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EVIDENCE FOR NEW BEAR SPECIES IN NEPAL

Kingdom of Nepal, the Himalayan nation where evidence of a new species of bear has been uncovered (arrow indicates location).

In early December, 1983, newspapers around the world carried reports of a new species of bear supposedly discovered in the Himalayas. The reports referred to fieldwork by Daniel Taylor-Ide and Robert L. Fleming in the forested valleys of eastern Nepal. The evidence uncovered was quoted as being "substantial," involving tracks, nests, and -- finally -- what is believed to be a live specimen itself.

Taylor-Ide, director of the Woodlands Institute in West Virginia, has worked in Nepal for many years, having grown up there, and is well acquainted with Nepalese culture and languages. An education and health planning specialist, he is also intimately acquainted with Nepalese wildlife. Fleming is an ornithologist who also grew up in Nepal and knows several of its languages. He is the author of the field guide *Birds of Nepal*.

The announcement by the Woodlands Institute came after a telephone call from Taylor-Ide in Nepal, following several weeks of fieldwork in the Barun

Valley, where villagers have long reported a bear smaller than the known Himalayan black bear, *Ursus thibetanus*. The area is in the foothills of Mount Makalu, the fifth highest peak in the world.

Upon returning to the Woodlands Institute, which is an ISC institutional subscriber, Dr. Taylor-Ide provided more detailed information, which is summarized here for the *Newsletter*.

The first solid evidence was actually acquired during a previous expedition, in February of 1983. Following native leads and accounts, the team was able to tentatively establish that two species of bear inhabit the local forests. One species is undoubtedly the known black bear. The other bear--the supposed new species--is believed to be primarily arboreal, more agile, more shy, and harder to observe. The unknown bear is believed to weigh about 70 kilograms (154 pounds). Dr. Taylor-Ide has proposed the name *Ursus nepalensis* for the new bear. Following established practice, it shall be referred to here as "Ursus nepalensis" until a formal description and naming is published and accepted.

One skull of a female "U. nepalensis" was obtained on the first expedition, and two more skulls were acquired on the last expedition; these are of a juvenile male and an adult male. Comparing the dentition of these three skulls with the dentition of four skulls of *U. thibetanus* from the Kashmir in India, Dr. Taylor-Ide found that the premolars and first and second molars of the former are consistently smaller than those of the latter. The *maximum* width and length of the second molar of "U. nepalensis," for example, is less than the minimum width and length of the second molar of *U. thibetanus* (1.61 and 2.70cm versus 1.63 and 2.75cm). Cusp wear and closed skull sutures on the "U. nepalensis" specimens indicate, furthermore, that the skulls are not simply those of juvenile *U. thibetanus*.

It has also been suggested that "U. nepalensis" may be a subspecies of *U. thibetanus*. "However," states Dr. Taylor-Ide in a report sent to ISC, "since it is morphologically distinct and lives in the same habitat, distinction as a subspecies is unlikely, and it is more probable that the new bear represents a discrete, separate (and therefore new) species. To confirm these taxonomic indications of a new species, additional skeletal evidence is currently being gathered."

Despite *U. thibetanus* having an extremely wide range (believed to be the widest of any large Asiatic wild mammal), from southwest to southeast Asia, little has been published--or is known--of its behavior and ecology. Most information has come from hunters. This, of course, makes it more difficult to compare with "U. nepalensis." In fact, until quite recently, the genus of the black bear was known as *Selenarctus*, and it was only recently that it was embedded as a subgenus within the genus *Ursus* (see *Katalog Mlekopitayushchikh SSSR* [Catalog of Mammals of the USSR], I. M. Gromov and G. I. Baranova, eds., Leningrad: Nauka, 1981), a reclassification adopted by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in October of 1983.

A behavioral difference cited by Taylor-Ide is in the construction of tree nests. The presumed nests of "U. nepalensis" are much more elaborate and complex than those of *U. thibetanus*. Five "U. nepalensis" nests were located, and two sets of tracks were observed and photographed. One set of tracks, located in February, 1983, went straight up a moss-covered cliff with very little ground disturbance, confirming the native accounts of the animal's extreme agility.

After the last expedition returned to the U.S., Taylor-Ide consulted with numerous mammalogists, including specialists at the U.S. National Museum (Smithsonian Institution), where further skull measurements and comparisons were made. Some previously skeptical experts now reportedly concede that a new species may well be involved, but that more evidence is required to demonstrate this conclusively. One way to do this is to acquire skulls of *U. thibetanus* from the same area as where the "U. nepalensis" skulls were obtained, in order to ensure that the size differences are not artifacts. The reasoning behind this is that the *U. thibetanus* race in the Kashmir may be larger than the one in eastern Nepal, so the only way to be certain that there are in fact two distinct species in the same area is to compare measurements of skulls of the two supposedly different species collected from the same area.

Royal hunters from His Majesty's Palace in Katmandu (in cooperation with Nepal's Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation) are currently seeking new skulls in the high-altitude forests of the Barun

Ursus thibetanus, *the Himalayan black bear, which probably has the widest range of all large Asiatic wild mammals.*

Valley, which range from 2,500 meters (about 7,500 feet) to near the summit of Mount Makalu, which is at 8,475 meters (over 25,000 feet). It will then also be possible to determine if a supposed *U. thibetanus* specimen in the Katmandu zoo is actually a specimen of "U. nepalensis," which Taylor-Ide suspects is the case. The problem is that both species (if there are indeed two) have a similar black coloration, and it is possible that the zoo staff thought that the specimen was a juvenile *U. thibetanus*, which can reach a weight of about 120 kilograms (265 pounds). The zoo specimen has been in captivity for 2 years, and has not grown beyond a weight of 55 kilograms (121 pounds). It therefore seems probable that an animal which natives have talked about for years, and which was denied by skeptics, is, in fact, already in captivity.

