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# PURSUIT<sup>®</sup>

"SCIENCE IS THE PURSUIT OF THE UNEXPLAINED"

VOL. 9 NO. 2

APRIL, 1976

## **SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED**

Columbia, New Jersey 07832  
Telephone: Area Code 201 496-4366

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is \$10 a year and runs from the 1st of January to the 31st of December. Members receive our quarterly journal PURSUIT, an Annual Report and Auditor's Report, and all special Society publications for that year.

Members are welcome to visit our Headquarters if they wish to use the Library or consult the staff but, due to limited facilities, this can be arranged only by prior appointment; and at least a week in advance.

- YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A PROFESSIONAL OR EVEN AN AMATEUR SCIENTIST TO JOIN US.

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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. The Society is also counselled by a panel of prominent scientists, which is designated the Scientific Advisory Board.

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- The Society is completely apolitical.
- It does not accept material on, or presume to comment upon any aspects of Human Medicine or Psychology; the Social Sciences or Law; Religion or Ethics.
- All contributions, but not membership dues, are tax deductible, pursuant to the United States Internal Revenue Code.
- The Society is unable to offer or render any services whatsoever to non-members. Further, the Society does not hold or express any corporate views, and any opinions expressed by any members in its publications are those of the authors alone. No opinions expressed or statements made by any members by word of mouth or in print may be construed as those of the Society.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Our publishing schedule is four quarterly issues of PURSUIT, dated January, April, July, and October, and numbered as annual volumes — Vol. 1 being 1968 and before; Vol. 2, 1969, and so on. These are mailed at the end of the month. (Membership and our quarterly journal PURSUIT is \$10 per year. Subscription to PURSUIT, without membership benefits, for libraries only, is \$8 for 4 issues.) Order forms for back issues will be supplied on request.

PURSUIT is listed in Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory and in the Standard Guide to Periodicals; and is abstracted in Abstracts of Folklore Studies. It is also available from University Microfilms, 300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106. The price is \$4.10 per reel. An annual index appears in the October issue.

Vol. 9, No. 2

APRIL, 1976

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Assistant Editor  
R. Martin Wolf

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE  
INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

FOUNDED BY IVAN T. SANDERSON

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

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## GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING MANUSCRIPTS

SITU members and friends are encouraged to submit articles for possible publication in **Pursuit**. If unable to write an article, submit the results of your research (newspaper clippings, replies to letters, photographs, charts, drawings and comments).

You do not have to be a professional writer or scientist to prepare manuscripts for this journal. Manuscripts should be submitted to SITU, **Pursuit** editor, R.D. 1, Columbia, New Jersey 07832. Please do not submit handwritten manuscripts. All manuscripts must be typed on 8½ x 11-inch white paper, double-spaced, on only one side of each page. The first page of the manuscript should carry the title, date, author's name, SITU membership No. (if any), author's professional affiliation (if any), and mailing address. Each subsequent page should have the page number typed in the upper left hand corner followed by the author's last name.

### ILLUSTRATIONS AND TABLES

All illustrations should be submitted as india ink drawings or good quality glossy black-and-white photographs. Legends should be typed on separate sheets of paper with appropriate identifying numbers. Each illustration should have a label affixed to the back with the following information: figure number, name of author, and arrow indicating top.

Each table should be typed double-spaced on a separate sheet of 8½ x 11-inch paper and should include the table number and title. The author's last name should be typed in the upper left hand corner.

### REVIEW AND PUBLICATION

All manuscripts will be reviewed by one or more members of the editorial board of **Pursuit**, and all will be subject to copy editing. Authors will be notified at the time of editorial action. A typescript of edited copy will be submitted to the author for approval if major editing is necessary. Manuscripts will usually be retained in SITU files. Photographs will be returned if a stamped self-addressed envelope is enclosed, but it is requested that photos and documents be submitted for retention in the permanent SITU files.

### REFERENCES

References, if any, should be numbered and typed double-spaced at the end of the manuscript. The following information should be given in reference citations: names of all authors, complete title of article cited, name of journal or periodical, volume number, page number, month and year of publication, and (if a book) name of publisher.

### SUBJECT MATTER

Articles published in **Pursuit** are in keeping with the interests and objectives of the Society, as first detailed by the late Ivan T. Sanderson in 1968. Briefly, these include two main categories: (1.) New scientific discoveries incorporating a paradoxical or "unexplained" element, (2.) True Forteana, which we lightheartedly call "Chaos and Confusion." These are the real mysteries and unexplaineds, usually known as **Fortean Phenomena** in memory of Charles Fort who first broke through the confines of orthodoxy and published four books of facts and speculation on the subject.

### RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

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The Society is pleased to inform our members that there have been some changes made at Headquarters. Instead of one office, we now have three. This has been brought about by completely remodeling what was formerly the dining room, living room, and two bedrooms of the old Headquarters. The three attractive offices that have evolved are due primarily to the efforts of Carl Zwerver (and family), and it is with much more than just appreciation and gratitude that we extend to him our thanks for all that he has done for SITU.

# EDITORIAL

## UPDATE ON FORTEANA

When Ivan T. Sanderson founded this Society over a decade ago he put forth some very intelligent ground rules including a ban on "any aspects of Human Medicine or Psychology; the Social Sciences or Law; Religion or Ethics". At that time those subjects seemed remote from the Fortean interest in unknown animals, meandering nocturnal lights, geographic anomalies and archaeological conundrums. The past decade, however, has seen a dramatic change in the overall approach to these matters. Psychiatrists, psychologists and sociologists are now deeply involved in UFO research. All of the once-strictly-physical sciences are merging into a superscience which is actively exploring so-called **innerspace** as well as the visible universe. Even religion is being absorbed into this superscience.

Behind the closed doors of scientific academies all over the world, learned men are discussing parallel universes, anti-matter, the possibility of extraterrestrial life and the nature of reality itself. Realms which were once the exclusive domain of a handful of Fortean researchers are now public property. A Golden Age of Forteana has arrived with surprising and unexpected suddenness. Ufology, once considered to be the hobby of cranks, has attained respectability. Popular books, such as the phenomenally successful **The Bermuda Triangle** by Charles Berlitz, are turning a large segment of the population into amateur Forteans. Television and motion picture documentaries on Fortean subjects are assaulting the public's senses. Newspapers are filled with sober accounts of new breakthroughs at Loch Ness, and in Abominable Snowman research. Occult subjects, sneered at a few years ago, are now being studied at major universities.

We could choose to ignore this explosion and go about our quiet way, collecting "angel hair" and cataloging the mischievous appearances of kangaroos in the American countryside. But this Society has become a recognized leader in the Fortean field worldwide. To maintain that leadership it must bend, if ever so cautiously, in the winds of change. Certain aspects of psychology and parapsychology (**or parapsysics**) belong in the pages of this journal. The exciting exploration of innerspace has become a natural extension of our other interests. Even the important new studies of religious apparitions demand our attention.

During our first years of existence, **SITU** and **Pursuit** were dominated by Ivan Sanderson's towering intellect. Now that Ivan is no longer with us we call upon all members and friends to contribute to these pages. In addition, we expect to offer articles by highly qualified, recognized authorities in all of the aforementioned interlocking areas of interest.

The sociological impact of UFOs may prove to be more important than the UFOs themselves. The psychological effects of monsters and sea serpents on their witnesses may provide us with the most valid clues to their exact nature. Fish falling from the sky may tell us something about the eccentric composition of space, time and parallel universes. Above all, a coordinated effort to explore all of these seemingly disparate fields in a cohesive manner may well uncover some remarkable new facts about the human race itself and its ultimate place in the cosmos.

This is what our Society is all about.

# LITERARY CHAOS AND CONFUSION

## MR. FORT

by David Weidl

I recently did some digging into the question of the reception accorded to the books written by Charles Fort. As one might imagine, the reviewers seemed rather perplexed by the whole business. Then, as now, Fort presented an enigma to the reader. And although his very peculiar writing style caused more than one reviewer to balk, it was obviously the incredible subject matter of the books that resulted in the confusion. Here, with thanks to the H. W. Wilson Company (**Book Review Digest**) and the **New York Times**, we present the Times Reviews in their entirety, together with summaries of other reviews of the four books of Charles Fort.

**The Book of The Damned** was reviewed in the **Times** on February 8, 1920 by Maynard Shipley. His review is entitled "Book of the Damned."

"The startling title of this volume prepares the reader at the outset for something uncommon — probably bewitchingly wicked, of a nature to be read with discretion, where squeamish men and women have no chance to look over one's shoulder, and when the children have been sent safely off to bed. The opening paragraphs bear out that promise thus:

A procession of the damned.

By the damned, I mean the excluded.

We shall have a procession of data that Science has excluded.

Battalions of the accursed, captained by pallid data that I have exhumed, will march. You'll read them—or they'll march. Some of them livid and some of them fiery and some of them rotten.

Some of them are corpses, skeletons, mummies, twitching, tottering, animated by companions that have been damned alive. There are giants that will walk by, though sound asleep. There are things that are theorems and things that are rags: they'll go by like Euclid arm in arm with the spirit of anarchy. Here and there will flit little harlots. Many are clowns. But many are of the highest respectability. Some are assassins. There are pale stanches and gaunt superstitions and mere shadows and lively malices: whims and amiabilities. The naive and the pedantic and the bizarre and the grotesque and the sincere and the insincere, the profound and the puerile.

"But after that, except that the jerky, Rabelaisian trick of style is maintained throughout the nearly three

hundred tedious pages, it is all painfully and bore-somely commonplace. What the author seems to mean—if he means anything — is that science and worldly sentiment exclude from the realm of possibility various phenomena which actually have existed. Like the farmer who, when he first saw a giraffe — or was it a rhinoceros? — declared dogmatically, 'There ain't no such animal.' So the book is filled with alleged authenticated reports of red, blue and pink snow, live frogs embedded in ice falling from the clouds, meteorites of unknown substance, flakes of snow seven inches in diameter, and so on. The assertions about these curious visitations are the excluded, or 'damned,' facts about which the author writes. Whether he reaches any conclusion in connection therewith, or what that conclusion is if he does reach it, is so obscured in the mass of words — a quagmire of pseudo-science and queer speculation — that the average reader will find himself either buried alive or insane before he reaches the end. But the very queerness of the book may be its salvation. There are persons, perhaps living in Greenwich Village, who may enjoy puzzling through it."

**The Catholic World**, June issue, is not much more friendly: "To read of them is to be inspired with an interest which has no need of the book's sensational title; nor is it increased by the author's quasi-scientific speculations which he presents in a staccato style that soon produces the wearying effect of a series of explosions." **Nation**, April 10: "**The Book of The Damned** reminds one of Harnack's characterization of the gnostic work **Pistis Sophia** as 'dedicated to the propaganda of systematic idiocy.' "

Nevertheless, Boni & Liveright made some money on the book, and Fort picked up a considerable following, even in places outside of Greenwich Village. **New Lands** appeared in 1923. The Times review by R. Heylbut Wollstein was entitled "Those Terrible Astronomers."

"The author of the volcanic **Book of The Damned** has put forth a further chapter in his opus of inverted damnation. The pages at hand, which he styles, 'banners in a cosmic procession,' champion — and most vigorously — the cause of certain astronomical hypotheses which are not recognized according to the accepted theories of that science. Hence, possibly, the vigor.

" **New Lands** has a double purpose. It scourges, abuses and flays astronomy and astronomers for clinging to their data that cause them to disregard Mr. Fort's theories which are then built up upon



Fort at his super checkerboard.

