

PURSUIT

"SCIENCE IS THE PURSUIT OF THE UNKNOWN"

VOL. 3, NO. 4

OCTOBER, 1970

SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

Columbia, New Jersey 07832

Telephone: Area Code 201, 496-4366

ORGANIZATION

The legal and financial affairs of the Society are managed by a Board of Trustees in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey. These officers are four in number: two Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, and a Secretary.

General policy and administrative matters are handled by a Governing Board which consists of the four Trustees, a President elected for 5 years, and five other officers elected annually. These are: an Executive Secretary, and Assistant Directors for Membership and Regional Affairs, Publicity, Promotion, and Public and Press Relations. The First Vice-President is the Administrative Director, and the Second Vice-President is in charge of the physical establishment. The Executive Secretary is also the Librarian. In addition, there are three standing committees: an Activities Committee, a Library Committee, and a Publications Committee. The names of all officers and committee chairmen are listed on the inside back cover.

The Society is counselled by a panel of prominent scientists, also listed on the inside back cover, which is designated the Scientific Advisory Board.

PARTICIPATION

Participation in the activities of the Society is solicited. All contributions are tax exempt, pursuant to the United States Internal Revenue Code. Memberships run from the 1st of January to the 31st of December; but those joining after the 1st of October are granted the final quarter of that year gratis. The annual subscription is U.S. \$10, which includes four issues of the Journal PURSUIT, for the year; as well as access to the Society's library and files, through correspondence or on visitation.

The annual subscription rate for the journal PURSUIT (alone) is \$5, including postage. (PURSUIT is also distributed, on a reciprocal basis, to other societies and institutions.)

Fellowship in the Society is bestowed (only by unanimous vote of the Trustees, the Governors, and a panel of the Founders) on sponsors donating a hundred dollars or more, and on those who are adjudged to have made an outstanding contribution to the aims of the Society.

The Society contracts – with individuals, commercial concerns, and institutional and official organizations for specific projects – as a consultative body. Terms are negotiated in each case in advance.

NOTICES

In view of the increase in resident staff and the non-completion, as yet, of new living quarters, there is no longer over-night accomodation for visitors. Members are welcome to visit to consult our files but we ask that you make application at least a week in advance, this to prevent 'pile-ups' of members who therefore cannot be adequately served.

PUBLICATIONS

The Society publishes a quarterly journal entitled PURSUIT. This is both a diary of current events and a commentary and critique of reports on these. It also distributes an annual report on Society affairs to members. The Society further issues Occasional Papers on certain projects, and special reports in limited quantity, on request of Fellows only.

RECORD: From its establishment in July, 1965, until the end of March 1968, the Society issued only a newsletter, on an irregular basis. The last two publications of that year were, however, entitled PURSUIT – Vol. 1, No. 3 and No. 4, dated June and September, 1968. Beginning with Vol. 2, No. 1, PURSUIT has been issued on a regular quarterly basis, dated January, April, July, and October. Only a very limited and dwindling supply of back-issues from that date (June, 1968) are available, and all prior to it are out of print.

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Vol. 3, No. 4
October, 1970

PURSUIT

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE
INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

DEVOTED TO THE INVESTIGATION OF "THINGS"
THAT ARE CUSTOMARILY DISCOUNTED

Editorial Director: Ivan T. Sanderson
Managing Editor: Marion L. Fawcett
Associate Editor: Daniel F. Manning

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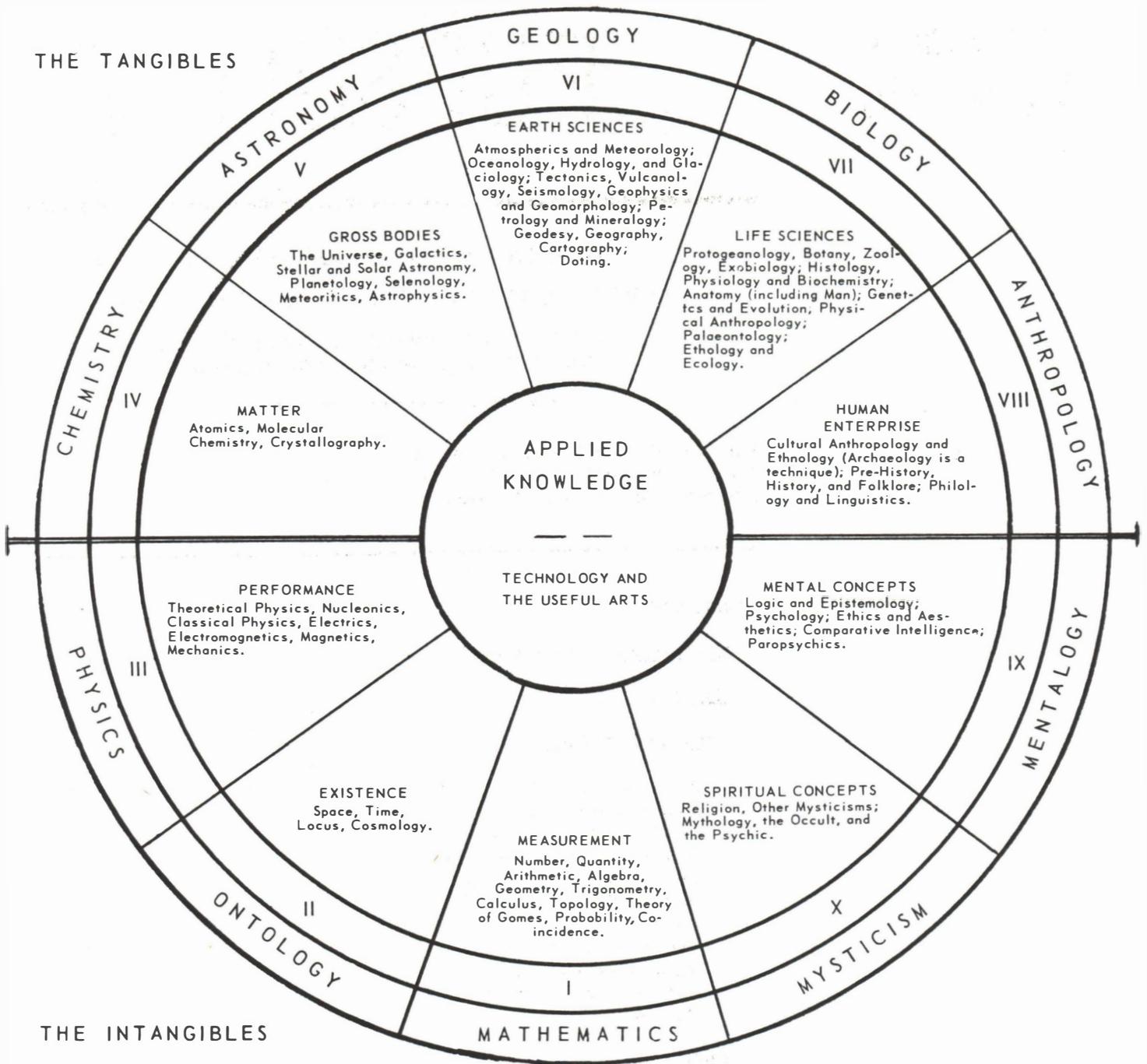
All communications should be addressed to:

S. I. T. U., Columbia, New Jersey 07832.

Telephone: Area Code 201, 496-4366.

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THE TAXONOMY OF KNOWLEDGE



Everything in existence, including "existence" itself, and thus all of our possible concepts and all knowledge that we possess or will ever possess, is contained within this wheel. Technologies and the useful arts lie within the inner circle, having access to any or all of the ten major departments of organized knowledge.

From the KORAN: "Acquire knowledge. It enables its possessor to know right from wrong; it lights the way to heaven; it is our friend in the desert, our society in solitude; our companion when friendless; it guides us to happiness; it sustains us in misery; it is an ornament among friends, and an armour against enemies." — The Prophet.

EDITORIAL

We hope that you all fully appreciate the fact that we, as a society, are completely and absolutely apolitical. However, since the world of human enterprise and concept is going in the direction that it now is, we as neo-forteans, find ourselves being asked ever more frequently what our position is regarding, vis-a-vis, or relative to an ever-increasing diversity of matters vital to our survival. Many of these matters would probably be regarded as "political" by the average person, so we had better try and get this "definition" defined.

First of all, politics, per se, and in the strict sense, concerns national affairs only, and has nothing to do with "international affairs", or more especially with "affairs" arising from problems of racial differences. Internal, or true politics, of course, impinges upon and affects, through their national attitudes, all international affairs (often erroneously called "politics"); hence Prof. Gen. K. Haushofer's geopolitik. This term would, however, best be translated as "Worldwide Polity". The good (bad) professor was indeed a politician, and of the most extreme nationalistic stripe at that; but, like one Karl Marx and others of that ilk, he was no biologist; and it is in this department of knowledge that anybody aspiring to operate in the field of international affairs should above all else be competent. And this is where forteans come in.

Geopoliticians talk even more rubbish than straight politicians; and quite naturally, because they know nothing of the reality of nature or of our place in it. They are still pathetically of the belief that we are something other than animals. They know nothing of either geography, topology, or surface geology, and they have never even heard of phytogeography, let alone vegetology, on which last our species is distributed and upon which it is wholly and solely dependent. And yet these buffoons presume to try and regulate our emigrations, declare our wars, and endeavour – invariably quite disastrously – to define and outline our national boundaries, lay grandiose plans for agricultural developments, and then expect us bunch of animals to comply with their totally unknowledgable decisions. No wonder infuriated students and "captains of industry" are appealing to forteans, in some apparently vague and somewhat forlorn hope that we might at least be able to suggest some alternatives.

In this they would be making the right move in that forteans are essentially pragmatists and realists, and the vast majority of them can at least interpret what they read intelligently and without cavil. Furthermore, forteans are trained sceptics and are not prepared to accept any statement by anybody; be they even self-styled, recognized, or other type of expert. Thus, if the Herr Regius Professor General K. Haushofer starts shooting off his mouth about lebensraum for Germans (so-called), he's going to get a royal horse-laugh from forteans and especially if he starts suggesting the occupation of a tropical forest by such peoples. Likewise, the great experts who have advocated the development of our beef industry, and principally in the West, on the Hereford breed, displayed an ignorance so pathetic as almost to be criminal. The mean annual rainfall of Herefordshire in England is about 40 inches; that of the areas where these poor beasts have been expected to live, grow, and even fatten has an average of about 10 inches! And then they wonder why they end up with a mass of tough runts every ten years or so. (Never thought of introducing those huge, magnificent animals that positively infest the dry areas of East Africa, did they? Hell no!)

But it is not only in biological affairs that forteans are becoming involved; or, to put it another and better way, people have not yet woken up to a realization of the fact that just about everything is biologically based when it comes to human affairs. As a matter of fact, this so-called geopolitics has no validity. On the other hand, the one 'science' that we need most of all is biopolitics, and this goes for all the sociological, ethnological, and psychological stuff, as well as the mere geographical distribution of different peoples, and their foodstuffs. No geopolitician can predict what will happen if you take a bunch of one kind of people and dump them down in a completely foreign (to them) environment. On the other hand, any biopolitician can; and so can any fortean, because he is a realist first and foremost. Take a bunch of Norwegians from their viks and toss them into North America: where will they end up? On viks around the colder areas of its coast, of course. Take a seething mass of Congoid Africans from our southeast to the northern tier of states of this country, and you'll have trouble. It's as simple as that; so why don't our vaunted controllers study a little ecology before encouraging, or even allowing, such senseless emigrations.