The Woodlands Institute, which has been undertaking rural development and human ecology projects in Nepal since 1976, plans to continue fieldwork to study the behavior and habitat of "U. nepalensis." It is hoped to capture live specimens of both species, place radio collars on them, and release them unharmed. This would enable researchers to track the animals and learn about their respective behaviors, information which would, in turn, assist in conservation measures which the Institute hopes the government of Nepal will initiate in cooperation with the local villagers themselves. Other wildlife in the local forests are the snow leopard, red panda, blue sheep, and langur and macacque monkeys.

To ensure the villagers' cooperation in the planned conservation programs, incentives would have to be instituted, incuding small-scale development projects to improve the villagers' quality of life. A small water supply project has already been started, and other options include a centralized water supply system, fruit tree orchards, pond fish harvesting, and the introduction of new vegetables.

The Society awaits with interest further developments on "Ursus nepalensis," and Dr. Taylor-Ide will be submitting an article for *Cryptozoology* once the case for the new bear is solidified. It is quite rare for a totally new (and previously unknown) species of large terrestrial mammal to be added to the zoological inventories. The last instance was that of the Tagua, a new peccary species discovered in the Paraguayan Chaco thorn forest in the 1970s, which belongs to a Pleistocene genus previously believed extinct. While Tagua weighs about 35 kilograms (77 pounds), "U. nepalensis," at 70 kilograms (154 pounds), is even more dramatic.

Field research in the region, however, is difficult to conduct. Just 15 miles from Mount Everest, the tallest peak in the world, the habitat of "U. nepalensis" is about 250 square miles of extremely dense cloud forest on very steep slopes, with no trails. The ground is infested with ticks; when it rains, it swarms with leeches.

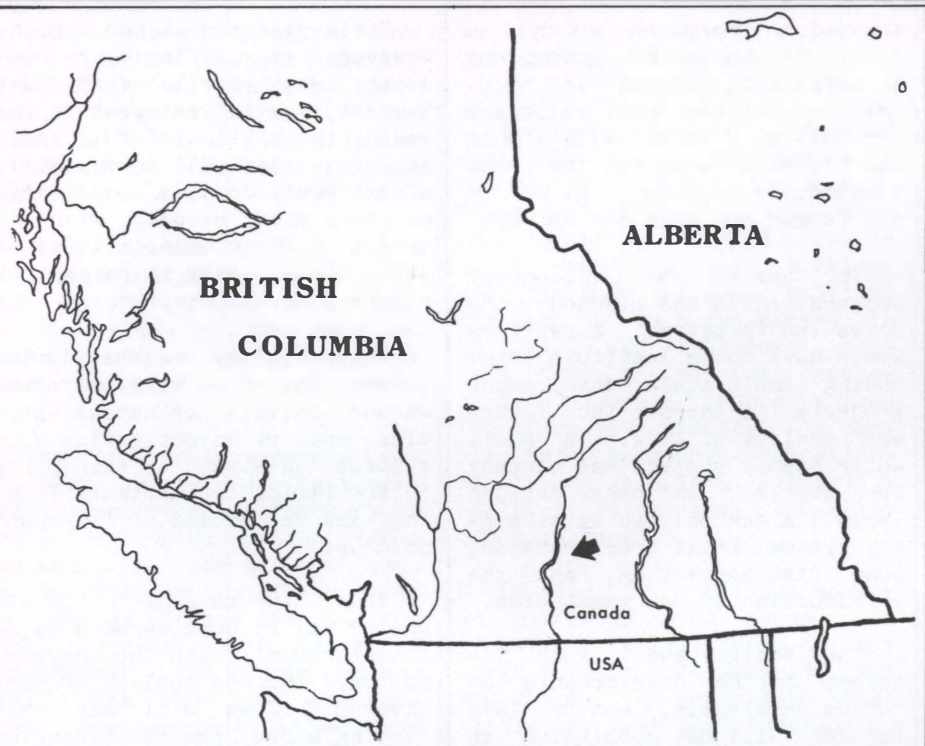
Cryptozoology necessarily involves the reporting of "unknown" animals by native peoples, and, by investigating such reports, claims, or even myths in the field, the ultimate finding and describing of "unknown" animals.

Thus, the case of "U. nepalensis" may be considered a major breakthrough, both for cryptozoology and the zoology of carnivores. Some will say that finding a new species of bear or peccary, known species of which already exist, is not like finding a live dinosaur, or paleohominoid, but the distinction is, in some ways, an artificial construct in people's minds. A new organism is a new organism, and if native peoples are accurate reporters in the more "likely" instances, they may also be accurate reporters in the more "unlikely" instances. Whatever the case may be, the *methodology* of cryptozoology appears to have been vindicated again, as with the search for, and finding of, the coelacanth, the pigmy hippopotamus, and the okapi. □

LLOYDS OF LONDON TO INSURE OGOPOGO

Followers of "lake monster" lore in North America will be well acquainted with Ogopogo, a supposed unknown species of large animal found in Lake Okanagan, British Columbia, Canada. Ogopogo has been reported by Anglo settlers for over 100 years, but, as with other North American "lake monsters," it was known before them by local Indians, who called it *N'ha-a-itk* or *Naitaka*. It was "officially" named Ogopogo in 1926 by the Vancouver *Daily Province*. Reports of the animals continue to the present, as they do in several other British Columbia lakes, which, like the Scottish "monster" lakes, are of glacial origin. Ogopogo, however, is usually reported to be much longer and more serpentine than Nessie. The best summary of pertinent cases is contained in the book *Ogopogo: The Okanagan Mystery*, by the late Mary Moon (J.J. Douglas, Vancouver, 1977).

