

North American BioFortean Review

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*It seems safe to say that significant discovery,
really creative thinking, does not occur with regard
to problems about which the thinker is lukewarm.*

—Mary Henle

Book Review: *Astonishing Animals: Extraordinary Creatures and the Fantastic Worlds They Inhabit*

Tim Flannery & Peter Schouten

Atlantic Monthly Press, New York, 2004

206 pp., \$29.95

ISBN 0-87113-875-1

Reviewed by Chad Arment

This is my favorite book from 2004. Flannery (a well-known Australian mammalogist, paleontologist, and author) and Schouten (a gifted wildlife artist) collaborate on their second book, creating a visual feast for enthusiasts of strange wildlife. Their first book, *A Gap in Nature*, focused on extinct species. The species in *Astonishing Animals* are still living, though many are threatened.

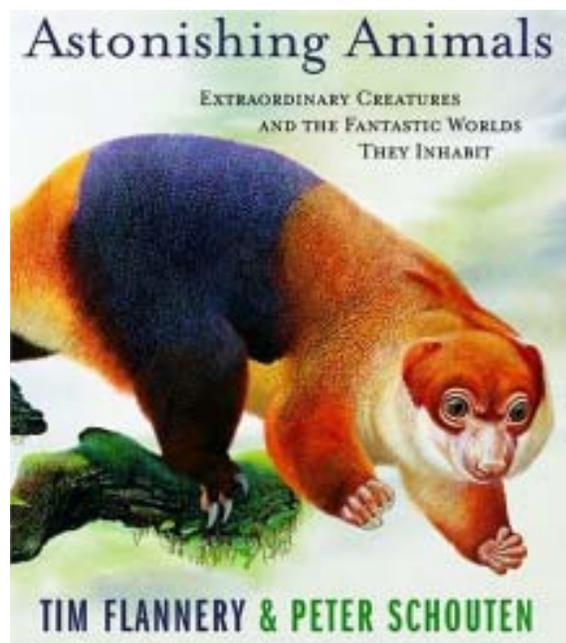
The animals include birds with phenomenal feathered displays, deep-sea fishes that mock a horror-writer's imagination, and little-known mammals that don't nicely fit within our dog-cat-bear-elephant schemes. There's a parrot that digs seeds out of piles of cassowary dung, a tusked cetacean that can only open its mouth a few centimeters, and a giant softshell turtle that bears a resemblance to Jabba the Hutt.

While the detailed artwork clearly grabs attention, Flannery's accompanying text provides concise informative descriptions and natural history notes to intrigue the reader. The appeal of this book cannot be overstated. A copy on your coffee-table will not be ignored.

The authors' imaginative humor is also apparent. One of the many animals described and drawn is a complete fabrication. You will enjoy trying to discover which species is not found in the physical universe. It's not as easy as you might imagine—I had a couple of false starts before confirming the fantasy creature.

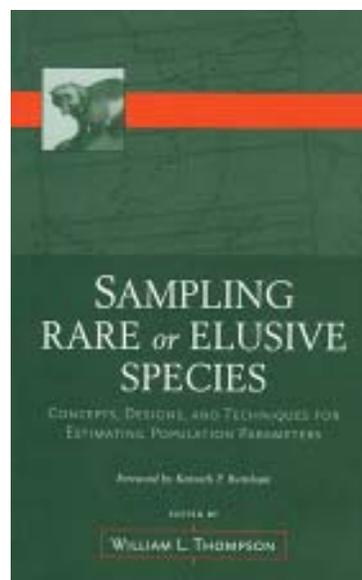
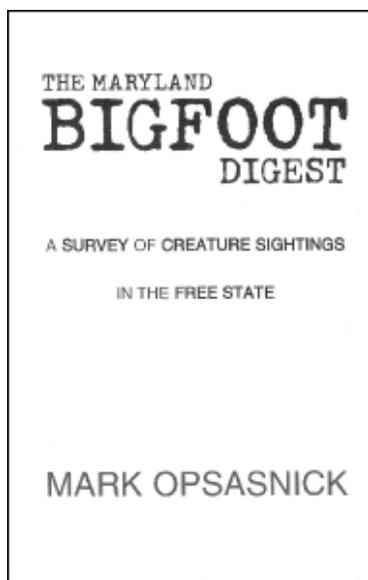
Of cryptozoological interest, the author notes several species discovered in the last century. Of special note is the dingiso, an attractive tree kangaroo discovered by Flannery in 1994.

This book does an excellent job of illustrating bizarre morphology and behavior. There are marvels all around the world. They are worth enjoying and protecting.



**If you buy only one
book this year,
make it this one.**

Birds of Paradise, moles and mole-rats, amphibians, and ghostpipefish catch the eye and intrigue the mind.



Book Review: *The Maryland Bigfoot Digest: A Survey of Creature Sightings in the Free State*

Mark Opsasnick

Xlibris, 2004

156pp., \$20.99

1-4134-6776-8

Reviewed by Chad Arment

This is the latest, and expanded, edition of Opsasnick's popular compilation of Maryland Bigfoot reports. Opsasnick's research builds on that of many Maryland investigators, organizing sightings in an easy-to-read format. 300 entries are backed up by a thorough bibliography of books and articles. Opsasnick traces these back to original materials, which is very helpful for researchers. This is about as exhaustive a state survey as I've ever seen. I have to wonder why more researchers haven't done the same with other states and regions.

I lived in Harford County, MD, for a couple years, so the sighting flaps that were reported from there and nearby counties are of great interest to me. This is one area where Opsasnick's latest edition shines. The brand new second chapter summary (over 40 pages) of state sightings includes material from his personal investigation and witness interviews. I don't think researchers in other parts of the country realize how intriguing these accounts are. I personally believe the Bigfoot question is far from being answered, but it certainly involves more than shadows in the dark teasing man's inner psyche.

Being published through a large print-on-demand company, the book does have a comparatively high price tag, but I do consider it a worthy addition to any Bigfoot investigator's bookshelf.

Book Review: *Sampling Rare or Elusive Species: Concepts, Designs, and Techniques for Estimating Population Parameters*

William L. Thompson, editor

Island Press, Washington, D.C., 2004

429 pp., \$70 (hardcover), \$35 (paperback)

ISBN 1-55963-450-2 (hardcover), 1-55963-451-0 (paperback)

Reviewed by Chad Arment

Rarely will you find a biological methodology reference text with such potential for cryptozoological application. While the authors of the various chapters within this book are certainly not writing about Bigfoot or lake monsters, they do face a similar quandary—how exactly do you reliably, and scientifically, estimate the population numbers for elusive and hard-to-find species?

Disdaining the pseudo-scientific prattling found in amateur skeptical groups (*e.g.*, cougar inevitably end up as roadkill, so no HBC's equals no cougar; other factors don't matter...), these biologists grapple with the true difficulties in monitoring many recognized species. Techniques in the field are tested, various biometric statistical approaches are evaluated, and survey strategies are discussed. This book is not for the average wildlife enthusiast, but those who have a serious interest in cryptozoological methodology and fieldwork should acquire it to jumpstart ideas for new perspectives and techniques. A basic understanding of statistics would be helpful, but several chapters can be read without that being absolutely necessary.

Some of the most interesting chapters (for our purposes) include:

- Sampling Rare Populations, by Lyman L. McDonald
- Separating Components of Detection Probability in Abundance Estimation, by Pollock, *et al.*
- Sequential Sampling for Rare or Geographically Clustered Populations, by Mary C. Christman
- Occupancy Estimation and Modeling for Rare and Elusive Populations, by MacKenzie, *et al.*
- A Bayesian Approach to Estimating Presence When a Species is Undetected, by Peterson and Bayley
- Using Noninvasive Genetic Sampling to Detect and Estimate Abundance of Rare Wildlife Species, by Lisette P. Waits
- Photographic Sampling of Elusive Mammals in Tropical Forests, by Karanth, *et al.*
- Using Probability Sampling of Animal Tracks in Snow to Estimate Population Size, by Becker, *et al.*

The purpose for this book (estimating population sizes of rare, but recognized, species) is distinct from that of cryptozoology (determining whether a purported species exists), but techniques for the one can certainly be useful in acquiring sufficient evidence for the other. And, of course, the recent news reports of a possible thylacine photograph in Tasmania suggest an ongoing need for solid methodology in searching for supposedly extirpated species. Still, we must be careful not to focus on insufficient evidences (*i.e.*, photographic evidence for completely new species), when we need to seek opportunities that provide sufficient physical evidence.

This is a fascinating collection of methodological essays, and I know serious cryptozoological researchers will find it of interest.

Book Review: *Bigfoot Lives! Deal With It*
 Chester Moore
 2004, \$20, available from Cryptokeeper.com

Reviewed by Reese Howard

Bigfoot Lives! Deal with it!, is Chester Moore, Jr.'s latest work and a must-read for anyone interested in Bigfoot, be it as a researcher or enthusiast. Chester has recently founded the APCA (American Primate Conservation Alliance) for the purpose of protecting and preserving the species, once it is legally identified, by means of practical and feasible conservation measures. This will involve cooperation between the state governments, property owners and the general public. Chester covers a wide range of topics in this very exciting new book, including a probable explanation for the great number of three- and four-toed footprints found in East Texas and other parts of the South, namely, inbreeding among geographically isolated populations. He gives practical tips for new researchers, and he examines the high likelihood of curved tracks being made by female creatures. Chester describes fascinating events in his own research with Bobby Hamilton, Jym Evans, M. K. Davis, Kriss Stephens and other fellow researchers, and some of their adventures are more than a little hair-raising! The book is richly illustrated throughout with both photos and the wonderful art of Bill Rebsamen and Patrick Trumble.