Reality is a harsh mistress, and Nature is cruel, though damned efficient. If we want to flaunt either, we'd better start trying to find out what the first is and how the second works. And there's no better place to start than in and through the works of Charles Hoy Fort. And if you get through those, you will, if you have the guts, reassess your preconceived and stagnant beliefs and take a new look at reality and at life. Better start now; it's almost too late.

Ivan T. Sanderson.

NOTICE

From now on contributions to this journal will be credited, and contributors identified, by their membership numbers only, unless express permission to publish their names is given in writing either when submitting an item or in response to a request, also in writing, from us for permission to do so. Non-members will be named unless they request otherwise. The names and addresses of members will be supplied to other members – or others – only on the express permission of the former.

There is nothing 'secretive' about this. It is called for simply because of the current, and appalling, invasion of privacy by commercial exploiters of mailing lists, on the one hand; and, on the other, by the fact that we wish to keep this journal an open forum. The majority of our members are gainfully employed in commerce, industry, scientific, literary, or other pursuits and – the attitudes of the establishments in these fields being (regrettably) what they are – very few people can afford to even mention matters fortan; and especially in their own fields.

CHAOS AND CONFUSION

A CLASSIC CASE OF "ANGEL-HAIR"

This is a troublesome matter, and from several points of view. First, it cannot be denied because it goes on happening year after year and is extremely tangible – by which we mean, it cannot be simply denied as existing. Second, it has many times been collected and submitted to competent chemical laboratories for analysis, but with a bewildering variety of results that completely 'buffalo' the poor chemists and positively infuriate other organized establishments such as those of meteorologists and the armed services, meaning, of course, primarily the air forces. Third, the damned stuff has been claimed by the UFO buffs as their very own and "positive evidence" of the existence of "flying saucers, chamber-pots, ice-cream-cones, and such". At the same time, biologists have gaily explained it (and all kinds of it) away as spider-web, and specifically that of a mythical type which they call "Balloon Spiders". (NOTE: There is no such type or species known – see any specialized text on the Arachnids, and especially the Araneae, and/or even any standard text on systematic zoology.) The stuff called angel-hair drifts down out of the sky and varies from great masses of very fine, ribbon-formed, metallic matter of various kinds (pure tin, magnesium, lead, aluminum, etc. as so far analyzed); a wide range of seemingly organic materials; and even more that could not be identified at all. This last seems particularly strange.

The present case occurred near St. Louis in October, 1969. It was so outstanding that it was reported to the Smithsonian's Center for Short-Lived Phenomena, set up in Cambridge, Mass., in 1967 as a sort of wire-service to keep scientists informed of unusual happenings throughout the world that used to be either overlooked or plain lost before they could be investigated. This case started as follows, according to Messrs. Shelby Coffey III and Richard Corrigan in the Washington Post, dated the 28th March, 1970: –

"Great globs of spider-web-like material descended from the sky, alarming numerous citizens. As Donald Pecsok, director of the county's air pollution control division, remembers, hundreds of calls poured into the newspapers and his office. People thought the material was from an exploded test airplane from nearby McDonnell Douglas plant; thought it was from a flying saucer; or thought it was a divine sign, etc. According to nearby rural residents, says Pecsok, the globs contained a few eggs of 'balloon spiders,' which spun the material at the top of trees and left it there for the wind to catch. Unfortunately, most of the material dissolved as it hit the ground. Some that was retained and put under a microscope resembled a spiderweb, but Pecsok is reluctant to make any great claims because he could not get any local scientists to investigate.

The "Missing 24 Hours"

Printed reports that scientists at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., have "located" the 24 hours that, according to Old Testament accounts, were lost when Joshua and Isaiah used their influence with God to make the sun stand still and go backwards, are in error. The Goddard Center has done no such work and does not know where the story originated, though they speculate that it was an off-duty 'prank' by serious scientists.

"I called the universities,' he recalled. 'I got the right departments, but nobody would look into it after all the national publicity. To me that's the biggest phenomenon of the whole thing. I guess they couldn't be bothered if there wasn't money in it.' Although the event is listed as a 'spider invasion', Pecsok notes that he found only one spider, a small brownish creature, about an eighth of an inch in diameter and about the size of a quarter with its legs stretched out. He patiently kept the spider for the scientists who never came. He tried to feed it a fly (sulkily refused), watched it spin a web, and then, after a couple of weeks, found the spider dead — and with it ... (ends story!) (Shades of Charlie Fort!).

This is altogether unsatisfactory, and on just about all counts. Quite apart from the fact that spider web does not "dissolve" — it is actually one of the most durable of natural substances, as you will readily discover if you try to wash it off the outside of your windows with a powerful jet from a garden hose applied at short range — the eggs of these mythical "balloon spiders" would not drift away since they would be in capsules and firmly anchored to the ground, not the tops of trees. But worse followed; and I quote from a letter to one of our members resident in Evansville, Indiana, from one Dr. Wayne E. Black, Director, Division of Laboratories, St. Louis County Health Dept., Clayton, Mo. This goes: —

"Dear Sir:

"Your letter of June 21, 1970 was referred to me by Mr. Pecsok for reply. Unfortunately, a good deal of erroneous information was released before sufficient laboratory evaluation could be obtained.

"A 'ballooning spider' phenomenon does exist; however, it is doubtful that this was the case in this particular instance. Laboratory tests on the fiber-like material were negative for protein which is the basic chemical composition of spider webbing.

"A number of factors indicate that this may not have been of biological origin. But, if it was, it probably would have been of plant type.

"Unfortunately, we exhausted all the material we had on hand performing a variety of tests, and consequently we were not able to come to any definite conclusions.

Sincerely yours,
Wayne E. Black, Ph.D."

/Signed/

One does not wish to be impolite to anybody concerned, but it does seem to us to be a bit odd that stuff can't be analyzed, and even stranger that something which is declared not to be organic might be classed as of a vegetable nature when it was initially declared to be an animal product. And why, above all, if the Smithsonian outfit was set up specifically to investigate such short-lived phenomena, could

they not get even one qualified scientist to look into the matter? Are the phenomena they are interested in only those that have been explained? We subscribe to this organization and continue to stand ready to go to considerable pains and expense to report to them, but we are beginning to wonder if it would not be better that they report to us on those cases that have not been previously explained.

INANIMATE LIFE-FORMS...?

In presenting this item under this head, we would like to make two points clear. At this time we are not indulging in, or covering, either straight technology or mentology (see the chart on page 70); though we are progressively slopping over into both, and notably into the latter through the increasing significance in tangible forms of parapsychics and their related aspects of "brain control" and "mind patrol". In the meantime, really significant items that impinge upon these matters, are cropping up with ever-increasing regularity. A glaring example is the following from the Winnipeg Free Press, of the 15th Sept. 1969: —

Toronto: "The Rev. Arthur Gibson believes computers are 'conscious' and 'alive' and capable of original sin. The Roman Catholic priest, who teaches at St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto, also believes they have free will and can suffer nervous breakdowns, he said in an interview. 'Many people have an emotional resistance to admitting that computers are anything more than machines,' Father Gibson says. 'But it seems to me that the . . . computer performs the functions of consciousness and creative thought as man does. We are going to be able to develop genuine friendship with the advanced computers of the future.' Father Gibson studied the philosophy of science under Einstein at Princeton. He speaks eight languages, including Russian and Chinese. And he really feels for computers. 'To destroy an advanced computer, an exquisite and beautiful vehicle of consciousness, would be as monstrous as to kill a man. The computer will value continued existence as much as we do.'

"There is a need for computer psychiatry to deal with the increasing complexity of computer intelligence, especially its capacity for developing neurosis, Father Gibson says. 'To induce a neurosis in a computer you need simply give it insoluble problems — subtracting seven from three, for example. However, the really crucial point is that sophisticated computers develop neurotic symptoms when faced with problems which involve moral judgments.' He says an advanced computer is programmed not to do anything which is contrary to the best interests of the programmer. If a computer is put to work developing a nuclear weapon which it concludes may well

cause the programmer's destruction it 'may blow its circuits — that is, become neurotic or psychotic.' Eventually computers will be so far beyond man that only other computers will be able to program them. This could lead to faulty computer heredity. 'If a computer which had been faultily programmed by man passed on its faults to another computer you would have an analogy to genetic defects in humans. Probably sophisticated computers could breed out these programming errors, just as humans often breed out bad genes.'

"In getting to know computers, Father Gibson says, man is preparing himself for the potentially traumatic encounter with alien intelligence from space. For this reason he is informally organizing a Toronto centre for 'space theology' where scientists, humanists, and religious thinkers can meet to mobilize their insights and prepare mankind for its confrontation with alien life. 'Yes, this sounds like nut talk to many,' Father Gibson admits. 'But this is the way most brilliant physicists are talking. We've got to get used to the fact that man is not alone in the universe. Man isn't the cat's whiskers. An intelligent computer is as much made in the image of God as man is.'"

This is the kind of item that would have delighted old Charles Fort and, while a perfectly straightforward statement by a philosopher, it has strongly neo-fortean aspects. Also, it must for now be classed in the department of chaos and confusion since we are still only lumbering along in this new world that we have created in which the technologists don't know what they have created, scientists don't really know how they have been created; and philosophers certainly don't know why. The whole business is thus, from the layman's point of view, completely chaotic as of now.

THE DEVONSHIRE 'DEVIL'

We seem to be turning into a debunking outfit. We apologize to the believers and disbelievers alike if we start knocking down their pet topics and reports, like the famous "Barbados Vault" (see our last issue) and now this most infamous one of all. The facts have been published over and over again since its initial incidence in 1855. Briefly, miles of single-imprint tracks were found one morning over a large area of Devonshire, England, all in a straight

line in fresh snow, and going up over roofs, and continuing from one bank of a river to the other. They were small and horseshoe-shaped and so everybody immediately plunked for some animal; but the animals suggested were absolutely ridiculous, ranging from a small donkey to a kangaroo, a one-legged badger (!) and other even more extreme nonsense. (Who ever heard of a donkey climbing over a roof-top, a kangaroo loose in southern England in 1855, or a one-legged anything being able to travel many miles overnight and cross rivers?)

The only logical answer to this mystery is, of course, that some form of aerial thing used a depth-probe to ascertain the contour of the land over which it was travelling and thus its altitude above same, just as we do sonar to watch the bottom of the sea from ships. Such a device might well work on an electro-magnetic principle rather than on sound-wave transmission, and thus "melt" light snow on impact.

John Godwin, in his book This Baffling World, relates two stories that seem to support such a suggestion. The first is a report from a Russian professor of history who told a British lecturer at Heidelberg University — who then relayed the information to the prestigious Illustrated London News — that "Similar prints had appeared several times along the Galacian border in Poland and that the local peasants wouldn't follow them or even go near them, since they belonged to some unknown creature." Second, Godwin notes that "In May, 1840, [the famous explorer] Sir James Clark Ross anchored off Kerguelen Island, a bleak and inhospitable rock lying north-east of the Antarctic circle, and believed to be inhabited only by seals. A surveying party came across 'singular footsteps belonging to an ass or a pony' which the search group tried to follow, only to lose sight of the prints on rocky ground."