Events took an interesting turn in October, 1983, when David Hodge, Vice President of the Okanagan-Similkameen Tourism Association, in Vernon, announced that they would be offering $1 million Canadian (about US$810,000) for proof of the existence of Ogopogo as an



Location of Lake Okanagan in British Columbia (see arrow), supposed home of Ogopogo (map not necessarily authoritative).

unknown animal. This soon led some individuals to believe that they were eligible for receiving the fortune. Ed Fletcher, for example, claims 40 or 50 sightings of the animal since 1976, and has produced a videotape supposedly showing it. ISC member Paul LeBlond, a specialist on waves at the University of British Columbia's Department of Oceanography, watched the sequence when it was shown on television; he concluded that the object filmed looked very much like a wave. Nevertheless, Fletcher, 51, "can't see that there's any other proof that's required other than witnesses, scientific information and photographs."

The Tourist Association will unabashedly be offering the $1 million prize as a way to increase local income from tourism. Should the prize have to be awarded, the Association will be covered by an insurance policy with Lloyds of London, the details of which were still unavailable at press time. Lloyds, which prides itself in having insured everything imaginable--from communications satellites to Elizabeth Taylor's eyes--is regarded as the most prestigious and reliable insurance company in the world.

In late January, 1984, Bob Sheeley, President of the Association, said he was awaiting a draft contract from Lloyds, which was to spell out all the terms and conditions, including the nature of the required proof of Ogopogo. The Association would then have to have its lawyers study the contract before officially proceeding with the prize offer to the public. The Lloyds policy was expected to cost the Association about $5,000 a year, which the local communities would more than make up for in added tourism income.

In view of the publicity being generated in British Columbia by the reward offer, Dr. LeBlond wrote to the Association suggesting that it provide ISC with any new information on Ogopogo which may come to light as a result. Also, because of the Association's concern over the possible involvement of hoaxers, Dr. LeBlond offered his services, and those of his colleagues, in assessing the evidence submitted. In all probability, however, Lloyds of London--as it usually does--will get the better end of the bargain. □

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Editor wishes to thank the many ISC members who generously added a donation when sending in their 1984 membership dues. All such individuals automatically became Sustaining Members, and they will be recognized as such at the end of ISC's membership year (those who did not send any additional funds may still do so at any time). Many people sent an extra $5 or $10; others sent $50 or even more. All donations are very much appreciated, as they have substantially reduced the Society's debt to Allen Press for producing the 1983 journal.

We remind all U.S. Sustaining Members that donations are now tax-deductible with the Internal Revenue Service. The Winter, 1983, *Newsletter* contained the details of this (the ISC Tax Determination Number is 95-2915129). Obtaining tax exemption for a nonprofit organization is not an easy task, and it required a considerable amount of time, effort, and paperwork. We would like to acknowledge the assistance provided by ISC member V'Frank Asaro of San Diego, an attorney with the firm Asaro, Gatis, and Reinschreiber, as

well as Steve White, an employee of the firm. The task involved considerable aggravation and frustration, as well as expense, but the service was provided free to the Society. Our thanks to Mr. Asaro. Our thanks also to Forrest G. Wood, ISC Board member in San Diego, who served as liaison between Mr. Asaro, ISC and the IRS.

This issue of the *Newsletter* is a little different in that a large part is devoted to letters from readers. A considerable backlog of letters had begun to accumulate, so it was decided to expand this section for the Spring *Newsletter*, and we will return to a normal-sized letters section with the summer issue. It is very important for ISC members to have an opportunity to express their thoughts and ideas, and the letters section of the *Newsletter* is the main forum for this.

Initial reaction to Volume 2 of *Cryptozoology*, meanwhile, has been positive, a reaction particularly stimulated by the fact that the journal contains several manuscripts which are skeptical and/or critical of certain cryptozoological claims. This is further evidence that a scientific society can indeed deal with an unconventional subject such as cryptozoology in an objective manner.

--J. Richard Greenwell
Editor

CRYPTOZOOLOGY IN *NATURE*

Cryptozoology, the Society's interdisciplinary, annual journal, was recently reviewed in *Nature*, a British weekly science journal considered by many to be the world's foremost scientific publication. Written by Robert M. May, an ecologist at Princeton University who contributes regular columns to *Nature*, the almost full-page review (under "Science Journals") covers Volume 1 (1982) only.

The review addresses the five Sasquatch-related book reviews, stating that "it seems generally agreed that the hard evidence--photographs, tapes, casts of footprints--is fraudulent." Readers should read (or re-read) the book reviews in Volume 1 to form their own opinions concerning the accuracy of this statement. The review goes on to comment favorably on the LeBlond Research Report (in which he uses wind speed and wave size to estimate the maximum and minimum dimensions of Champ in the Mansi photo), and the Field Report by Mackal, Greenwell, and Wilkinson on their search for evidence of Mokele-Mbembe in the Congo.

Dr. May summarizes his thoughts thusly: "We would be ill-served if everyone studied safe subjects. But, in truth, my reaction to *Cryptozoology* is regret for the money libraries will waste on acquiring the journal (if only as a curiosity) and regret for the dissipated efforts that would be directed more productively to studying some of the species of tropical plants, insects and other organisms that may be going extinct at a faster rate than they are being classified."