Chester's writing style is so eloquent and down to earth that I felt I was engaged in an actual conversation with him. On some pages, his dry sense of humor shines. In answering claims that the three-toed and four-toed tracks are actually giant sloths (!), he asserts: "Sloths!....I guess we have three different kinds of sloths that look exactly like a Bigfoot creature. Who would have known?"

Chester firmly believes that a body will be required to force the scientific community and the government to finally acknowledge that Bigfoot indeed lives. Although I'm a card-carrying no-killer, I do respect Chester's conviction and his ultimate goal of helping the Bigfoot species live on. In no way does Chester condone killing Bigfoot for sport. Rather, he wants the species and its habitat protected so that these wondrous creatures won't eventually go the way of some many others. He states that if people knew that what is perhaps our closest relative dwells in the bottomlands of Texas and other parts of America, they might not be so eager to support the building of a dam that would flood and destroy thousands of acres of prime wildlife habitat. Rather, the state wildlife agencies and the public would collaborate to find other solutions before such projects took place.

Chester has become very well known as a public educator on the priceless value of wildlife and wilderness habitat. And *Bigfoot Lives!*, to my knowledge, is the first Bigfoot book that is dedicated to living in the solution of making sure that Bigfoot continues to live and thrive. He has an amazing purpose in life, and my hat is off to him and to the researchers who are helping him to make it happen. Don't miss this book, if you never read another Bigfoot book in your life.



To inquire about submitting articles, reviews, or books for review consideration, please contact the editor at ChadArment@Verizon.net

Book Review: *Encyclopedia of Cryptozoology:
A Global Guide*

Michael Newton
McFarland & Co., Jefferson, NC, 2005
576pp., \$95
ISBN 0-7864-2036-7

Reviewed by Chad Arment

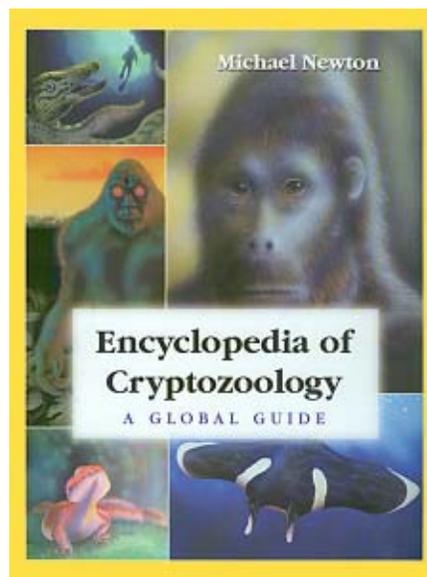
I suppose cryptozoology has just grown to the point where encyclopedias are inevitable. This one follows Eberhart's two-volume set and Coghlan's dictionary, both reviewed previously in *NABR*.

Like Eberhart's *Mysterious Creatures*, Newton's *Encyclopedia* appeals more to libraries than to individual researchers, if only because of the hefty price. It's difficult to write a review without comparisons to Eberhart's work. The primary question for most people becomes, should the individual researcher purchase one or the other, or is it necessary to own either?

Let me start by suggesting that every cryptozoology enthusiast go to their local public library and request that they acquire specific cryptozoology books. You'll be providing a service to both the local community and to authors/publishers. Good books will only continue to be written if there is a viable market. Unfortunately, as many recent books are published by small presses or individuals, they are not chosen for library shelves without direct patron input.

The success of encyclopedia formats really depends upon personal taste. Personally, I have found Eberhart's set useful to my own research. A friend of mine didn't care for it. His research is primarily field-work and interviews, while my own includes quite a bit of historical investigation. As such, I am probably more open to seeing encyclopedia-style texts.

Newton's work appears to be thorough, and there are differences from previous books. Perhaps I can best show distinctions by providing brief comparative notes. Let's sample a few sections.



Entries in Eberhart's *Mysterious Creatures*, starting with "Ga."

Gabon Orangutan	Gabriel Feather	Gabriel Hound
Gally-Trot	Gambo	Ganba
Gargouille	Garuda	Gassingram
Gauarge		

Entries in Newton's *Encyclopedia of Cryptozoology*, starting with "Ga."

Gaal, Arlene	Gair Loch, Scotland	Gambo
Gander Lake, Canada	Gasparilla Lake, Florida	Gassingram
Gatineau River, Canada	Gauarge	Gausbuvatnet, Norway
Gazeka		

Entries in Eberhart's *Mysterious Creatures*, starting with "Wa."

Wa'ab	Waa-Wee	Waheela
Wahteeta	Waigeo Six-Legged Snake	Waitoreke

Wakandagi	Waldagi	Walrus Dog
Wa-Mbilikimo	Wanjilanko	Waracabra Tiger
Warrigal	Wasgo	Washipi
Water Bull	Water Horse	Water Lion
Water Tiger	Waterbobbejan	Watu Wa Miti

Entries in Newton's *Encyclopedia of Cryptozoology*, starting with "Wa."

Waab	Waaki	Waa-Wee
Wabash River, Indiana	<i>Wacouta</i> sea serpent	Wading River, New York
Waheela	Waimarama carcass	Waitoreke
Wakandagi	Walchensee, Germany	Waldagi
Walensee, Switzerland	Walgren Lake, Nebraska	Walker Lake, Alaska
Wallabies (Mislocated)	Wallace, Raymond L.	Wallowa Lake, Oregon
Wally	Walrus Dog	Wa-Mbilikimo
Wanganui carcass	Wangul	Wanjilanko
Waracabra Tiger	Warialda Cougar	Warrigal/Waregal
Wasgo	Washington BF Res. Group	WA Sta. Sasq. Search Group
Washipi	Wasson, Barbara	Water Bull
Water Cattle	Water Elephant	Water Leopard/Lion/Panther
Water Panther	Water Tigers	Waterbobbejan
Wattleless Guan	Watu Wa Miti	<i>Wava E.</i> sea serpent

Many cryptids are listed under different entry names in the different books, but it appears that both have entries not found in the other. This is probably based the authors' personal collections. Most researchers could provide odds and ends to a cataloguer which are unknown to the rest of the cryptozoological community.

Newton's particular style of organization includes more emphasis on geographic locations of significant sightings, researcher biographies, and research organizations. The latter may not have been a good choice—with the advent of the Internet, groups form and dissolve rapidly as personalities find themselves unable to cope with differences of opinion. Newton does provide a useful service by including the original published accounts for many cryptids, so researchers can evaluate the sighting first before attempting to track it down for themselves. Illustrations include a number of witness sketches and artist conceptions; unfortunately, they also include generic clip art that doesn't always fit well with the accompanying text. From what I understand, this was a decision on the publisher's part—certainly a tough thing to fight.

Speculations by investigators are objectively included, though there isn't room for adequate discussion. Saying that "cryptozoologists disagree," doesn't tell the reader why a disagreement occurs. Each entry does include a citation, though, which should provide basic details.

The book includes several appendices. The first is a "cryptozoology timeline," focusing on discoveries of a wide range of vertebrates and some invertebrates since Cuvier's "rash dictum." Some actual cryptozoological events are also included (*i.e.*, certain famous sightings). I don't personally consider any and all significant zoological discoveries to be cryptozoological, but I understand the intent. The second appendix is a very interesting filmography of movies and documentaries with cryptozoological themes. Appendix C continues the theme with cryptozoological television series. The next appendix samples cryptozoological fiction, and is followed by a list of various websites.

In all, this *Encyclopedia* is thorough enough to give a good overview of the cryptids most commonly noted in cryptozoological literature, while providing plenty of new leads for future research. Serious investigators should consider it for their bookshelf.

Book Review: *Beast of Never, Cat of God*

Bob Butz

The Lyons Press, Guilford, CT, 2005

280 pp., \$22.95

ISBN 1-592284-46-9

Reviewed by Ron Rosenblatt

This is a well-written book about the possible existence of viable breeding populations of eastern puma in Michigan. Bob Butz is an experienced outdoor writer, and has published in *Sports Afield*, *New York Times*, and *National Wildlife*. He lives in northern Michigan and knows the state's wildlife well.

The eastern puma is believed by some researchers to be a remnant of the pumas that once lived in the wilds of Michigan, before supposedly being killed off around 1900. Officially, the puma has been considered extinct in Michigan for decades, yet there are amateur naturalists and professional wildlife biologists who believe that pumas still exist in Michigan.

Much of this belief is based on various kinds of "evidence": videotapes, photos, scat, paw prints, and anecdotal reports of sightings of pumas, not only by farmers or housewives, but in some cases by conservation officers of MDNR (Michigan Department of Natural Resources).

The MDNR denies the existence of eastern pumas in Michigan. There are plenty of controversies over this issue. One of the biggest industries in Michigan is deer hunting. The MDNR wants to keep hunters happy, and not disturb them with accounts of pumas killing and eating deer. There are other political, financial, and scientific reasons why MDNR refuses to accept the reality of the eastern puma in Michigan, so all puma sightings are routinely described as involving escaped captive pumas. While there is a deplorable trade in this country in "exotic pets," it is hard to believe that so many of them have escaped in Michigan to cause so many alleged sightings of pumas.