(Credit: Damon Knight  
**CHARLES FORT, PROPHET OF THE UNEXPLAINED**)

the foundation of their own data. Clearly, the point at issue is less a question of dogmatically following data at all, than of whose observations are to be accepted.

"There are three principal theories which Mr. Fort defends. He presents proof, tintured with polemic and arguments, colored with anathema, to establish: First, that the earth is stationary, neither revolving upon an axis, nor moving in an orbit; secondly, that the stars, instead of being luminous celestial bodies, are but openings in an encasing, shell-like matter that surrounds the earth, and lastly — and most importantly — that not only are the planets much nearer to us than scientists (with a hissing of the S) suppose, but that there exist unnamed, unadmitted bodies in the sky, the new lands, that lie close to us indeed, sending out manifestations in the form of ships, horses and human bodies, no higher than the clouds; phenomena which simple folk have seen and interpreted as spiritual visitations.

"Chief among Mr. Fort's arguments is the fact that the present orthodox astronomy was, in the days of its (unfounded) infancy, a heresy against the then reigning dogmas. Just as surely, continues the writer, will there come new discoveries that will, in their turn, shatter the standards and theories that are now generally accepted. Mr. Fort's favorite method of proof seems to consist in lining up an array of data supporting his beliefs, and in matching it with a cohort of carefully selected errors in the field of orthodox astronomy. For example, on page 36 he draws a scathing table of astronomical authorities who recorded the passing of an 'unknown body' across the disc of the sun upon a certain date, adding that according to eminent evidence the planet Mercury did cross the disc of the sun at exactly that time. Turning, then, to page 116, the reader discovers a series of pages given over to an enumeration of testimony — 'reports of some of the best-known astronomers' — concerning the observation of many 'unknown worlds' — the new lands. Remembering the Mercury fiasco, might it be possible to establish some sort of analogy?"

**The Boston Transcript**, December 26, 1923: "An amazingly interesting book, whether Mr. Fort be regarded as a marvel or as a madman."

**The Springfield Republican**, January 2, 1924: "**New Lands** may be said to be a diverting if unavailing fusion of fact, fancy and philosophy. The large element of fancy may not impress the average reader as well calculated to contribute strength or durability to the resulting literary alloy."

Eight years later Fort produced **Lo!** Maynard Shipley reviewed it in the March 1, 1931 issue, under the title "Charles Fort, *Enfant Terrible* of Science." This is probably the kindest, and most perceptive of the major reviews.

"A few months ago Edmund Pearson rather went out of his way to classify Charles Fort's two books, **The Book of The Damned** and **New Lands** among

freaks and curiosities of literature. Those books appeared in 1919 and 1923, respectively. The cost of the research involved in their preparation was the author's eyesight. On his gradual recovery he went to work on the third of a series which is unique in the history of literature and science. This third book is simply and eloquently entitled, 'Lo!'

"**Pace** Pearson and some others, the appearance of a new book by Charles Fort is a real event to the rather small coterie of his early and ardent admirers. Ranged on the other side are the unchangeably conservative and the distrusting of bold flights of imagination in scientific fields. Fort, it is true, writes thrillers — non-fictional thrillers, but more melodramatic than any mystery novel yet published. He is rash; he ventures where angels fear to tread; often his daring overtops his knowledge. But his data — if not his conclusions — are thoroughly grounded and he is perhaps the enzyme orthodox science most needs.

"The 'Damned,' to Fort, are the facts reported — usually in scientific journals, sometimes in the contemporary press — which are then discarded or ignored because they do not fit in. They are 'believe it or not' items which it is difficult to accept but impossible, in all honesty, to ignore. A description of his work without acquaintance with it would necessitate too extensive quotation. He is the *enfant terrible* of science, bringing the family skeletons to the dinner table when distinguished guests are present.

"It is not surprising that some of the literary sponsors of his latest book, unfamiliar with the methods and achievements of science, should rather overdo themselves and harm their idol by too uncritical and exaggerated excitement.

"For the genuine service Fort does to legitimate scientific inquiry is more or less stultified by his lack of comprehension of scientific method, particularly in astronomy. Perhaps the astronomers are all working on a false trail; perhaps Fort's theories and conclusions (which cannot here be detailed, since without his mass of data they would only repel the unacquainted reader) are correct; but astronomers are not the negligent and sleepy fellows he opines them to be. They work unceasingly and fruitfully, if not in the ways Charles Fort would direct them to.

"Discount, however, every one of Fort's hypotheses, and the solid body of his data remains — a life-work in itself. To the man's utter sincerity and incredible energy I can testify without reservation. The mind curious about this world and its phenomena will find besides in his books a store of exciting material uniquely presented, such as no other author can offer. The people who will become thorough Fortean are those who pored over Jules Verne in their youth and were graduated from him to the Ignatius Donnelly of **Atlantis** and **Ragnarock**; but Fort is more thrilling than Verne and far better documented than Donnelly.

"There is no describing such a book as **Lo!** All that can be done is to recommend its reading — and to caution the reader to hold on meanwhile to sober,

unimaginative, dogmatic science, with all its errors. Reading Fort is a ride on a comet; if the traveler return to earth after the journey, he will find, after his first dizziness has worn off, a new and exhilarating emotion that will color and correct all his future reading of less heady scientific literature."

**The New York World**, February 13, 1931: "Apparently Fort is the king of clippers. He has snipped strange bits of information from all sorts of periodicals with the most profound confidence in the accuracy of the report. He tells not what a man said about showers of mud, red glows in the sky, but what some periodical reports the man to have said. He takes for granted at once that when a layman discovers a new star he routs all the scientists who have been engaged in looking for it."

The last book of Charles Fort was called **Wild Talents**." This review, unsigned, appeared in the **Times** for June 12, 1932; under the heading "Mind and Matter."

"Here is surely as wild and weird a book as was ever written, except, perhaps, the author's previous works, **Lo!**, **New Lands** and others, all somewhat similar in method, purpose and style. Mr. Fort describes himself at the beginning of the second chapter as a 'collector of notes upon subjects that have diversity.' To illustrate this rather cryptic account of himself he goes on with instances, 'such as deviation from eccentricity in the lunar crater Copernicus and a sudden appearance of purple Englishmen, stationary meteor-radiants and a reported growth of hair on the head of a mummy.' But his interest is especially enlisted, he says, by relations and alleged coincidences between things and happenings. What if, he asks with the poking, prying investigating mind of the scientist, some of them should not be coincidences?"

And there you have the embryo of the book. It is full of items from newspapers, some of them of ordinary nature and some unusual and intriguing. These are collected into chapters that deal, separately, with happenings of a more or less similar character. One of them, for instance, masses together items about two dead bodies being found close together at the same time, another simultaneous disappearances, or curious accidents occurring at about the same time, or other happenings that seem to have some sort of unexplainable relationship to one another or to something else. And there is given a good deal of space to citation and accounts of weird incidents that seem to transcend all natural law. There was a man in England, for instance, who couldn't be hanged because the trapdoor of the gallows repeatedly would not drop when he stood on it, the dog which could not be lost, the woman who could not be pushed, and so on.

"All these items are considered and discussed in a style as whimsical and unusual as the book itself, a style that goes warily around its theme, makes tentative suggestions, breaks off in the middle of sentences just as the author seems about to state some startling conclusion. The amount of it all is, as

one gathers little by little and finally, toward the end of the book, learns quite surely, that Mr. Fort is suggesting a theory, advancing the hypothesis that in things and people and the relations between them there dwells some sort of power of which mankind is as yet only dimly and fearfully — and then only occasionally — conscious, that this is beyond his control, 'a wild talent, an uncultivated, rude, unreliable power.' He envisages it as being an illumination of the old controversy of the action of mind upon matter, a problem which, he thinks, can be 'rendered into thinkable terms by asking whether mind-matter can act as matter-mind.' Quoting from a recently reported interview with Dr. Compton of the University of Chicago the statement that the new physics admits the possibility of the action of mind on matter, Mr. Fort gives such a power the name of 'mechanical witchcraft.' In the last chapter the author discusses at some length the famous fuel-less motor of J. W. Keely which a generation ago attracted wide attention and sees its explanation in the influence upon the man who made it, its motivation 'a wild talent.' Mr. Fort's death only a few weeks ago brings to an untimely end his investigations and daring hypotheses. It would have been most interesting to see what weird and startling conclusions further exploration might have led him to."

From **Books**, June 5, 1932: "**Wild Talents** is just such another miscellaneous collection as **Lo!** or **Book of The Damned**. It does not in any way seriously consider what is known and regarded of scientifically unrecognized human endowments. It does not go outside the newspaper reports."

The **Saturday Review of Literature**, July 2, 1932: "Just what is wrong with an intelligent public that will listen to or read such cracked wisdom, punctuated by wisecracks in bad taste, or with publishers who write absurd blurbs to absurd books, cannot be diagnosed in a sentence or paragraph. Whether the bottom has dropped out of thinking as out of the stock market, is one question; why, is another. Except to satisfy curiosity, there is no need to consider **Wild Talents**."

The **Book Review Digest** summary of **Lo!** "From the files of many periodicals Charles Fort has gathered his data on all manner of unexplained earthly phenomena to make this curious book. Mr. Fort is the prince of skeptics: he does not believe anything; he takes great joy in presuming to explode the theories of conventional pragmatists, the weighty and solemn prognostications of science. Mr. Fort is particularly interested in the possibilities of teleportation; he takes pains to report such strange occurrences as showers of frogs, water, 'slow falling' stones and insects from 'appearing points' in the skies; and certain mysterious vanishings of people from time to time — disappearances that have troubled the minds of many practical gentlemen, including policemen, detectives, and newspaper reporters."

Burton Rascoe writing in **Books**: "You can read **Lo!** in almost any way you like or in any mood your temperament dictates, and whatever way you read it,

it is a great book. You may take it as pure fantasy and you will find it gorgeous stuff, full of poetic imagery, eloquent in the grand manner, beautiful to read. You may take it as an intellectual hoax and still you must admit it is a marvelously contrived one, satirical, subtle, full of laughs at the expense of the big-wigs of science. You may take it as a sort of pseudo-divine revelation with Charles Fort as a mere agent of the higher force seeking to impart knowledge to us, and you will have to admit that Charles Fort opens up new, magic casements upon resplendent vistas."

**Nation**, April 29, 1931: "As a revolutionary coup d'etat upon science it falls completely flat because it seeks to restore the pre-scientific method of explaining phenomena through the operation of cosmic purposes and occult qualities...By reading Mr. Fort's book one gets a vivid sense of what scientific method deliberately has to reject — the biological categories which are so spontaneous to the human mind and yet so misleading, the multitude of individual facts which strike the imagination and impede clear analysis. Mr. Fort's book really ought to be adopted in all the colleges as a textbook of 'don'ts' in scientific method."

**New York Evening Post**, March 14, 1931: "You can't fail to be entertained, mystified and puzzled by **Lo!** And that is good. The commonplace is life's greatest enemy. It is well to have him routed now and then."

From a review published in the **New York World**, February 13, 1931: "Apparently Fort is the king of clippers. He has snipped strange bits of information from all sorts of periodicals with the most profound confidence in the accuracy of the report. He tells not what a man said about showers of mud, red glows in the sky, but what some periodical reports the man to have said. He takes for granted at once that when a layman discovers a new star he routs all the scientists who have been engaged in looking for it."

Reviews also appeared in the **Saturday Review**, August 22, 1931, and in the **Times (London) Literary Supplement**, May 28, 1931.