In concluding his review, Dr. May questions the omission of dicussions of certain animals in the journal: "The lack of work on the unicorn is undoubtedly because these beasts are fairly generally agreed to have been hunted to extinction, a process made easier by virtue of ther maladaptive attraction to virgins." The full reference of the review is *Nature*, Vol. 307:687 (February 23, 1984). (See separate article in this issue for a summary of Vol. 2).□

LABORATORY ANALYSIS

From time to time, different kinds of cryptozoological evidence, such as photos, footprint casts, or actual physical samples, are obtained. ISC currently has the capability (either through its members or through professional associates of its members) to analyze many forms of such evidence. The following list outlines which analytical laboratory services are available:

- Fecal Analysis
- Footprint Cast Analysis (biomechanical)
- Hair Analysis
- Hydrophonic and Acoustical Analysis
- Image Processing and Enhancement
- Osteological Analysis
- Photo Analysis
- Tissue Analysis (biochemical)

Any cryptozoological evidence, old or new, may be submitted to ISC for analysis. Such evidence should be submitted to the Secretary, ISC, P.O. Box 43070, Tucson, Arizona, 85733, U.S.A., together with a report describing the circumstances under which the evidence was obtained, and any related, pertinent information.

Members who can provide or arrange for additional analytical services to ISC are requested to communicate with the Secretary, outlining which analytical services and techniques are involved. Members who can provide the same laboratory services as listed above are also requested to communicate with the Secretary; such services can serve as "back-ups," as well as for "second opinions" in special cases. □

SECOND VOLUME OF *CRYPTOZOOLOGY* PUBLISHED

Volume 2 of *Cryptozoology* was published recently by Allen Press, and was mailed to all members and institutional subscribers. (*Note*: Although the journal was not mailed until early 1984, it was actually the 1983 issue, and was part of the 1983 membership; members who have joined ISC in 1984 are entitled to the 1984 issue only--to be published later this year --although they may buy the 1983 issue, as well as the 1983 newsletters, separately. See page 11 for back order instructions.)

The second issue of *Cryptozoology* contains 172 pages (compared to 100 pages in the first issue), 97 of which are devoted to seven Articles. These include a review by ISC President Bernard Heuvelmans of "How Many Animal Species Remain To Be Discovered?," two skeptical articles on the Chinese Wildman and the Mongolian Almas, and a detailed evaluation of the Walla Walla Sasquatch evidence (involving dermatoglyphic or "fingerprint" patterns). These are followed by a Research Report presenting survey data of scientists' attitudes toward Nessie, and three Field Reports, one by Congolese biologist Marcellin Agnagna on his expedition to the Likouala Swamps, where he reportedly observed the supposed sauropod dinosaur Mokele-Mbembe (see *Newsletter*, Winter, 1983). The other Field Reports concern the 1983 Ri expedition to New Guinea, and 1983 fieldwork at Lake Champlain.

Six books are reviewed, including the latest one by Heuvelmans, *Les Betes Humaines d'Afrique (The Human Beasts of Africa)*, and *Alien Animals*, by Janet and Colin Bord. Of particular interest to Charter Members and others who acquired Volume 1 of the journal, will be Volume 2's new section entitled Comments and Responses, which contains a number of critiques of material published in Volume 1. Articles by Heuvelmans, Zhou, Wagner, Bauer, and Bayanov are discussed and critiqued.

In all, 27 published works appear under 32 authors' names. Almost half of the authors were from countries other than the U.S.A. (where the bulk of the ISC membership resides), reflecting the true international scope of the Society's interests.

ISC MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The 1984 Membership Meeting of the Society will be held on June 9, 1984, at the University of Paris VI, Paris, France. The organizer is Eric Buffetaut, of the University's Laboratory of Vertebrate and Human Paleontology (4, place Jussieu, Tel. 336.25.25 and 329.12.21). Several interesting talks and slide shows are planned. Although special notices have been airmailed to all European members, the date of the meeting was unfortunately not available in time to include in the *Newsletter* in a timely manner. Members outside of Europe (who consequently did not get a notice) who might be in France in early June should contact Dr. Buffetaut for further details. A write-up of the Membership Meeting (and of the Board of Directors Meeting on the preceding day) will be included in the Summer *Newsletter*. □

LAKE CHAMPLAIN UPDATE: 1983

After a slow start, reports of Champ sightings were made at an unprecedented rate in 1983. Joseph Zarzynski, in his annual Field Report to *Cryptozoology*, chronicled 22 sighting reports, but by year's end this had reached 24, the highest number on record for any single year. According to Zarzynski, Director of the Lake Champlain Phenomena Investigation (LCPI), a total of 200 reports have now been documented.

The first sighting that aroused media interest occurred on July 7, 1983 (it was actually the ninth sighting of the year, the first eight having all been made between June 13 and 21), principally because 35 people were involved. The sighting was made at 2:45 p.m. at Camp Greylock, near South Hero, on the Vermont side of the lake. Ten counselors and 25 children saw ripples on a calm surface, and then two brown-colored humps rising about 6 inches above the water and then moving south. Counselors Tara Fencer and Lora Coble were near the docks when it was sighted, and some of the children were actually in the water. The sighting lasted about a minute, and the witnesses estimated the animal to be only about 35 feet from the docks, and about 50 feet in length.

The counselors and students had actually erected signs stating "Champ's Cove" prior to the sighting. "We never thought we'd see it," Fencer told the Associated Press. "I'm still shocked. I can't believe it."

Zarzynski and his LCPI associates conducted 29 days of fieldwork at the lake in 1983. They used binoculars, cameras, sonar, and scuba gear. As in previous years, they had no sightings, and had to content themselves with cataloguing the reports of others. The year 1983 also saw passage of the "Champ resolution" by the New

York State Assembly, leaving the Vermont Senate as the only U.S. legislative body in the lake's environs which has not done so.

