, p. 166, 1869.

^j *Introduction to the Study of Mammals*, p. 504, 1891.

If bones of the *recent* lion have not yet been found in Greece, it should be remembered that the limited researches made in that country render negative evidence of little account. On the other hand, fossil lion bones are found. Thus only recently, as Dr. T. Krüper at Athens informed me, Doctor Skuphos found such a skull. The fossil cave lion was spread all over Europe during the Diluvial period. "In Diluvial bone caves of Europe," says von Zittel,^a "the cave lion, which does not differ from the lion now found in Africa and western Asia, occurs in solitary examples. In historic time it still inhabited southern Europe." Nehring has recently proved the existence of the Diluvial lion (*Felis spelæa* Goldf.) in the province of Brandenburg,^b and previously also in Thuringia, Westphalia, Brunswick, Hanover, and the province of Saxony.^c He remarks on that occasion: "As regards the question of the contemporaneousness of man with *Felis spelæa*, I can not help affirming it on the basis of my excavations in the gypsum quarry of Thiede (Brunswick)." We may expect an elaborate treatise by Professor Nehring on the Diluvial lion. He thinks, as he informed me, that about 20,000 years ago, during the steppe period, the cave lion roamed in Germany as far north as Brunswick. Dupont considers such fixing of dates impossible, and thinks that for the present we must be content with establishing the succession of forms (loc. cit.). He has variously proven the existence of *Felis spelæa* in Belgium.^d Its occurrence in England has been fully discussed by Dawkins and Sanford,^e who say that it completely disappeared at the end of the Post-Glacial or Quaternary period, and that no finds of prehistoric time have been made. The same investigators discuss^f its occurrence also in France, Belgium, Germany, the Carpathes, Italy, and Sicily. In the latter territory it is supposed (according to Falconer) to have existed contemporaneously with man. Thus, according to paleontological indications, the lion was once spread over almost entire Europe.

This fossil lion of Europe is, in the opinion of most investigators, identical with the lion of the present. Such identity was already asserted by D'Orbigny^g in 1858-1861, and, later, Dawkins and Sanford, in their already quoted work,^h in which they treated of the *Felis spelæa* with the utmost completeness and care, arrived at the conclusion "that there is not one character by which the animal can be distinguished from the living lion. It must therefore be admitted that

^a Handbuch der Paläontologie, vol. iv, p. 676, 1892.

^b Sitzungsberichte der Gessellschaft Naturforschender Freunde, Berlin, 1899, p. 71 sqq.

^c Zeitschrift für Ethnologie, Verhandlungen, vol. xxv, p. 407, 1893.

^d L'homme pendant les âges de la pierre, 2d ed., 1873, pp. 80, 89, 114, 118, etc.

^e Loc. cit., pp. 151-160.

^f Loc. cit., p. 160-161.

^g Diction d'hist. nat. (1858-1861), vol. iii, p. 429.

^h The British Pleistocene Mammalia, pt. iii, p. 150, 1869.

Felis spelæa is specifically identical with the lion now living on the face of the earth." For practical reasons they recommend the use of the designation *Felis leo* var. *spelæa* to denote that variety which during the Post-Glacial period inhabited the caves of north and west Europe. In 1890 Nehring^a declares, following the opinion of most modern investigators, that the cave lion, *Felis spelæa*, is "nothing else than a northern variety of the lion [evidently provided with a warm, shaggy skin] analogous to the northern variety of the tiger which occurs at present in south Siberia." Dupont^b likewise observes: "The lion, the reindeer, and the stag of the Quaternary epoch, in the remains which have been preserved to us, as much resemble those which live at present as the ibis which was embalmed thousands of years ago resembles the ibis which embellishes the shores of the Nile. The American *Felis atrox* Leidy is also, according to Dawkins and Sanford, identical with *F. leo* var. *spelæa*, so that its range extended over Europe, through Russia and north Asia, and, by way of Bering Strait, into America as far south as Mexico (loc cit., p. 163).

All the deposits in which the bones of the cave lion have been found in the countries mentioned above are either Post-Glacial or Quaternary. But Dawkins and Sanford think it would be rash to, a priori, exclude the occurrence in the Pliocene time. They also point out that Aristotle calls the lion "rare," while Herodotus, one hundred and fifty years before, could still say there were "many," and they think that it decreased during that interval. They then further observe, following Lewis,^c that Dio Chrysostomus, 80 or 100 A. D., speaks of the complete extinction of the lion, so that within four hundred years after Aristotle it disappeared from Europe.^d Lastly, they lay stress upon the lion in the folklore of the Balkan peoples because this permits the conclusion of the simultaneous occurrence of the lion with man. This, too, is based chiefly on the data brought together by G. C. Lewis in his two extremely readable essays.^e

Whatever weight may be given to the accounts or legends of the ancients or to the views of modern naturalists on the simultaneousness of man with the cave lion, there is at all events a connection between the former and present range of the lion, and since lions still roam not far from Greece its gradual retreat before man and civilization to the present limit of its range is not only not unlikely, but, on the contrary, most probable.

^aTundren und Steppen, 1890, p. 193.

^bLa chronologie géologique, Bull. Acad. R. Belgique, 3d series, vol. VIII, No. 12, 1884, p. 18 of the separate copy.

^cLoc. cit., vol. VIII, p. 83, 1859.

^dSee also Dawkins, Die Höhlen und die Ureinwohner Europas, German translation by Spengel, 1876, p. 62.

^eNotes and Queries, 2d series, vol. VIII, pp. 81-84, 1859, and vol. IX, pp. 57-59, 1860.

According to the Old Testament, the lion was common in the Lebanon region and even on the Jordan. It occurred in Palestine until the twelfth century (the time of the Crusaders).^a In Syria its existence can be traced from the earliest historical times to the present day. According to Perrot and Chipiez,^b Amenophis III (1400 B. C.) is proved to have chased the lion in northern Syria on a large scale. Only twenty years ago, according to Tristram (*loc. cit.*), the body of a lion was brought to Damascus. In Egypt proper, lions but rarely occurred,^c while in northern Syria they must have been quite numerous. Ancient writers also—Xenophon, Aristotle, Strabo, Pliny, and others—speak of lion hunts in Syria and in Arabia. The lions in the latter country are said to have been more powerful and numerous than in Lybia. Tristram states that in Mesopotamia the lion is at present common. Layard, in the middle of the last century, heard its roaring not far from Bagdad. In the north it occurs on the Tigris as far as Kalaat Schergat, on the Euphrates as far as Bir,^d and, lastly, in Persia,^e where the lion is especially found “in the forest slopes of the Zagros,” the chief mountain region of Persia. Abbott^f mentions the lion among the animals of Khorasmia.^g On its occurrence in northwest India, see Blandford (*loc. cit.*) and Dawkins.^h

Considering all this, I hold it not well to be doubted, from reasons of natural science, that in Herodotus's time lions still lived in the regions named by him, and I hold it not impossible that the ancient lion representations in Greece, such as a lion chase upon a Mycenæan

^a H. B. Tristram, *The Survey of Western Palestine*, 1884, p. 17. Comp. also his *Natural History of the Bible*, 7th ed., 1883, p. 116 sq.

^b *Geschichte der Kunst im Altertum: Aegypten*, German translation by R. Pietschmann, p. 862, 1884.