## "For Every Five People Who Read It Four Will Go Insane"

Charles Fort has delighted me beyond all men who have written books in this world. Mountebank or Messiah, it matters not. Henceforth I am a Fortean, I believe."  
—Ben Hecht in *The Chicago Daily News*.

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## DEPARTMENT OF LOOSE ENDS

### BIAS IN PERCEPTION OF FORTEAN EVENTS

by Charles L. Wiedemann

From early childhood each of us is trained to perceive the world in a non-Fortean manner. We learn well to analyze our surroundings within preconceived boundaries which distinguish "the obviously possible" from "the ridiculously impossible." Few parents permit their children to continue believing in magic and fairy tales beyond kindergarten, with the result that we become virtually brainwashed into seeing only that which we expect to see. We are taught, in other words, not to accurately perceive events which fall into SITU's category of "the unexplained." If we do stumble upon such an event, we have learned to deceive our minds into making an altered interpretation, thus effectively biasing our perception.

If a chipmunk should suddenly materialize on the ground before our eyes, we are not at all prepared to perceive this as ITF or teleportation; we are much more likely to mutter something like: "Where the devil did he come from? He must have popped up out of a hole in the ground!" In most instances our BLIP (Bias Level In Perception) is so high that the rationalized explanation will receive instant acceptance and **we won't even search for the hole in the ground!** Or, if we do search, we will merely rationalize another simplistic answer when we fail to find the hole.

To illustrate a high bias level in perception I can cite the reaction and response which two professional colleagues displayed upon learning about "Oliver." Oliver is the recently discovered animal which is being studied (by SITU and others) to determine whether he represents a previously unknown primate. After I learned that I was to be directly involved in the anatomical examination of Oliver, I was lunching with an orthodontist and a surgeon, and I detailed them on what I already knew about the animal. Neither had previously heard of Oliver. One might have expected two people of scientific bent to have been greatly interested, but such was not the case. My sober presentation of the news that a new primate may have been discovered was met with nothing more than a few jokes and an inclination to change the subject! Quite obviously this represented a high BLIP. If the same two gentlemen were brought face to face with Oliver, one can imagine that they might jokingly exclaim: "He's just a weird Chimp," or perhaps: "He's nothing but a weird old man!" and then proceed to ignore the evidence, regardless of the actual nature of the evidence.

Even among dyed-in-the-wool Fortean, there does remain the deeply rooted tendency to resist unorthodox explanations. Upon learning of a UFO or a toad in a stone we immediately search our brains for a "conven-

tional" or "logical" explanation. This approach is not necessarily wrong, and in fact it is absolutely essential to honest scientific study, so long as it does not put blinders on people; unfortunately it would seem that far too many otherwise intelligent persons are absolute in their adoption of a non-Fortean viewpoint.

This writer and his wife had occasion in 1974 to be close eyewitnesses to a decidedly remarkable "unexplained" or Fortean event. While parked facing a highway, my wife and I saw plainly that there was no traffic moving from the left, and only one large trailer-truck entering our field of vision from our right. Immediately after the truck passed in front of us there was an air-rending crash as the truck collided with an automobile **which had not been there prior to the collision.** There was very little damage to the huge truck, but even before I ran across the highway I "knew" the driver of the car was dead. He had died instantly, crushed behind the steering wheel and instrument panel which had been forced back mercilessly into his chest. After the shock of witnessing this death had begun to wear off, my wife and I discussed the incident. Both agreed that the automobile had seemed to appear from nowhere directly in the path of the speeding truck; neither driver had had time to apply his brakes. Yet, to this day we have never totally accepted the evidence brought to us by our eyes. Neither of us can bring himself to declare: "Yes, I did indeed witness ITF or teleportation." However, we can at least consider ITF as a possibility (due to our low BLIP), unlike the average witness who would totally discount such a possibility regardless of what his eyes told him (high BLIP).

Members of SITU and other readers of **Pursuit** can strive actively to lower their BLIP. First, be ever on the lookout for happenings in the category of "the unexplained." Second, do not so readily dismiss a potential Fortean event with a rationalized logical explanation. Remain on the scene long enough to make careful observations, measurements and notes; interview other witnesses; take photographs **No SITU member should ever be without a small pocket camera.** A picture made with the cheapest of cameras may prove hundreds of times more valuable than the best verbalization of UFO or ABSM sightings! And most important of all . . . **report** what you have seen! Type a letter or short article while the incident is very fresh in your mind, and send it to SITU. How many fragments of the overall Fortean puzzle have been lost simply because the observers did not tell others of their experiences? In this way we will be working toward a lowering of bias level in perception, and toward an ever-improved investigation of the unexplained. Who knows . . . we might discover that Fortean phenomena are not nearly so rare as previously believed.

### TEST YOUR BLIP (BIAS LEVEL IN PERCEPTION)

How well do you accept the fact that you do have biases in perception? A three-year-old will solve the following puzzle because his perception is not biased. But can **you** solve it? Simply decide whether the next letter (M) belongs above or below the line:

A                    E   F                    H   I                    K   L  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
   B   C   D                    G                    J

**Answer:** The three-year-old, who does not know his letters, will perceive figures made of straight lines above, and figures having curved elements beneath the line! Was your personal BLIP so high that you failed to perceive this?

### RATE YOUR FORTEAN BLIP (BIAS LEVEL IN PERCEPTION)

**Class 5 BLIP** (Not desirable): Strong refusal to accept the possibility of a phenomenon which is not explained by "logic" or "science"; refusal to honestly investigate.

**Attitude:** Ridicule

**Class 4 BLIP:** Moderate rejection of the possibility of "unexplained" phenomena; lack of interest in evidence.

**Attitude:** Indifference

**Class 3 BLIP:** Marginal acceptance of a possibility of "unexplained" phenomena; willingness to glance at some evidence.

**Attitude:** Ambivalence

**Class 2 BLIP:** Acceptance of the **possible** existence of "unexplained" phenomena; desire to examine evidence.

**Attitude:** Interest

**Class 1 BLIP:** Acceptance of the **probable** existence of "unexplained" phenomena. Desire to examine evidence and to participate in research or experimentation.

**Attitude:** Enthusiasm

**Negative or Inverse BLIP** (not desirable): Blind acceptance of one or more "unexplained" phenomena as established fact. Illogical espousement of "unpopular" beliefs. Flat rejection of opposing arguments or evidence.

**Attitude:** Irrationality

### INTERPLANETARY SIGNALING

Reprinted from **The Galaxy**, Vol. 17, pp. 126-127, January 1874; contributed by Lucius Farish.

A young French astronomer, M. Charles Cros, judges the coming transit of Venus to be a good opportunity for ascertaining whether there are inhabitants on that planet, and, if so, entering into relations with them. He says: "It is possible that Venus is inhabited; that among its inhabitants are

astronomers; that the latter judge the passage of their planet across the solar disk to be an object to excite our curiosity; finally, it is possible that these savants will strive in some way to make signals to us at the precise moment when they might suppose that many telescopes will be levelled at their planet."

Remarking on this suggestion, Stanislas Meunier of the French Academy observes that it would be advisable to substitute Mars for Venus, and to take advantage of a transit of the earth, visible from that planet, for the purpose of making signals to its inhabitants, if any there are. There is every ground for believing that the inhabitants of Mars are more advanced than we in every way, and immensely superior to those of Venus, which is a newer planet. The Martians would therefore be in a better position for understanding our attempts at opening up communication than the Venerians, and it is far more likely that they should have another Charles Cros to make a suggestion to them similar to that made here on earth to the French Academy with regard to Venus.

### INERTIAL NAVIGATION

This is for those of you who always wanted to know exactly how the inertial navigation systems on submarines or modern aircraft work. The following "explanation" has been making the rounds in aviation circles, and we present it here for your edification.

"The equipment and, hence the aircraft, knows where it is at all times. It knows this because it knows where it isn't. By subtracting where it is from where it isn't (or where it isn't from where it is, depending on which is greater) it obtains a difference or deviation. The internal guidance system uses deviations to generate corrective commands to fly the aircraft from a position where it is to a position where it isn't. The aircraft arrives at the position where it wasn't; consequently, the position where it was, is now the position where it wasn't. In the event that the position where it is now, is not the same as the position where it originally wasn't, the system will acquire a variation (variations are caused by external factors and discussion of these factors is beyond the scope of this simple explanation). The variation is the difference between where the aircraft is and where the aircraft wasn't. If the variation is considered to be a significant factor, it too may be corrected by the internal guidance system. The aircraft must now know where it was. The 'Thought Process' of the equipment is as follows: because a variation has modified some of the navigation information which the aircraft acquired, it is not sure where it is. However, it is sure where it isn't and it knows where it was. It now subtracts where it should be from where it wasn't (or vice-versa) and by differentiating this from the algebraic difference between where it shouldn't be and where it was, it is able to obtain the difference between its deviation and its variation; this difference being called error ....."

# ORNITHOLOGY (?)

## PTERODACTYLS and T-BIRDS

By Curt Sutherly

Readers of *Pursuit* may recall a mid-1975 news item pertaining to the discovery of a giant winged reptile. The reptile, or rather its skeletal remains, was found in Big Bend National Park in Brewster County, Texas; the discoverer was Douglas A. Lawson, a graduate student at the University of California (Berkeley). According to a report released by the *New York Times* on March 12, 1975, and subsequent wire service reports, the animal had lived approximately sixty-million years ago. The prehistoric "bird" was reported to have had a 51-foot wingspan (the length of an IRT subway car, as the *Times* noted) which is believed to be about twice the wingspan of any previously discovered pterosaur (also referred to by the popular name pterodactyl). No body-size dimensions were released, although the *Times* report did indicate that body dimensions are generally much less overall than the wingspan of any such creature.

The Texas pterosaur is considered to be the latest discovery in an ever-growing list of prehistoric flying creatures which were once lords of the skies. Previously, the species *Pteranodon* was termed the largest of all pterosaurs (wingspan approximately 25 feet). Now we all know differently, much to the discomfort of certain leading paleontologists who had previously denied such a possibility.

"The thing that's so extraordinary about this thing is its tremendous size," said Dr. Wann Langston, Jr., director of the Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory. "There's never been anything like this before," he told *Times* reporter Boyce Rensberger.

What makes this such a hard pill for scientists to swallow is the awesome fact that so large a creature was apparently able to lift itself from a dry surface and launch into the air. Most paleontologists have at least doubted such a likelihood; many said outright it could not happen. But apparently, in some remote corner of our planet's history, it happened! Consider the sheer size of this animal: With a 51 foot wingspan it actually outstretched the width of an F-4 Phantom fighter, which, as any military pilot will affirm, is a big plane. The wingspan of the Phantom, incidentally, is 38 feet, 5 inches.

There is plenty of additional background that could be included here regarding the Texas pterosaur, but it seems pointless to recap every detail already reported in the nation's newspapers. Instead, let us consider a superficially similar winged enigma: the **Thunderbird** . . . Like the 51-foot winged skeleton, the thunderbird "does not exist." At least the scientists provide us with that piece of information whenever the subject is raised.

Early in 1973 I was corresponding with the late Bob Lyman, Sr., (who died in 1974 at the age of 79),

a resident of the Coudersport, Pennsylvania region and somewhat of a local historian. Bob was a *SITU* member who compiled two fascinating books on the lore of the Pennsylvania Black Forest: **Forbidden Land** and **Amazing Indeed**, each a gold mine for serious Forteanas.