In some respects, the behavior of the MDNR is odd. While pumas are held not to exist in Michigan, the MDNR has put up posters at Sleeping Bear Dunes park, warning visitors that they are now in "Cougar Country." This seems an odd thing to do, if, in fact, there are no cougars.

DNA tests have shown that while some killed or captured Michigan pumas do show the strain of Central and South American pumas sold in the exotic pet trade, many others do show the pure North American strain. Even this has not caused the MDNR to do very much about pumas. "Evidence" is usually ignored, denied, or just dumped.

In some ways, the MDNR's behavior with regard to pumas goes back to the "overturned circus wagon" of Charles Fort's time. All out-of-place animals, especially big cats, were always said to have escaped from "circus wagons." Fort's research showed there were in fact no "circuses" at all anywhere near the sightings of out-of-place animals. The "circus wagon" legend finally died out, to be replaced by the "escaped exotic pet."

The MDNR denies the existence of any wild eastern pumas. The fact that at least 50 wild pumas live in southern Florida is conveniently overlooked, or declared to be irrelevant. This constantly repeated denial has led some puma seekers to declare the existence of a government conspiracy to suppress knowledge of the presence of pumas in Michigan. Not only would it make deer hunters angry about pumas eating their deer, but it is also possible that tourists from lower Michigan might be afraid of visiting the northern part of the state, which would be another serious loss of revenue.

Both pro-hunters and anti-hunters are involved in this controversy. Pro-hunters accuse "bunny huggers" of secretly releasing tame pumas into the Michigan wilds, in order to create a situation that would lead to federal anti-hunting laws. At the same time, there are fanatical puma seekers determined to find convincing evidence that any pumas exist at all. These "Captain Ahab's" devote much of their lives to looking for paw prints, scat, claw marks on trees, and so forth. They hate anyone who denies that their "evidence" is authentic. As with the Bigfoot hunters, there are different factions constantly fighting each other, and the groups range from crackpots to serious wildlife biologists.

Butz devotes too much time to the obsessed puma seekers. He makes it clear that these people are chasing their tails, and find supposed “proof” that pumas are living and breeding in Michigan. There is no need to go into this subject and the people involved, so much.

There is a section of photographs in *Beast of Never*. Apart from some shots of paw-prints (recognized by the three-lobed print), and some scat, there are two photos of supposedly Michigan pumas. The Alcona county puma photo (1997) is clearly a hoax, a photo of a full-mount taxidermy work. The puma in the picture is much too stiff to be alive, and the face of the animal has clearly been touched up to darken the facial features.

The Oscoda county puma (1993) looks somewhat more real, but also has a stiff, posed look to it. The facial features also appear to have been enhanced. Even if the cougar is real and alive, there is nothing in the picture to indicate where the picture was taken. It could have been made in a game farm or a zoo, as well as the Michigan forest.

The frequently heard claim that the eastern puma could not exist as there is no real wilderness in the eastern states is simply untrue. While there is little or no wilderness in the sense of an area never having been touched by humans, there is plenty of wild country that could support pumas. Even the New Jersey Pine Barrens, not far from New York City, are surprisingly wild, and many other parts of eastern states, such as New Hampshire, could provide food and habitat for pumas easily.

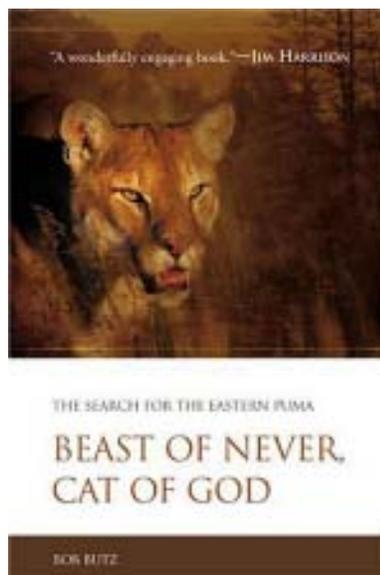
There is a good chance that pumas from California and the northwest are being pushed by puma overpopulation towards the East, as young males look for territories of their own. To declare all puma sightings from east of the Mississippi to be invalid, as the MDNR and other state and federal agencies have done, just will no longer stand up to scrutiny.

Butz claims to have had a puma sighting of his own, on a Michigan hunting preserve of 300 acres in extent. Unfortunately, Butz claims to have seen a black puma. There are no black pumas, as melanism just doesn't show up in pumas the way it does in Asian leopards. It is ironic that Butz claims a sighting of a black puma, while shooting down all other such reports as impossible.

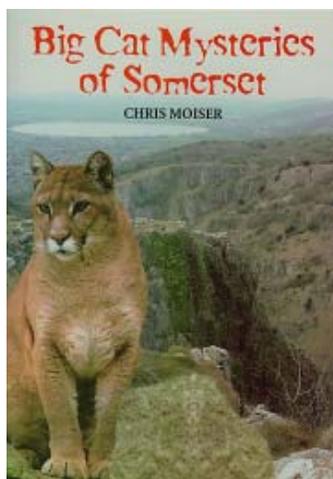
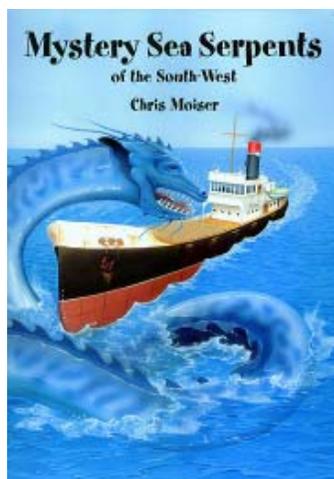
The only real defect in this otherwise excellent book is too many typo's and grammatical errors, that a proofreader should have picked up. To be sure, *Beast of Never* is not made virtually illegible by such errors (as in Marc Miller's *Chasing Legends* and *The Legends Continue*), but such a fine book really shouldn't have any errors in the text.

Butz should widen his horizons, to include the British ABC's, and even the puma-like “Emmaville Panthers,” of Australia. There is much, for example, in Di Francis' *Cat Country*, that is relevant to the search for relict pumas in Michigan, as Di Francis insists that the British ABC's are big cats left over from Ice Age times. Butz's list of suggested reading should certainly have included Dr. Karl Shuker's *Mystery Cats*, the definitive work on this subject.

This is a fine piece of wildlife journalism, and should interest many readers, especially those who want to read about how politics, money, and wildlife science can affect the search for a mystery animal, even one as well known as the eastern puma seems to be.



Ron Rosenblatt attended college in Ann Arbor, MI. He currently resides in New York.



Book Review: *Mystery Sea Serpents of the South-West*

Chris Moiser

Bossiney Books, Launceston, UK, 2004.

32 pp., £2.99, ISBN 1-899383-68-9

Big Cat Mysteries of Somerset

Chris Moiser

Bossiney Books, Launceston, UK, 2005.

32 pp., £2.99, ISBN 1-899383-78-6

Reviewed by Chad Arment

These two attractive booklets focus on cryptids in the United Kingdom. From a purely technical standpoint, the booklets are nicely covered, easy to read, and include black and white illustrations (*Mystery Sea Serpents*) and photographs (*Big Cat Mysteries*). The price is certainly reasonable.

These are small press books, so I don't know how easy they will be to acquire from the major online bookstores. They are listed on Amazon UK. Specialty bookstores in the UK may also offer them to outside markets (e.g., www.willowbooks.co.uk).

Mystery Sea Serpents begins with a brief general introduction to sea serpent reports, then reviews sightings from the south-west coasts of England (Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset). These sightings range primarily from the late 1800s up through the year 2000. Moiser discusses the 1999 Gerrans Bay videotape, pointing out the difference that available evidence played in his own opinion, seeing first stills of the video, then the video itself. Moiser's booklet is brief, but it does include a well-reasoned examination of sightings, including possible misidentifications and hoaxes. The illustrations are generalized, fairly common in sea serpent books, but he does include a fascinating photo of an 1893 ship's log entry noting a sea serpent sighting.

Big Cat Mysteries covers relatively recent (i.e., from the last few decades) sightings of big cats not officially recognized to exist in Somerset. Moiser has spent a great deal of time investigating these cases, and his professional grasp of zoology makes for keen reading. Sightings are clearly detailed, and a convenient map is given showing sightings and livestock kills. The photos of wild felines in various poses are for illustrative purposes, none specifically taken in the British wilds.

In all, these booklets are worth a look by those interested in European cryptozoology. Personally, I'd like to see Chris Moiser tackle a more expansive text on UK cryptids. A professional treatment by an experienced naturalist is just what is needed by those of us who live outside Great Britain.

On Cryptozoological Publishing Efforts

Chad Arment

I enjoy collecting books related to my interests, whether cryptozoology, herpetology, or religion and science. Several years ago, I delved into publishing ebooks; a year ago, I issued my first print-on-demand paperback through my own imprint. This has given me reason to ponder the publishing of cryptozoology books, whether through traditional, small press, print-on-demand, or self-publishing efforts. Do we have a glut of cryptozoology books? Is anything new being published? And, if so, is anyone really interested in the material?

Not long ago, I asked members of two lists I moderate to respond to a survey regarding similar questions. The response rate was low, so it is by no means scientific, but I'll post some edited responses and provide commentary based on my personal experience.

1. a) Approximately how many cryptozoology-related books did you buy last year? (Not counting gift books.)