^c “The artists of the new empire were encouraged to a frequent representation of the lion above all through the renewed acquaintance with the animal itself, and one might think that this Asiatic lion possessed their imagination when they depict lions either with a very light mane or with none at all, if both varieties did not appear at Beni Hassan. At all events the lion with heavy mane is the more original type in Egyptian art . . . Only very rarely do the forms of the lion in Egyptian representations indicate the Assyrian type. The heraldic use of animals upon shields and pectorals is also of Asiatic origin, appearing in the second Theban empire in pictures which exhibit gryphons, jackals, and lions.” (Perrot and Chipiez, *loc. cit.*) Thus there occur upon Egyptian monuments both the Egyptian and the Asiatic types of lions (both wild and tamed), with a noticeable difference, which is worth consideration also in other parts of ancient archaeology, as, for instance, in the study of the Greeks.

^d *Nineveh*, vol. II, p. 48, 1849.

^e *Eastern Persia*, vol. II, *Zoology and Geology*, by W. T. Blandford, 1876, p. 29, and W. Geiger, *Grundriss der Iranischen Philologie*, vol. II, pt. 3, p. 382, 1897.

^f *Narrative of a journey from Herat to Khiwa*, London, 1843, vol. II, p. 25, supplement.

^g Comp. Pictet, *Les Origines indo-europ.*, 2d ed., vol. I, p. 529, Paris, 1877.

^h *Die Höhlen*, etc., 1876, p. 312.

daggers, were made from nature, viz, at a time when the animal still occurred there in a wild state. Lewis is of a different opinion, and says:^a "The lions on the gate of Mycenæ are of great antiquity, but the occurrence of this animal in works of early art can not be considered as evidence of his presence in the country. Sculptured lions occur more than once in connection with Etruscan tombs, and there is no reason to believe that the lions ever existed in Italy * * *." But can this last objection be considered valid?^b Besides, not all non-naturalists are of this opinion, as, for instance, Perrot and Chipiez:^c "Unless we assume—and we have no ground whatever for so doing—that it was an object imported from without,^d we must admit, notwithstanding all that has been said to the contrary, that the lion in those remote times still haunted the mountains of the Peloponnesus and central Greece, and that the engravers and sculptors, when they portrayed that animal, were able to do so from nature." Thus in the discussion of the earliest historic time more or less subjective opinions come into play, and natural science likewise can consider the question as solved only when the discovery of recent lion bones under incontestable circumstances gives positive proof. Of this, however, there seems little hope. At all events it might be suggested that in future excavations all animal bones be conscientiously collected and submitted to experts for examination.

^a Loc. cit., vol. VIII, p. 81.

^b Prof. P. Herrmann, of the Royal Sculpture Collection at Dresden, writes me: "The view of Lewis, which is based on the lion representations in Etruscan art, and quoted by you, is absolutely untenable. These Etruscan monuments are a thousand years younger than the Mycenæan and have, besides, their parallels in the contemporary art creations of the Greeks. No archaeologist has maintained or will maintain of either of them that the lion images appearing on them were made from direct observation of nature. They are obviously borrowed from Asia. This shows itself clearly enough in the absence of the refined and free realism which characterizes the Mycenæan representations in such a high degree." Compare also the chapter "The lion and the lotus," in William H. Goodyear's *The Grammar of the Lotus*, London, 1891, pp. 205–211, with plates xxix and xxx (add. 1904).

^c *Hist. de l'art dans l'antiquité. La Grèce primitive, l'art mycénien*, vol. 6, p. 823–826, figs. 402 and 403, 1894.

^d I can not think that the idea of introducing captive lions which may have served as models for the artists should so lightly be rejected.

DERMOID CYSTS A BASIS OF INDIAN LEGENDS

A. W. F. BANFIELD

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DERMOID CYSTS A BASIS OF INDIAN LEGENDS

A tumor specimen has led to the disclosure of the factual basis of a curious Indian legend. Strong (Jour. Mamm., 11: 1-10, 1930), writing of his investigations in Labrador, reports: "Certain non-mythical theories adhered to by the Davis Inlet Indian. . . they say that the abnormal dwarf caribou called *mah-tákw-ah-tée-hoos*, which they have occasionally seen and killed, are carried by the male caribou for six years in a skin sack attached to the belly. Then they are dropped fully developed and accompany the herd. Unlike the larger animals these dwarf caribou are said never to have botfly holes in the skin."

This legend seems to have been widely held by Indians, for Seton (Life histories of northern animals, vol. 1, pp. 182-183, 1909) wrote concerning moose: "Another curious thing in moose life was reported to me by William G. Tweddell of Woonona, Manitoba. He asked me if I had ever heard of the Peeto-mong-sons or 'Little Moose in the Big Moose.' One moose in about 500, he said, has a little medicine Moose in its skin. When this is found it is a cat

for much rejoicing among the Indians. It is carefully preserved as great medicine, and the man who found it is believed to have secured a mascot of eternal good luck in moose hunting.

"Cross examination did not shake his evidence. It was not a foetus—Tweddell was sure of that. It was in the skin, and usually in that of a bull moose. He had seen two; the more recent one was about a foot long; it had hoofs and hair but no bones."

Much earlier, Richardson (*Fauna Boreali-Americana*, Part I, pp. 250–251, 1829) described a similar abnormality in a woodland caribou. "The same gentleman mentions that the buck has a peculiar bag or cyst in the lower part of the neck about the bigness of a crow piece, and filled with fine flaxen hair neatly coiled round to the thickness of an inch. There is an opening through the skin near the head leading to the cyst but Mr. Hutchins (Hudson Bay Company manager at York Factory) does not offer a conjecture as to its uses in the economy of the animal."

Seton (*op. cit.*) correctly deduced that the abnormality was a dermoid cyst, which is rarely but regularly found in domestic animals. It may contain hair, teeth, nails or other products of the ectoderm. However, the Indian legends of "dwarf moose or caribou" might be based upon the occurrence of teratomas—abnormal repressed twins.

One can well imagine the interest in the object which accompanied the following letter in French addressed to the National Museum of Canada by a Montagnais Indian at Shefferville (Knob Lake), Quebec, and referred to this Service.

29 October, 1956.

I am sending for analysis, a "little caribou" growth which was found between the flesh and the hide. After the completion of its development this growth may reach a size of about 30 lbs. When the caribou dies, the little one remains alive (having killed the big one). When the little caribou comes out of the skin it resembles a two-year-old caribou. You may see the hair in the specimen I am sending. In the north it is very rare. I would like to study this more and hope that you will give me some details.

JEROME ST. ONGE,
Indian Reservation,
Shefferville, North Shore,
Province of Quebec.

The specimen consisted of a circular-shaped cyst about 5.8 cm. in diameter and 2.5 cm. thick at the point of attachment. The wall of the cyst was thin and transparent. The cavity contained tightly packed flaxen hair in a whorl about a central axis at the point of attachment. The specimen probably came from an eastern woodland caribou, *Rangifer caribou caribou*.

Thus a rare abnormality seems to be the physical basis for a legend widely held among Canadian Indian tribes.—A. W. F. BANFIELD, *Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Canada*
Received July 1, 1957.