In one of Bob Lyman's letters he noted: "**Amazing indeed** will be available before the year's end. This will tell about the actual thunderbirds that all reference books agree do not exist. They are wrong. They (the thunderbirds) have always been in our Black Forest and are here now. Several are reported each year."

A long chapter of Lyman's book is devoted to eyewitness accounts of thunderbirds, including an observation made by Bob himself during 1940. What follows is his own recollection of the event as chronicled in **Amazing Indeed** . . .

"About 1940 I saw a huge bird which I am certain was a thunderbird. It was on the ground in the center of the Sheldon Road, about two miles north of Coudersport. It was brownish in color. Legs and neck were short. It was between three and four feet tall and stood upright like a very large vulture. When I was about 150 feet away it raised to fly. It was plain to see its wingspread was equal to the width of the roadbed, which I measured and found to be 25 feet. I will concede (sic) it may have been 20 feet but no less. The wings were very narrow, not over one foot wide.

"How could such a bird fly through the woods? The bird I saw could have gone straight up the road and missed the trees but it did no such thing. It flew off at right angles to the road, through dense second-growth timber and had no trouble."

Lyman added that other Black Forest reports have indicated that young thunderbirds are brownish in color, and as they mature they change from brown to gray, as do South American condors. From this the historian concluded: (1.) the animal he watched was young (with a 25-foot wingspan!), and (2.) the thunderbirds may actually be larger, more elusive relatives of the South American condor. Before his death, Ivan Sanderson proposed a similar suggestion — a relationship between the two known condor species (South American and Andean) and the thunderbird.

Is it difficult to imagine that a great bird may be hidden away in the forests of this nation? If Bob Jones can track an *ABSM* in New Jersey, nearly anything seems possible! Most people fail to realize the vastness of our remaining American wilderness, the presence of literally hundreds of thousands of square miles of forest and unpenetrated swamplands occupying huge areas from coast to coast. **Something** lives in these areas. Why not Bigfoot or the thunderbird?

Once again, while public opinion may sway positively in these directions, the primatologists and paleontologists feel reluctant to commit themselves to "such notions." Of course, the Texas pterosaur was not supposed to be alive — ever! And isn't it interesting that the prestigious Smithsonian Institution, which publicly doubted the reality of the Loch Ness Monster several months ago on network television, is now giving the computer-enhanced photographs taken by Bob Rines some serious attention?

It is well to consider the physical appearance of the thunderbird which Lyman observed as compared to that of a once-live pterosaur . . . The description given by the late Mr. Lyman is fairly standard for all Black Forest thunderbirds: brown to gray in color, short legs and neck, relatively narrow wings and a wingspan ranging from 10 to 30 feet or slightly greater, depending on the (estimated) age of the bird. To the best of my knowledge, and I have spent perhaps as much time studying T-bird lore as any man (with the exception of one other who has camped in the field), there is nothing to suggest that the Black Forest thunderbirds are anything other than living, befeathered fowl. I bring this up because of the preponderance of evidence that suggests there are "rip off" copies of some of our globe's untagged "monsters" popping in and out of our reality. (I call these semi-real parodies **para-creatures**, and a good example is **Big Bird** which recently appeared in South Texas, of all places. This creature was reported during the first weeks of 1976 by numerous residents, largely in the area of San Benito in the Rio Grande Valley. It had large, luminous eyes, much as did West Virginia's

**Mothman** in 1967, as reported in John Keel's book **The Mothman Prophecies**, 1975, and seemed to favor the company of UFOs and even a para-bigfoot or two. The para-bigfoot, incidentally, left a trail in a soft-earth field that ended mid-stride.)

We now know, more or less, what the thunderbird is supposed to look like. For more detailed information I refer the reader to Robert Lyman's book **Amazing Indeed** published by The Potter Enterprise, Coudersport, Pennsylvania, 16915.

The pterosaur, on the other hand, had (according to all known data) leathery wings, long toothless jaws, a spindly, flexible neck, clawed forearms that appeared to be part of the wing structure, spindly legs and, in the case of the 1975 find, that God-awful 51-foot wingspan. All of which says, rather plainly, that the pterosaur was not a thunderbird, but a true winged reptile as opposed to an avian life form.

Of course there is always the chance that a few living pterosaurs are still around somewhere. Wouldn't that shake up the paleontologists? (Note: On February 26, 1976 **The San Antonio Light** published an account of sightings by three teachers. Although one creature was identified by scientists as a blue heron, one of the teachers, Mrs. Bryant, was quoted as saying: "I have found a picture of a prehistoric bird that looks more like this thing than I've ever seen . . . It had a bony structure, you know, like when you hold a bat by the wing tips, like it has bones at the top and in between." She explained that an encyclopedia identified the creature as a pteranodon. —Editor.)

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## BIOLOGY

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### U. S. ARMY ENDORSES BIGFOOT

Bigfoot has received something of an endorsement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The latest issue of the **Washington Environmental Atlas**, a compendium compilation of a variety of data concerning the environment of the State of Washington, mentions Bigfoot as one of the ecological features of the State. The report may be ordered from the Government Printing Office, but it costs \$48.00 and contains only the following remarks about Bigfoot:

The very existence of Sasquatch, or "Big Foot" as it is sometimes known, is hotly disputed. Some profess to be open-minded about the matter, although stating that not one piece of evidence will withstand serious scientific scrutiny. Others, because of a particular incident or totality of reports over the years, are convinced that Sasquatch is a reality. Alleged Sasquatch hair samples inspected by F.B.I. laboratories resulted in the conclusion that no such hair exists on any human or presently-known animal for which such data are available.

Information from alleged sightings, tracks and other experiences conjures up the picture of an ape-like creature standing between 8 and 12 feet tall, weighing in excess of 1000 pounds, and taking strides of up to 6 feet. Plaster casts have been made of

tracks showing a large, squarish foot 14 to 24 inches in length and 5 to 10 inches in breadth. Reported to feed on vegetation and some meat, the Sasquatch is covered with long hair, except for the face and hands, and has a distinctly humanlike form. Sasquatch is very agile and powerful, with the endurance to cover a vast range in search of food, shelter and others of its kind. It is apparently able to see at night and is extremely shy, leaving minimal evidence of its presence. Tracks are presently the best evidence of its existence. A short film of an alleged female Sasquatch was shot in northern California, which, although scoffed at, shows no indication of fabrication.

The Pacific Northwest is generally considered to be the hotbed of Sasquatch activity, with Washington leading in number of reports of tracks or sightings since 1968. However, reports of Sasquatch-like creatures are known from as far away as the Parmir Mountains in the U.S.S.R. and South America.

If Sasquatch is purely legendary, the legend is likely to be a long time dying. On the other hand, if Sasquatch does exist, then with the Sasquatch hunts being mounted and the increasing human population it seems likely that some hard evidence may be soon in hand. Legendary or actual, Sasquatch excites a great popular interest in Washington.

# PLANETOLOGY

## THE DODECATED GLOBE

By William H. Whamond

(continued from the October 1975 issue)

Editor's Note: The following is the second installment of a serialized dissertation which began in the October, 1975 issue of *Pursuit*. Our apologies to the author, William H. Whamond, whose name was misspelled in the earlier issue.

It may be wondered why Sanderson and his colleagues are obsessed with the possible existence of rotational tendencies. Underlying all such concern with rotational phenomena is the deep-seated suspicion that rotation and gravity are somehow interconnected in a very fundamental manner. Newton derived his law of gravitation from study of the planets rotating around the sun and rotating about their own axes. He attributed the force of gravity solely to the mass of the planets, but might there not be a rotational factor involved also? If Newton had been able to obtain a mass which itself was not composed of a bunch of atoms "all spinning like crazy," then perhaps we would have to agree that mass (rather than rotation) is the basic cause of gravity. From a simpler and somewhat different point of view, we may say that the "Principle of Equivalence" is well established in science. For instance, we can say that a gyroscope flywheel which is large and massive and rotates slowly is "equivalent" (in respect to performance) to a much smaller and less massive flywheel which is spinning at tremendous speed. It is also popularly known that, in a manner of speaking, rotation has a weight of its own. That is why we use flywheels. Moreover, it is an accepted fact that gravitational and inertial mass are either the same or at least closely equivalent. A jet aircraft pilot subjected to a 2.65 G force cannot feel whether he is making a 2.65 G inertial turn on Earth or whether he is merely sitting still on the planet Jupiter where the force of gravity is 2.65 times that of this planet. The same holds true for a person riding in an elevator.

We may even propose an elementary theory to account for all this. If we adopt the accepted theory of the atom composed of a nucleus and a concentric shell of electron orbits, we can speculate that in a turn the nucleus and shell would be forced off center with respect to each other. That is, the neat balance of all forces within the atom would become eccentric, namely, a net force would arise in one direction and would be detectable as gravity or inertia. If this were so, obviously the same phenomena would arise in an elevator. The atoms comprising the occupant may be

jerked off center by the acceleration of the elevator, thus producing the G forces experienced by the occupant.

Now of course I am not suggesting that this is what actually happens. I am merely trying to show that although steady curved motion and accelerated straight motion may seem quite different, actually the resulting inertial forces could have a very simple common cause, along with gravity. It is interesting to note that at least a decade ago there were announcements made to the effect that the U.S. Air Force had funded a project to spin a flywheel at "unprecedented speeds" in order to attempt to detect a gravitational effect.

Some quite antique notions seem to persist concerning gravity. For example, we are told that Newton's realization that gravity varies inversely as distance squared is "a stupendous intellectual feat." Hardly. Gravity varies in that way for the same reason that sound, heat, electricity and light from your 60 watt bulb does. A simple but powerful analytical concept that may be used to explain these relationships is the "solid angle." Put very simply, any object occludes (or occupies) a certain amount of "solid angle" around any point. This solid angle is measured in steradians which are given by the formula: cross sectional area of object divided by distance to said point, squared. Thus, for a unit area at a distance  $r$ , the solid angle occupied by such unit area is  $1/r^2$  steradians. The gravitational radiation flux through this  $1/r^2$  steradians of solid angle due to unit mass has been measured and found to be a very small number which is called the gravitational constant, or  $\gamma$  for short. So the gravitational force due to a mass  $M$ , e.g. the Earth's mass, at said point will be  $M$  times this or  $M\gamma/r^2$  exerted through this  $1/r^2$  steradians of solid angle. Thus any other mass "m" occupying said unit area of  $1/r^2$  steradians will experience  $m$  times this force, which is  $\gamma mM/r^2$ ; this is otherwise known as Newton's Law of Universal Gravitation. So all that Newton's law does is to show that gravitation is an omni-directional radiation just like sound, heat, light and an explosion.

Another piece of neo-mysticism that we are stuck with is the "inverse square" factor which we are told is a unique insight into the deepest mysteries of gravity. There is nothing whatever sacrosanct about the inverse square factor. It is true only for a point or a sphere — which is itself a bloated point. It can be

proved that gravity varies inversely only (not squared) and the proof is so simple that anybody can understand it by simply referring to Ampere's Law in any high school physics textbook. This law says that the magnetic force due to current in a short length (practically a point) of wire varies as the inverse square of the distance from the current. In other words, a law identical in form to Newton's. But the shock comes when Ampere applies his law to a long length of wire, that is, a cylinder instead of a very short length. It changes from inverse square to merely inverse! The incontrovertible conclusion is that if Newton's inverse square law were applied to a cylinder instead of to a sphere, then it would become an inverse law, too.