2. b) Approximately what proportion of total books purchased last year did those cryptozoology books make?

a) Less than 5. b) 1%.

a) I would say I average a purchase of 50 or more books per year. Besides newly published books, it also includes a continuous collection of old, juvenile, and duplicate works. b) 90% of my purchases are cryptozoologically-oriented in my mind. While someone else might not see my purchases of books on extinct birds, for example, as cryptozoological, I do.

a) 8. b) 6%.

a) 8. b) 20% of my book purchases.

a) 50. b) 100%.

a) 6. b) Approximately 60%.

a) 8. b) 5 – 10%.

a) Zero. b) Zero.

Comment—a) There were about a dozen books published in 2004 that were specifically cryptozoological. That is probably close to the publishing efforts of the few years prior—though fewer titles were previously as widely available, being self-published or regional productions. My guess, based on talking to a number of enthusiasts over the years, is that most will acquire at least a few books a year on their specific cryptozoological interests, or if they recognize a title as having serious cryptozoological merit. Those who just enjoy discussing cryptids may prefer to just browse through the various websites that collect sighting reports or sponsor forums.

b) I suppose the question in my mind is, are those people who purchase cryptozoological books more likely to buy books in general? Or are cryptozoology enthusiasts willing to purchase a

book on their favorite subject, even if they don't regularly buy books? At this point, I don't have a clear answer to that question.

3. What are the most significant factors in determining whether you buy a cryptozoology book? (*i.e.*, subject matter, price, ease of purchase, word-of-mouth, published reviews, advertising)

Subject matter.

Subject matter primarily. The Internet (Amazon.com, but also Abebooks.com) makes purchasing stuff that wouldn't normally appear in the UK dead easy.

Subject first, word of mouth/author (if known) second, reviews and price.

I prioritize my purchases thusly—(a) a new book on cryptozoology that is for adults, (b) a book that highlights a new area of inquiry, (c) an old, used book that I have been seeking for some time, (d) a new juvenile title that appears worthy of obtaining, (e) an older juvenile title of interest, (f) cryptofiction, and (g) duplicates of what I already have.

The depth and scientific relevance to the subject matter; I read them all regardless of price or ease of purchase.

Published reviews, ease of purchase, and credentials of the author.

Most significant factors: subject matter and reviews.

For me, subject matter, online reviews, word of mouth.

Comment—Apparently, subject matters. Obviously, not everyone has the same interests, but I suspect that those subjects which bring something new for discussion and debate will find a ready market. The online bookstore allows for easy access to many titles that would otherwise be difficult to locate, but I haven't seen any indication that higher pricing or lack of constant advertising hurts sales when the material is well-written and scientifically credible.

4. How do you usually come across a cryptozoology book you purchase? Do you take the time to track down specialty books or just purchase as you encounter them?

Referral through lists or perusing Amazon.com. Yes, I track down specialty books.

Generally, I purchase them as I encounter them, either online or at a bookstore.

Purchase them as I find them in a bookstore.

A bit of both. At one point I was researching the possibility of writing a young adult biography of Majorie Courtenay Latimer so I did searches on her, but they are just as likely to be an impulse as in *Throw 'Im Way Leg* and *At the Water's Edge* and *Platypus*, none of which I guess are strictly crypto. Chris O. recommended a book on thylacines I ordered from Australia.

Most of the relevant books, journals and papers, I've had to track down, yes. I track down the old books by any means available, including many I've found at tag sales; I buy the new books via Amazon.

Internet—via websites and newlists. Magazines (*Fortean Times*, etc), general browsing in bookshops (it can take some time to find cryptozoology titles, most bookshops hide them away in different sections. Foyles in London actually has a shelf labelled Cryptozoology—sad thing is it doesn't have anything on it!). I have used a rare book search service to find some books.

I watch reviews, search for specific titles online and in bookstores, and allow myself discovery trips when I travel in used book shops and tourist bookstores that might have unique local titles.

Comment—So, how best to make a book available? When people state that they purchase books as they come across them, I suspect that means that they have been given a specific opportunity to acquire the book. Either it was an impulse buy upon seeing the book in a retail outlet, or they saw notice online with a link to Amazon or a similar bookstore.

Recommendations are also important, whether personal or published reviews. Unfortunately, there aren't many venues to forward cryptozoology books for review, but publishers should make the most of what is available. I am surprised that few, if any, of the larger cryptozoology websites appears to have a serious book review section, though several list books that have been recently published. Perhaps a more objective site would be best for publishing reviews, though—it can be difficult to point out serious problems when you know the author, given the relatively small size of the cryptozoological community. (Which leads me to another point—before you self-publish a book, have someone look it over first. I greatly appreciated valid concerns made to me when I asked for a few individuals to look over my first draft of *Cryptozoology: Science & Speculation*.)

5. Have your cryptozoology book buying habits changed over the years, and if so, why?

I bought lots (out-of-print book searches, etc.) when I was researching, very few since then, as my primary area of interest is sea serpents and there hasn't been much written—I do buy a fair amount of paleontology, marine science, history, etc.

My habits have not changed over the years. I try to get all significant books published.

I purchase more than I used to a few years ago, because of the many recent discoveries and theories.

Yes, I buy more than I used to buy.... widened horizons as it relates to the subject.

Yes, my wife wants me to divest my 1000 books on cryptozoology.

Not really. There's very little out there and I tend to just buy whatever's going.

Yes. I used to do a lot more old book shopping via search services, and I now can do most of those myself online. The computer is a source of most purchases of new books, via the online book sellers. I used to go to book stores

once or twice a week. I don't venture into used book stores except on trips, usually now. However, I still go, perhaps, once a month to each kind of book stores (new and old), to "see" if something special might turn up. Something usually does (like a recent copy of Mackal's old Loch Ness book).

I have stopped buying the general overview style of cryptozoology book. They tend to be repetitive in their information. I'm more interested in buying books from actual scientists in the cryptozoology field, as they add detail, depth, and zoological knowledge to the topics and formulate their own theories based on their considerable expertise in biology.

Comment—The trend seems fairly clear—enthusiasts and researchers purchase will acquire those books focusing on their particular interests. As interests expand, or specialize, the purchases reflect that. In other words, interests dictate the purchases, rather than vice versa? It appears to me that there is a strong interest in serious scientifically-based material; that, of course, is easier requested than provided, especially when even the most popular cryptozoology books today don't make that much money for the authors, compared to books published in other science genres.

6. What cryptozoology material do you prefer to read?

I personally prefer material on hominids and apes, since I have a degree in Anthropology, but I also enjoy almost any type of cryptozoology, such as whales and seals.

Nonfiction. However, I read a lot of old stuff all the time, in between reading through new books.

I prefer to read well-researched, scientific examinations of cryptozoological reports, theories, and evidence.

Known and unknown, large and small, human and non-human primates, especially those said to be hirsute by any degree, especially material with a scientific approach.

Marine mysteries first and foremost, journeys of discovery as in Ivan Sanderson, maritime history—there's always the chance they'll mention seeing something odd.

Non-fiction. Not particularly interested in hominids (incl. Bigfoot). As long as it's well written I'll give it a go—as I said there's not a lot out there.

Bigfoot, serpentine anomalies.

Non-fiction books that pack a lot of information on a limited topic (*i.e.*, a book on lake serpents, or a book on prehistoric animals that may still exist). I liked *Strange Magazine* when it was still around.

Comment—Regardless of the subject, readers appear to want specifics and details. This may go in hand with fewer speculative works, or at least less theorizing without any real biological substance.

7. Do you read cryptofiction? Would you read it if more were available?

I do read cryptofiction, although it gets a lower priority. We can always use more high-quality works in that field.

Some are too violent. Find that the few I've read tend to be formulaic, too Michael Crichton wannabe. I enjoyed *Almost Adam*, but don't actually seek that stuff out.

I do not find that I enjoy cryptofiction too much. But then I don't like fiction much at all either.

Rarely. Cryptonovels are a waste of my time. I want facts, plausible theories, not imaginings.

No, I don't. And I probably wouldn't, unless I heard some rave reviews. I'm not much into fiction at all.

No.

Yes—and most of it's crap (personal sweeping statement). Generally badly written and totally predictable outcome(s). May buy more but it would depend on the author and subject matter.

No, I don't read it and I don't think I will even if it were more available.

Comment—As a fan of short story cryptofiction, I occasionally check out cryptofiction novels, especially those that appear in the mainstream traditional press. Rarely do I find one that lives up to the hype. Still, I do have an interest in the genre; it doesn't appear to have as wide a following among cryptozoology enthusiasts in general, though. The key, of course, is quality writing. It isn't easy, but is worth pursuing. I suspect the primary reason it hasn't caught on among traditional speculative fiction genre fans (sci-fi, horror, *etc.*), is that most fiction using cryptid-like characters tends toward the genetic mutation or alien invasion explanations.

8. Do you use cryptozoological reference material, or do you prefer narratives?

Reference material, definitely.

I use books, but prefer the first the most. If you mean by "narratives" = first hand eyewitness accounts, I would read them in volume when I am working on one specific question or cryptid where a closer study of them might inform what I was researching. I do not much like "travelogues" unless they hold an incident that should be extracted from their pages.

I like both - it's all about the writing and an open mind.

Both.

I use Both.

Comment—What I mean by narratives are those books written to narrate the story of a discovery, or the search for a cryptid, as opposed to just the factual nuts and bolts, or encyclopedia formats. It doesn't appear that there's a strong preference for one or the other, so long as the material is detailed, factual, and gives new information to the reader.

9. What subjects do you believe have been overlooked? Overdone?

Overdone? Surveys without substance.