THE "GREAT FISH" IN ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL STORY
CORNELIA CATLIN COULTER

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II.—*The "Great Fish" in Ancient and Medieval Story*

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In every age of the world, travellers to far off lands have brought back stories of strange peoples and strange customs, of plants and birds and beasts unknown to those who stayed at home. Perhaps no sight has made a stronger appeal to the imagination than an enormous fish, whose vast bulk lay stretched out on the surface of the sea, or who opened his huge jaws to devour smaller creatures. According as the lines of travel moved to the east or to the west and north, he is pictured, now off the coast of India or among the islands of the Southern Pacific, now on the shores of the Baltic; his dimensions and habits are variously described; but always he is an object of terror, and always he lends himself to stories of adventure and romance.

Some reports about the huge size of the creatures in the tropics reached Greece and Rome in classical times. The travels of Herodotus in Asia did not bring him to the sea, but he heard enough about the fauna of India to record his belief that in that country, at the farthest eastern limit of the world, all living creatures, four-footed and winged, grow much larger than in other lands (III, 106). A century later, when several shiploads of Alexander's men went under the command of Nearchus to navigate the ocean from the mouth of the Indus to the head of the Persian Gulf, the sudden spouting of a school of whales so terrified them that the oars dropped from their hands. On the advice of their captain, however, they rowed forward in close array, with loud shouts and the noise of trumpets to accompany the plashing of the oars; and the whales, frightened in turn, plunged into the sea (Arrian, *Indica*, 30; cf. Strabo, xv, 2, 12).

In Rome, in the days of Augustus, when the Emperor's

grandson and prospective heir was about to set out for the East, the Numidian Juba wrote down for the young man, all on fire with excitement as he was (*ardentem fama Arabiae*, Pliny, *H. N.* XII, 55), such information as he could collect about that faraway land, and included a statement about the huge size of the fish in its waters. Pliny takes over this item (*H. N.* XXXII, 10, *Iuba in his voluminibus quae scripsit ad C. Caesarem Augusti filium de Arabia tradit . . . cetos sescentorum pedum longitudinis et trecentorum sexaginta latitudinis in flumen Arabiae intrasse*), and it may have been from some similar source that he drew another sentence of his *Natural History*, in which the acreage of the whale's back, and the measurements of sharks, lobsters, and serpents in the Indian Ocean are estimated (IX, 3, *Plurima autem et maxima animalia in Indico mari, ex quibus balaenae quaternum iugerum, pristis ducentum cubitorum, quippe ubi locustae quaterna cubita impleant, anguillae autem in Gange amne tricenos pedes*). Elsewhere Pliny speaks of the enormous size of tunnies, one of which was found to weigh fifteen talents and to have a tail more than two cubits broad; he also mentions certain great river fish: the *silurus* in the Nile, the *isox* in the Rhine, and the *attilus* in the Po, the last named weighing about one thousand pounds, and so huge that it had to be caught with an iron chain and dragged out of the river by oxen (*H. N.* IX, 15).

Pliny and Juba, in spite of their scientific aims, make some statements that tax the credulity of the reader; and other writers on the great fish are even more ready to admit the marvelous and the romantic to their accounts. A letter purporting to have been written by Alexander to Aristotle, which was probably composed in Egypt in the third century A.D. (Pseudo-Callisthenes, III, 17), states that the natives of a certain city of India pointed out to Alexander an island off the coast, which they said was the burial place of an ancient king and contained a large quantity of gold. Fearing possible danger, Alexander's devoted friend Philo persuaded him not to undertake the expedition to the island until Philo himself

had made it. "For if I die," said he, "you will have other friends; but if any misfortune overtakes you, the whole world suffers disaster." Alexander watched Philo and his company row away, and, at the end of an hour, land on the supposed island; then the monster (*θηρίον*) suddenly sank into the deep, carrying them all with him.¹

The germ of the story is probably to be found in an Indian tale of a magic island that caused the disappearance of anyone who landed on it. This tale was repeated to Nearchus by the natives of the coast, and the island, Nosala by name, was pointed out to him, one hundred stades away. When one of his vessels disappeared not far from this island, Nearchus's guides declared that the crew must have unwittingly landed there; however, Nearchus, by sailing to the island and landing in safety, was able to demonstrate that the tale had no foundation (Arrian, *Ind.* 31; cf. Strabo, xv, 2, 13). In Pseudo-Callisthenes, the adventure of Nearchus is combined with the story of a different island, on which stood the monument of King Erythres (cf. Q. Curtius, x, 1, 10-16), and transferred to Alexander; the location of the island is changed to the country of the Prasii near the Ganges (which, as a matter of fact, Alexander never reached); and the incident is given a much more dramatic dénouement.²

The disappearing island figures, with even more picturesque details, in the section of the *Talmud* known as "Rabha b. b. Hana's Legends" (the Hagadah at the close of Part I of Tract

¹ The point of the whole story—that the apparent island was really a sea monster—comes out clearly in the Armenian version, but is very obscure in the Greek. See Adolf Ausfeld, *Der griechische Alexanderroman* (Leipzig, 1907), p. 90, n. 7. Julius Zacker, *Pseudo-Callisthenes* (Halle, 1867), pp. 147-149, notes that the tale is missing in two of the MSS. of Pseudo-Callisthenes, as well as in the *Historia de Preliis* of the archpresbyter Leo and the Latin *Epistula ad Aristotelem*; and that in one manuscript of Pseudo-Callisthenes, and also in the Jewish history of Gorionides, chap. 11, the sudden sinking of the island has dropped out of the story. Zacker quotes a number of parallels to the tale, which he recognizes as one of the "uralten aus unbekannter Zeit," and concludes that it probably formed part of the original text.

² See E. Rohde, *Der griechische Roman u. seine Vorläufer* (Leipzig, 1900), p. 191, n. 1; Ausfeld, *op. cit.*, pp. 177-179.

Baba Bathra),³ which lists numerous marvels seen by the Rabha, several of them prefaced by the words, "When I was on board of a ship." One item tells of "a fish into whose gills a reptile crept from which it died, the sea throwing it out on land. And sixty streets were destroyed by its fall." Another states: "At one time I was on board of a ship, which was driven between two fins of a fish." Then follows the story: "It once happened that I was going on a boat, and saw a fish on which sand was gathered and grass grown thereupon. And we thought that it was an island, descended, baked, and cooked upon it. When the back of the fish grew hot, it turned over, and had not the ship been so near we would have been drowned."

The new features in the last story—the preparations for a meal, the lighting of a fire, and the pain of the monster at the heat—occur, in an entirely different setting, in a hymn of the *Zend-Avesta* (*Yasna*, IX, 10–11), which alludes to an adventure of the hero Keresâspa, "a mightily working youth, curly-haired, carrying a club, who slew the horned monster, the horse-devouring, man-devouring, the poisonous yellow one, over whom flowed yellow poison fathom-deep, on whom Keresâspa was cooking meat with a kettle at noontime. Hot grew this deceiver and began to sweat. Forth from under the kettle rushed he, and upset the boiling water. Aside in terror fled the heroic-spirited Keresâspa."⁴ Darmesteter says of the story: "Le texte zend est le spécimen *de terre ferme* le plus ancien du conte de l'île-baleine, avec lequel nous avons tous fait connaissance par les *Mille et une Nuits* et Sindbad le marin. Le texte le plus

³ *A New Edition of the Babylonian Talmud*, translated into English by Michael L. Rodkinson (Boston, 1896–1903), vii, pp. 203–213. The incidents here quoted are given on p. 204.