Finally, there are the unprecedented researches of the Soviet astrophysicist, Dr. Nikolai Kozyrev, of Pulkovo Observatory, Leningrad, into the nature of time. As Dr. Kozyrev seems to have been the first person able to devise any theory of the nature of time which is capable of being verified by experiment, it would seem reasonable to regard him with the greatest respect. Although there is no mention of Kozyrev's researches in regard to gravity, he has apparently proved that levitation is possible and that time is a form of energy. The interesting aspect of his researches is that he employs gyroscopes. Perhaps Sanderson's suspicion that the gyroscopic flywheel effect of large rotating masses of water may produce gravity and time distortion effects could be substantiated by Kozyrev's findings? Certainly Sanderson's "anomalous foci" would seem to furnish a possible opportunity for large scale testing of Kozyrev's ideas.

Before returning to consider the Icosa, it may be helpful to know something about another simple but powerful scientific concept, namely, the Principle of Superposition. This simply states that whatever array of forces act on an object, and whatever maneuvers it undergoes, they can all be boiled down into only two basic ingredients, a net force direction and a net turning effect. The net turning effect is called circulation.

Now it behooves us to say a word or two about the fundamentals of epicyclic gearing, or planetary gears as the public calls them. We are told that the moon always keeps the same face visible towards the earth. The other side of the moon is always hidden. Suppose that we show a certain crater on the moon as a black dot (fig. 5). If the moon is orbiting the earth in the direction shown and the crater always stays visible towards the earth, then this means that the moon must be turning around its own poles as well as orbiting the earth. For as (fig. 5) shows, the crater makes four quarter turns per orbit with each such turn being counter-clockwise. For simplicity we could say that the moon makes one orbit and one rotation. A net circulation of  $1+1=2$ .

However, this is not the only possible mode of orbiting. If we swing a ball around on a string we have the same orbital situation as obtains with the moon. But suppose that we weld an axle to a common ball and fix ball bearing races (fig. 6) to the axle. Suppose

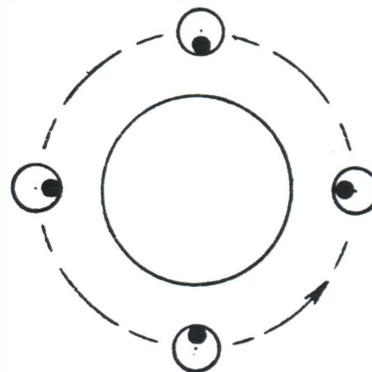


Fig. 5

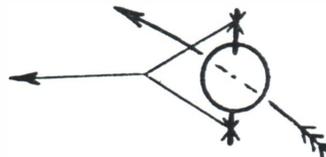


Fig. 6

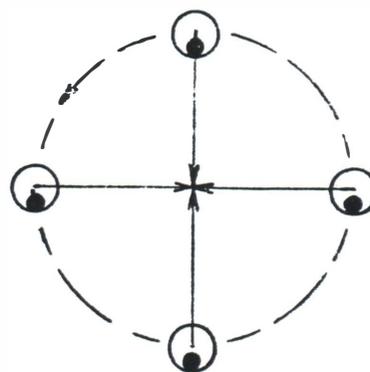


Fig. 7

we fix a string to these ball races and then swivel the ball around. What happens?

In this case the string no longer forces the same side of the ball to face the orbital center. The orbiting is quite different from the case of the moon, even though superficially it seems the same. The black dot will always face in the same direction. (Why wouldn't a heavy ball turn about its axle if nothing is forcing it to?) See figure (7).

One should be able to get such a ball up to orbital speed faster than when the string is fixed to one face of the ball, forcing axial spinning of the ball in a manner similar to the moon. However, relative to the circular path the dot is rotating backwards. At the top of (fig. 7) the dot points inwards. It then swings clockwise into line with the orbit path. At bottom it has swung further clockwise relative to the orbital path and so it is pointing outwards. So, relative to the counterclockwise orbital path, the ball of (fig. 7)

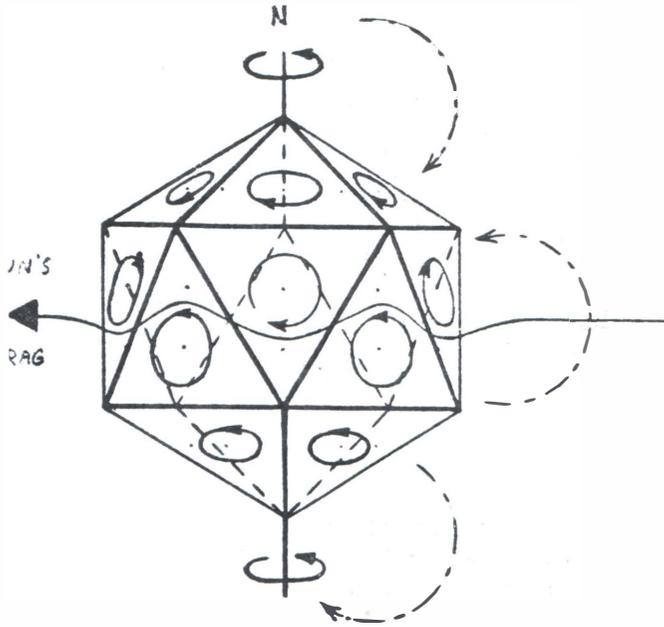


Fig. 8

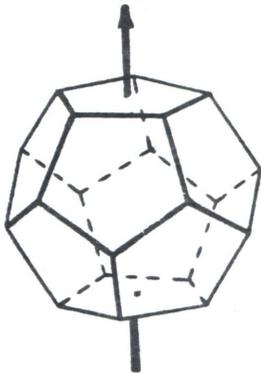


Fig. 9

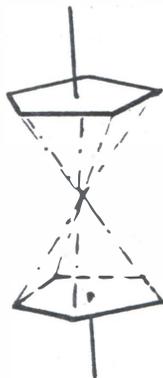


Fig. 10

is rotating backwards. I suppose one could look upon this as some sort of attempt at conservation of angular momentum, and unless a person had to deal with epicyclic gears he is quite unaware that all these sorts of hidden rotations can and do exist. If you still

don't believe it, try swirling both types of ball arrangements: (fig. 5) versus (fig. 6). Or try driving a truck around a curve, loaded with a heavy concrete cylinder, as in (fig. 7). The driver will say, "The load shifted clockwise on me." It didn't. The truck cornered counterclockwise, under the load.

Now that we are aware that "things aren't always what they seem," can we assemble all of these odd scraps of knowledge into some sort of a "circulation" system for an Icosa? Let us try it on (fig. 8). We know that the sun rises in the east, because Japan is the "Land of the Rising Sun," so the sun will move across the form of an Icosafied-globe, or from right to left in (fig. 8) as shown by the sinuous arrow. It seems reasonable to assume that the sun's drag might cause circulation eddies, or vortices as Sanderson called them, or at least tendencies to form eddies, as shown. Such vortices can be seen in any textbook on hydrodynamics, or by simply dragging a stick through a pond.

The earth's polar spin must be as shown, otherwise the sun wouldn't rise in the east (as we know that it does). The two polar umbrellas would be carried around counterclockwise when viewed down onto the top of the North pole, as shown, and all ten of the triangular umbrella panels would probably assume an opposing circulation as shown because of the following. First, the sun's drag would tend to impose this direction of circulation on the umbrella rims, just as it does on the equatorial band of triangles. Second, there may be some conservation of angular momentum tendency operative here, as mentioned regarding (fig. 7).

The encouraging feature about this Icosa construct is that no part of this complicated — seeming model seems to clash with any other part. Moreover, the construct is full of hidden implications which, if followed up, never seem to contradict one another. For instance, bearing in mind previous comments on circulation, we realize that it doesn't really matter whether (say) the five little circulations shown on the northern umbrella really exist or not, because they are equivalent (by the principle of superposition) to one large circulation around the umbrella rim. This can be realized by expanding these five loops or circles until their upper areas merge at the North Pole. The directions of these upper arcs are all opposite to one another and so cancel. But the arrows on the bottom arcs are all in the same direction, opposing the earth's rotation) and thus add up to one single large rotation circulation around the rim.

In short, whether or not these five small circulations exist or not is beside the point. Even if they turn out to be entirely fictitious and only a rim circulation really exists, they are still a most convenient way of modelling such rim circulation. Similar comments of course apply to the rest of the model. The Icosa world-model is not necessarily the only possibility. It was merely the first to attract attention, due to Sanderson's chance mentioning of the figure of 72

degrees. However, science is detective work, and so one such clue generally leads to a trail of others. In this case it leads directly to the Fourth Platonic Solid, or the Dodeca (fig. 9). This is of course a regular solid, namely, its sides are identical in every way. Each facet is a pentagon and once again it is easy to visualize if we think of a suitable image. In this case we can think of it as composed of a pair of polar pentagons (fig. 10) with a crown of five pentagon petals projecting therefrom, like a flower. A similar, but inverted crown meshes therewith to produce a zig zag equator as in (fig. 9). A total of  $1+5+5+1$  or 12 facets are present. There are also 20 vertices, five on each polar pentagon and ten about the equator. So one could say that the Dodeca has swapped its vertices for the Icosa's faces and its faces for the Icosa's vertices. As a matter of fact, that is exactly what has happened. (See the sole pentagon shown on fig. 1). Such vertex and face swapping situations are known to mathematicians as duals, and this has some very important consequences, as we shall see.

The Dodecated Globe is comprised of only 12 facets, instead of 20, and Sanderson's 12 Vile Vortices appear to center approximately on each pentagon face as shown for one pentagon on (fig. 1). A pentagon is much closer to a circle than a triangle is, and thus the Dodeca may be preferable for studying circulation conditions. On the other hand, the Icosa best clarifies the "tropic 10" band of triangles and vertices girdling the equator, with said vertices lying practically "smack on" Cancer and Capricorn, the tropic zone boundaries.

Now if we apply the same sort of reasoning to the Dodeca (fig. 11) as we applied to the Icosa (fig. 8), we have the sun dragging around the zig zag ridge which forms the Dodeca's "equator," resulting in the five Northern Hemisphere pentagons having clockwise circulation (viewed looking down on the North Pole) and the five Southern Hemisphere pentagons circulating oppositely thereto. For clarity, only one Northern and one Southern circulation has been shown on (fig. 11). The north and south polar pentagons can be regarded as a sort of apple core, or common spindle having the common rotation direction shown so that the "sun always rises in the east."

To take the next step in our investigation we need to know something about vectors. They are simply arrows used to show the direction and size of practically anything from forces and speeds to momentum and magnetism. They can even be used to show rotation speeds and directions, but in such cases the vector is always drawn perpendicular to the plane of rotation. The direction of such circulation vector arrows is the same as for a screw. Clockwise rotation drives a screw in, i.e., pointwards, so the arrowhead is in the "in" direction. Counterclockwise turning drives a screw out, in which case the arrow points in the "out" direction. Applying this simple and fool-proof rule to (fig. 11), we can see that all the Northern Hemisphere vectors plunge in to the Dodeca, whereas

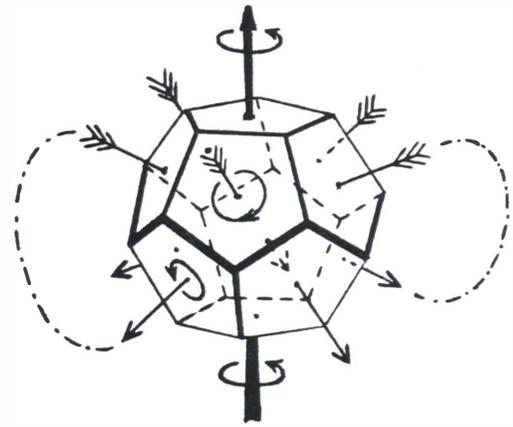


Fig. 11

all the Southern Hemisphere vector arrows plunge out. This is a general north to south tendency, which is another of those hidden implications, since it balances the south to north polar arrow.