Overlooked? I don't think any area has been particularly overlooked, if you take the time to research it. Overdone? Bigfoot, Loch Ness, black cats, Oogpogo—the usual “mainstream” critters. Of course, a new generation coming up may be extremely interested in those fields as a start to their avocation.

We need more books on specific cryptids other than the big three plus one (Yeti, Bigfoot, Nessie + Sea Serpents). Local volumes are of some interest, but in-depth examinations on specific cryptids interest me.

Overlooked? Interest by the North American scientific community in hirsute homins. Overdone? Cryptonovels with a paranormal angle.

Overdone—Bigfoot. Not sure of anything that's been overlooked.

Overdone? Lake monsters and sea monsters.

Subjects overlooked: Giant aquatic creatures, not necessarily serpentine. I think the oceans and large, remote lakes provide the best environment to foster unknown animals. There are no gravitational penalties on large size and the seas harbor a variety of biological shapes and appearances. Prehistoric survivors. In addition to the Congo sauropod, there are less celebrated cryptids such as surviving *Megalania*. Overdone: Loch Ness Monster, Yeti, Sasquatch.

Comment—My guess is that there are a number of areas which are overlooked; but that doesn't mean there's enough interest to warrant an entire book on them. Still, while traditional publishing may not be a good match for lesser-known cryptid books, nontraditional methods, like print-on-demand, could provide information to a smaller, but eager, audience and still be profitable. Personally, when it comes to the well-known subjects like Bigfoot, I would like to see more region-specific in-depth surveys, rather than the story of yet another Bigfoot hunter's quest for the “truth.”

10. What are the biggest problems in cryptozoology books you have noted?

The biggest problem in cryptozoological literature is the lack of scientific rigor in sifting evidence and formulating theories.

New books regurgitating old material with nothing new to add. Often, failure to address valid criticisms from science establishment refuting existence of cryptids.

- a) Lack of funding for more.
- b) More graphic materials in them.
- c) Personality-driven works have always been a problem historically, and have to be guarded against. They can devolve into being personal attacks on certain people, or merely glorifications of “hunters” as opposed to balanced looks at the cryptids.

Authors doing everything possible to shout down, chastise and prevent other authors from flourishing.

In the books I have an interest in, it would be the lack of serious consideration, scientific relevance, scientific interest, involvement and contribution by the North American scientific faction.

Some seem to be pretty over-the-top in their blatant acceptance of highly suspect creatures without much to back it up.

Repetition of the same encounters and stories—buy a book printed this year and find that over a half of it is sightings and encounters going back 20+ years, all of which have been detailed before in other publications. Very little original thought or ideas on ID of cryptids (*i.e.*, all “Thunderbirds” are teratorns, Bigfoot is *Gigantopithecus*, Champ is a primitive whale, *etc.*). Occasional intrusion of paranormal or Fortean-type (*e.g.*, Mothman, Jersey Devil) which doesn’t help cryptozoology in the “respectability” stakes.

Overly pedantic, strident, slavish adherence to the Heuvelmans model, use of science only as it suits the author—*i.e.*, lack of scientific rigor. Bad research, selective use of quotes that actually alters the meaning of the original material.

Comment—We may continue to see a few new cryptozoology texts emerge from traditional publishers, but my suspicion is that small presses and self-publishing will become more prominent over the next decade, especially with the rise of print-on-demand technologies. There are pros and cons with any technology and process, but the potential is there for experienced investigators to provide a global audience with data that may otherwise be stagnating in files. One of the biggest problems in cryptozoology is the loss of much early material as investigators from the 1950s, ’60s, and ’70s retired or passed away, and their research files were lost. I would like to appeal to those previously active researchers not to permit their work to disappear. Interviews, news items, field reports, and other valuable forgotten data can still be useful to current investigators.

I would also like to see European investigators, who have published much regionally, consider creating English language translations of their works for a wider audience. I would also like to see the formation of a broad Biofortean annual, similar in style to the *Fortean Studies*, with the caveat that it have a wider distribution.

At any rate, I plan to offer a few more cryptozoological texts this year, and hope to see other publishers continue to bring cryptozoology studies to the market.

RESCUE FROM THE PAST #5

Canada's "Ape-Men" of Labrador: Pre-1946 Accounts of Possible Primitive Surviving Hominoid Encounters as Related by the Native Inhabitants of the Labrador Region of the North American Continent

Dr. Dwight C. Smith*
and
Gary S. Mangiacopra**

"Tunnit, according to tradition, were a gigantic race
formerly inhabiting the northeastern coast of Labrador,
Hudson strait, and southern Baffin Island."

—Ernest William Hawkes,
The Labrador Eskimo, 1916. [1]

On the North American continent, the United States is well documented with countless incidents of reported sightings and historical lore of Bigfoot from the 19th century to the present 21st century. Unfortunately, our neighbor to the north, Canada, is still largely overlooked in the richness of current sightings of Sasquatch—and more important, historical lore of such hominoid cryptids.

Because of the sparseness in population density, especially in the remote and rugged regions of Canada, any regional accounts of such hominoid cryptids rarely became known beyond their immediate locality. Only by sheer chance do such reports become known to a wider audience that might appreciate their importance.

Such a situation occurred in the immediate post-World War II years when reports of sightings of the Labrador "Ape-Men" were casually told by a married medical couple, Dr. and Mrs. C. Hogarth Forsyth, while they were in New York City raising funds for their medical practice in this remote Canadian province.

*The Grenfell Associated of America's Medical Team, Dr. And Mrs. Forsyth:
Just What and Who Were They?*

For more than a century-and-a-decade, since it was started in 1892 by a young and unknown English doctor by the name of Wilfred Grenfell, the Grenfell Associated of America was devoted to its mission of relieving the suffering and dire needs of the inhabitants of the Labrador coast. Under the guidance and influence of Dr. Grenfell, this ever-enlarging association exposed audiences in the United States, England, and Canada to the plight of the Labrador people. By the time of Dr. Grenfell's death in August of 1940, they established along the Labrador coast no fewer than five hospitals, five nursing stations, two boarding schools, a day school, an orphanage, two hospital ships, a marine railway, and a service and repair dock for fishermen's boats. [2]

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Because of Grenfell's influence, many people came to Labrador to help him bring relief to these Labrador people, one of whom was a Dr. C. Hogarth Forsyth, and later a nurse who became his wife. Unfortunately, information is extremely scarce about the background of these two Grenfell's associates at the present time, and what is known was culled from a November 1946 interview by the prestigious *New York Times*. [3]

Dr. C. Hogarth Forsyth's nationality was English. He came to Labrador for a year's experience in 1932 after two years' practice in a London hospital and had stayed since. Mrs. Forsyth was an American nurse and a native of Augusta, Georgia. (Her maiden name was not given.) They married in 1936. Since 1938, they had operated a 20-bed hospital and a 30-student boarding school at the largest village in this region, Cartwright. They were servicing a population of between 6,000-10,000 Anglo-Saxons, Eskimos and mixed breeds, along a bleak coastal area extending roughly 500 miles. They also stated that they wintered in the United States every four years, which explains why they were in New York City at that time. As the offices of the International Grenfell Association were also in this city, it can be speculated that they were giving a first-hand account of their progress to them also.

During their wintering over in New York City, they were interviewed a second time by the Associated Press at the beginning of the first week of January 1947, for their syndicated series "March of Science" [4]. Half of their interview told of medical situations that were encountered by this married medical couple, explaining that they maintained hospitals, schools and other welfare series established by the late Sir Wilfred Grenfell to assist the people in the isolated communities of the northern Newfoundland and Labrador coasts. But completely out-of-context was the second half of their interview, in which they related that unexplored Labrador was a land of mysteries that included "credible but unverified stories of ape-men prowling the sub-Arctic wilds!" Beginning their Labrador medical aid in 1932, they at first "laughed off" the ape-men stories as legends. But the following years they discovered that the Labradorians were most literal minded, not given to legends.

The information that the Forsyth's had received regarding these "Ape-Men" fell into two distinct categories: tracks and actual eyewitness sightings.

Masking Its Trail

From the little information given in the newspaper column by the Forsyth's, the following was related: "The stories are based on many reports of giant barefoot tracks in the snow. Usually they are found by trappers whose living depends on their knowledge of tracks. Trappers have traced the tracks to 'nests' under trees in the open."

Attesting to the level of intelligence of whatever creatures left these tracks as being "wily and elusive," it was stated: "The trail usually runs out on glare ice or in running water. But such trails have been followed as much as 15 miles over rough country. Whatever made them climbed easily over stumps and other obstructions where an ordinary man would have gone around. And whatever it was walked on two feet."

"Ape-Men" Sightings

During their 15 years in Labrador, they heard only two reports of people who actually caught glimpses of these "ape-men," but the reports were unsatisfactory. It is undetermined as to when these two incidents occurred—either during the 15 years that the Forsyth's had their medical practice in Labrador (1932-1946) or prior to these dates.

*Priority Matters — Medical over Local Lore!
Venereal Diseases Overshadow “Ape-Men”!*

It must be noted that by the mid-1940s, the world was just starting to recover from six years of massive destruction between the Axis and the Allies. And with the beginnings of the Cold War, Labrador was being viewed as an important military and commercial strategic air crossroads.