⁴ I am indebted to Professor R. G. Kent of the University of Pennsylvania for calling my attention to this material, and also for supplying me with the translation here quoted. Another version is given in the translation of the *Zend-Avesta*, Part III, by L. H. Mills (*Sacred Books of the East*, Oxford, 1887), p. 234. See also James Darmesteter's translation of Part II (Oxford, 1883), p. 295, where the same passage appears in a different context.

ancien de la version maritime se trouve dans le Talmud, BABA BATHRA, f. 73 *b*, dans la bouche d'un haggadiste célèbre, Rabba bar bar Hana." He suggests that "l'auteur a peut-être connu l'histoire de Srvara ["horned"] et de Keresâspa; il vivait vers 330, époque où les rapports intellectuels étaient étroits entre les Juifs et les Mages."⁵ I am inclined to think that what we have here is not a case of borrowing, but of two narratives derived from the same ultimate source; that the story of someone cooking a meal on a monster's back was a bit of Indo-Persian folklore which the *Avesta* has preserved in its more primitive form; and that the same story, combined with the Indian story of the magic island, was at an early date introduced into a maritime setting and told as one of the marvelous incidents of a voyage.

Rabba b. b. Hana's tale reappears, with variations, in the supposedly scientific work of the Arabian El-Kazweenee (Al-Kazwini), entitled "The Wonders of the World." In his discussion of the tortoise, El-Kazweenee says: "As to the sea-tortoise, it is very enormous, so that the people of the ship imagine that it is an island. One of the merchants hath related, saying, 'We found in the sea an island elevated above the water, having upon it green plants; and we went forth to it, and dug [holes for fire] to cook; whereupon the island moved, and the sailors said, Come ye to your place; for it is a tortoise, and the heat of the fire hath hurt it; lest it carry you away!—By reason of the enormity of its body,' saith he [*i. e.*, the narrator above mentioned,] 'it was as though it were an island; and earth collected upon its back in the length of time, so that it became like land, and produced plants.'" El-Kazweenee also gives various other details about the huge fish in eastern waters. "In the Sea of China," says he, "is a fish more than three hundred cubits long: fear is entertained by the ship on account of it; and it is found by the island of Wák-Wák; and when the people know of its passing by, they

⁵ In his note on the French translation (*Annales du Musée Guimet*, XXI, Paris, 1892), I, p. 89. For the story in the *Arabian Nights*, see p. 37 below.

call out, and beat with wood, that it may flee away at their noises: when it raises its fin, it is like an enormous sail." The same writer and Ibn-El-Wardee (Ibnu'l-Wardi) also say that "in the Sea of El-kulzum is an enormous fish, that beateth the ship with its tail, and sinketh it; its length is about two hundred cubits." El-Idreese (Idrisi) describes a somewhat similar creature in the Sea of China, about one hundred cubits long, called Gheydeh; and mentions the same method of driving it away.⁶

"The Story of Sindbad the Sailor," incorporated in *The Thousand and One Nights*, touches, in three different passages, on the theme of the great fish; and the first two of these passages are obviously very closely connected with the Arabic scientific works just quoted. In the account of his First Voyage (Lane, III, 338), Sindbad says, "I saw, too, in the sea in which is that island, a fish two hundred cubits long, and the fishermen fear it; wherefore they knock some pieces of wood, and it fleeth from them." At an earlier stage in the same voyage, the travellers had arrived at an island covered with trees; the master brought the ship to anchor, and all landed and prepared a fire to cook; then suddenly the master shouted to the passengers to embark in haste, for the apparent island was really a fish. Some of them reached the ship, but the island descended to the bottom of the sea and the others drowned (III, 332-333). The third incident occurs in the Seventh Voyage, as related in the Cairo Edition of *The Thousand and One Nights* (III, 480-482). The vessel on which Sindbad had taken passage had been driven by storm winds to "the Clime of the Kings," in "the furthest of the seas of the world," and the ship's master, discovering what region it was, had prophesied certain death to the passengers, when there suddenly appeared to their terrified gaze three great fish, each one more monstrous than the one before, and the

⁶ These statements are quoted from Lane's edition of *The Thousand and One Nights*, III, 434, n. 8; 445, n. 19. Lane thinks that "the Arab geographers applied the name 'Wák-Wák' to all the islands with which they were acquainted on the east and south-east of Borneo." See III, 445, footnote 13; IV, 377, n. 32.

third "darted down to swallow the ship with all that was in her." But just at that moment a great wind arose, which dashed the ship in pieces on a reef; and the fish presumably disappeared; at least there is no further mention of him in the narrative.

This rather large mass of material from Arabic writings shows certain general similarities. In all there is the same emphasis on the size of the fish and the havoc that he can cause, two of the geographers even crediting him with power to sink a ship by the movement of his tail. Both Sindbad and the scientists mention the method of frightening the fish away by beating on pieces of wood, and this scheme corresponds pretty closely to the tactics adopted by Nearchus and his men. The "island" incident, which we found in Pseudo-Callisthenes and the *Talmud*, reappears here, with details very similar to those of the *Talmud*, except that in El-Kazweenee the enormous creature on whose back green plants are growing turns out to be a sea tortoise instead of a fish.⁷

Erwin Rohde discussed this incident, and decided that the coincidences between "The Story of Sindbad" and El-Kazweenee's treatise were such as to indicate the use of a common source rather than direct borrowing of one from the other. He assumed that this source was an earlier Oriental travel-tale; that numbers of such "Reisemärchen" were current in India in early times, and that they passed, first to Persia, through the contacts of Persian and Indian merchants, and then from the Persians to the Arabs.⁸ The material thus far presented

⁷The Arabian scientific works in question were written in the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries. *The Thousand and One Nights*, in the form in which we have it, dates from the second half of the fifteenth century; but this collection seems to have been based on a Persian work called *The Thousand Tales*, which was known as early as 987 A.D., and of course both scientists and story tellers may have drawn from earlier written works or from oral tradition.

⁸Rohde, *Der griechische Roman*, pp. 183-209, especially p. 192, n. 1; pp. 194-196. Rohde notes that the story of the whale-island is found "schon bei Pseudo-Callisthenes," and also in a *märchen* in the *Talmud*, and he suggests that possibly Nearchus's story of an island in the Persian Gulf ἡ ἀφανίζουσα τοὺς προσομιθύντας (frag. 25, Müller) is due to a misunderstanding of such tales. Cf. p. 34 above.

in this paper lends some support to Rohde's theory. It is significant that the earliest story of the "whale-island" type is localized in India, and that the version in the *Talmud* shares several features with an incident in ancient Persian literature. The form in which the stories are cast also helps to strengthen his hypothesis. Although Rabha b. b. Hana's story of the apparent island is merely one item on a list, and not part of a connected narrative, it is prefaced by the words: "It once happened that I was going on a boat"; and in El-Kazweene's treatise and "The Story of Sindbad" the account of the island is put in the mouth of a merchant.