Interest in Champ increased dramatically when the color photo taken by Sandra Mansi in 1977 was made public several years ago. A special symposium was held in August, 1981, at Burlington, Vermont. Participants included Zarzynski, Philip Reines, a State University of New York professor of communications who has been investigating the topic for years, George Zug, Roy Mackal, and Richard Greenwell. The Mansi photo was analyzed optically at the University of Arizona, and it was determined that no montages or "trick photography" were involved. The object, whatever it was, was definitely out on the lake, exact distance unknown. Computer enhancements likewise found no evidence of hoaxing (see *Newsletter*, Summer, 1982).

More recently, Paul LeBlond, a Canadian oceanographer, has determined the minimum and maximum sizes of the supposed animal appearing in the photo by comparing it with nearby waves, the sizes of which can be calculated by established physical principles (see "An Estimate of the Dimensions of the Lake Champlain Monster From the Length of Adjacent Wind Waves in the Mansi Photograph," *Cryptozoology*, Vol. 1, Winter, 1982). The lower and upper bounds of the visible part of the supposed animal above the water turned out to be 5 meters and 17 meters respectively (about 15 feet and over 50 feet), consistent with eyewitness reports. So far, nobody has challenged Dr. LeBlond's calculations. □

ERRATA

On page 2 of the Summer, 1983, *Newsletter* ("New Guinea Expedition Observes Ri"), it states (page 2, line 7) that Nokon is inhabited by Patpatar natives. The natives of Nokon are actually Susurunga people; the Patpatar tribe is further to the north, closer to the Namatanai.

On page 9 of the Fall, 1983, *Newsletter* ("Creepy Numbers," *News and Notes*), it states that the Erwin article appeared in *New Scientist*. This was incorrect, as the Editor determined when he went to the library to copy the article. The correct reference is: "Tropical Forests: Their Richness in Coleoptera and Other Arthropod Species," by Terry L. Erwin, 1982. *The Coleopterists' Bulletin*, Vol 36(1)74-75.

Also, the following errors were found in the Winter, 1983, *Newsletter*:

Page 3, column 2, bottom line, "(3 miles)" should have read "(1.2 miles)";

Page 4, column 1, bottom line, "Eric Beckjord" should have read "Erik (alias Jon) Beckjord";

Page 5, column 3, lines 7-8, "Erich Lacitus" should have read "Erik Lacitus";

Page 8, column 1, line 21, "discredits" should have read "discredit";

Page 8, column 3, line 49, "1982" should have read "1983";

Page 9, column 2, line 21, "genera" should have read "genus";

Page 9, column 3, lines 2 and 14, "McC sker" should have read "McCosker."

CRYPTOLETTERS

The Editor welcomes letters from readers on any topic related to cryptozoology, but reserves the right to shorten them or to make slight changes to improve style and clarity, but not meaning. Specific commentaries or critiques related to items published in Cryptozoology *should be sent double-spaced for publication in that journal.*

To the Editor:

I approve of the term "cryptid," as proposed by John E. Wall (Summer, 1983, *Newsletter*). Who would care for cryptozoology as a discipline if it failed to come up with a jargon of its own? Feeling the need, I previously coined "cryptocreature," but "cryptid" is more succinct and to the point. Perhaps "cryptocreature" can remain as a synonym. So when asked "What's a cryptid?" we can answer "It's a cryptocreature."

And what shall we call the opposite of "cryptid"? "Exhibitid"? Thus, when the okapi was still a "cryptid," its closest living relative--the giraffe--was already a most conspicuous "exhibitid." Sasquatch and other hairy bipeds are still "cryptids," while their ape cousins are inveterate "exhibitids."

I think that one of cryptozoology's tasks is to ask field workers studying "exhibitids" around the world to keep an eye open for "cryptids" and to seek information about them from native peoples.

Dmitri Bayanov
Moscow, USSR

To the Editor:

Two years ago, the ISC was established. No terms are yet

available to define precisely the concepts which the Society is concerned with. It is time now to coin words different from "Monster," as John E. Wall proposed in the Summer, 1983, *Newsletter*. The proposition to accept the new term "cryptid" is, I think, very pertinent. Its reference to unknown animals, however, is not obvious. "Cryptid" may refer to all items which are not known (things, plants, or animals), or are hidden by other human beings. A crypt in a church is a hidden place, and confusion with this term is possible. As "cryptid" would be a new term, there would have to be a consensus to reserve it for unexpected and unknown animals.

In fact, we can consider two kinds of "cryptids" to cover both space and time parameters (see ISC *Newsletter* 1(1):2). First, I propose that an animal which is found or reported outside of its normal or known distribution range be called a "chorocryptid" (choro = place). This term specifically refers to an actual known species (e.g., the manatee *Trichechus* in Lake Chad, or the new subspecies of the Alpine newt I have just described from Calabria, Italy, as *Triturus alpestris inexpectatus* (Dubois et Breuil, 1983). Second, I propose that an animal which was thought to have disappeared in geological times, and is found (e.g. *Latimeria*) or reported alive (e.g., Mokele-Mbembe) be called a "Chronocryptid" (chrono = time), irrespective of its presumably ancient geographical distribution range.

The term "Monster" should be reserved for teratological cases. Is gigantism a teratological case, as in giant squids or octopuses? Perhaps. Why don't we refer to these (compared with their smaller relatives) with the subjective term "Teratocryptid," or simply "Monsters." "Cryptid" without specification should be reserved for new species or genera which are not unexpected (as distinct from "chronocryptids" or "chorocryptids"), such as the many new species of insects, molluscs, fish, birds, and reptiles, which are not cryptic species as defined by taxonomists or geneticists.