Finally, having "circulation" concepts always very much in mind, one is tempted to join all arrowheads to arrow tails and so form one further circulation from the Southern Hemisphere to the Northern. This is shown chain dotted in (fig. 11). This donut configuration immediately reminds one of the Van Allen radiation belt. Furthermore, if we connect the North polar arrow to the five arrowtails we get another donut shaped halo over the North pole. Could this have some connection with the Aurora Borealis? In conclusion, it is obviously possible to join the five Southern Hemisphere arrow heads to the south polar tail and produce a third halo. And what is this? Is there a Southern Aurora, or have we discovered (predicted) something previously unknown?

However, we have not yet exhausted the surprises which the Icosa/Dodeca dual has in store. Having in mind Sanderson's notions about the possible significance of flywheels of water, etc., I thought why not fit a conical, or a truncated conical, flywheel into each Icosa triangle or Dodeca pentagon, extending down to the central vicinity corresponding to the earth's core. We have ball bearings and roller bearings, so why not conical bearings? Applying this reasoning to the Icosa of (fig. 8) I realized that the two polar umbrellas could form a common one piece core or spindle, as in (fig. 10), rotating to drive the Tropic 10 bearings. In fact, it began to look like a pair of "crown" gears sandwiched in between. The significant difference between gears and bearings is that alternate gears rotate oppositely whereas bearings all rotate in a common direction. My primary instinct, however, was to test what would happen if one had an Icosa or Dodeca with a gyroscope mounted in each facet and then rotated the entire affair. A fascinating and tempting experiment, which may give new insights.

(To be continued)

# ZOOLOGY

## ENTOMBED ANIMALS

Reports of living creatures discovered sealed for months or years within rocks, trees and the like have appeared for centuries. Seldom, however, has the discoverer provided us with a clear photograph of the tomb and its tiny inhabitant. Such a picture accompanies the following article, nicely researched by one of our members.

In **Entombed Toads** by Sabina W. Sanderson (*Pursuit*, Vol. 6, No. 3, July 1973), several cases were reported, including the following: a frog found alive and "practically snow white" after being imbedded within a cement floor for approximately five years (South Africa) (died the following day), a live frog found in a cavity within a rock, discovered after blasting (Connecticut, 1770), a lizard imbedded in a millstone, discovered when part of the stone was cut away (Scotland, early 1800's), and one report of a live toad found incarcerated in solid sandstone.

### THE ENTOMBED TURTLE

by Gary S. Mangiacopra

Survival may sometimes occur under a most extreme circumstance: apparent prolonged hibernation, as cited in reports of small animals found in hard materials — natural or man made. The most recent example of this phenomenon was a little four-ounce green terrapin turtle that was accidentally buried in cement at a Texas construction site. The turtle survived briefly upon its release on August 20, 1975, nearly a year following its burial!

A construction worker in the back yard of a vacant house at 7137 Meadowbrook Drive, Fort Worth, overturned a thirty-pound mound of concrete, whereupon he discovered, level with the flat underside of the concrete, the underside of a turtle. One energetic worker pried the turtle loose from its cement tomb and set the turtle on the ground, upon which the little animal extended its feet and head and began to wander away.

Regarding the turtle's original entrapment, perhaps the simplest explanation was offered by the builder, H. L. Giles, who stated that in October, 1974, his crew was working at the site and had dropped a load of wet cement on the ground, trapping the unnoticed turtle beneath it. On the question of survival, the experts agree in part. One unnamed biologist said he doubted that a turtle could survive the entrapment for such a prolonged period of time, though perhaps its low metabolic rate might have permitted survival if it had been able to absorb air and water through the soil and if the temperature had been moderate.

Another biologist was also consulted, Mr. Bern Tryon, assistant reptile supervisor of the Fort Worth Zoological Park. Mr. Tryon generously answered a letter of inquiry in a reply dated October 16, 1975:

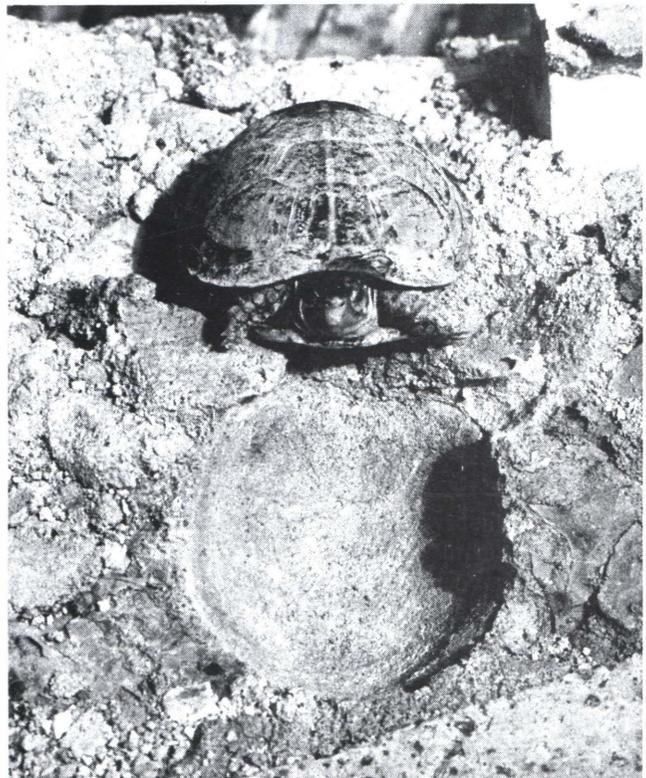
"I received a call from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram

asking my views on the situation. Evidently, one year ago some prankster placed a box turtle under some intended sidewalk and poured cement over the animal. In late August this year the old sidewalk was torn up, thus exposing the animal. An impression of the old shell was evident in the newspaper photo, so I assume it was definitely immobile for a year's time. It is surprising that the turtle was alive . . . perhaps it ate an occasional passing insect and obtained whatever water may have soaked beneath the sidewalk."

Although totally buried, the turtle was only partially imbedded in actual cement. The upper portion (the upper shell) being surrounded by cement, while the underside remained in contact with the ground. Air could have been sufficient, and water was apparently available, since the mound of cement was below an eave of the home's roof. The suggestion that it ate a passing insect when it was entombed seems improbable, since the flat underside of the turtle was level with the underside of the cement. It would appear that there was no space available for the animal to extend its head.

Unfortunately, after surviving thirty-six hours of new-found freedom, the turtle died. Probable cause of death was listed as dehydration.

Footnote: Mr. Giles froze the turtle, planning to have it preserved and mounted on the piece of cement in which it had been embedded. A fitting tribute to a now-famous turtle.



Photograph courtesy of Fort Worth Star-Telegram, August 21, 1975, Fort Worth, Texas.

# SYMPOSIUM

## *Comments and Opinions*

### FALSE FACTS

by Paul G. Begg

In the July issue of *Pursuit* Mr. R. J. Durant wrote, rather apologetically I thought, of a recently published book, **The Bermuda Triangle Mystery-Solved** by Lawrence Kusche, and paid special attention to the communications alleged to have passed between five Navy aircraft and Fort Lauderdale in 1945. If interested in the Bermuda Triangle you will know that the five aircraft radioed that they were lost, that they couldn't see land and that even the sea looked different. Eventually the messages came to an end and the planes disappeared, never to be seen or heard from again.

This much told story of the 'Lost Patrol' has become one of the central elements in the Bermuda Triangle mystery, but it seems to be partially untrue. The alleged mystery-making communications never took place. At least, that is the conclusion reached by Mr. Kusche and, it seems by R. J. Durant. If they are correct in drawing that conclusion it means that not one of the twenty or more writers who have told the story of the 'Lost Patrol' have made the effort to ascertain the true facts!

An average book about unexplained phenomena might detail fifty or a hundred different cases. Obviously a writer trying to live from the produce of his pen cannot research each case he deals with. There comes a time when he is forced to rely upon the work of fellow writers and hope that they are reasonably accurate with their facts. Writers also have to face the fact that books debunking mysteries don't achieve the sales to make the effort worthwhile. Writers, too, cannot give facts. Who wants to read a list of facts? You have to add a little colour to the story and elaborate here and there. However, the point is, where does all this elaboration, fabrication and falsification get us? Into a mess, that's where. Moreover, such behaviour seems permissible and allowed to pass unchecked.

Imagine the criticism and scorn that would be rained upon an author who stated that the Battle of Hastings was fought in the year 1500 with King Arthur and Abraham Lincoln as the principle contenders. Nobody would be at all apologetic for criticizing such a statement, so why, then, does it seem unjustified to pour just a little criticism upon somebody who writes that the *Marie Celeste* was discovered with mugs of warm tea and half eaten breakfasts on the galley table. To begin with, the ship's name was *Mary Celeste*, all the stuff about warm tea and breakfast is utter twaddle, and when found her lifeboat was missing. The mystery of the *Mary Celeste* is

not so much what happened to her crew, but why they decided to abandon a perfectly seaworthy ship.

The same is true of the 'Lost Patrol'. The five planes disappeared, that much is true and constitutes a mystery, but why all this business about the sea looking different? And why was it allowed to continue, especially in view of the fact that the story of the 'Lost Patrol' is one of the main pillars supporting the Bermuda Triangle mystery?

Well done, Mr. Durant. You've pointed out that those communications never took place and there's no need to apologize since you've done what I, at least, expected to find when I joined SITU. But why has it taken somebody so long to explode the myth?

Actually it hasn't taken quite as long as we think. Michael McDonell pointed out that the popular story of the 'Lost Patrol' is false in the June 1973 issue of *Naval Aviation News*. In fact, Richard Winer, author of **The Devil's Triangle**, appears to have read this article prior to writing his book, although it doesn't seem to have made the slightest impression since he tells the same old story.

And congratulations to the unnamed SITU member who succeeded in doing what seems to have been impossible for Berlitz, Sanderson, Spencer and Winer. Namely, obtain a copy of the Board of Inquiry report of the investigation of the disappearance. Incidentally, I have a copy of that report. It's available from the Department of the Navy (Director, Naval Historical Centre, Attention: Operational Archives, Building 220, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. 20374) at a cost of five dollars.

I must, however, rush to the defense of Mr. Allan W. Eckert. It is alleged that he originated the spurious Lost Patrol communications in an article in the April 1962 issue of *American Legion Magazine*. I can't state that Mr. Eckert didn't originate the communications, but they certainly didn't begin with the *American Legion Magazine* article. They can be found in *Stranger Than Science* by Frank Edwards, published in 1959.

And, with reference to *Stranger Than Science*, on page 142 of the British paperback edition Mr. Edwards states that if asked to cite the strangest case of disappearance he would 'unhesitatingly refer to the twin-engine Marine plane which crashed on the Tahoma Glacier in 1947.' He goes on to describe that the plane crashed on the glacier leaving ample evidence that none aboard could possibly have survived, yet, when searchers reached the wreckage they found no trace of the thirty-two bodies. So baffled were the authorities that they offered 5,000 dollars for recovery of the bodies! All bodies were, in fact, found, or so it was reported in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* on Sunday, August 24, 1947. Does anybody fancy telling the authorities and collecting 5,000 dollars?