Indirect evidence of the existence of such tales in the second century A.D. is afforded by Lucian's *True History*. Photius (*Bibl.* p. 111 b) stated that *The Wonders beyond Thule* of Antonius Diogenes seemed to be the source (*πηγή και βίβλος*) of Lucian's work. Lucian himself does not mention Antonius by name, but in the opening chapter he pays his respects to Ctesias, who wrote about India, Iambulus, who describes the countries "in the great sea," and many other authors of the same sort, with their marvelous tales of huge beasts and savage men. He himself, he says, will be more honest than they, for he will at least acknowledge that he is lying. The Greek predecessors of Lucian may have owed something to Oriental travel-tales, as Rohde thought; in any case, Lucian's own narrative bears a general resemblance to "The Story of Sindbad," and two incidents, the adventure with the huge bird and the adventure with the giant fish, deal with very similar material. It seems probable that even in Lucian's time there existed a stock form of travel-tale, in which both these incidents figured. Lucian's boyhood home was in Syria, "the crossroads of the ancient world," and if such tales originated in India and travelled west, they would almost inevitably have been familiar to him.⁹

⁹ Professor F. G. Allinson puts the case conservatively in his edition of Lucian (Boston, 1905), p. 55: "More difficult [than an estimate of his debt to classical Greek authors] is the question of Lucian's indebtedness to versions of tales found in the *Arabian Nights* which may have been current in his Syrian

In all the delicious nonsense of the *True History*, there is no section more delightful than the story of the great fish. Lucian and his fifty companions had set sail toward the west from the Pillars of Hercules, and after many exciting adventures (including a visit to the moon) suddenly caught sight of a number of whales and other monsters (*θηρία καὶ κήτη πολλὰ μὲν καὶ ἄλλα*), the largest of which measured some 1500 stades (about 170 miles) in length. He advanced upon them, jaws wide open and huge teeth shining; they flung their arms about one another and said a last farewell; and the monster swallowed them down, ship and all. His vast interior, with an extensive island formed by the mud that he had swallowed, a forest, and human and animal inhabitants, afforded opportunity for exploration and battle; but in the course of time Lucian wearied of his monotonous existence, and he and his friends determined to make their way out. They first attempted to chop through the whale's right side, but when they had advanced for over half a mile without any results, they changed their plan and set fire to the forest, beginning at the end near his tail. For seven days the fire raged without affecting him; then his strength began to fail, and after five days more the voyagers made their escape by propping his jaws open and dragging their boat through the gaps between his teeth (I, 30-II, 2).

Similar as this whale is to the huge fish of *The Thousand and One Nights*, the whimsical fancy of Lucian has touched the tale with a charm which Sindbad's narrative lacks; and even the incidents of the two stories show important variations. Lucian (presumably following the author of *The Wonders beyond Thule*) locates his adventure in the unknown region to the west of Gibraltar, whereas the scene of Sindbad's mishap is a remote part of the eastern sea. Then, although the picture of the monster bearing down upon the terrified voyagers is home. Certainly the kingfisher (V. H. B 40) and the *rukḥ* in the 'Second Voyage of Sindbad the Sailor' are birds of a feather, and the leviathan fifteen hundred furlongs in length (V. H. A 30), which swallows Lucian's ship, is of the same school with the huge fish of 'Sindbad's Seventh Voyage.'"

the same in both tales, it is only in Lucian's story that the ship is actually engulfed by his huge jaws. Naturally, Sindbad's narrative has no place for the events that follow in *The True History*—the reconnoitering expeditions and the military campaigns inside the fish, and the ultimate escape of the imprisoned travellers.

In giving this turn to the story, Lucian is making use of a very ancient and very widespread motif. The "swallow" type of tale (with a giant, a cow, a wolf, a huge fish or dragon as the swallower) is found all over the world and was probably old even in the days when the *Book of Jonah* was written. Sometimes the story explains some point in the early history of a race; sometimes it forms one of the adventures of a hero, who, by freeing the land from a destructive monster, wins the everlasting gratitude of the people.¹⁰ Frazer, in his discussion of "Jonah and the Whale," summarizes "a less artistic, but equally veracious" story told by the natives of Windesi, on the northern coast of Dutch New Guinea. According to this story, five men in a canoe were swallowed by a whale and sank with him to the bottom of the sea. Then, as they sat in the fish's belly, they cut strips of his liver and guts, hacked the canoe in pieces, and lighting a fire, roasted these strips and ate them. Because of the injury to his vitals, the fish died and drifted to shore, and the men then opened his snout and came out. Thereupon a hornbill bade them bring their people to this land and settle there.¹¹ In a Melanesian tale, Kamakajaku is swallowed by a fish, which carries him to the sun-rising, where he cuts his way through with a piece of obsidian; he then follows the sun to a village in the sky, where he teaches the sun's children to make a fire and cook food.¹² One version of the Hesione story, which is found as early as the fifth century B.C., made Herakles descend into the belly of the monster, where his hair was singed by the intense heat,

¹⁰ For a general discussion of this type of tale, see J. A. Macculloch, *The Childhood of Fiction* (London, 1905), pp. 47-51.

¹¹ J. G. Frazer, *Folklore in the Old Testament* (London, 1919), III, pp. 82-83.

¹² Macculloch, *op. cit.*, pp. 436-437.

and kill it by hacking its sides (Hellanicus, frag. 136, Müller; Lycophron, *Alex.* 31-37, 468-478).¹³ In the very similar story of Assiepattle and the Stoor Worm, told by the Scots but derived from Scandinavian sources, a great Stoor Worm which came to ravage the land was fed once a week with seven virgins. The king's daughter was offered, but rescued by Assiepattle, who allowed his boat to glide down the dragon's huge throat, and then put a burning peat in its liver, escaping as quickly as he could.¹⁴ It is interesting to note that where Assiepattle uses a burning peat, Herakles and the Melanesian hero bring about the monster's death by cutting; in the Windesi story the two methods are combined; and Lucian has his imprisoned voyagers try first one and then the other.

Not all tales of the "swallow" type, however, show heroes as active as these. The *Book of Jonah* states very simply that when, at the end of three days and three nights, Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fish's belly, "the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land." A story told by the Indians of the Canadian Northwest, to which the collector, M. Émile Petitot, gives the secondary title, "le Jonas flanc-de-chien," and of which he says, "C'est du Pacifique que le mythe est parvenu sur le continent colombien," contains more picturesque details. In one version, a young man is swallowed by a fish and suffers for three days in the monster's burning vitals;¹⁵ then the fish approaches the shore where the young man's sister is lamenting him, and he calls out to her to throw her "soulier" to the monster,

¹³ Cf. Macculloch, *op. cit.*, pp. 388-389. Weicker, in the article on Hesione, in Pauly-Wissowa, VIII, 1240-1242, regards this adventure as "ein selbständiger Agon des Helden, eine hochaltertümliche Fassung der Bezwingung des Todes." The scholiast referred the epithet *τριεσπέρον* in *Alex.* 33 to the "long night" in which Zeus begot Herakles, *τρεις ἑσπέρας εἰς μίαν μεταβαλὼν*, and editors of Lycophron have generally followed this interpretation. Weicker, however, takes the word to mean "dass Herakles drei Tage im Bauche verweilt"; and his view gains support from the "three days and three nights" of *Jonah*, I, 17; *Matt.* XII, 40, and from parallels in other folklore.

¹⁴ Macculloch, *op. cit.*, p. 49, n. 2; p. 402.