The Forsyth’s accounts of their regional “ape-men” simply failed to make any impression anywhere at that time and quickly fell back into obscurity. It was to them a trivial matter, as their priority concerns were medical: treating the small population of some 6,000 individuals who lived along the thousand-mile coast and the seasonal invasion of 4,000 Newfoundland summer fishermen. Far more interesting to Dr. Forsyth was, why had he found virtually no venereal disease in Labrador? He and his wife agreeing that “these people are not sexually more scrupulous than an equal number of Americans or British”! Other questions included the infrequency of premarital pregnancy, and the high incidence of tuberculosis among the local Labradorians.

These were the concerns of the Forsyth’s; not some legends of roaming “Ape-Men.” It is unknown if any other contemporary New York City newspapers had carried additional accounts of the Forsyth’s “ape-men.” The *New York Times* did carry notices of benefit performances at the Metropolitan Opera House whose proceeds would go toward the aid of the Grenfell Association. [5]

Examination of the *Book Annual Digest* for the decades of the 1940s-50s reveal no book review listings of any books authored under the byline of C. Hogarth Forsyth, in the possibility that they may have mention in their pages of their Labradorian ape-men.

Thus, from 1947 on, nothing else is known at present about this Grenfell medical couple’s background. And there the matter ends and rests.

Speculation on the Location of the Labrador Tracks and Sightings

In the Forsyth’s interview, they did not specify where the tracks and two “ape-men” sightings had precisely occurred. But it can be postulated upon consulting a map of Labrador as to the probable general region where they might have occurred. Starting with the village of Cartwright as the focal point, since this was where their hospital was established, and the information that they cover the medical needs of 500 miles of the coastal area, the tracks/sightings would be connected to some waterway of transportation. It must be remembered, that in the 1930s and even 1940s, transportation by the inhabitants were for the most part by water, as there were—and still are—no roads into Labrador’s interior!

To the west of Cartwright is the inland lake of Melville whose western end is at Happy Valley-Goose Bay. This town is primarily a military area and can be reached either from the west by a rugged road, or from the east by steamer vessel from Cartwright. Interestingly, to the south-east of Lake Melville are the wide-ranging Mealy Mountains, that could be considered a typical habitat for Bigfoot.

To the north of Cartwright, the even more desolate coastal area that can be reached only by water or flight would be a secondary area to consider for these “ape-men” reports.

Overall, Labrador was, and should still be considered, a hard-to-reach and rarely visited area by outsiders.

Pre-1946 Labradorian “Ape-Men” Accounts

Because of the remoteness and sparseness of population in the Labrador region and its nearby surrounding sub-arctic locales, only a trickle of reports have come from these regions that seem to indicate that in the 19th and early 20th centuries, primitive hominoids inhabited these areas.

Cryptozoologist Mark A. Hall located forgotten and obscure published accounts that seemed to be describing unfavorable encounters between the Eskimos and the “Tunnit.” [6, 7] The “Tunnit” were described as a big, strong—but stupid, slow-going—race that were hunted to extinction by the Eskimos some centuries prior. However, some of the “Tunnit” may have escaped this first ethnic cleansing and possibly survived into the early 20th century. From the Forsyth’s reports, the “Tunnit” may have survived as late as the 1930s.

Labrador “Ape-Me” Classification: Bigfoot or Another Unknown Hominoid Species?

The possible zoological classification of these Labrador “ape-men” or “Tunnit” is still unanswerable at the present time, due to the lack of much-needed additional information from these regions.

It can be conjectured in this sub-arctic locale that an extreme northern subspecies of what we consider North American Bigfoot had colonized the area. Due to the scarcity of human residents, any reports of encounters would seldom travel outside of this area.

A conflicting opinion given by Mark Hall suggests that these sub-arctic “ape-men” may be a totally different hominoid group from what we consider the North American Bigfoot, that had co-existed with the native Eskimos some centuries ago.

Regardless of the correctness of these two possibilities, it should now be determined that the Canadian Labrador province may have had—and may still harbor—primitive hominoids.

Further investigation into past historical records and review of any contemporary sightings from the region of Labrador should be undertaken for further evaluation for its position in Bigfoot lore.

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What’s Bigfoot’s favorite vegetable? Sasquash...

Seeking cryptozoological jokes: For a future article in NABR, I’m looking for family-friendly jokes about hairy hominids, aquatic monsters, and other mystery animals. (Preferably centering specifically on the cryptids, rather than modified to include them.) Also interested in published cartoons, especially those pre-1960. Contact ChadArment@verizon.net.

And, yes, I have heard the one about the pigmy and the dinosaur... If you haven’t, you’ll have to wait until next issue.

The Greenfield Hill Phantom of Fairfield Township:
A Possible Additional 1954 Incident of Connecticut's
"Glastonbury Glawackus" Sightings Flap

Dr. Dwight G. Smith *
and
Gary S. Mangiacopra **

*"Anyone who has been thinking of Fairfield as a nice
civilized place to live has another think coming ..."*

—Comments from the local *The Fairfield News*
on their sheep-killing phantom creature.

In the summer of 1954, the state of Connecticut was in the midst of a second cluster of reports of its mysterious Glastonbury Glawackus. Previously, in the first two months of the year of 1939, a series of reports and sightings of a black-color panther-like creature occurred primarily around the township of Glastonbury in the county of Hartford and made the newspaper columns of the *Hartford Courant* and even the prestigious *New York Times*. And just as suddenly, these reports quickly ended—but not before the animal became locally known as the legendary Glastonbury Glawackus.

The definitive account of a quarter-of-a-century long series of incidents pertaining to the Glawackus was published in 1995 in *The Anomalist*. [1]

This lengthy article had listed some 67 incidents pertaining to the Glawackus, reaching as far back as 1685 and as recent as 1994. Additional incidents had apparently occurred, but did not become widely acknowledged and the article was hampered at the time due to the inaccessibility of other newspaper sources.

It was only recently while consulting the local Fairfield newspapers on microfilm for 1954, that, by chance, another possible Glawackus incident was located that had occurred in the beginning of Connecticut's second cluster of sightings for that year.

On the front page of the July 8th Thursday weekly edition of *The Fairfield News* [2], a two-column wide sketch of the three-toed imprint of the "Greenhill Phantom" was reproduced over the printed account of what this mysterious creature was doing that summer.

As noted, the latest reports came from the wilds of lower Greenfield Hill, indicating that some mysterious animal was lurking near the property of Dr. Paul Harwood. It also was credited for the killing of a sheep and a lamb during its marauding. The only individual who had caught a glimpse of the beast was Mrs. Harwood, who saw something disappearing into the bushes. Footprints, freshly made each night, were abundant in the area near a small pond. The viciousness of the Glawackus was shown by the decapitated body of a lamb, indicating that it was not a domestic animal turned killer.

Two hunters, Martin Hersey and Arthus Pearce, attempted to capture or shoot the "Greenhill beast" with a .410 modified shotgun, a .22 rifle, two animal traps, and an axe. At least one night was spent watching from a nearby cabin, to no avail.

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The general opinion among those who had seen the beast's footprints was varied. Some considered it "a large and vicious dog," while others said it "must be a wildcat." Oddly, the first reports said it might be a small bear "lost from a circus." This was an unfounded cliché, since there were no circuses in this area at that time, and such an expensive lost animal exhibit would have made the newspaper columns immediately.

The front-page newspaper account ended with the comments, "Greenfield Hill residents, from behind barred shutters and doors are asking themselves if they may be next."

It would be two months before it was acknowledged in print that the "Beast of Greenfield Hill" was, once again, roaming the hill. In a letter sent to the *Fairfield News*, John Hersey [3] informed that the beast was still here, but gave no specific details of its actions during the summer interim. Further, Hersey "identified" it as being not a bobcat, bear or huge dog ... but a Glawackus! And then, he at length quoted author Odell Shepard's description of this type of beast from the book, *Connecticut, Past and Present* [4] relating the events that were occurring at the start of 1939:

"At this moment, while I sit writing here in my safe and quiet study, a posse of ten or fifteen brave, strong, and heavily armed men are scouring the woods of Glastonbury, six miles away, in search of a terrible creature locally called the glowackus. Many have seen this beast, but descriptions differ widely. Realists incline to the view that he is a catamount, cougar, or mountain lion, but the more imaginative insist that he is something unique, like the unicorn, and something that has never existed before, like the — well, the glowackus. I myself favor the second school of opinion, and I am looking forward with shuddering curiosity to the corpse that our County Game Warden and his retainers may bring back tonight. Some kind of corpse they are almost sure to bring back, for the *New York Times* of this morning asserts that they are going forth armed with high-powered rifles and shot-guns and that the Glastonbury Chief of Police has offered then the full facilities of his department, including siren-equipped radio patrol cars, tear gas bombs, and anything else required in the way of armament. Well, we shall see. In the meantime the thing that the glowackus did to a certain hound dog in Glastonbury woods day before yesterday are to some of us deeply impressive. They whet expectation."

Between the time of these two Fairfield accounts, the township of Mansfield in Tolland county, Connecticut, had the intrusion of a mysterious animal seen on two consecutive August days. On the 3rd, a "great dane-size animal with a swooping tail" was seen; immediately following on the 4th, this animal was seen and identified as a cougar.

That this Greenhill Beast was a cougar—which was officially considered extinct in Connecticut since the 1880s—which had made its way to the township of Fairfield is entirely possible. Animals that reappear where they are assumed to have been extinct for decades, have been occurring with some alarming regularity across the United States. And such an explanation seems to be supported by these Tolland county sightings. In addition, the viciousness of the decapitated lamb would indicate a cat-type predator.