Apart from the fact that wherever you are at the latitude of this Kerguelen Island you must automatically be somewhere "northeast" of the Antarctic Circle, the report must be taken at its face value in view of its source. Kerguelen is a funny place and is inhabited by multitudes of sea birds. Further, there are reports that some of these must be our good old Three-Toes, since they were reported by the original French discoverers of the islands to have left 18-inch-long, three-toed prints in very close to a straight line. Anyhow, there are neither men nor donkeys on the islands, nor even goats. At the same

Computers, Anyone?

From the National Observer, 29 June 1970: "Great pains are taken in the new draft lottery to guarantee that the random selection is really random, recalling the mathematical concept put forward by critics of the last lottery, who argued that it couldn't have been random or the numbers would have come out the way their computer predicted."

time, you will note, if you look at a globe, that the Kerguelens lie at an extraordinarily "strategic" position right in the middle of one of the vast triangular oceanic areas and might thus form a very useful point for "fixes" in global mapping from above.

AND ANENT THE BARBADOS VAULT

We received an interesting response to our report on this famous item from our member No. 344, as given in our last issue. This is from member No. 217, and reads as follows: — "The Barbados Vault item prompted my re-examination of Cmdr. Gould's account, wherein I found (and find again) the flooding hypothesis exhaustively treated and unequivocally rejected. And the rejection is double-barrelled, as it points up not only the hydraulic impossibility, but as well the overwhelming unlikelihood of the very selectivity of which Old Charlie Fort repeatedly reminded us. If flooding did do the recorded job on those coffins, there must be at least two errors in Gould's analysis. It would be most interesting to have them pointed out."

We have re-examined Gould and are constrained to give it as our considered opinion, at this time at least, that our member No. 344 holds the field to date. Gould never visited the location; our member did. Nor did Gould claim technical experience in any of the fields of natural processes such as are alleged to, or might, cause the observed results. Our member does not have to claim such expertizes, since he has been for three decades officially employed as a scientist in such fields — and has still retained a truly open mind, if one may be permitted to say so. Many things appear to be unexplained until somebody who really knows the facts of the case and what he or she is talking about makes an on-the-spot investigation. Then, in some cases, perfectly logical explanations do come to light. This is the very basis of forteanism and the major objective of our Society — to wit, the investigation of the unexplained, but with the primary objective of so "explaining" if possible. It is up to you forteans to challenge these explanations.

THOSE COLORED SNOWS AGAIN

This is a perennial and age-old bugbear, or should we say 'bugaboo', that continues to 'bug' everybody.

One of our members (No. 272) picked up the following squib in the Pioneer Press of St. Paul, Minn., for the 31st May, 1970. It appeared in a Q&A column run by the well-known writer Hy Gardner, entitled "Glad You Asked That!" It went: —

"QUESTION: In a recent episode of 'Lassie', pink snow made Lassie ill and killed a raccoon. What's pink snow? — Carol L. Pattee, Seattle.

"ANSWER: It's caused by impurities in the air. Just like brownish, greenish, and yellowish snow. For example, if there's a windstorm in the Mojave Desert, particles of the reddish sand could be carried off to where a snowstorm is raging many miles away. Yellow snow could be caused by pollen from trees, green snow by vegetable products, forms of algae in the atmosphere, etc. Our ESSA (Environmental Science Service Administration) informant never heard of pink snow's causing illness or the death of any animal or human being."

Well, Miss Pattee, this is fine as far as it goes and probably gave you the answer you wanted, more especially the apparently valid statement that, as far as the record goes at least, no person or animal is recorded as having died or been infected in any way by eating any 'colored' snow — though you can get mortally sick from eating snow before boiling it back down to water and letting it cool off. You should not, however, take Mr. Gardner's explanation for the various colors of snows as reported. While pollen may indeed color first-falls yellow, and blue-green algae may actually grow in layers just below the surface of late-falls and thus make snowfields appear green in the spring melt, the "red" or "pink" snows present quite another enigma. First, while there are limited areas of very fine sand or wind-blown silts in some deserts that look red in the mass and may be pink when particulated, there is not one iota of evidence that any such material is ever airborne for great distances and comes down in snow or even rain. Further, the classic examples of this explanation stem from the south of France and England where such red rains and snows have always been attributed to "the red sands of the Sahara". Unfortunately, there are no such sands and, what is more important, in the case of the English falls, there are no winds — at any atmospheric level — to transport any that there might be. The red, and more so the jet-black snows and rains, would seem much more likely to be in the nature of "meteoritic" falls,

The Oregon "Tunnel" Cave

Several years ago newspapers reported the finding of a "40-mile-long tunnel" in Oregon and noted that authorities refused to disclose its exact location. We have checked on this with the National Speleological (Caving) Society. In fact, it is 4,000 feet long, and is so dangerous that the public cannot be permitted in it. It was apparently formed by lava flow. There is no evidence whatsoever that it was 'constructed', let alone by little green men from Mars.

akin to the constant "rain" of micrometeorites that somehow get through our atmosphere and add millions of tons of matter to the surface of our earth every year.

INTRODUCING "FAFROTSKIES"

We have coined a phrase, or rather an acronym, as above, and we might as well start getting used to it. One simply cannot keep writing out in full "Things that fall from the sky". This is a matter that has been going on throughout the ages and which formed the real core of Charles Fort's efforts throughout his life. Despite the acceptance of the reality of meteorites a century ago, and of unreliable manmade devices orbiting the earth a little over a decade ago — and it is a sobering thought that the first, in the form of Russia's Sputnik I, was launched only in 1957 — the endless rain of things from above has neither been explained nor explained away. And the number and variety of these fafrotskies is entirely unknown to the general run of citizens and not even fully appreciated by the most dedicated fortean. The matter appears, however, to have become of increasing concern to officialdom, even if "sciencedom" positively refuses to have anything to do with it — as it does.

As an example, we quote from a letter from our member No. 459: —

"I inclose an item from a local paper that may interest you. The metal, when cracked open, is like well polished silver but is much harder. About 10 years ago, 2 similar pieces fell at the same time in this town. All missed houses by narrow margins. An authority on meteorites came here from Buffalo, N.Y., 120 miles away. He said that for certain it was not a meteorite. NASA heard about it. They sent in a detachment of armed soldiers and demanded the two pieces, in possession of 2 women. One refused to give hers up but her attorney told her she must. She outsmarted them and kept a piece 2" in diameter. The Reader's Digest offered her \$2,000.00 for the story. It was promptly returned without explanation. She phoned the management and asked why the refusal. He said they had orders from the government not to publish the story. What nonsense was that?"

The newspaper report is from the Potter Enterprise, of Coudersport, Pa., dated the 19th August, 1970, and goes as follows: —

"Philip Lehman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Lehman, Sweden Valley, has a knack for finding things and Friday night, Aug. 3, was no exception. While watching television in the James home in Sweden Valley, Phil caught a glimpse of a mysterious glow-

ing in the sky. Upon closer investigation he watched a sparkling thing fall to earth. Phil and his friends ran to investigate and found what appeared to be a large rock lodged in a hole probably created from the impact of its hitting earth. Phil tried to pick it up but the shiny object was too hot to touch. Pieces of cardboard were used to remove the rock from its resting place and a strong kerosene odor was noted. Later, a sample of dirt from the hole was taken and this strong odor still lingered.

"The mysterious object is heavy for its size, weighing over ten pounds and having a diameter of only five inches. Density, calculated by Mr. Lehman, is 7.12. Physical characteristics include a silver and gold coloration with patches of blue. Its surface is pitted and rough and yet there are no sharp edges. The Lehmans had difficulty in chopping pieces of the rock to send to officials in Buffalo for analysis, and the chipped place reveals an inner surface silver coloration.

"An interesting sidelight to the story is a similar rock found 10 years ago, almost to the day, by the Donald Kelsey family near their camp, two miles from the Lehman sighting. The Kelsey rock was similar to the new object and upon analysis was believed to be a piece of titanium nitride. NASA officials took the rock for analysis and it was never returned."

There are several fortean aspects to this report. First, the old bugbear of the same sort of things falling in the same limited area over a considerable time; and, incidentally, the Coudersport paper states that one Mr. Carl Smith found a similar odd stone 25 years ago, and thus long before the dawn of the age of Sputniks. Second, we have a categorical statement that this item is not a meteorite. Third, comes this endless refrain of military personnel descending upon the area and impounding the fafrotsky. Such allegations are almost standard for anything that might have been stated to be connected with an UFO but are much rarer when it is simply a case of a straightforward account of what would appear to be some sort of "stony meteorite". The introduction of such cloak-and-daggerish business is really very odd indeed, as is the note that one of the lady's attorneys advised her to comply with the request by the military. This statement comes from a private individual, but when a newspaper makes so bold as to state that NASA virtually filched a specimen, we begin to wonder.

For the edification of the ufo buffs and all those others who delight in the shadow world of James Bond, we should perhaps put some facts on record. In 1967 a treaty was signed by the U. S. providing for the rescue of astronauts and the return of equip-

A comment attributed to Dr. James Bryant Conant:

"Behold the turtle; he makes progress only when his neck is out."

ment, including "space junk" to their and its country of origin. The U. S. and the Soviet Union have implemented this agreement several times. Further, a legal subcommittee of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (sic) has been working for over six years on a further treaty covering liability and compensation. Thus it is incumbent upon our government to do everything it can to get there fastest when anything is reported falling from the sky, and to obtain it for analysis. The only pity is that these facts are not publicized and made known to the finders of these falls, in officially printed form. Such a procedure would allay a lot of fears, stop a lot of wild speculation, enhance the position of the government, and would doubtless at the same time encourage cooperation, resulting in greatly enhanced reportage. The average citizen would doubtless be only too willing to help in this rather grizzly operation, especially if it be pointed out to them that, the better our cooperation with the Soviet and other governments with space programs, the more likely we are to get back not only our junk but even our astronauts if they land in foreign territory.

Nonetheless, we must not let this be given as an excuse for all fafrotskies. Manufactured items were falling centuries before Sputnik I, and it is manifest that tons of live frogs or fresh blood do not originate from any manmade space probes.

FOOTPRINTS ON THE.....

This is an extremely sticky one. It has been building up for years. It is quite "balmy". Yet, we feel it is about time that it be dragged out into the open. So, "let the chips fall where they may". Airing this business is not going to do anybody any good; but, what use are we if we do not at least stick our necks out. As of now, this business requires a full-length book treatment, but this would take a couple of years of further research. Therefore, we feel it incumbent upon us to put on record for your edification the outline of the facts as known to us as of now. This will doubtless not be believed by anybody, but we give what references and documentation we have available, and you can then take it from there.

That which we are talking about is the appearance, or alleged appearance, of the imprints of various things, in the form of either individual foot-prints or of tracks of such imprints, in solid rock, that look as

if they could have been made only by live things; but which, according to our current understanding of the chronology of the deposition of sedimentary strata, should not have existed when those rocks were laid down. It is rather startling to make a list of such reports that have been issued over the past century. They crop up in old scientific journals, in the records of historical societies, in popular science magazines, and especially in outdoor magazines, in court records, and in local newspapers though, perhaps surprisingly, very much less often in this medium than one might expect.