¹⁵ Cf. the story of Herakles, p. 41 above.

keeping tight hold of the "cordons" meanwhile; this she does, the fish greedily snapped up the bait, the young man seized it, and, as she drew the string, "elle contraignit le monstre à revomir son frère."¹⁶ Similarly, in a Syrian folktale, a certain handsome Jūsif was swallowed by the same fish that had previously swallowed a maiden, and was disgorged on the shore a year later, pulling the maiden out after him.¹⁷

In some stories, the person swallowed is discovered by accident when the fish is cut open, as a ring, similarly devoured, might be—as a ring actually is, indeed, in the story of Polykrates (Herodotus, III, 41-42) and in Kalidasa's drama *Śakuntala*. This is the case in a large number of Indian tales. The *Vishṇu Purāna* tells how Pradyumna was stolen when only six days old and cast into a whirlpool of roaring waves, the haunt of the huge creatures of the deep; a large fish swallowed the child, but he did not die; when the fish was caught and cut open he was found inside, "a beautiful child, looking like a new shoot of the blighted tree of love."¹⁸ Similarly Śaktideva, in Somadeva's story of the Golden City, was shipwrecked and swallowed by a large fish (fortunately with no injury to his limbs); when the servants of the King Fisher caught the fish and cut it open, he came forth alive. "The Story of Bhīmabhāṭa" and "The Story of Keśaṭa and Kandarpa," in a later section of Somadeva's book, tell respectively of the rescue of a young Brahman and of a woman named Sumanas from the belly of a fish. The Brahman says of his sojourn in the fish that he remained for a long time "inside the capacious habitation of his stomach, eating in my hunger his flesh, which I cut off with a knife," but there is no hint that the fish suffered any discomfort from this treatment. "The Story of the Two Princesses," also in Somadeva's collection,

¹⁶ Émile Petitot, *Traditions Indiennes du Canada Nord-Ouest (Les Littératures Populaires, xxiii)*, Paris, 1886), pp. 319-321. In a variant, the sister does not appear, but the fish, "de douleur, se jeta sur un récif et y rendit sa proie vivante."

¹⁷ Eugen Prym and Albert Socin, *Der Neu-Aramäische Dialekt* (Göttingen, 1881), Part 2, *Übersetzung: Syrische Sagen u. Märchen*, pp. 83-84.

¹⁸ *Vishṇu Purāna*, tr. H. H. Wilson (London, 1864-1877), v, 27.

narrates an even more exciting adventure. Holy seers had announced that a certain beautiful princess should have as her husband the lord of seven *dvīpas*, and her father, deciding that King Vikramāditya would be a suitable match, had made her embark on a ship, with her retinue and wealth, and sent her off. But the ship, with the princess and her followers on board, was swallowed by a large fish. When the fish was thrown up on the coast by the current, the people of the neighborhood killed it and cut it open, and the ship full of people came out. The king of the country discovered that the princess was his niece, and sent her, together with his own daughter, whom he had long intended to give to King Vikramāditya, to the bridegroom.¹⁹

When we pass from Eastern tales and notices in Greek and Roman writers to the literature of Western Europe in the Middle Ages, we find the "great fish" still popular, and the same principal types of story—the "island" type and the "swallow" type—still persisting. The medieval bestiaries take the whale as the type of the evil one, with his treacherous wiles, and tell how unsuspecting mariners, seeing the whale's back rising above the sea, cast anchor and build a fire upon it, and then the whale sinks to the bottom and drowns them all.²⁰

The Voyage of Saint Brendan, which narrates the experiences of a holy Irish monk and his followers in the Atlantic, contains some adventures very similar to those of Sindbad in the eastern sea. The mishap on the supposed island occurs in both the

¹⁹ The story of Śaktideva is found in Penzer's edition of Tawney's translation of *The Ocean of Story* (London, 1924-), II, 192-193; the other stories have not yet been printed in Penzer's edition, but are to be found in the original edition of Tawney's translation, II, 220-224; 605-606; 598-599. In two of the stories, the fish is stranded in the Ganges—a detail which recalls Pliny's statement about the huge fish that entered "the river of Arabia." Cf. p. 33 above.

²⁰ See, for example, *Le Bestiaire* of Guillaume le Clerc, composed in 1210 (ed. Robert Reinsch, Leipzig, 1890), II, 2239-2280; and the thirteenth century bestiary included in *An Old English Miscellany* (ed. Richard Morris, Early English Text Society, London, 1872), pp. 16-18. The Latin poem *Physiologus* of Theobaldus, from which this bestiary is translated, is given in App. I, pp. 201-209; the section on the whale is found on p. 206, II, 193-222.

prose and the metrical versions of the *Voyage*, and the prose version adds the information that the fish is named Jasconius (Jascom), and that he labors night and day to put his tail in his mouth, but can not do so because of his great size.²¹

When, about the middle of the sixteenth century, Olaus Magnus wrote of the wonders of his native Scandinavia, he mentioned the fish that sometimes cast his weight on the stern or prow of a ship and sank it, or overturned the vessel with his back or tail, and he also told of the whale whose back looked like an island:²²

Habet etiam cetus super corium suum superficiem tanquam sabulum, quod est iuxta litus maris: unde plerumque elevato dorso suo super undas, a navigantibus nihil aliud creditur esse, quam insula. Itaque nautae ad illum appellunt, et super eum descendunt, inque ipsum palos figunt, naves alligunt, focos pro cibis coquendis accendunt: donec tandem cetus sentiens ignem sese in profundum mergat, atque in eius dorso manentes, nisi funibus a navi protensis se liberare queant, submergantur. . . . Arenas aliquando dorso sustollit, in quibus ingruente tempestate . . . nautae, terram se invenisse gaudentes, anchoris demissis falsa firmitate quiescunt, ac ignes accensos belua sentiens, subito com-

²¹ See *Acta Sancti Brendani*, ed. P. F. Moran (Dublin, 1872), pp. 55-56 (the metrical life) and p. 97 (the prose version); and the fourteenth century English version printed in vol. xiv of the Percy Society Publications, under the title, *St. Brandan: A Mediaeval Legend of the Sea*, ed. Thomas Wright (London, 1844), pp. 7-8, 39. Wright notes that there are "several remarkable points of similarity between St. Brandan and the Sinbad of the Arabian Nights," and that "at least one incident in the two narratives is identical—that of the disaster on the back of the great fish." (Pref., p. v; cf. pp. 59-60).

²² Olaus Magnus, *Historia de Gentibus Septentrionalibus* (Rome, 1555), xxI, 6; xxI, 25. The latter section is quoted by Pontoppidan, Bishop of Bergen, in his *Natural History of Norway* (translated from the Danish original, London, 1755), II, 8, § 13. Pontoppidan dismisses the tale as a ridiculous fabrication, due to incomplete information about the huge fish called Kraken. This Kraken, he says, is the largest and most extraordinary of all the animal creation; its back or upper part is about 1½ English miles in circumference, and it looks at first sight like a number of small islands surrounded with sea-weed; its arms are strong enough to pull down the largest man-of-war; it has a strong scent, and emits a dark secretion which colors the water (§§ 11-12). Modern scientists have assumed that the Bishop was describing some enormous species of cuttle-fish.

mota se in aquis mergit, hominesque cum navibus, nisi anchorae rumpantur, in profundum attrahit.

It is Olaus's picture of the stormtossed sailor anchoring beside the whale that Milton uses in a simile in *Paradise Lost*, I, 201–208, where Satan lies floating on the burning lake, huge in bulk as Briareos,

Or that sea-beast
Leviathan, which God of all his works
Created hugest that swim the ocean-stream.
Him, haply slumbering on the Norway foam,
The pilot of some small night-foundered skiff
Deeming some island, oft, as seamen tell,
With fixed anchor in his scaly rind,
Moors by his side under the lee, while night
Invests the sea, and wished morn delays.