Further support to this hypothesis is that in the Fall of 1993 and January 1994, cougars were sighted in the Fairfield region. The region of Fairfield of 1954 was even more wildly rugged and rural before the blight of urban sprawl digested much of the surrounding farmlands.

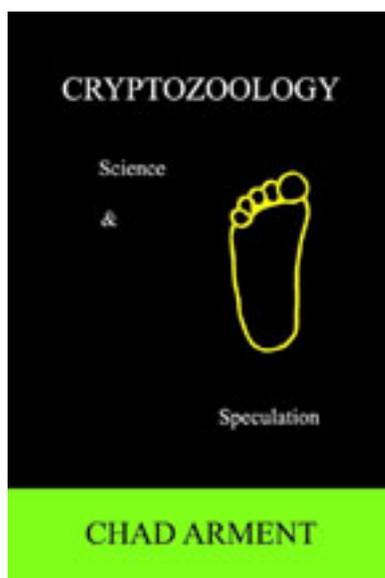
Yet, doubt is still left on the part of the authors: were cougars the true explanation for what was stalking the Fairfield sheep during those summer months?

An alternative zoological explanation is suggested by the prior 1939 sightings of a "black panther" beast that was reported throughout the Glastonbury region. This is a cryptid that has been reported in almost every state of the United States for decades.

Unfortunately, the information in these two Fairfield news accounts are insufficient to clearly establish what this beast correctly was: a cougar or a "black panther"? Nevertheless, it is another small bit of cryptozoological data that can be added to the legendary—and not-so-mythical?—Glastonbury Glawackus of Connecticut.

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Coachwhipbooks.com

“The wholesale dismissal of ethnoknown species is as bad as indiscriminate acceptance. There is a line which must be walked if cryptozoology is to progress. Critical thinking must be paired with a stimulus for investigation. We need to move beyond the stagnant philosophy of “if it is there, it will eventually be found.”



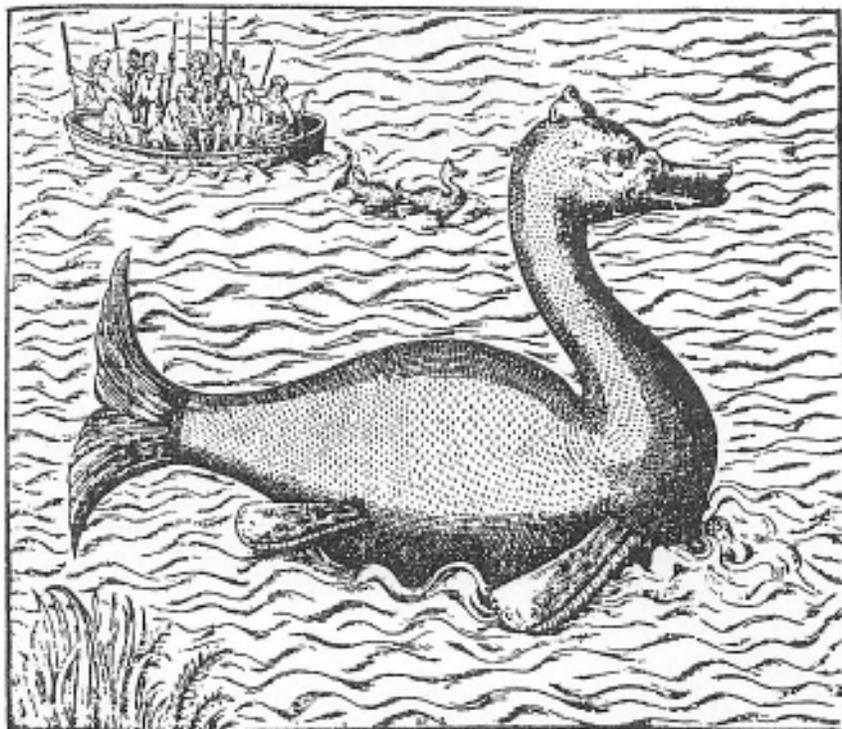
An Early Marine Longneck Representation

Chad Arment

Nick Sucik brought to my attention Ambroise Paré's 1573 collection of monstrous creatures and animal folklore, *On Monsters and Marvels* (1982; Pallister, Janis L., trans.; Univ. Chicago Press.). This early surgeon described a number of monsters (birth defects, folkloric creatures, etc.) and marvelous animals reported by travelers around the globe.

Paré's selection was remarkably astute—while there are obvious travelers' tales, there are also a number of animals we can easily identify from the descriptions: marine invertebrates, the chameleon, the walrus, the bison, the rhinoceros, etc. What interests me here, though, is that it shows an early representation of a longneck sea monster in the New World. Paré states: "In the sea of the Spanish Isle, in the new lands, several monstrous fish are found. Among which, Thevet, book 22, chap. 12, Vol. 2 of his *Cosmography*, says he has seen a very rare one that in the language of the country they call Aloés, and it is similar to a goose, having its neck raised high, its head to a point like a Good-Christian pear, the body thick like that of a goose, without scales, having its four fins under the belly, and if you saw it above the water you would say it was a goose, bobbing among the waves of the sea."

Now, there is no point at all in trying to discern what creature was actually reported; it might very well have been a misdescribed manatee (everything except the long neck, obviously, matches the description), or it may have been a complete fabrication. (I would have to investigate Thevet and his writings to make any determination on that; but I will note that certain other descriptions Thevet made do match known species. An intention of honesty does not, however, shield against mistaken belief.) What is of interest is that it provides an early folkloric representation of the classic swan-neck sea serpent. André Thevet published his *La Cosmographie universelle* in 1575.



StrangeArk Spotlight

Can you spot what's different about this cat?



Five Toes has Two Tongues

Delores Whittington kindly provides pictures of her feline, Five Toes. This cat has duplication of the tongue. Five Toes is three years old, but the duplication wasn't noticed until this past Christmas. Five Toes is in good health, and has had the duplication verified by a veterinarian. One tongue is situated on top of the other. Neither tongue appears to be dominant. Delores says, "She uses her tongues in unison when she eats, drinks, or grooms, but sometimes she does use them separately, like to lick her nose and chin at times." Five Toes' siblings have normal tongues.

Now, in most cases, two tongues are only found in dicephalic cats (two heads, two tongues), but I have seen mention on a human cleft palate site (URL below), where a specialist doctor notes having seen two children with a similar condition. Without knowing more, I suspect it is just a developmental disorder, and appears to have no dangerous side effects for the feline.

Delores is interested in hearing from anyone who may have further information on this condition in cats, via astaria_27017@yahoo.com.

Site noted: <http://www.widesmiles.org/cleftlinks/WS-683.html>

The Lost Zakharoff's Australian Sea-Serpent Photograph!

Dr. Dwight G. Smith*
and
Gary S. Mangiacopra**

“Smile! You're on Candid Camera!”
— The late Allan Funt's long-running original format
television show of catching people's reactions
in set-up, offbeat situations.

One of the most frustrating aspects of marine cryptozoology are eyewitnesses who possess unique and very valuable information and simply do not realize that anyone else is interested in what they have observed.

Of special interest is one of those very rare incidents in which a photographic record was taken of a marine cryptid and which was in the possession of the original observer but was never made available to the general public.

Such is the case of a circa 1929 sea-serpent encounter that occurred off the eastern coast of Australia, and witnessed by several observers, one of whom's name is definitely known—Charles Zakharoff.

Through the generosity of International Cryptozoological Society member, Dr. Michael D. Swords who forwarded a copy of the Zakharoff letter to one of the authors, this neglected sea-serpent encounter is being formally presented to the field of cryptozoology nearly half-a-century after being written and is given verbatim as follows:

16/25 Prince Street
Randwick
1/6/60

Mons. Michel d'Obrenovic-Obilic von Lazar
Yew Tree House, Hanchurch,
Stoke on Trent. Staffs. England

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of April 10. My daughter Yvonne, whom you met aboard the Queen Mary, was with me when I received it.

* Biology Department, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, Connecticut

** Milford, Connecticut

Regarding the sea serpent, it is approximately 31 years since I saw it. A newspaper, now extinct, called "*The Daily Guardian*" wrote a front page story and one of their artists drew a large picture from the photograph we took of the monster.

I have turned my belongings inside out looking for the original photograph but cannot find it. I had just kept it more or less as a souvenir and had no idea that one day, it might interest anybody.

I and others saw the sea serpent off South Head, the entrance to Sydney Harbor. I had gone out fishing in a small boat with two friends. Suddenly one of them yelled "Look at this" and the sight was incredible. The monster looked like a gargantuan water snake. Its head was out of the water and it was monstrous. It had huge nostrils and water was spurting from each nostril it was a fine spray of water and looked almost like a steam.

The head was long and all we could see of the body was several big black mounds at intervals, along the water. One of my friends had a small camera. Other fishermen saw the monster, which cruised around for a while and returned, thus enabling my friend to prepare his camera and take a snapshot of it.

Three days afterwards, the monster returned and was seen again by many people. Naturally, it caused great excitement. The artist's reproduction from my picture was not quite correct as he gave the monster whiskers and drew steam coming out of its nostrils. It had no whiskers.

Should you come to Australia, please come to see me and I will help you all I can. Meanwhile, I will try to turn up the photograph, or find a copy of the paper in which the incident was reported.

The monster was no hallucination, as I am not a drinker. Several others saw it at the time. It was black in color. I have a newspaper friend who is trying to find the artist who drew the picture, and to find the newspaper which published it.