Michel Breuil
Laboratory of Reptiles
and Amphibians
National Museum
of Natural History
Paris, France

What about animals found or reported alive which were thought to have become extinct in historical times (rather than geological) such as the moa, or Steller's sea cow? Would they also be "chronocryptids"?

--Editor

To the Editor:

The note in the Fall, 1983, *Newsletter* ("News and Notes") regarding rediscovery of the turtle *Heosemys silvatica*, previously known only from two museum specimens collected in 1911, brings to mind by own frustrating "near-miss" at rediscovering the Fernandina tortoise, *Geochelone phantastica*, on the Galapagos Islands in the 1960s.

John Hendrickson holding suspected fecal evidence of the Fernandina tortoise on the Galapagos Islands.

This animal, known only from the single type specimen in the California Academy of Sciences collection, eluded our search--but left us with a tangible token (see photo)! Several efforts to find *G. phantastica* since 1965 have also failed; the possibility exists that this animal is now truly extinct, as a result of heavy falls of volcanic ash since 1965. It has also been suggested that I mistakenly identified the browsing marks and droppings of an unusually large land iguana as belonging to the tortoise. I still have one of the droppings, which could be made available to anyone interested in taking measurements to test the land iguana vs. giant tortoise hypothesis.

John R. Hendrickson
Department of Ecology
and Evolutionary Biology
The University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A.

To the Editor:

This letter is in regard to the Beast of Exmoor article which appeared in the Fall, 1983, *Newsletter*. I am sure you are aware of the long tradition of the Black Dog in British folklore. It is called Black Shuck in East Anglia, the Galleytrot in Suffolk, the Mauthe Dhoog on the Isle of Man, in Wales the Gwyllgi, and in Lancashire the Shriker. These are just a few of the local names given to a phenomenon prevalent for centuries. To see such a phantom hound was often a portent of death. The Black Dog legend is also rife in the North Devon-Somerset area shown on the map that was included with the article.

My contention is this: could not the Beast of Exmoor be legend mixed with reality? The Beast was described as a large

black dog with "a gleaming black coat and short powerful legs ... the head didn't fit on the body ... it didn't seem to have a neck, just this squat head." Other witnesses said it looked like an enormous black dog. This sounds very much like the Black Dog of folklore, often described to be as big as a calf, quite black, and with shining eyes.

Could this Beast of Exmoor business simply be, to use the popular phrase, a case of mass hysteria? Is it possible that the folklore and legends surrounding the Black Dog have influenced what the people of Exmoor and Somerset have seen or thought they have seen?

Billy M. Morrison
Wethersfield, Connecticut, U.S.A.

To the Editor:

I was very interested in Roy Mackal's well-pondered thoughts on the Loch Ness question (*Newsletter*, Fall, 1983).

Although I have not read his book dealing with the Loch Ness phenomenon, some things emerging from the interview are not entirely persuasive. If I have understood him properly, Dr. Mackal thinks that the Loch Ness creature might be an unknown kind of aquatic mammal, perhaps an archaic whale (*Zeuglodon*?). Apart from speculations on the diving rates, Dr. Mackal's opinion seems to me to be scarcely supported by other evidence, and also by some simple considerations.

An aquatic mammal breathing with lungs would be an easily observable animal indeed at the surface, and it would have a well-defined body. On the contrary, the Loch Ness creature seems to breathe underwater, lives in the depth of the loch, while its body appears unusual and fairly "unstable" in shape (for example, the changing humps). Moreover, the very few witnesses who have had "close encounters" with the animal have always described it with those same feelings of repulsion ("disgusting,""abominable") that most people show towards some invertebrate animals, just as if Nessie were some sort of gigantic worm or one of those "Laidly Worms" so common in old Scottish traditions.

I hope Dr. Mackal will forgive this my little sin of presumption.

Ennio Scannapieco
Salerno, Italy

To the Editor:

Having just read the Fall issue of the Newsletter, I would like to make a few comments.

Your interview with Roy Mackal brought out the suggestion that the creature of Loch Ness may be a primitive whale. I find this difficult to reconcile with some observations of Nessie: a reported hairy mane, apparent hair or fur, visible ears, and the ability to move on land. A kind of "bark" has also been reported. All of this seems better suited to an unknown pinniped (e.g., the proposed *Megalotaria longicollis)* than a cetacean. If such characteristics can reasonably be ascribed to a primitive whale, then I am not aware of it and beg Dr. Mackal's pardon. Nevertheless, the idea of hairy whales galumphing over the banks of Loch Ness seems less credible to me than an unknown seal or seal-like mammal doing the same thing.

Dr. Mackal also advised us of reports he has received of an unknown creature off the coast of Alaska. One wonders if research among the Inuit people of Canada might not reveal traditions of crypto-animals similar to that described by the native peoples of Alaska.

John E. Wall
Altona, Manitoba, Canada

To the Editor:

I have read the Fall, 1983, issue of the *Newsletter* with interest, and I want to congratulate you for the splendid interview with Roy P. Mackal, which contains most judicious restatements about cryptozoology. I glanced with much less enthusiasm through some of the published "Cryptoletters," one of which even implicates me.

I usually do not get involved in discussions between people of very different backgrounds, and I never answer personal attacks made by people who are either grossly misinformed or just plain stupid, since we cannot possibly communicate on the same level. However, it seems to me that, for the general enlightenment of all our members, certain points ought to be stressed once and for all in connection with the ancient and rather tedious feud between laymen and scientists over their respective competence or efficiency--both in general and, more particularly, in cryptozoolical research--and also incidentally in connection with the so-called "Iceman" I have been so fortunate to describe scientifically.