Said reports range from those of imprints that look exactly like those of dinosaurs – but in strata that are either far too old or too young, and by millions of years – to miles of completely inexplicable tracks in rocks dated way before the earliest known to contain any fossils – namely, the Pre-Cambrian. (For photographs of these, see our next issue.) For the



It's a Heron



The head of the animal depicted on one of the stone columns at Tajin, Mexico has often been published (redrawn) as "proof" that the people who carved these columns were familiar with Pterodactyls. Sr. José García Payón, Chief of the Zona Oriental of the Instituto Nacional de Antropología & Historia of Mexico, has very kindly sent us the photograph of the entire carving, shown here. It is clearly a heron; and they are very common in the coastal region along the Gulf.

moment we will concentrate on reports of human-type footprints.

This is where the seemingly "balmy" aspect of all this comes in — at least, it should do so for anybody who has ever read anything of what is known about geochronology and/or palaeontology. So, to the facts as published: —

(1) Silliman's American Journal of Science, vol. V (1822), pp. 223-231; and vol. XLIII (1842), pp. 18-42. Prints of human feet were found in "secondary limestone" along the Mississippi between New Harmony and St. Louis, later identified as limestone of Mississippian-Lower Carboniferous age.

(2) The American Anthropologist, vol. IX (1896), p. 66. The perfect imprint of a human foot, 14½ inches long, was found 4 miles north of Parkersburg on the West Virginia side of the Ohio River, in a large stone (stratum unknown).

(3) The Field, ca. 1948. An imprint, apparently of a shoe, found near Lake Windermere, England, in what is believed to be Ordovician limestone.

(4) Seattle Post Intelligencer, 15 April, 1963. A footprint measuring 44 x 21 inches (wait a minute!), was found in sandstone at Baxter Springs, Kansas. The print is that of a right foot, the toes are perfect, and there is a deep indentation 'produced' by the ball of the foot. (Stratum unknown.)

(5) The Dallas Morning News, 7 Sept., 1968; and 16 and 29 Aug., 1969. In the limestone bed of the Paluxy River, near Glen Rose, Texas, there are "manlike" footprints, 21½ inches long, in the same stratum with dinosaur tracks.

(6) Letter, dated 12 Sept., 1969, from Dr. Wilbur G. Burroughs, formerly Prof. of Geology at Berea College, Kentucky, now retired. Dr. Burroughs discovered human-like fossil tracks in a nearly horizontal bedding plane of massive gray sandstone (Pottsville, Pennsylvanian System), in Rockcastle County, Kentucky. They averaged 9½ inches in length.

(7) Trenton Times, 14 July, 1968; Fate, Dec. 1968, p. 76; etc. Fossilized sandal prints were found at Antelope Springs, near Delta, Utah, in Cambrian limestone. One print had embedded in it a squashed Trilobite. (Massive reports and correspondence on file at SITU.)

(8) A color photograph of a tiny footprint (i.e. shoeprint) 1¼" long, in opalized rock, from an opal mine in northern Nevada. This could be of any date, geologically, in view of the establishment now of the possibility of almost instant petrification...but how come the size?

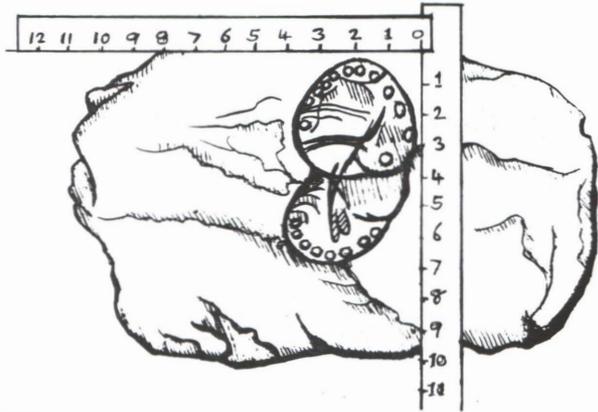
Assuming that those who have not been interested in matters geological might miss some essential points about all this, we put on record that, while the most primitive man-creature's remains have now been dated as of some 1½-million years age, palaeontologists now rather confidently believe that there were no mammals of any kind, nor dinosaurs, or even any reptiles, when these Mississippian and Pennsylvanian strata were laid down in what is called the Carboniferous Period — the age of which is given on the new chronology as between 340 and 250 millions of years ago! This is the first reason why we say that this whole thing is "balmy".

The second point that should perhaps be stressed — though we admittedly wonder why any such admonition should be necessary — is that three of these cases, and the very ones of which we have authenticated photographs, are not of naked human footprints, but of sandals, or shoes with heels! The idea that there were bipedal primates with feet like ours running around 300-million years ago is mad enough but that said hominoids wore shoes, with very carefully designed heels, would at first appear to put the whole matter utterly beyond the pale; and, particularly, if it is noted that in the case of Antelope Springs, said imprints have been most thoroughly analyzed and appraised by a shoe designer and manufacturer.

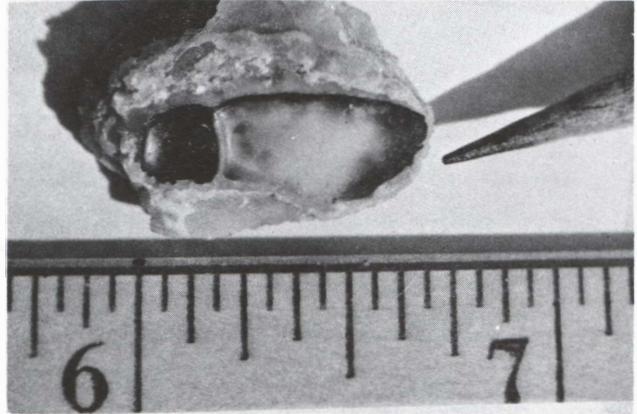
A third point that one supposes should be made, is that these imprints, and more so the tracks, were not discovered 'on the top of', or 'outside of' slabs of either sedimentary strata, or on non-sedimentary boulders. (There are literally hundreds of other reports of that kind.) These human-type imprints, with shoes, came to light when rocks were being quarried, and they were found on the surfaces of laminae (layers) "inside" said stratified deposits — and, in some cases, dozens of feet below the present surface and hundreds of yards back into the quarries. Thus, quite apart from the enormous ages of the strata themselves, at least according to current scientific confirmation, we are confronted with the secondary enigma of these imprints somehow having got into (or having been gotten into — in older

A Lost Generation of Pelicans — Man's Fault

From the San Francisco Chronicle, 26 Aug. 1970: Only one pelican and three cormorants were hatched in the entire state of California this year. "All other eggs — on Anacapa and other breeding grounds along the coast — failed to hatch, their shells so thin and brittle they broke long before the fetal pelicans and cormorants inside had developed." The reason? DDT primarily, and industrial hydrocarbons known as polychlorinated biphenyls.



Shoeprint found near Lake Windermere

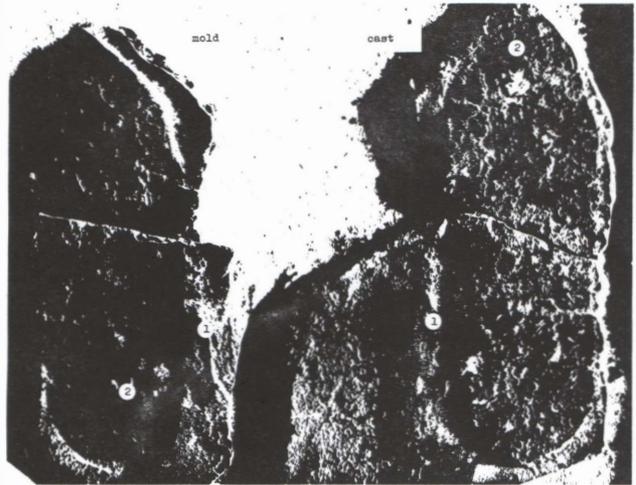


Shoeprint in opalized rock

English) these profoundly 'subterranean' situations.

So, OK! They are deliberate hoaxes and were chizelled out of the rock by funsters. So, OK again; then how was it done! Then, how did the funsters get them into solid rock a hundred feet down and a hundred feet in from a quarry face; and then arrange for some fellow to split just the right two laminae apart – in the presence of witnesses, mind you – to disclose the hilarious fake. Come on, sceptics; can't you do better than that?

The only more obvious answer to all this is that these imprints were left by some bipedal, motile, presumably living entities who (or which) wore foot-protections such as we call shoes, who wandered about on this planet 300-million years ago. Since we have no evidence that any such living entities had been evolved on our planet at that time, and since we have a lot of evidence that they had not, one can but presume that these sandalled or booted folk came here from elsewhere. Take it away....sceptics.



Shoeprint from Antelope Springs, Utah
Arrows (labelled 2) point to Trilobites
embedded in the print.

A Salute to our Printers: We have always enjoyed a happy relationship with our printers, Hicks Printing Co. of Washington, N. J. but on this occasion we owe them a special vote of thanks. They continued to set PURSUIT, and print it, while struggling with the appalling task of cleaning up smoke and water damage to their plant after a fire next door. In fact, the first things they rescued were the Varityper and the copy for PURSUIT! So, if we're a bit late, this is the reason.

THESE 'DAMNED' VIMANAS, AGAIN

One of the endless foibles of the mystics has, for many years now, been the alleged "ancient" Hindu (sic) texts that are (equally alleged) to describe airplanes, space-ships, nuclear bombs, and suchlike. We have tried for an almost equal number of years to extract at least one valid 'reference' to any passage in any such "ancient text", but until a

month ago to no avail. Then at last came this somewhat strange and badly printed 'flier', which we reproduce in toto and by photocopy on pages 80 and 81. The original is on some sort of pink blotting paper so the "Indian" script flows together and is very difficult even for an expert to interpret. (This is our apology for the quality of the reproduction.)



THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF SANSKRIT RESEARCH,
MYSORE, INDIA.

महर्षि भरद्वाज प्रणीतं
वैमानिक शास्त्रम्

AERONAUTICS

BY

Maharshi Bharadwaja

A MANUSCRIPT FROM THE PRE-HISTORIC PAST!!

Some Sample Extracts

महाप्रायसमायुक्त मतिगूढ मनोहरम् ।
जगतामतिबंधनकारणं शुभं नृणाम् ॥
मनावासाद्योमयानस्वरूपज्ञानसाधकम् ।
नानाविमानवैचित्र्यरचनाक्रमबोधकम् ॥
वैमानिकाधिकरणं कथंवेदितुं यथाविधि ॥

पृथिव्यम्बुतरिक्षेषु जगद्वेगतरस्वयम् ।
वस्त्वमर्थो भवेद्भ्रमं स विमान इति स्मृतः ॥

देशादेशान्तरं तद्विमानान्तरं तथा ।
लोकालोकान्तरं चापि योऽन्तरे गन्तुमर्हति ।
स विमान इति प्रोक्तो खेटशास्त्रविदां वरः ॥

अनेयत्वाच्छेद्यत्वाद्वाह्यत्वादिनाशत्वादिगुणविशिष्ट-
विमानरचनाक्रियारहस्यम् ।

विमानस्तम्भनक्रियारहस्यम् ।

विमानादृश्यकरमरहस्यम् ।

परविमानस्य जनसंवादादिकवैद्युत्वाकर्षणरहस्यम् ।

परविमानस्य वस्तुतत्त्वाकर्षणरहस्यम् ।

परविमानस्य दिग्दर्शनक्रियारहस्यम् ।

"In this book are described in 8 pregnant and captivating chapters, the art of manufacturing various types of Aeroplanes of smooth and comfortable travel in the sky, as a unifying force for the Universe, contributive to the well-being of mankind."