False facts are annoying. May SITU maintain a policy of exposing fraudulent stories. Perhaps you might like to include one page of explained unexplained phenomena in each edition of *Pursuit*. You might

then prevent certain authors from making the same mistakes again. It would also help to clear the air of fraudulent unexplaineds and let the serious students of the subject get down to the nitty-gritty.

Finally, here is the solution to one small mystery which had H.Q. baffled. How do you pronounce the Welsh place name of Eglwysrw? It's really very easy (!)—EG, as in fried, boiled and poached, LOOS, as in something which is not tight enough, ZOO, as in the place where they keep animals, and ROO, as in nothing that I can think of, but like zoo only with an 'r'. Thus: EGLOOSZOROO. But, have you got your tongue around that famed Welsh tongue twister, LLANFAIRPWLLGWYNGYLLGGERCHWYRNDROB-WLLTYSILIOGOGOCH, which is a small village in Anglesey in Wales? Translated it means: St. Mary's Church in the hollow of the white hazel near the rapid whirlpool of the Llandysilio of the red cave!

## JACKO RECONSIDERED

by Russ Kinne

The article entitled "Alas, Poor Jacko," in the January 1975 issue of Pursuit left me somewhat uneasy. It may be that John Green and Sabina W. Sanderson were a bit hasty in consigning Jacko to the category of the hoax.

Perhaps it would help to break the story down into its basic elements. There are three newspapers involved, which I shall designate as "A", "B" and "C", in lieu of using their complete titles, **The Columbian**, **The Colonist**, and **The Guardian**, respectively. The sequence of events, to which all commentators on this story subscribe, is as follows. First, newspaper A runs a story, which is then picked up and re-printed by newspaper B. This account is detailed and names places and individuals who exist. Next, newspaper C publishes a letter commenting on the stories about Jacko in newspapers A and B. This letter denounces the Jacko tale as a low-grade hoax: "...absurdity is written on the face of it... how newspaper A was duped is strange, and stranger still...when newspaper B reproduced it." The author of this letter is identified in newspaper C as "a correspondent" and his letter is signed only with the initials REX. In a later issue, newspaper B runs a follow-up story, which is not re-printed or commented upon by either newspaper C or A.

The story in question, that is, the apparent or alleged capture of a juvenile sasquatch, has been studied by a number of individuals over a period of many years. John Green has accepted it, and has even gone so far as to report that he received confirmation of the basic facts from a man who was alive in Yale, B.C., at the time of the capture. This source is further identified by Green as a gentleman of sufficient renown to have had a small town named in his honor.

In view of all this, it would seem at least plausible, if not probable, that the charge of hoax was levelled as part of a continuing attempt to discredit and embarrass rival newspapers. Yale, B.C. was hardly a thriving metropolis in those days, and one suspects that the three newspapers had something of a ferocious circulation war on their hands. Newspapers B and C had been "scooped." Did newspaper C then fabricate this "anonymous correspondent"? And did newspaper B then jump on the band-wagon? Such mischief has not been unknown even in recent times in cities with a number of competing dailies.

(Editor's note: One of our members has suggested a solution to the puzzle of the initials C.B.E. placed after the name of one of the witnesses named in **The Colonist** report on Jacko. He points out that this was very likely a typographical error caused by the transposition of the initials B.C.E., which stand for British Columbia Express, roughly the equivalent of "the chap who kept a small store".)

## WERE THE ALLENDE LETTERS A COLLEGE PRANK?

by Alan Elliott

In Ivan Sanderson's book **Uninvited Visitors** there is included in Appendix C a description of events concerning the annotated copy of Dr. Morris K. Jessup's book **The Case for the UFOs** and the Carlos Allende/Carl Allen letters. The writer or writers of this material (some of which was received by Dr. Jessup, and the remainder by the U.S. Office of Naval Research) professed to have knowledge of the mystery of the UFOs. The various terms and remarks used in two letters and one heavily annotated book caused much interest among UFO researchers despite the obvious tenor of science-fiction of the material. Because the basis of science-fiction is factual, the average reader is not always certain where the fact stops and the fiction starts. Furthermore, it is impossible to be sure that some part of the fiction will not in the future be confirmed as fact.

My interest in these publications commenced partly because of the remarks about Einstein's Unified Field Theory, which were to the effect that after being corrected by a mathematician, Dr. Franklin Reno, the Unified Field Theory was put to use in an experiment. As this subject was of particular interest to me, it was immediately apparent that any mathematician (who would also have to be a physicist) qualified to correct, extend and apply this extremely complex theory, would certainly be a very well known person. Did the ONR, Dr. Jessup and the multitude of UFO researchers simply disregard this fact? Why did not someone locate and ask Dr. Franklin Reno about these allegations? The obvious answer is this: The name "Dr. Franklin Reno" was part of the hoax!

How might Dr. Reno's name, if fictitious, have been derived? It is possible that it could have been merely imaginative, but more probably it was inspired directly from memory or observation. As an exercise in inductive reasoning, I attempted to draw a conclusion by studying the geographical locations of the Pennsylvania cities corresponding to the postmarks and return addresses on the letters: Du Bois and New Kensington. A Pennsylvania road map will show that on Route 62 south of Oil City are the adjacent towns of Franklin and Reno! Due to their proximity, a road sign in that area would probably carry all three names (Oil City, Franklin, Reno). Therefore, if the name Franklin Reno was inspired by observation of such a sign, the road sign may have been noted by a traveling prankster. Alternately, the sign might have been seen in the second most common place for the display of road and traffic signs: on a fraternity or dormitory wall, placed there by rebellious or mischievous college students!

An Oil City road sign would be of special significance to students of Petroleum Engineering. Penn State University is a leading Petroleum Engineering school which undoubtedly attracts students from Texas. There was particular care taken to conceal the true address of the writers; the annotated book was mailed to the ONR from Seminole, Texas, possibly at Easter recess in 1955; across the envelope in which the book was mailed was written "Happy Easter". This indicates that at least one of the writers may have been a student from Texas. The first letter, postmarked Gainesville, Texas was received by Jessup in Florida on January 13, 1956. The return address in New Kensington, Pennsylvania was found to be a vacant farmhouse. Jessup replied to this address and his reply was acknowledged in a second letter which was postmarked in Du Bois, Pennsylvania on May 25, 1956. There is a branch of Penn State University at Du Bois. It is possible that one would travel through or near Franklin, Reno and Oil City when commuting to Texas.

Is this, then, the sobering solution to the twenty-year Allende puzzle? Were the Allende letters and the annotated copy of Dr. Jessup's book nothing more than the work of college pranksters? Was a Penn State student, resident of Texas, responsible for mailings which were postmarked alternately in the two states? Was Dr. Franklin Reno's "birth" the result of imagination and an interesting road sign? And, were there three pranksters named Carl, Michael and Allen? If so, the hoax has been remarkably "successful" and one which should keep us all on guard against the acceptance of totally undocumented "evidence". (Ivan Sanderson wrote the article **Jessup and the Allende Case** which appeared in **Pursuit**, Vol. 1, No. 4, September 30, 1968. This article, written from first-hand experience, implied that the matter involves more than a simple hoax. If reader response is high, we will consider reprinting Ivan's article, --- Editor.)

**(Editor's note:** Carl Meredith Allen, sometimes known as Carlos Allende (pronounced Al-yen-day), was born on May 25, 1925 in Springdale, Pa. He grew up in New Kensington, Pa. His mother and three brothers still live in that area, but under another name. A man unrelated to the Allen family wrote several false "Allende letters" from a New Kensington address in the 1960's (his real identity is known to S.I.T.U.).

Mr. Allen has had a varied career. He was a merchant seaman in the 1940's and worked in the oil industry in the southwest during the 1950's. His famous letters to Morris K. Jessup were mailed from Seminole, Texas in 1956, but he continued to use his family's New Kensington address. He visited the Varo Corporation at Garland, Texas, at the personal invitation of the president of the company. Later he moved to Colorado and was in close contact with Dr. Edward U. Condon after the Colorado University UFO project was launched.

The elusive Mr. Allen corresponded extensively with Ivan T. Sanderson and John A. Keel, submitting a number of documents to prove his identity. In 1971, he was residing in Mexico. His present whereabouts are unknown.

Mr. Allen is the acknowledged author of the letters received by Jessup, and of the notations made in the Jessup book which was reproduced by the Varo Corporation. No hoax was involved although the factual content of some of the letters and notations can be seriously questioned. Only 115 copies of the Varo edition were published for distribution to Varo and naval personnel. Recently Mr. Gray Barker obtained a mint copy of the Varo edition and reprinted it exactly as the original. This was an expensive project and copies are being sold for \$25 each. (Gray Barker, Box 2228, Clarksburg, W. Va.) A photograph of Mr. Allen, taken by James Lorenzen of APRO, appeared in the April 1975 issue of **Official UFO** magazine. (\$1.00, Countrywide Publications, 257 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10010.)

#### JUMPING CAREFULLY TO CONCLUSIONS

Jumping to a conclusion is one human trait which serious students of Fortean phenomena endeavor to avoid. On the other hand, is a conclusion which is based on very carefully researched information necessarily correct? SITU members and friends might expect not, for one interesting reason: "Fortean Forces" may be at work to distort the very evidence and information on which we intend to base our conclusions!

One most annoying example, often rehashed in these pages, concerns "That Thunderbird Picture." Hundreds of people recall having seen it in a certain newspaper (the Tombstone Arizona **Epitaph**), yet

nobody can come up with a copy — not even the publisher. The publishers of *Fate* magazine recall having used the picture, but nowhere in any of the old issues can it be found. SITU recalls having had the picture, but several years ago it was borrowed by two members, neither of whom can locate it. One is tempted to “jump carefully” to the conclusion that folks’ imaginations have played tricks on their memories, and there never was such a picture . . . at least not in either of the aforementioned places. After all, if there was one, why has it not surfaced? Consider, if you will, one alternate Fortean conclusion: There **was** such a picture published in the newspaper and in the magazine, but it has now disappeared from all copies without leaving so much as a blank space, and SITU’s print has also ceased to exist!

If we consider the concept of parallel universes or separate realities, it is conceivable that a shift or switch has occurred between two realities. Where, previously, certain publications in “our” reality portrayed the thunderbird (whereas publications in the parallel reality excluded it), **now** the situation has become reversed. In “our” universe all thunderbird pictures have gone out of existence, and the situation is exactly as if they had never existed in the first place.

Similarly, there is the case of the reported radio messages sent by the lost Naval flight from the Bermuda Triangle in 1945. As reported by Robert J. Durant in the July, 1975 issue of *Pursuit*: “The

quotation in these books goes like this: ‘We don’t know which way is West. Everything is wrong . . . strange . . . We can’t be sure of any direction. Even the ocean doesn’t look as it should.’ Neither this radio transmission, nor anything remotely like it, appear in the Navy report. Nor do they appear in any report or other source contemporary with the incident.” Mr. Durant goes on to conclude: “Suffice it to say that the standard Triangle book version is not based on fact.” Probably not, Bob, but then again . . . let us not lose sight of the possibility that “Fortean Forces” may have removed all traces of the original transcription from “our” universe!