In the account of the creation of living things in the sea, too, Milton writes (*Paradise Lost*, VII, 412–415):

There leviathan,
Hugest of living creatures, on the deep
Stretched like a promontory, sleeps or swims,
And seems a moving land.

The “swallow” *motif* also appears in medieval literature. It is delightfully employed in the poem “Patience,” written in the northwest Midland district in the late fourteenth or early fifteenth century, where Jonah is introduced into the homily by way of illustration. To the simple outline of the Biblical story the author adds some charming touches—the space as broad as a hall which Jonah enters, the prophet getting a firm foothold in the whale’s stomach and peering about “vche a nok of his nauel,” and the painful uneasiness that this “mote in his mawe” caused the huge creature.²³

The Voyage of Saint Brendan borrows from the story of Sindbad not only the whale-island incident, but the encounter with a huge fish that threatens to swallow the ship. As

²³ *Patience; An Alliterative Version of Jonah by the Poet of the Pearl*, ed. Israel Gollancz (Oxford, 1924).

Brendan and his followers were sailing in a violent storm, a great fish came after them, casting burning foam out of his mouth, and raising the water higher than the ship at each blast. The monks, aghast, called "on Jhesu Crist, and in seint Brendan also." Then, as the fish was just about to seize them, another great fish came out of the west, smote the first in three pieces, and swam away again.²⁴

A story of the *Gesta Romanorum*²⁵ introduces the "great fish" in still another setting. A certain king, in order to secure peace between himself and the Emperor Honorius, had arranged for the marriage of his daughter and the Emperor's son; the princess took ship for the Emperor's country, had the misfortune (along with the vessel and all its passengers) to be swallowed by a whale, but ultimately escaped, passed the Emperor's test of a choice between three caskets, and so in the end was happily united to his son. The last incident in the story seems to be the remote source for the trial of Portia's suitors in *The Merchant of Venice*, and has therefore been discussed at some length by Shakespearean scholars;²⁶ the adventure with the whale, which is equally

²⁴ See Wright's edition of the English metrical version, p. 19; prose version, pp. 46-47; and Moran's edition of the *Acta Sancti Brendani*, pp. 63-64, 111-112.

²⁵ Hermann Oesterley, *Gesta Romanorum* (Berlin, 1872), No. 251, app. 55. Oesterley apparently found the story in at least six 15th century MSS. in German libraries. (See p. 62, No. 83; p. 94, No. 79; p. 119, No. 70; p. 158, No. 218; p. 162, No. 26; p. 164, No. 23.) A variant, differing in the names of the characters and in a number of other details, appears as No. 99 of the Anglo-Latin text (translation quoted in the Introduction to Swan's edition, reprinted with a preface by E. A. Baker, London, 1924, pp. 40-44); No. 66 of the English MS. Harl. 7333 (S. J. H. Herrtage, *The Early English Versions of the Gesta Romanorum*, Early English Text Society, London, 1879, pp. 294-306); and No. 32 in Wynkyn de Worde's translation (quoted, from the re-issue of Richard Robinson, in H. H. Furness's Variorum Edition of *The Merchant of Venice*, Philadelphia, 1888, pp. 315-316). The present quotation follows the text in C. H. Beeson's *Primer of Medieval Latin* (Chicago, 1925), pp. 62-63, except in the first line, where I have retained the reading *cele grande eis* of Oesterley's text.

²⁶ *E.g.* Francis Douce, *Illustrations of Shakespeare* (London, 1807), I, 278; I, 414-415; Furness, Variorum Ed. of *Merch. of Ven.*, pp. 314-319; H. R. D. Anders, *Shakespeare's Books* (Berlin, 1904), p. 65.

interesting, has received practically no attention.²⁷ It runs as follows:

Cum autem per mare navigarent, cete grande eis occurrebat in mare et navem deglutire volebat. Nautae hoc percipientes timuerunt valde et praecipue puella. Nautae vero ignem copiosum fecerunt et die ac nocte vigilabant. Sed accidit post triduum quod, fessi propter magnas vigilias, dormierunt. Cete subito navem cum omnibus contentis deglutivit. Puella cum intellexit quod in ventre ceti esset fortiter clamabat. Ad cuius clamorem omnes excitati sunt. Nautae vero puellae dixerunt ac militibus: "Carissimi, estote confortati; Deus nos salvabit; habeamus bonum consilium, quia sumus in ventre ceti." Ait puella: "Audite consilium meum et erimus salvati." Qui dixerunt: "Dic." Quae ait: "Accendamus ignem in magna copia et cete quilibet vulneret sicut profundius possit et per ista duo mortem recipiet et statim ad terram natabit et sic per gratiam Dei evadere poterimus." Illi vero consilium puellae per omnia impleverunt. Cete cum mortem sensit ad terram perrexit. Iuxta quam terram erat quidam miles manens, qui cena facta versus litus maris ambulavit. Cum ergo cete hinc inde natate vidisset et terrae appropinquare, servos vocat et cete ad terram traxit. Qui inceperunt cum instrumentis percutere. Puella cum sonitum audisset, loquebatur pro omnibus et ait: "Carissimi, suaviter percutite et latus ceti aperite; hic sumus in eius ventre filii bonorum virorum de generoso sanguine." Miles cum vocem puellae audisset ait servis suis: "Carissimi, latus ceti aperite et videamus quid lateat interius." Cum vero apertum fuisset, puella primo exivit immo quasi mortua, deinde milites et ceteri alii.

The story is obviously the same as that of the princess intended as a bride for King Vikramāditya (p. 44 above), but shows a few marked variations. Somadeva's story is told from the point of view of the spectators who hauled the fish up and cut it open; there is comparatively little interest in the shipload of people inside the fish, and no indication that they exerted themselves to better their plight. The people in the *Gesta*, on the other hand, are resourceful and energetic,

²⁷ A footnote in Tawney's edition of *The Ocean of Story*, II, 224, cites No. 66 of the English *Gesta* as a parallel to "The Story of Bhīmabhata." The tale in the *Gesta* is really much closer to "The Story of the Two Princesses" than to the one on which Tawney gives the note.

and the leading part in the planning and in the appeal for help is taken by the princess. Moreover, the two methods that she suggests for bringing about the death of the fish (lighting a great fire and wounding him as deeply as possible) are found, as we have seen, in a large number of folk-tales, and occur in combination both in a Windesi story and in Lucian's *True History*.²⁸

From what source these details were drawn it is impossible to tell. Direct borrowing from Lucian is of course out of the question, for the medieval story-writers were in no position to read Greek; and in view of the widespread popularity of the "swallow" motif it is not necessary even to assume indirect influence of the *True History* on the *Gesta Romanorum*.²⁹ Whatever the source, the medieval writer has done a service in preserving for us two ancient methods of doing the fish to death, and also in replacing the passive heroine of the Indian story by a quick-witted, energetic young woman who is more in accord with Western ideals.