First of all, because of his education and training, it is only natural that the opinions of a scientist have always more poise, since they contain a more secure guarantee of soundness. All the same, there are, and have always been, witless or dogmatical scientists and very brilliant laymen.

Secondly, the search for still unknown animals could by definition never have become a science (that is, a rational method of approach, analysis, and evaluation) without the

intervention of professional scientists. But any hunter or trapper could by a stroke of luck bring down or bag a representative of an unknown species.

Thirdly, one cannot possibly become a real cryptozoologist without having been first an ordinary zoologist. But all zoologists, even some of the greatest, do not necessarily possess academic degrees.

Finally, even the most untrained laymen can contribute usefully and greatly to the development of cryptozoology, either by the painstaking collecting of data in libraries, or by more exhilarating field research. Nevertheless, the mere search for, and sorting out of, the *proper* data implies a critical sense best refined by a long practice of scientific work, and, similarly, all attempts at tracking down and capturing an unknown animal have a much better chance of becoming successful when the animal in question has been more precisely identified by its characteristics; that is, when it has been situated with the best possible accuracy within the zoological classification.

I have often been asked, mostly by journalists, why I do not spend most of my time hunting Yetis and Sasquatches in the field, trying to cath Nessies and Ogopogos, or fishing for "sea serpents." Had these people been better informed, they could have mentioned a more impressive wealth of cryptozoological game (although perhaps less famous) scattered over all the seven seas and on every sundry continent. And as some misled Forteans now tend to link unknown animals and UFOs, why am I not also permanently chasing creatures of the outer world aboard a mini-spaceship? All this, of course, while documenting all the cases of unexpected animals around the world, and while writing books for the information and education of everyone. Despite the special excitement I always enjoyed whenever I had a chance of doing some fieldwork, I do not think the above question needs to be answered.

But when somebody like Perez asks why, being absolutely convinced of the present survival of Neanderthal Man after having studied at length the refrigerated corpse of one preserved in Minnesota, I am not looking all over the United States in search of another specimen, I could answer by asking another question: Why do people not hunt polar bears in tropical forests?

The fact is that, in my book, written with my Russian colleague Boris F. Porshnev, *l'Homme de Neanderthal est Toujours Vivant* (Paris, Plon, 1976), I have demonstrated without a doubt that the so-called "Iceman" is certainly not a fake, and that it could not have been killed in North America (where, according to the paleontological record, no Neanderthals ever lived). I have moreover shown that this specimen most probably originated in Vietnam, which has since been confirmed by further evidence. Its particular anatomy shows clearly that it has nothing to do with the Bigfoot problem in North America, nor with the Himalayan Yeti problem. My book is available to all. No serious researcher ever overlooks a work because it is published in a language other than his own.

Bernard Heuvelmans
Le Bugue, France

To the Editor:

Concerning Danny Perez's letter in the Fall, 1983, *Newsletter*, no one can disagree with him on one point, that finding a Sasquatch "boils down to beating the bush." Sometimes, however, it takes a convention of sorts to organize the beaters who are going into the bush.

I assume that there are several groups remaining after the eclipse of Peter Byrne's Bigfoot Information Center that are interested in field investigations; it is to be expected that some of their members might view the ISC as a threat. Most of their members probably are not anthropologists, but some are sure to exhibit the same basic reaction as professionals when it comes to someone threatening their territory. The ISC is the newcomer which may usurp what they perceive as a prior claim to Sasquatch research.

That Sasquatch investigators have been "unsuccessfully trying to get scientists to listen to them and look at their evidence," as stated by ISC *Newsletter* editor Greenwell, is not, of course, a surprise to anyone who has investigated from a lay position. I, and a number of others who are not professional ornithologists, have observed ivory-billed woodpeckers within the past few years. However, authorities in this field say that the ivory-bill is extinct in the U.S.; thus, these observations were either in error or were fabrications. Even photographs have not been accepted as proof of the ivory-bill's continued existence.

Two of the joys of being a lay investigator are that one can openly savor the romance of venturing to discover something heretofore unknown, and that one can feel free to challenge dogma. As one moves closer to becoming an authority, it becomes more difficult to express thoughts or accept evidence running counter to doctrine, and the thrill of anticipated discovery tends to be shadowed by the need to produce hard facts--the evidence needed to change the minds of those already in a secure authoritative position. Unfortunately, for some authorities, a warm corpse may be the

only acceptable proof, whether it be an ivory-bill or a Sasquatch.

I believe that the correct way for those with an open mind regarding cryptozoology or other unconventional possibilities to proceed is to (1) continue with all possible research and the best possible documenting of discoveries; (2) bring their findings to public attention in both scientific and popular publications; (3) ignore, as much as possible, those who act defensively to protect authoritative positions based on dogma, and (4) especially when vitriolic, unfounded attacks that cannot be ignored are publicly launched, publish cool, logical, well-documented responses.

William Bird Mounsey
University of the Wilderness
Evergreen, Colorado, U.S.A.

To the Editor:

The letters by Strasenburgh and Perez, and your responses as printed in the Fall, 1983, *Newsletter* prompt me to write. The vehemence evident in the letter by Danny Perez toward academics in general represents the main reason laymen have not been taken seriously in Sasquatch research. It is difficult at times to deal with the patronizing professorial type who remains rooted behind his desk, guarding his reputation, when you have laid before him gains of evidence gleaned one at a time by the sweat of your brow. Yet, as in all facets of life, one must be patient with tne ordinary to reach the extraordinary. I have sat before a university professor who laughed at my work, and stated with confidence that "if Bigfoot existed, certainly the Amerindian would have known it, and since there is not one whit of comment in their 'legends,' I cannot begin to take you seriously!" So, I closed my briefcase and left without a backward glance, knowing from first-hand experience that the Indians have many, many stories about Bigfoot, not all legend, some quite current.