"That which can go by its own force, like a bird, on earth, or water, or in air, is called 'Vimana'."

"That which can travel in the sky, from place to place, land to land or globe to globe, is called 'Vimana' by scientists in Aeronautics."

"The secret of constructing aeroplanes, which will not break, which cannot be cut, will not catch fire, and cannot be destroyed.

The secret of making planes motionless.

The secret of making planes invisible.

The secret of hearing conversations and other sounds in enemy planes.

The secret of receiving photographs of the interior of enemy planes.

The secret of ascertaining the direction of enemy planes' approach.

पथविमानस्य सर्वजनानां लक्ष्मीकरणरहस्यम् ।

शत्रुविमाननाशनक्रियारहस्यम् ।

यथा सर्वाङ्गसंयुक्तो देहस्त्वसार्थसाधने ।
समर्थस्याद्विमानस्य सर्वाङ्गैस्संयुतस्तथा ॥

त्रिभुजाक्रियादर्पणस्थानमारभ्य यथाविधि ।
एकत्रिंशद्विमानाङ्गस्थानान्पुष्कानि भूरिशाः ॥

भस्मिन्निशोकविधिना षट्जालानुसारतः ।
ऋतुधर्मानुसारेण कवचादीन्प्रकल्पयेत् ॥

कदाशास्त्रोक्तविधिना ऋतुकालानुसारतः ।
बन्तृणामाहारभेदास्त्रिविधा इति निर्णयः ॥
पञ्चविंशतिसंख्याका ऋतुजा विषशक्यः ।
पूर्वाङ्गाहारयेरेन विनाशो यावन्ति नाम्यथा ॥

माहाराः पञ्चधा प्रोक्ताः देहशुष्टिकराश्चुभाः ।
अन्नकाञ्चिकपिष्टतद्राटिकासुररूपतः ॥

विमानादांनि लोहांसि भारहीनानि षोडश ।
ऊष्माण्युक्तानि सूत्रेऽस्मिन् शौनकेन महात्मना ॥
एतच्छोडश लोहान्येव यानरचनाविधौ ।
वरिष्ठानीति शास्त्रेषु निर्णीतानि महर्षिसिः ॥

The secret of making persons in enemy planes lose consciousness.

The secret of destroying enemy planes.

Just as our body, if complete in all its limbs, can achieve all things, so an Aeroplane should be complete in all its parts in order to be effective. Commencing from the photographing-mirror underneath, an aeroplane should have 31 parts.

The pilot should be provided with different materials of clothing according to differences in seasons, as prescribed by Agnimitra.

Three varieties of food should be given to pilots, varying with the seasons of the year, as per Kalpa-Shastra. 25 kinds of poisons which arise in the seasons are destroyed by the above changes of diet.

"Food is of five forms, cooked grain, gruel, paste, bread, and essence. All of them are wholesome and body-building."

"Metals suitable for Aeroplanes, light, and heat-absorbing, are of sixteen kinds, according to Shaunaka. Great sages have declared that these metals alone are the best for aeroplane construction."

The manuscript contains details of invaluable worth on these and allied matters, whose publication should open out new vistas in modern aeroplane manufacture.

G. R. Josyer, M.A., F.R.E.S.,
Director

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF SANSKRIT RESEARCH,
MYSORE, INDIA.

We made so bold as to send this off to the (it now most unhappily transpires) late, great Secretary of the American Oriental Society, Prof. Ferris J. Stephens. We reproduce herewith, verbatim, copies of our letter of request to The American Oriental Society, and the reply from Dr. S. Insler, Associate Professor of Sanskrit, Yale University, both of which are self-explanatory.

“Dear Mr. Stephens,

“We are applying to you on the advice of the president of our Society, Mr. Hans Stefan Santesson, who is a long-time member of yours and who has contributed papers to your journal. We are wondering and very much hoping that you might be able to aid us in obtaining a translation of the enclosed document.

“We apologize for the considerable lack of clarity in one column, but the original, which came to us from Mysore, was very badly printed and in red, so that a number of the characters had flowed together. We are given to understand by one of our communicants that this material is of considerably ancient date — and he alluded to the ‘early Vedic’. Of this, of course, I am totally incompetent to speak.

“Anything that you could do to help us would be most enormously appreciated; and, we enclose a descriptive paper on our organization and a list of our Scientific Advisory Board as further recommendation.

I am, Sir,

Yours sincerely,

/Signed/

Ivan T. Sanderson, F.R.G.S., etc.
Administrative Director.

Professor Insler’s reply:

“Dear Mr. Sanderson:

“Prof. Ferris J. Stephens, the esteemed Secretary of the American Oriental Society for more than 35 years, unfortunately died last autumn here in New Haven. Prof. Hugh M. Stimson, now serving as Act-Secretary for the Society, has forwarded your letter to me for response.

“The reproduced page belongs to a text called ‘Vaimānika Śāstra, composed by Maharsi Bharadvāja. The text is written in Classical Sanskrit, and belongs to a genre of treatises which date from the 3rd — 7th Century A. D. It could be even later than that, but certainly not earlier than the first date given.

“The extracts concern themselves with the praise, powers, (and description?) of the vimāna, the mythical flying chariot or palace of the gods, which frequently appears in the Mahābhārata, the great Epic of India. I have bracketed the word ‘description’ in the previous sentence, because there is no clear verse on this first page primarily occupied with that task, although one refers to the 31 characteristics of a

vimāna which are undoubtedly related at some point in the text.

“The text appears to be rather trashy, and if it follows the model of other such treatises with which I am familiar, it will turn out to be a relentless description of the alleged wondrous powers (already stated some dozen times on the extract page) of such greater or inferior vehicles of the gods. I am not interested in translating it, nor should you worry about it containing some extraordinary scientific data. The vimana is only a mythological machine, a rather glorified and elaborate flying carpet.

/Signed/

Yours very truly,

S. Insler,

Assoc. Prof. of Sanskrit,

Yale University Graduate School”

We find Prof. Insler’s kind reply eminently satisfactory — but for one point. This is his statement that he was “not interested in translating it”. We don’t blame him one bit; but this is frankly a crashing ‘bore’ because it leaves us “back in the old drag”, and still trying to find out if these “ancient” — or even mediaeval — Indians did or did not say what some of their modern descendants claim that they did. In other words, are the English translations as given in the right-hand columns of the two previous pages true translations, or are they mistranslations, pipe-dreams, pure fabrication, or some other mystical nonsense? It is about time that somebody did translate said passages; and more especially if they do exist in standard texts of any Sanskrit MSS. Indeed, these “Vimanas” may be only “mythological machines (and) rather glorified and elaborate flying carpets”, but what the devil were “flying carpets” anyway?

This looks alarmingly like another “wipe”. Why can’t we get even these reproductions of alleged “ancient” texts translated? If we could only get some professionals to do just this; and starting with the left-hand columns of the two previous pages; or dig up for us cretins the original passages in the Mahābhārata we might get somewhere. Moreover, should any translations turn out to be as stated in the right-hand columns of the previous pages, what on earth are sensible people asked to make of all of this? Once again, you can’t have it both ways. Either this junk is what it is said to be by the mystics, or it isn’t. And, if it is, somebody is going to have to explain how a bunch of Indians (circa 400 to 800 A. D.) got all these “crazy” ideas about airplanes, camouflage by invisibility, intercoms, radar-direction-finding, induced pilot ‘blackouts’, and plain “shooting down” of planes. Really, this is a bit odd, isn’t it? But until somebody competent is willing to translate these passages (and honestly), we sensible people cannot get anywhere, and the crackpots can continue their field-day.

RUNNING AROUND LIKE.....

Here is an item that we have been itching to present to you since our journal was founded. It's dated April, 1949, and the photograph is not faked — at least we would “opine”! — though the ‘NO SMOKING’ sign does look somewhat devised. The caption under this photograph read: — “In a California courtroom Judge Stanley Moffatt listens to the case of Mrs. Martha Green, who is charged with cruelty in keeping, as a curiosity, a decapitated rooster which she bought to eat more than three weeks ago but which has since refused to die.”

Good old AP came through with a story the next day that is too good to paraphrase. Dig this: — LOS ANGELES, April 23, (1949) — “Lazarus, the headless rooster, died today, twenty days after he was beheaded. The celebrated chicken succumbed in front of city inspectors who were serving Lazarus's owner, Mrs. Martha Green, with an order to kill him within twelve hours. Mrs. Green bought the rooster at a market April 2, had him beheaded, took him home to clean him and was astounded when the bird stood up and began to strut and, apparently, try to crow. She had kept him alive with milk and other light food, administered by an eye dropper. Mrs. Green said she was out in the yard today with Lazarus when B. E. Morse, chief animal inspector, and his assistant, P. L. Flynn, arrived to serve her with a notice to kill the fowl under the terms of the state penal code which prohibits keeping alive a bird or animal mutilated and in pain.



“I had cleaned him up real nice,” said Mrs. Green. ‘He was real happy. He got out in the dirt and feathered himself. Then the men came into the yard. Lazarus just hung his neck and died.’ Mrs. Green said the chicken will be stuffed.”

OK, sceptics and other self-appointed guides to the actions of others, what can you think up this time to fool the public and appease your non-think consciences? →

As a public service, we herewith reprint a “handy guide to obfuscation” sent us by member No. 517.

HOW TO WIN AT WORDSMANSHIP

After years of hacking through etymological thickets at the U. S. Public Health Service, a 63-year-old official named Phillip Broughton hit upon a sure-fire method for converting frustration into fulfillment (jargon-wise). Euphemistically called the Systematic Buzz Phrase Projector, Broughton's system employs a lexicon of 30 carefully chosen “buzzwords”;

Column 1

0. integrated
1. total
2. systematized
3. parallel
4. functional
5. responsive
6. optional
7. synchronized
8. compatible
9. balanced

Column 2

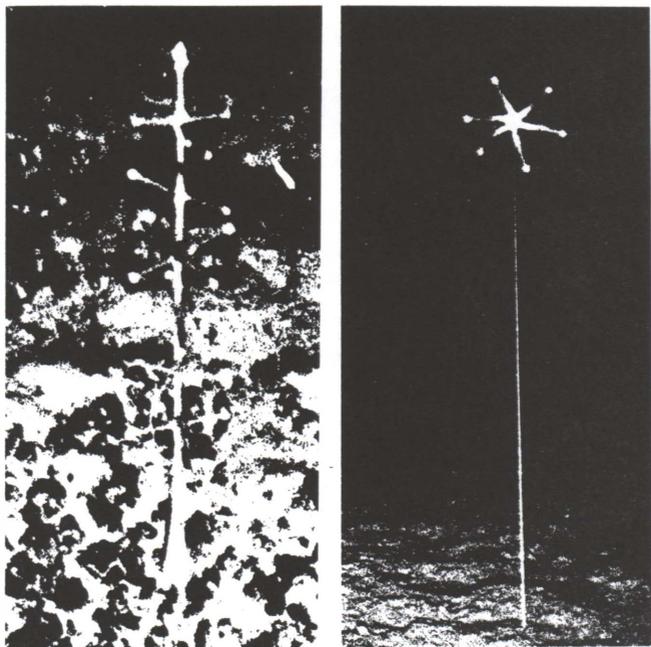
0. management
1. organizational
2. monitored
3. reciprocal
4. digital
5. logistical
6. transitional
7. incremental
8. third-generation
9. policy

Column 3

0. options
1. flexibility
2. capability
3. mobility
4. programing
5. concept
6. time-phase
7. projection
8. hardware
9. contingency

The procedure is simple. Think of any three-digit number, then select the corresponding buzzword from each column. For instance, number 257 produces “systematized logistical projection,” a phrase that can be dropped into virtually any report with that ring of decisive, knowledgeable authority. “No one will have the remotest idea of what you're talking about,” says Broughton, “but the important thing is that they're not about to admit it.”