As we pass in review the numerous stories of the "great fish," it is evident that they are not confined to any one country or to any one historical period. India (as was per-

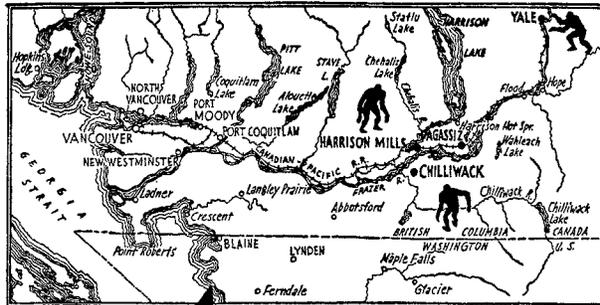
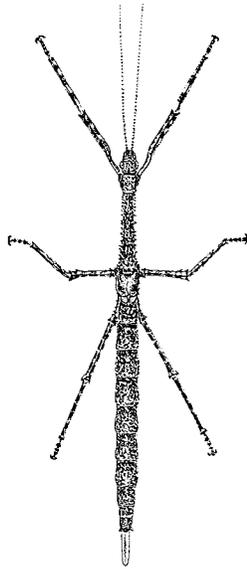
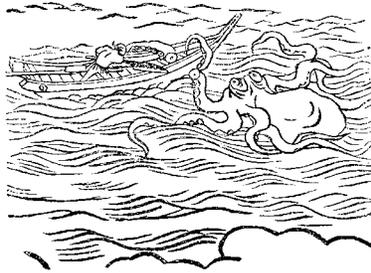
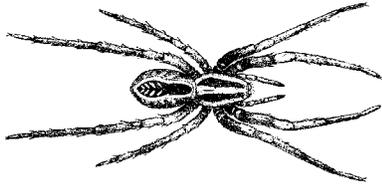
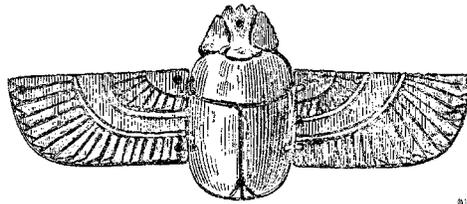
²⁸ In the variants mentioned in n. 25 the supernatural element tends to decrease and the princess becomes even more the central figure of the tale. Her attendants lose their lives in a storm, and she herself is left alone on the sinking ship; she builds a fire and so keeps the monster at bay for a time, but when her eyes close with weariness he devours her. "Both þe ship and þe mayde" are swallowed in Harl. 7333, but in the second version quoted by Herrtage (Addit. MS. 9066), the Anglo-Latin version, and the translation of Wynkyn de Worde, the ship is ignored. Also, the kindling of a fire in the whale's belly, though it is mentioned in these versions, seems to be a matter of much less importance than the wound inflicted on him "with a litill knyfe."

²⁹ It should be remembered, however, that Lucian was repeatedly imitated in the literature of the Eastern Empire (see Karl Krumbacher, *Geschichte der byzantinischen Literatur* (München, 1891), pp. 188, 193, 210, etc.); and that when Liudprand, tenth century Bishop of Cremona, went as imperial ambassador to Constantinople and came home with a stock of Greek phrases, Lucian's *Dream* (also known as *The Cock*) was among the works that he had learned to quote. See Liudprand, *Antapodosis*, I, 12 (*Scriptores Rerum Germanicarum, Liudprandi Opera*, Hannover u. Leipzig, 1915), where *Gallus* 1 is quoted, καθὼς ὁ Λουκιανός.

haps natural, in view of the actual existence of large fish in her waters and the fondness of her people for marvelous tales) seems to have been peculiarly rich in them. In India two definite types of story apparently developed, the "island" type and the "swallow" type, both of which spread westward and left their mark in turn on Greek, Arabic, medieval Latin, and the vernacular literatures. The whale-island story is repeated almost without change as late as the sixteenth century, and survives in literary allusion for two hundred years more; the "swallow" tale loses its romantic conclusion in "The Story of Sindbad," and passes in this abridged form to *The Voyage of Saint Brendan*; the form of the tale in which the swallowing actually occurs is, however, parodied with great zest by Lucian, and reappears in the Middle-English alliterative poem "Patience" and in a story of the *Gesta Romanorum*.

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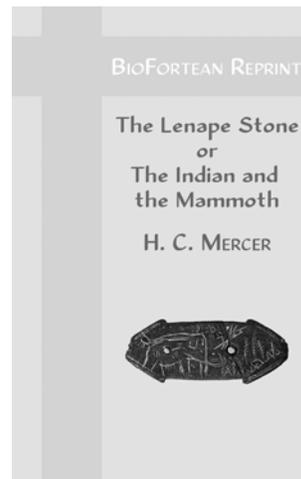
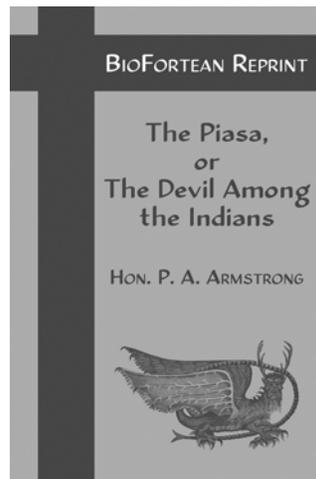
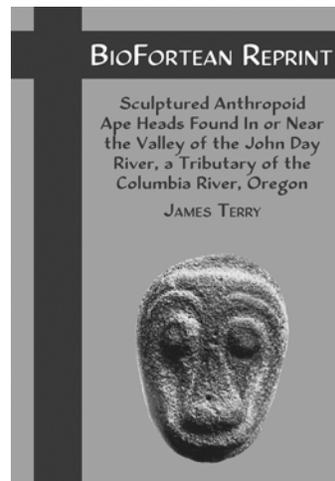
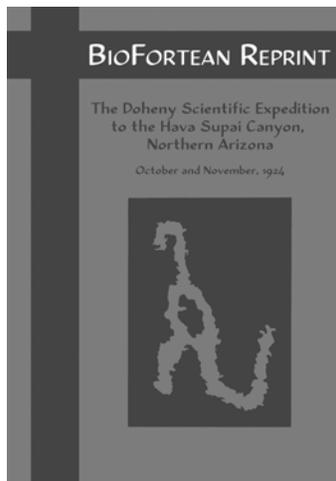
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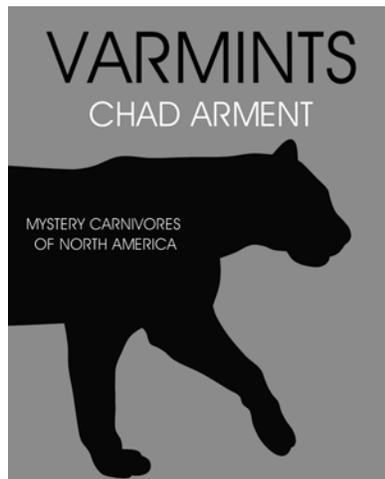
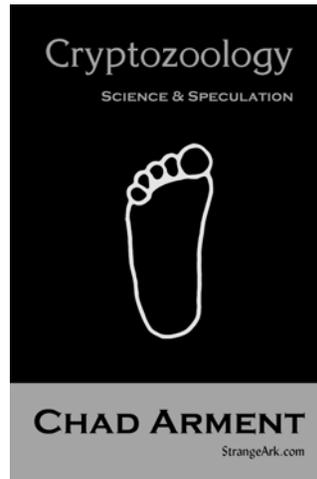
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