I do not blame scientists in general for their initial lack of cooperation. Consider who presented the evidence and in what manner it was collected. Too many hoaxes have been heaped upon science over the years for most researchers or academicians to extend their necks for such poorly presented kernels. To be taken seriously, any field researcher must also take his work seriously enough to learn the basic formats of collection and presentation. Science requires that courtesy of its own members, no matter how qualified or renowned, and for the layman to demand dispensation out of laziness or ignorance is a rather egotistical approach. I believe that the ISC is a platform that was loudly cried for, then stupidly attacked by those who did the crying. Thanks to all who made the ISC a reality, any serious researcher can now be taken in earnest.

I am as guilty as any for ignoring ISC at first. As some of you may know, I directed the American Yeti Expeditions for several years, and collected much circumstantial and anecdotal evidence on Bigfoot. In 1974, when our main effort was winding down due to funds drying up, we located a string of 161 tracks, covering varying terrain, which demonstrated individual toe movement, and even response to outside stimuli. We could not get the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) to send a representative less than 60 miles to review them, even though they had been the administrating agency for my grant, yet Dr. Krantz drove hundreds of miles in response to my request.

Not long after that, we recorded that we felt may have been the first programmed response between Man and Bigfoot on the south slope of Mt. St. Helens, and could not get it reviewed. Disgusted, I withdrew from the public eye, and have continued research on a much smaller scale. Later, I found that it was not at all the fault of the NWF; they had been deluged with letters inciting their withdrawal, letters written by spiteful individuals. This is the type of nonsense which has done more to retard serious efforts than any lack of recognition by science in general, and to hold academics at fault for not wishing to enter such childish antics is to commend them.

My present and future plans for research are becoming firm. I have no intention of dropping out, and my interest is higher than ever, although my approach will be different. I have found, through long reflection, that I made definite errors in my field research, errors which I will not repeat. I firmly believe that the Bigfoot efforts will eventually be resolved in favor of the "believers." I would not have spent 11 years in the field spending my own money much of the time if I were chasing a dream.

I would urge serious individuals to utilize the offer of ISC. I believe the Society to be serious and quite fair. If it appears hard-nosed at times, that is to its credit. And if ISC will be patient, I would be pleased to forward a variety of my reports for its use, and I will cooperate if questions are directly addressed.

For the record: while science has its reasons for requiring a series of specimens for study before confirmation of its existence, I will not be a party to, nor aid in, that collection. I believe that we will find that these are "people," and collection would be like murdering one of our own.

Robert W. Morgan
Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A.

CRYPTOQUOTE

"...The most prevalent theory about the merman had been that the sightings referred to either the dugong or the manatee. First suggested in the seventeenth century, this explanation of the merman tradition was generally accepted by the end of the nineteenth century, despite its obvious shortcomings. Not only is it difficult to reconcile the actual appearance of either of these animals with the traditionally reported descriptions, but both are *tropical* animals. The sole advantage of this "explanation" was that it replaced a creature of folk tradition with an animal that had been described by naturalists. This was accomplished, however, at the cost of extreme and unsupported implications about the powers of observation, knowledge of the environment, and reasoning ability of northern sailors. Such explanations are not necessarily inaccurate, but empirical support for them is vital. Otherwise they tend to be circular. In the case of the giant squid, for example, it was said that superstitious sailors in their panic mistake floating trees for sea monsters; their beliefs and consequent fear prevent them from accurately observing the event or using their reason to check their superstitious conclusions; and we know that they are capable of such misperception and irrational behavior because they do such things as claiming to see sea monsters.

"Such explanations also should presuppose only phenomena that are themselves subjects of empirical investigation and therefore are scientifically well authenticated. To the extent that an explanation relies on phenomena whose existence is controversial...or are poorly understood, that explanation must be considered speculative. In some cases there is simply a change in language that trades one unknown for another and thus is redescription or translation rather than explanation. The folk belief has been explained away rather than explained.

David J. Hufford
(From: *The Terror That Comes in the Night*. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 1982.)

ISC PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Past issues of both *The ISC Newsletter* and the journal *Cryptozoology* are available to both members and non-members. Newsletter prices to individuals are $2.50 each ($3.50 to institutions, corporations, and libraries). Journal prices to individuals are $15 each ($21 to institutions, corporations, and libraries). Prices include postage good for all orders from all countries.

WOOD'S ANIMAL FACTS

"The largest living bird is the ostrich *(Struthio camelus)* of Africa. There are now five geographical races...the largest subspecies is the northern ostrich *(S. c. camelus)*, which is now found in reduced numbers south of the Atlas mountains from Upper Senegal and Niger across to the Sudan and central Ethiopia. Adult cock examples of this flightless bird stand about 8 feet (2.4 meters) tall (height at back 4 feet, 6 inches [1.37 meters]) on the average and weigh 265-280 pounds (120-127 kilograms), but heights of up to 9 feet (2.7 meters) and weights of up to 345 pounds (156 kilograms) have been reliably reported. In 1979, St. Augustine Alligator Farm, Florida, sold an exceptionally large cock bird (probably a hybrid), to a commercial animal dealer. It stood 8 feet, 6 inches (2.59 meters) tall and was extremely fat...it was a 'giant among giants.' Unfortunately, the present whereabouts of this super-heavyweight is not known."

Abstracted from:

The Guinness Book of Animal Facts and Feats, by Gerald L. Wood. Guinness Superlatives, Ltd., Enfield, England, Third Edition, 1982.

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