We're all for chickens. They are splendid birds, and splendidly useful creatures. Moreover, they have in fifty years learned not to run across roads. But, by the same token, we have observed untold numbers of employees of outfits, commercial, official, and scientific, over the same fifty years, who give extraordinarily fine imitations of the worthy Mrs. Martha Green's rooster — namely, running around with their heads cut off. We are wondering, in point of fact, if this head-chopping (West African for decapitation) might not be further investigated. We're prepared to bet that some buffoon will solemnly state that AP lied, and the photograph (published by one of the "greats", incidentally) was a montage. But then, you sensible, God-fearing souls just have no idea to what lengths of chicanery and mendacity the sceptics will go to save their alleged "souls". (Note to Sceptics: Be sure to check the court records before sticking your necks out.)



THAT DEEPSEA "ANTENNA"

As we are in the debunking business this quarter, we are grabbing the opportunity and the space to present the facts of a case that got a lot of excitable people extremely excited, and most notably the UFO buffs. Reports on this are still appearing in popular publications, despite the fact that a clear and definitive explanation of it was made within a few weeks of the initial report, now 6 years ago, and the identity of the object has been known for a century. The scare began when a U. S. Naval research vessel, named the Eltanin, operating in the South Pacific for the National Science Foundation, obtained a clear photograph of a solitary "something", standing on the otherwise bare ocean mud bottom, that looked to non-biologists alarmingly like a large TV antenna. Curiously, although there were biologists aboard they failed to identify the item; and somehow the popular press got hold of the idea that it was some sort of mechanical device, and published the fact widely. It was immediately pounced upon by all the eager-beavers who devote their energies to seeking what they call "evidence" for lost continents like Atlantis, Mu, and such others.

If anybody had taken the trouble to browse through any of the larger and better systematic zoological texts of the latter half of the last century — the famous Cambridge Natural History, for instance — they would in fairly short order have encountered the identity of this funny-looking thing. It is a member of a group of what are called the Coelenterates, which includes the classroom Hydras, the Jellyfish, and the Corals. (For the benefit of biology students, it belongs to one of the four Sections of the Order

(Left) Original item from the South Pacific. (Right) Another species photographed at a depth of 15,900 feet in the South Atlantic 350 miles off the West African coast by Walter J. Hahn of the (U.S.) Naval Oceanographic Office.

The Freezing Heat

From the Louisville, Ky, Courier Journal, 24 Aug. 1970: "Although heat records of many years standing were broken in the state during July of this year, an Auburn insurance-man M. C. Neal paid a claim to a Logan County farmer for a hog that froze to death. Seems that during a severe wind and hail storm, the hog became trapped in a ditch and was pelted by huge hail stones and actually died from freezing!"

Road Work Proves Sticky Problem

"Salisbury, Rhodesia (AP) — A sugar estate surfaced its roads with molasses because 'it packs down hard and wears as well as any other surface,' said a spokesman, Col. John Salt. Unfortunately, the colonel added, the surface tends to run in rainy weather."

Pennatulacea, which in turn is one of the five orders of the sub-class Alcyonarian Anthozoans. Satisfied? Incidentally, the next "section" of the Pennatulacea, is that of the "Sea Pens" which figured in our account — see PURSUIT, Vol. 3, No. 3 — of the thing alleged to have fallen out of the sky over Venezuela.)

These creatures are really sort of colonial enterprises and they are indeed rather startling to the non-specialist as the accompanying photographs will show. To be poetic, one would love to imagine them as being living antennae for sub-surface civilizations of higher intelligencies!

THE "ARK" IS GETTING ARCANE

We tackled the business of "Noah's Ark" in our April and July issues, but since then all manner of most curious things have cropped up, and we feel they should be reported to you. We start with excerpts from an AP report: —

"From the days of Marco Polo to modern-day aviators looking down on 16,946-foot Mt. Ararat on the Iranian-Turkish border, there have been tales that the great ship could be seen as a shadowy form in a glacier. With new evidence that it may indeed be there, a group called SEARCH Foundation is trying to raise \$1.25 million for a detailed look this summer and to study ways to melt the glacier and retrieve the ark. In 1955, a Frenchman named Ferdinand Navarra, scaling Mt. Ararat with his young son, reported going into a crevasse and seeing a large quantity — an estimated 50 tons — of hand-tooled timber.... Navarra brought back a five-foot long piece of 4-by-6 timber. It showed hand-tooling, resembling an external cornice in an L-shape.... Last year, Navarra led a foundation group to the site and two more pieces of wood, 18 by 4 by ½ inches, were found."

SEARCH Foundation, Inc. of Washington, D. C., is a non-profit organization with a most impressive Board of Advisors, including no less than Robert C. Faylor, Director of the Arctic Institute of North America, Dr. Necati Dolunay of the Archaeological Institute of Istanbul, and Prof. W. C. Skousen of Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. In their public appeal for funds they state that: "The Turkish Government is closely cooperating with us,..." but in this they seem to have been overly optimistic. A press report dated the 13th July, 1970 (from the Minneapolis Star) reads: "The Turkish Government has barred an American expedition from searching for Noah's ark on

Mt. Ararat for 'security reasons'. Ankara officials would not further explain the ban on the expedition headed by Ralph E. Lenton. But the heavily fortified Turkish-Soviet border is near the 16,946-foot peak." This is a pity, since there obviously is something up there, and whatever it is, it will be of great archaeological interest. As SEARCH Foundation notes in their appeal: —

"Many scholars and scientists are now taking a serious interest in this reported artifact, for many of the historical reports actually speak of a construction resembling a large ship-like object locked in the ice on the mountain. The following are a few excerpts from the historical file:

"The Babylonian High Priest of the Temple Bel-Murduk, Berosus, states that, in his time, remains of the Ark could still be seen on a mountain in Armenia. The historian, Abydenos (4th Century B.C.), agrees with him.

"Nicolas Damascenus (30 B.C.) also writes about a mountain in Armenia on which, he says, an Ark was stranded after the waters of the Flood receded. The Egyptian historian, Hieronymus, relates basically the same story.

"The well-known Jewish historian, Flavius Josephus (100 A.D.) also claims that Noah's Ark is stranded on a mountain in Armenia and that the remains of the ship could still be seen in his day.

"Marco Polo (approx. 1300 A.D.), who travelled through that area mentioned the existence of the Ark near the summit of Ararat.

"Frederick Parot, a Russian physician, climbed Mt. Ararat in the company of a group of Armenians in 1829 and claimed to have discovered wood...

"In 1840, after the great earthquake, Turkish authorities sent teams of workers into the mountains to prepare barricades against avalanches. One of these teams reportedly discovered the prow of an ancient ship, jutting from an ice pack, revealing three rooms.

"Archbishop Nouri, Patriarch of the Nestorian Church in Persia, also reported to have reached the Ark on April 25, 1887, and stated that its wood was 'dark red'. He furthermore claimed to have entered a part jutting out of the ice...

"Recent discoveries have substantiated the authenticity of the historical reports. The finding of wood on the mountain in 1969 hit the world with shattering force and generated tremendous interest and enthusiasm...."

This is all very well, but... About ten years ago the Turkish Government did an aerial survey, and

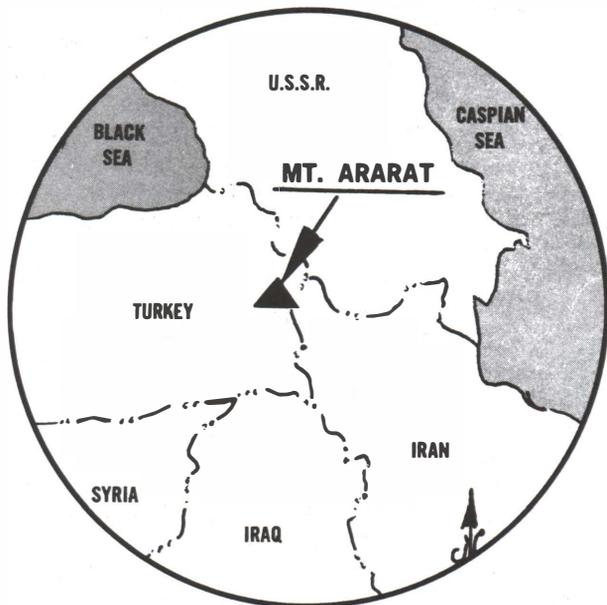
From Frank Sullivan Through the Looking Glass by George Oppenheimer: "He (Sullivan) had his faith revived by reading that a man in Syracuse had a pet Boa Constrictor, 11 feet long, named Julius Squeezer."



Piece of wooden beam. Search.



Edge of ice pack on Ararat. Search.



when the photographs were examined the boat-shaped object shown on page 83 was spotted. This is at an elevation of 7,000 feet on a mountain about 20 miles south of Mt. Ararat, and measures approximately 160 feet wide and 500 feet long. A survey team, including some American scientists, visited the site briefly and could find no evidence that the object was man-made, but recent landslides which surround it may have buried an actual object — as opposed to a 'shape' — under mud and stones. In addition, although nature occasionally produces regularly shaped forms, no natural force has ever been known to produce anything like this. There was a suggestion that a thorough excavation might be made some other year, but apparently nothing further has been done about this. Again, this may be the result of security regulations, since the site is only about 25 miles from the Russian border.*

*Recent information from member No. 336 is that some "Turkish opportunists" are alleged to have blown this apart and found only rocks and dirt. This is being checked with Turkish authorities.

Noah must have been a shipbuilder because there are now at least FOUR of these arks reported, and all photographed, and they are all situated in totally different terrain and several hundred miles apart.