Yours sincerely
Charles Zakharoff

While Zakharoff's account of his sea-serpent sighting is compelling, we cannot overlook the fact that his monster sounds suspiciously like a giant squid. Its basic features, such as the long, black head and several big black mounds at intervals along the body, could certainly resemble the coiled tentacle of a kraken, or giant squid.

In his monumental book, *The Search for the Giant Squid*, [1] Richard Ellis listed a number of reliably reported and confirmed giant squid sightings, notably specimens of *Architeuthis*, either caught in fishermen's nets or washed ashore. Ellis (as of 1998) reported no fewer than 24 specimens of giant squid caught between 1983 and 1988 in New Zealand waters and further noted that three female giant squids were caught off Tasmania by Australian fisherman in 1996 alone.

Earlier accounts of giant squid and other mystery sightings in Australian coastal waters were documented by D. G. Stead, who in 1933 published *Giants and Pygmies of the Deep: The Story of the Australian Sea Denizens*. [2]

It is unknown if, or what, further correspondence may have occurred between Zakharoff and von Lazar after this date of June 1960, if the lost Sydney Harbor sea-serpent photograph was ever rediscovered, or if at least a copy of the circa 1929 Guardian front-page newspaper article was acquired.

This Australian sea-serpent, or along with a similar one to it, was seen twice over several days of separation in the same region by two different groups of observers. This alone would not make the incident unique, but rather, in the annals of cryptozoology, this should be considered the earliest incident (circa 1929) in which a photograph was taken of a marine cryptid—and of said photograph being lost due to no one recognizing its one-of-a-kind importance.

Nevertheless, several provinces have been established that warrant further investigation into this case by anyone who is fortunate enough to have access to the following:

- The mailing address of von Lazar in England;
- The mailing address of Charles Zakharoff in Australia;
- Is Zakharoff's daughter, Yvonne, still living and residing in Australia, and can she be contacted;
- And most critical, it has been established that circa 1929, the newspaper, *The Guardian*, published Zakharoff's sighting and a semi-reliable artist rendering of what was photographed—and were there other contemporary sea-serpent sightings?

Here is a three-quarters-century old marine cryptid account that has many leads—for anyone willing to pursue them.

Acknowledgements:

The authors wish to thank Dr. Michael D. Swords (retired) from Western Michigan University for bringing Zakharoff's long-neglected letter to our attention.

References:

- 1) Ellis, Richard. 1998. *The Search For The Giant Squid*. Penguin Books. New York.
- 2) Stead, D. G. 1933. *Giants and Pigmies of the Deep: The Story of the Australian Sea Denizens*. Sydney, Australia.



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A Georgia “Gorilla” from the Mid-1950s Cold War Era

Dr. Dwight G. Smith*
and
Gary S. Mangiacopra**

State Statistics of Georgia:

- Admitted to the Union 2 January 1788
- State capital is Atlanta
- Area is 58,876 square miles
- Population 3,700,000 (mid-1950s)
- Nicknamed the “Cracker State”
- State flower—Cherokee Rose
- Unusual wildlife—”gorillas”

In the history of American Bigfoot lore, the 1950s were considered a quiet decade. Few, if any, of what we now call Bigfoot reports reached the general public, although stories of the “Abominable Snowman” half-a-world away did see print with some regularity in newspaper columns in the United States. What was ignored—or, more correctly—failed to be realized in this country, was that reports being described as “gorillas” (what we now recognize as Bigfoot) were making news throughout this nation’s states.

In the summer of 1955 a series of Bigfoot reports originated from the southern state of Georgia, the sightings variously describing a “kangaroo,” “ghost,” a “man from Mars,” or a “gorilla.”

In this instance, though reports were making the local Georgian newspapers, an eyewitness who had physical contact with the Georgia gorilla made the United Press newswire service.

What transpired to Joseph Whaley on the Monday afternoon of August 1st, 1955, is now belatedly being recognized over half-a-century later as one of the earliest known “close encounters” with an small Bigfoot individual.

Whaley, age 20, a jeep driver for the Georgia State Forestry Unit, was out on a job assignment cutting weeds around one of the Forestry Unit’s new “Keep Our Country Green” signs at Kinchafoonee Creek just off the Bronwood-Smithville Highway in Terrell County, southwestern Georgia.

While cutting weeds with a sling, he heard what he thought was a wild hog at the edge of the woods. Departing from his job assignment to investigate, he was jumped by a “thing” that looked to be about six feet high, 300-400 pounds, and with a body covered with gray, wiry hair.

*Biology Department, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, Connecticut.

**Milford, Connecticut

As Whaley detailed:

“It looked like a gorilla except for its long, pointed ears. It had hairy hands, long claws, black skin in the palm of its hands, and long tusk-like teeth.

“I struck it three times with my sling—twice on the left arm and once in the chest, but he kept coming at me. I ran to my jeep on a side road near the negro church and he followed me to it.

“Just as I was about to start the motor, he tried to grab me in his arms and tore off a shirt sleeve and scratched me.

“I could feel him breathing down my neck and just when he grabbed for me, I lunged out of the jeep on the other side and started running.”

Whaley made a wide circle through the woods before finally outdistancing this creature and returning to the jeep, later admitting, “he never knew before that he could run so fast.” The time of this encounter was about 3 or 3:30 p.m. As to what it looked like, he gave: “The best way I can describe it, is that it looks like a gorilla but definitely is not a gorilla.” [1]

In the aftermath of this attack, Whaley told his employer, Forest Ranger Jim Bowen, of his terrifying encounter. Bowen went into the woods where Whaley was attacked and found a trail and that “very definitely something was there that looked like a large object,” confirming Whaley’s account of something unexplainable being in the region between the towns of Dawson and Americus.

Investigators at the site assumed that whatever it was had fled the scene immediately thereafter. Local families living nearby and Bronwood residents reported no strange sounds or sightings of anything.

Prior incidents of this “thing” being observed in Lincolnton and other sections of Georgia were given in press reports. It was tied in with reports of a “ghost” which also made newspaper accounts that summer in Edison and Calhoun Counties. The Edison apparition’s description tallied closely with Whaley’s details, with the additional feat of vaulting over six-foot fences. One such leap left behind tangible evidence of its physical nature—a patch of white hair was obtained by a Wayne Dozier and sent to the state crime laboratory in Atlanta for analysis. Crime doctor Herman Jones’ conclusion was that the “ghost hair” was human or at least “human-like,” which also fits many primates.

Whaley’s story reached at least two northern newspapers, the *Washington Post*, [2] and Connecticut’s *Hartford Courant* [3], giving this regional Bigfoot sighting a wider exposure to the American public.

Four months later, this Georgia cryptid reached the national newsstands via the magazine *Fate*, whose pages were devoted to “true stories of the strange and the unknown.” In the monthly “I See By The Papers” column by Curtis Fuller, a whole page was devoted to the events of this “Georgia Monster.” News clippings sent in by their readers (*Fate*’s monthly paid circulation was circa 80,000) gave additional details.

A few days prior to Whaley’s encounter, Tant King, a hard-working Edison farmer, had a similar experience, being chased “by a creature that walked like a man on its hind legs and left tracks indicating a paw with four claws that curved outward on each foot.” Further details included that “it had shaggy white hair all over and a little round head” and wasn’t over five feet high.

Wayne Dozier (vocational agriculture teacher at Edison High School) investigated and dragged a wooden frame over the tracks to preserve them. Then he brought from town Doug Flowers (athletic

coach), where they found a “wisp of silky curly white hair on a strand of barbed wire,” which was later submitted for analysis.

Among the other witnesses was a share-cropper family by the name of Alberta Dunnell.

A zoologist, O. K. Fletcher, proposed what was being seen was a kangaroo. Tom Sellers of the *Columbus Ledger* investigated the story and declared that probably the “thing” seen by Whaley was different from the “thing” seen by people around Edison, 30 miles away—which Fletcher thought might be a bear! He hazarded no guess as to what had attacked Whaley. [4]

Despite the national wire-service and newsstand publicity about the “Georgia Gorilla,” half-a-century later these series of close encounters with Bigfoot have been ignored by researchers of Bigfoot lore and history—an all too typical situation.

It has now been established that during the summer of 1955 in Georgia, sightings of one—and possibly several—smaller, human-size (immature?) Bigfoot were presenting themselves throughout this southern state of Georgia. Further investigation on the part of the authors is currently being undertaken to obtain additional local news accounts of these “Georgia Gorilla” sightings to present a more accurate and detailed account of the extent of what was occurring.

Acknowledgement:

The authors wish to thank the library staff of the Terrell County Library of Dawson, Georgia, for supplying the copy of the weekly *Dawson News* article of Whaley’s encounter, and additional leads to further investigate.

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- 1) Anonymous. Forester Is Attacked By Mysterious “Thing.” *The Dawson News* (Georgia). 4 August 1955 (Thursday), page 1, column 1-3.
- 2) Anonymous. ‘Hairy Ghost’ Strikes Anew, Victim Escapes. *The Washington Post* (D.C.). 4 August 1955, page 3, column 4-5.
- 3) Anonymous. Woodsman Tells Of Attack By Ghostly ‘Creature.’ *The Hartford Courant* (Connecticut). 4 August 1955, page 2, column 7-8.
- 4) Curtis Fuller and Mary Margaret Fuller. I See By The Papers—“Georgia Monster.” *Fate*. January 1956, volume 9, number 1, (whole #70), pages 12-13.

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