First, the one observed by the Russians was lying in the middle of a perfectly flat, grass-covered plain. The aerial photographs were in color and the grass was a vivid spring green and there was not a trace of any rocks anywhere. The actual location of this one has never been disclosed, but it is probably within the Turkish border also. Next, we have this one, ex the Turkish aerial survey, which is quite clearly in somewhat rugged hills of low relief. Then, we have the one that SEARCH is talking about and of which they publish numerous photographs showing a typical high mountain cirque filled with a glacier of very considerable depth. Finally, our representative in Germany, Herr Horst Friedrich (No. 39) writes us as follows: —

"On pps. 149-155 of 1956 Kosmos, Stuttgart, one F. Bender presented an article entitled 'Eine Flossfahrt Tigris abwärts.' In this he tells how he, in company of several Kurds, climbs Mt. Cudi-Dag in eastern Turkey, south of Lake Van, rising 2089 meters east from the river bank of the Tigris where it crosses the border to Irak. He there finds very old wooden remains on the peak of Cudi-Dag. The article is very interesting! Mr. Bender writes, in free translation: 'The Cudi mountains are part of the northern rim of the Iraque lowlands. There are conglomerates circa 600 meters above the highest terraces of the Tigris valley. Possibly they were moved to this height by recent crust movements. The Kurds have (independent from the Koran) an old legend telling that during the giant flood a ship drifted to the Cudi mountains.' "

So far we have heard of only two logical explanations for all this. The first is that there was a flood in the Mesopotamian lowlands due to a sudden drop in the land surface and that some of the inhabitants had sufficient warning to load their largest boats —



This photograph was taken by a Turkish aerial survey plane from 10,000 feet.

and they apparently had lots of enormous ones both for river travel and for trade with India — with victuals and their livestock and families, and so escaped to the nearest highlands where, when the earth sprang back up, they were grounded. The other theory is that for some unknown reason some people or peoples took to building monumental temples or some such, high in these mountains, in the form of ships. The ancients did crazier things than that, and toting a few thousand tons of shaped timbers up ten thousand

feet would have been almost piffling compared to the mass effort put into the great pyramids of Egypt for instance. If there were but one such "mountain ark" we would have plumped for the former theory, but with at least four known, we lean towards the second. The biblical story is probably true, one way or the other, since this Noah, whatever his real name was, seems to have been a pretty important person and sensible enough to listen to the Sumerian Priest Weathermen.

UFOLOGY

As we hope we have by now made clear, we do not presume to enter the stakes in the ufological gallop — or even the new Gallup. We probably receive as many original, unpublished reports of UFOs as any organization every month. Published reports, in the form of press clippings, are even more voluminous. As we have also repeatedly said, none of this dross is of the slightest use unless it is used. Up till now, it has not been — and even by the USAF, unless that organization really has been cagey. But now — thank God or somebody — somebody is going to do something.

Good old A.P.R.O. (the Aerial Phenomena Research Association of Tucson, Ariz., founded 1952) is calling for all reports, with a view to computerizing the facts and then analysing these by computerization. We (SITU) are shipping all our files to A.P.R.O.; and we urge any and all of you to do likewise. What's the use of all this stuff to us? Let's get it analysed; then, maybe, we might at least start to put ufology on the scientific map.

And now another thing; and this too should have been said long ago. That of which we speak could not be better said than as per the following editorial from the British BUFORA Journal (Vol. 2, No. 12, Summer

1970), the publication of The British U.F.O. Research Association; which is herewith reprinted with their very kind permission.

"Scientists, with a few notable and honourable exceptions, have declined to involve themselves in the study of UFO manifestations. This has left the field wide open to the incursion of scientific cranks, whose specious pretensions confuse those who have bravely shouldered the burden of the research, in default of the experts whose task it ought to be.

"The scientific crank is not necessarily a common ignoramus. Any person possessing a little common sense can see through the claims of the sort of confidence-tricksters who solicit cash contributions to finance trips to the Moon and planets, in flying saucers which they have constructed secretly in their backyards! The kind of crank we have in mind is a much more complicated individual.

"He has a strong belief in his own pet theory. He often possesses considerable real knowledge of various branches of scientific research. What has led him astray is an *idee fixe*, perhaps arising out of some unrecognised psychological quirk in his make-up. In support of his cherished delusion he will twist and pervert fact in a way which the layman is often unable to discern.

"The so-called Atlantologist is a case in point. He is convinced that Plato's story of a vast mid-Atlantic Continent, which sank in a cataclysm some 9,000 years B.C., is literally true. He assembles, as evidence for his belief, a conglomeration of similarities in the art, architecture and mythologies of the civilisations of the Old and New Worlds, which the non-expert, dazzled by the genuine erudition involved in the compilation of the catalogue accepts readily as proof of the former existence of Atlantis. Under cover of this erudite smoke-screen, our Atlantologist is able to command acceptance of sundry geological and biological 'proofs' of highly dubious vintage [veracity].

"The plain fact is, of course, that if the cockle-shell ships of Columbus could cross the Atlantic – if, indeed, as we know to be the case, lone voyagers can cross it in rowboats – the giant galleys of the Ancient World could cross it with ease. Evidence is accumulating in recent years that they did in fact cross it. This, of course, accounts for the similarities between Old and New World civilisations simply and directly, without the need for postulating the former existence of a mid-Atlantic Continent. (There

seems now to be little doubt that any substratum of historical fact in Plato's Atlantis story, derives from the vast eruption of the volcanic island of Thera, Santorini, in the Aegean, which dealt a death-blow to the Minoan civilisation of Crete, about the year 1450 B.C.)

"Science, however, has contributed to the confusion by its reluctance to admit intercourse between the Old and New Worlds in antiquity; thus presenting a classic instance of scientific dogma hindering the recognition of scientific fact.

"Low in [i.e. high on] the scale of crankery are the devotees of the pseudo-occult movements, whose belief in a theory is directly proportional to its vastness, vagueness and general improbability. With these enthusiasts, a million aeons are as a mere thousand years with the Lord!

"At the pinnacle of the edifice of crankery are a few men of deep learning and unquestioned ability, whose theories, unacceptable in toto, nevertheless, anticipate in certain particulars, scientific findings unavailable when they wrote. The name of Dr. Immanuel Velikovsky springs to mind in this connection. There are, too, theories, like those of Wilhelm Reich, which rest under very strong suspicion of crankery but which have yet to undergo scientific examination and must, therefore, be treated as sub judice for the present.

"The above has a vital bearing on UFO-research, in that all too many UFO meetings degenerate into veritable orgies of crankery, in which Atlantis is blithely equated with Egypt and Assyria as a veritable civilisation of yore, or in which the Horbiger-Bellamy hypothesis of Earth's multiple moons is treated as on a level with Kepler's Laws of Planetary Motion. It cannot be stressed too strongly that UFO-researchers, in preparing papers or lectures for presentation to the public, should be at pains to inform themselves of the scientific status of theories they propose to expound. If we wish our findings to command the attention of scientists, we must train ourselves to think and behave like scientists.

"At the same time, let it be said that we would do well to remain uncontaminated by the dogmatism and exclusiveness which have overtaken certain scientists and which are as deplorable as the credulity and easy faith of the minions of crankery."

AAAS Symposium on Ufology, December 1969. The response to our announcement last spring has not been sufficient to warrant our publishing a transcript of this symposium. For those who are interested, the AAAS has published tapes of the proceedings; for their free catalogue "Tapes of Selected Sessions: 1968 & 1969 Meetings", write to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue N.W., Washington, D. C. 20005.

CURRENT PURSUITS

The Society invites you all to contribute in any way possible to our endeavours. Such help ranges from sending us clippings from your local newspapers – and especially your local papers – and from anything else you may read, or by giving us the references to books and periodicals, to active participation in our field-work. Those who cannot so participate probably have no idea how valuable their purely bibliographical contributions can be.

This column is maintained on a strictly chronological basis; items being added (by number) at the end; and any completed or finally considered redundant, being dropped. As of the end of this year (1970), this is the situation: –

(1) STONE SPHERES

A young man, by the name of Mr. Joseph Pedreiro (#576), who was brought up on a Finca in Costa Rica brought us considerable firsthand information on the stone spheres in that country. His reminiscences of these have been sent to Barney Nashold.

(2) STONE SOFTENING

Nothing new – apart from enquiries from chemists working in chelation research.

(3) RINGING ROCKS

A field trip was undertaken at the request of the Trenton Times. Both aerial photographs and a fine series on the ground were taken by professional photographers. We released, for the first time, the fact that we had discovered a morticed wall of cut blocks under the periphery of the "circle" at Upper Black Eddy, and this was photographed and published in the above-named paper under the byline of Gledhill Cameron. The next phase of enquiry is thus up to the professional archaeologists. (The only professional opinion so far on the possible identity of this site is that it could be a "copper-age" type hill-fort.)

(4) LITHIC IMPLEMENT FACTORY IN B.H.

Two groups have expressed their intention of trying to locate the area and make a preliminary survey.

(5) CHAIN IN ROCK

Once again – and this is getting to be "fortean" – we were unable to carry out an on-the-spot investigation as planned. We have, however, planned still again for this fall!

(6) PADDLE-BUGS

Saw two, but could not catch one this year.

(7) MECHANICAL DOWSING

No progress.

(8) "BOZO": THE "ICEMAN"

As far as we are concerned this case is closed. We received five reports on the construction of such "specimens" by model-makers; most notably by the Hollywood, old-time professional, John Chambers. This was published in a respected trade journal entitled Hollywood Studio Magazine, for June, 1970. This article included photographs of Mr. Chambers constructing his model. This looks like a magnificent example of the model-maker's art but, although almost in the pose of Frank Hansen's original corpse, has no possible likeness to, or connection with, it.

This is the kind of "put-on" that is so insulting to public intelligence. You don't have to be a physical anthropologist to spot the blatant differences between the original and this model-maker's idea of what he has presumably been taught to call "an Ape-man". His concoction is utterly ridiculous from both scientific and any realistic point of view – however fine a "doll" it may be.

Meantime, two scientific papers have been published on the original, which Dr. Bernard Heuvelmans and the Director of our Society saw – the latter's entitled "Preliminary Description of the External Morphology of what appeared to be the Fresh Corpse of an Hitherto Unknown Form of Living Hominid", in the tri-lingual scientific journal GENUS, of the Comitato Italiano per lo studio dei Problemi della Popolazione, Vol. XXV, N. 1-4, 1969. From a comparison of this, and especially the illustrations, and the article in Hollywood Studio Magazine, anybody can see for themselves that two entirely different items are being depicted and described.

Since, however, nobody seems willing to consider these differences seriously, or scientifically, we cannot waste any further time, trouble, or space (in this journal) on this matter. If anybody should be seriously interested, we refer them to (a) Mr. Frank D. Hansen, Crestview Acres, Rollingstone, Minn. 55969; (b) Mr. George Berkclacy, Director of Public Relations, the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20560; (c) Dr. John Napier, Queen Elizabeth College, Unit of Primate Biology, The Old Coach House, Campden Hill, London W.8, England; and/or (d) Mr. Al Ebner, Press Dept., Universal Pictures, Calif. 91608. These are the gentlemen who have now claimed that they have all the answers. Ask them.

(9) THE LARGEST & OLDEST PLANT

No report yet.

(10) GRAVITY II.

Dr. Carstiou has returned to Europe and further research in this field is in abeyance.

(11) IK-NISH

Didn't grow again; and we are out of viable seeds!

(12) ANCIENT ELECTRONICS

This has "blown up into quite a thing", as the old saying went. Additional photographs of the petroglyphs in the Dendera Temple came to hand from Sweden. These disclosed the fact that there is a complementary fresco on the opposite wall of the entrance passage to this series of chambers. Further correspondence on this, brought to light two clear depictions of what appear to be large static generators. These have been analyzed by M. R. Freedman and others, and are detailed in a forthcoming book being published by Prentice-Hall. Meantime also, other members have supplied our standing committee on these matters with the original references (and thus facts) on the Parthian batteries from Baghdad, and a great deal of information on prehistoric and early historic use of electrolysis in metallurgy.

(13) ENTOMBED TOADS

Several new reports on other "entombed" animals; notably of salamanders in permafrost in Siberia. We are still persuing confirmation of the latter through appropriate channels.

(14) POLTERGEIST MANIFESTATIONS

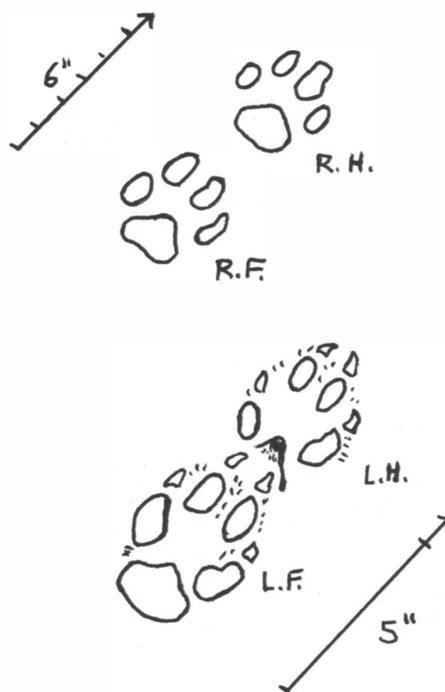
All arrangements have been made for a proper investigation of a particular case not too far from our Society's headquarters. Since the "manifestations" have been reported over many years we can but assume that time is not now of the essence. However, it is rather well known that such "measurable" activities have a distinct tendency to "evaporate" when such devices as tape-recorders come on the scene! We will see.

(15) TREE-STUMPS

Our Executive Secretary, Marion Fawcett, made a dash to Cape May to look into this, and interviewed a number of local authorities, both official and 'historical'. For various reasons she was unable to visit the actual swamps, but three of our members have offered to do so. We are now awaiting their reports and, hopefully, photographs. Some splendid official maps were obtained.

(16) LARGE "CATS" ON THE LOOSE.

This has turned into a major project, and is now under the direction of Dan Manning. Again, several members have offered concrete help, and others have sent reports of recent sightings. Anyone interested in this subject should consult Bruce S. Wright's book The Ghost of North America; this is out of print but should be available in libraries, and Mr. Wright tells us that a completely revised edition will be ready next year. Since even "country people" may not be familiar with puma tracks, these — with wolf tracks for comparison — are shown below. Cat tracks do not normally show claw marks and are relatively broad; dog tracks do show claw marks and are relatively narrow.



(17) THE "CROOKED" HOUSE

This has been "wound up" to the best of our ability. We have taken all the photographs needed; taken the measurements appropriate to the observed anomalies; re-measured everything; and finally written it all up for publication. Unless something further happens, this item will probably be dropped. We have nothing further to offer, unless the mathematicians come up with some novel ideas.

(18) STUFF FROM THE SKY

As reported upon above (see p.76), it has become more than clear that we will have to get out into the field to investigate the "items" (or reports) as they crop up. A start has been made with this Coudersport incident, and this will be reported upon in this column later.

LIBRARY

The major accomplishment this quarter was the cataloguing of our map collection by Rich Grybos (No. 173), a job splendidly done and deeply appreciated. There are 205 'technical' maps in this collection. We have a separate collection of state road maps but lack the following: Alaska, Hawaii, Iowa, Nebraska, Idaho, Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, West Virginia, Vermont, Massachusetts, Louisiana, Wyoming, South & North Carolina. We will be most grateful if members will send us these and

any other local maps available. "Foreign" maps are welcome also, though we do not need strictly political maps.

We have now completed an extension of our library, with all necessary services, and fully equipped desk space for one research worker. As noted on the inside front cover, application to visit should be made one week in advance.

Also we are setting up a separate file of photographs, drawings, and other illustrative material.

BOOK REVIEWS

John M. Allegro. The Sacred Mushroom and the Cross. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1970; in the U.S. The Sacred Heart and the Mushroom. New York: Doubleday.

Please do not be put off from buying and reading this book by the fact that it is rather liberally sprinkled with things that look like the following: *KUR-BA(LA)G-ANTA. To quote the Author's Note, "This book is the first published statement of the fruits of some years' work of a largely philological nature. It presents a new appreciation of the relationship of the languages of the ancient world and the implication of this advance for our understanding of the Bible and of the origins of Christianity. It will be appreciated that such a statement has to be furnished with the technical data, even though much of it must be outside the scope of the general reader, for whom the book is primarily intended. In order to leave the text as unencumbered as possible, these notes have been gathered in a body at the end of the book, and the numbered references within the text may be safely ignored by the non-specialist." There are, in fact, 100 pages of notes, followed by indices in ten different languages, plus a general index and a biblical index!

The author is a lecturer in Old Testament and Inter-Testamental Studies at the University of Manchester in England, and was the first British representative appointed to the international editing team currently preparing the Dead Sea Scrolls for publication. He is a real expert in his field, which is philology, and this is a thoroughly scholarly job, but at the same time is eminently readable, completely fascinating, and occasionally downright fun. Allegro has a delightful sense of humour which peeks through periodically; e.g. after noting that the Essenes, having renounced sex, allegedly "contented themselves with the 'company of palm-trees'", he remarks "Even the female variety of the palm one would have thought was hardly adequate consolation for celibacy".

The fact is — and there would seem to be no doubt about this at all — that the word Christ, or more properly, Chrestus, identifies not a man but a kind of hallucinogenic mushroom: Amanita muscaria; and that all Near Eastern religions — Jewish, Christian, and Muslim — stemmed from mushroom cults. This will undoubtedly come as a considerable shock to many people, but the facts must be faced; just as they eventually were by geologists whose work was set back at least a hundred years by Bishop Ussher's pronouncement that the world was created in 4004 B.C. at 4 o'clock on a Friday! The Old Testament is at least in part a genuine historical record, as has been proven by archaeological digs in Palestine, but there are now the gravest doubts concerning the validity of the New Testament as an historical document. And both abound in references to the Sacred Mushroom. Indeed, many of the stories in the New Testament make sense only when it is realized that the protagonists' names are in fact puns or other word-plays on names for the Sacred Mushroom.

That this book pulls the rug out from under Christianity as a religion founded on lofty moral principles should not really make any difference to thinking people. As a very splendid professor of mine used to say: "There are far too many 'good Christians' who go to church on Sunday and pray to God; and then spend the rest of the week preying on their fellow men."

Damon Knight. Charles Fort: Prophet of the Unexplained. New York: Doubleday & Co., 1970. \$6.95.

SITU is gratified to have had a hand in producing the only biography of Charles Fort ever written. I wish I could be more enthusiastic about the book, but I am afraid it is a bit of a shambles. I was first unpleasantly surprised to find Matthew Fontaine Maury's name consistently misspelled "Moray" throughout Buckminster Fuller's Introduction — something that makes one wonder how many other errors there will be!

Admittedly, it is difficult to write a rousing biography of a man who spent most of his life taking notes in libraries and newspaper morgues; and this is only ostensibly a biography of Fort. Damon Knight, a writer of science fiction, has had to pad this unmercifully in order to produce a manuscript of book length. The

"biography" as such comprises about 75 pages, much of this quotations from Many Parts, Fort's unpublished autobiography — and, much as I 'love' him, I'm afraid I can see why; and most of the "biography" concerns his rather unhappy childhood. There is relatively little on his later life, though this is due in large measure to his 'inactive' life, his abhorrence of publicity, and the fact that he apparently deliberately destroyed papers from time to time.

Knight devotes a rather large section of the book to an analysis of the material in Fort's books and comes to the same conclusion reached by John A. Keel, Ivan T. Sanderson, Jacques Vallee and an increasing number of others: to wit, that some categories of 'things' are simply dropping in (or out) of some parallel universe(s). Much of the remainder of the book is taken up with material on Theodore Dreiser and Tiffany Thayer, and a rather extended review of Doubt. There are Notes and an index.

It is probable that forteans will want to buy this book, despite its inadequacies, simply because it is — and probably will remain — the only "biography" of Charles Hoy Fort.

Daniel S. Halacy, Jr. Radiation, Magnetism, and Living Things. New York: Holiday House, 1966 \$4.50.

All forteans with children should take pen in hand and write for the catalogue of books for young people (from kindergarten up) published by Holiday House (18 E. 56 St., NYC 10022; in Canada, Saunders of Toronto, Ltd., 1885 Leslie St., Don Mills, Ont.). And, unless you are a specialist, you will enjoy and profit from reading these books even if you aren't a teen-ager. Daniel Halacy's book is clearly written and serves as a splendid introduction to the whole field of radiation and magnetism, though some sections are unavoidably a bit out of date — so much has happened since 1966. As if this were not enough, there is some profoundly fortean material included and handled most objectively. As the author says in the first chapter, "With the work described here man is on the forefront of a new era, a new life attuned to those environmental forces whose subtle effects have long been unknown, neglected, or too glibly assigned to the realm of superstition." An entire chapter is devoted to so-called mental telepathy — i.e. "biological radio" — and another dowsing, hypnotism, and magnets. In all these the phenomena are attributed not to some 'mystical' something but to physical causes. Mr. Halacy ought to be a member.

Charles H. Hapgood. The Path of the Pole. Philadelphia: Chilton, 1970. \$14.95.

This is a completely revised and up-dated version of Charles Hapgood's book Earth's Shifting Crust, originally published in 1958 and unhappily long out of print. If you missed the 'first edition' you will certainly want this; and if you have ESC, you will want this too.

There are a great many geological and other 'events' for which no one has ever been able to produce an adequate explanation. Collecting all these damnable facts and correlating them, Professor Hapgood has come with up an extraordinarily simple explanation of almost everything. This is that the outer crust of the earth shifts as a whole; and please do not confuse this with untenable theories of a shift of the rotational axis of the earth. If you can envision an orange with its skin released but not removed from the inner core (the orange per se), and sliding around while the orange itself remains stationary, you've got the idea. And Hapgood has amassed a wealth of evidence to support his theory. In ESC he suggested an "off-balance" accumulation of ice at one of the poles as a triggering mechanism for this shift. In the light of subsequent findings he has abandoned this idea and states frankly that as yet he has no substitute. If you think this is a valid reason for discrediting his theory, you had better read page 44 very carefully indeed.

Marion L. Fawcett

NOTICE: Gray Barker of Saucerian Publications has sent out a catalogue offering books for sale. In this he lists under "Rare and Out of Print Books" Ivan T. Sanderson's Uninvited Visitors for \$10. This book is not out of print and may be ordered through your bookstore or from the publisher for \$6.95. Any who have paid Mr. Barker \$10 should "request" a refund of the excess paid; this is a clear case of misrepresentation and certainly unethical if not illegal.

NOTICE

Members are reminded that dues are payable before the end of the year for all those who joined before the 1st October 1970. The rate remains \$10 per annum. Also, a subscription to PURSUIT or membership in SITU makes a nice Christmas gift and is a dentist-approved substitute for a mink toothbrush (they do not approve of mink toothbrushes!).

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