This entire concept is an especially frustrating one, and one which might well lead a person to decide that there is scant value in investigating Fortean phenomena because the evidence itself is likely to disappear “into another dimension.” If UFOs, ABSMs, FAFROTSKIES and “Nessie” are visitors from the reality next door, how in the devil can we hope to track them down if the very reports of their appearances are apt to change or vanish? Considered as an overall **puzzle**, with Fortean comprising our clues, the frustrating phenomenon theorized here is seen to be nothing more than one additional element of the puzzle. We must, therefore, continue to plod along, compiling and analyzing data until one day . . . who knows? . . . we may awaken to find the solution to the entire Fortean puzzle. It will probably prove to have been the grandest puzzle of them all. —C.W.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

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**The Invisible College** by Jacques Vallee, E.P. Dutton & Co., New York, 1975.

**The Eighth Tower** by John A. Keel, Saturday Review Press/E.P. Dutton & Co., New York, 1975.

Reviewed by Robert J. Durant

“. . . man must be prepared to accept notions of the cosmos, and of his own place in the seething vortex of time, whose merest mention is paralyzing. He must, too, be placed on guard against a specific, lurking peril which, though it will never engulf the whole race, may impose monstrous and unguessable horrors upon certain venturesome members of it.” — H. P. Lovecraft

Jacques Vallee has a doctorate in mathematics and computer technology, and until recently he has enjoyed a reputation as one of the more lucid writers on ufology. His first two books, **Challenge to Science: The UFO Enigma**, and **Anatomy of a Phenomenon**, were an attempt to present a persuasive and philosophically rigorous case for the extraterrestrial hypothesis. Then came **Passport to Magonia** in which Vallee’s theme changed from that of an exponent of ETH to one of presenting what the author viewed as a more complete picture of a phenomenon that transcends the simple nuts-and-bolts concept of interstellar craft making occasional visits to our planet.

**Magonia** was devoted in large part to a review of

the traditions of fairies and assorted other “wee folk.” These traditions are extant in practically every populated part of the globe, appearing to go back into antiquity. They are reinforced by sightings (if that is the proper term) of quite recent vintage. The reader was left with the impression that the fairy lore is only a particular interpretation of the phenomenon that is behind the UFO reports, and especially those reports of close encounters with the UFOs in which some dialog or communication was held between the “entities” and the “percipients”. Note that we are no longer speaking of “witnesses” or “crewmembers”. Even that wonderful neologism “ufonaut” has dropped from sight. While presenting this intriguing evidence of the apparently analogous nature of the UFO lore and the fairy lore, Vallee remained ambiguous about the causative agency of these reported events. On balance, **Magonia** left the reader pondering the possibility that the fairy lore was only a misinterpretation of visitations by space travellers, much in the same manner that von Däniken has urged his Ancient Astronauts hypothesis to explain the origin of the major religions, the mega-constructions of antiquity, and so forth.

“Primal myth and modern delusion joined in their assumption that mankind is only one — perhaps the least — of the highly evolved and

dominant races of this planet's long and largely unknown career." — H. P. Lovecraft

Now we have in hand Vallee's latest book in his ufological series, **The Invisible College**. The ambiguities of **Magonia** are not resolved in this volume. Rather, they are compounded beyond logical analysis as the author delves into every nook and cranny of folklore, the panorama of religious miracles, the vast literature of spiritualism and psychic phenomena, the more recent inquiries into so-called expanded consciousness, and an occasional UFO case, although these latter are tossed in as an afterthought and almost apologetically. The result is an inchoate mess, a veritable anti-synthesis. This is perhaps best illustrated by citing the title of a sub-chapter of the book: "The Phenomenon Negates Itself." Mathematician Vallee has no doubt spent a few moments considering the equivalent proposition: "Everything that I say is a lie." In essence, Vallee is telling us that this proposition is the operational law of the UFO phenomenon. And he has written an entire book saying so.

There is another thing about this book that nettles me, and that is the fact that Vallee is really just rehashing John A. Keel's **UFOs: Operation Trojan Horse**, one of the most discussed but least read books on ufology. For years Vallee, Hynek and other physical scientists involved in ufology have denigrated Keel at every turn. Perhaps Vallee was counting on the very small circulation of **Trojan Horse** when he lifted, word for word and without a hint of attribution, the italicized text from **Trojan Horse** that read: **The Phenomenon Negates Itself**.

Then we have the problem posed by the title of the book and its implication. This, we are told, refers to the informal association of scientists who have devoted themselves, sub rosa, to the investigation of ufology. See Hynek's **The UFO Experience** for more on the same. The college seems to get less visible with every passing day. Are we to take seriously the claim that a large number of physical scientists have abandoned entirely the methods and philosophy of Western science, and that Vallee is speaking for them in this book? "The Phenomenon Negates Itself" is not the end product of the train of thought that brought homo sapiens out of the caves, put shoes on our feet, silver in our teeth, vaccines in our veins, men on our moon. This is instead a pathetic sort of groveling, the very abdication of intelligence and critical faculty.

What is needed here is not a return to a mode of thought that we review whimsically in the works of thinkers of the dim past. How many angels can stand on the head of a pin? Is rain caused by Zeus urinating? Sir James George Frazer, who spent a lifetime studying magic and the belief systems of our forebears, did not end up worshipping trees. Freud did not cap his career by having himself committed to a lunatic asylum. No; what is in desperately short supply here is a true college, visible or otherwise,

of individuals who are willing to come to grips with "The Phenomenon" in a direct manner, using the analytical techniques which have been so effective in solving the myriad problems that utterly baffled our ancestors. Is the infant technology of holography pertinent? What might the college discover about the persistent reports of success in attempts to control the human brain electronically? Could we have a thorough search of the psychological literature for data dealing with hypnosis, for example, or the effects of massive shock and disorientation, instead of this endless dredging up of Jung's hopelessly vague theories? If one chooses the atavistic route, then I suppose "God did it" or "The Phenomenon did it" will suffice. Back to the caves. But if one presumes, however tentatively, that the UFO problem involves our apprehension of an advanced technology, there is a better way. Understanding an advanced technology, given our circumstances as mere onlookers, can only be accomplished by a sensitivity to known principles, and by an imaginative extrapolation of these principles. That is precisely the task that one would hope the likes of Vallee and Hynek would undertake if they hope to make sense to the public or to themselves.

"Despite the seeming cumbersomeness of these explanations they came finally to supersede all others in my mind — largely because of the greater weakness of any rival theory. And a substantial number of eminent psychologists and anthropologists gradually agreed with me."

— H. P. Lovecraft

John A. Keel's new book **The Eighth Tower** covers much the same ground as the Vallee opus. It is actually the fourth book derived from a massive manuscript Keel assembled several years ago from data gathered in his Fortean investigations. The "message" is in essence the same as that conveyed by Vallee, but Keel's involvement with the traditional Fortean subjects is much in evidence. Try this quote: "Today one group of pragmatic scientists is investigating BHM ("Big Hairy Monsters" — Keel's catch-all acronym for Bigfoot, ABSM, etc.) while they scorn, even laugh at, the psychic investigators and UFO enthusiasts. Another group is bent on trapping sea serpents. Still others are chasing ghosts and poltergists. None of these groups seems willing to examine the evidence of the others. Yet they are probably all pursuing the same intangible force."

We will never catch them, says Keel, not the sea serpents, the Bigfoot, Nessie, the Saucers. These are all at best quasi-physical, leaving tantalizing but false clues in the form of temporary materializations that can be photographed, leave deep impressions in the soil, reflect radar beams, cause a set of medical symptoms that are so well defined that they can truly be called a flying saucer syndrome, stall cars, and so forth. The readers of **Pursuit** are surely familiar with the physical evidence for the entire range of unknown fauna as well as that in the UFO problem.

To Keel, as to Vallee, this is all just part of a great hoax. Exactly who — or what — the hoaxers are is still a mystery. But Keel leaves little doubt that the hoaxees are all of us living on this planet and trying to make a bit of sense out of reality. The most elaborate and vicious hoaxes have been played on the “inspired” founders of the world religions, such as Mohammed, Jesus, Joseph Smith, with the thousands of UFO contactees and the millions of people who have conversed with departed spirits coming in a close second. One passage in the book would tend to support the idea that specific sentient entities are behind it all. In other places Keel apparently opts for a projection from individual or collective human minds. In still other places there is talk of a natural phenomenon, devoid of emotion or even reason, simply existing and fouling our neat little causality with an occasional twitch or burp.

As confused and dismayed as I am by all this, I must nevertheless state that I do not believe John Keel is trying to pull anyone’s leg. Every page of the book bespeaks the intensity of his personal experiences with “The Phenomenon”, and I think this work means a great deal to him on many levels. It is as good an example of the pure and unadulterated John A. Keel as you are likely to find. If nothing else, this book will give you about ten years’ head start on all the “respectable” Fortean and ufologists!

“If the laws of the universe are kind, they will never be found.” — H. P. Lovecraft

(The quotations from Lovecraft were taken from his short story **The Shadow Out of Time** first published in 1936).

**The Edge of Reality** by Jacques Vallee and J. Allen Hynek; Regnery, Chicago, 1975; paperbound, \$4.95; hardcover, \$14.95; 301 pages.

This greatly overpriced book consists of the transcripts of a series of discussions between Dr. Vallee, Dr. Hynek and a few others, and is presented as “A progress report on Unidentified Flying Objects”. Highly readable and often entertaining, it appears to be intended as an introduction to the subject for those scientists who are just entering the UFO arena. But the conversations are often marred by the surprising naiveté of the participants even though Vallee and Hynek have been deeply involved in the UFO studies since the early 1960’s. At one point, Dr. Hynek declares that the works of Charles Fort make him “nauseous”, yet both he and Vallee adhere to the “Fortean line” throughout, expressing annoyance, even contempt, for the general attitude of most scientists towards the unexplained.

Dr. Vallee describes for the first time publicly his own UFO sightings, and Dr. Hynek reveals that he once photographed a UFO from an airliner (the photos

are included). A chapter titled “The Night an Occupant Was Shot” summarizes a case from the early 1960’s when a group of hunters fired at, and apparently hit, a being near a grounded UFO. The next day one of the men was visited by two strangers who seemed to be fully informed about the incident and who never bothered to identify themselves.

Other chapters deal with the use of hypnosis in UFO investigations, the intrusion of psychical elements in many cases, the general UFO literature, and a “brainstorming” session in which all of the prevalent theories and explanations are touched upon. Most of it will be very familiar to the avid flying saucer fan and the book will probably become more of a curio than an actual contribution to the subject.

-J.A.K.

**The Mystery of Atlantis** by Charles Berlitz; Avon Books, New York, 1975; paperback, \$1.75; 206 pages.

Just as Bigfoot, Nessie and flying saucers have captured the public’s imagination in this century, the subjects of pyramidology and Lost Atlantis enthralled millions one hundred years ago. Both have since declined, overshadowed by the seemingly more provable speculations on monsters and extraterrestrials. But small bands of scholars, intermingled with the inevitable crackpots and con artists, still pursue the futile game of guessing at the hidden meanings in the pyramids and the romantic search for a long-lost supercivilization. The literature on both these matters is now both voluminous and wearisome. So Charles Berlitz’s exhaustive examination of the Atlantis myth is as refreshing as an open window in a smoke-filled room.

Originally published in hardcover in 1969, **The Mystery of Atlantis** has been updated by its author for this paperback edition and contains a succinct review of some of the new discoveries of the past few years. Are the peculiar stone constructions in the waters off the Bahamas remnants of Atlantis? Or was it in the Mediterranean, as some modern scientists now claim? Did the massive pillars discovered under 6,000 feet of Pacific Ocean off the coast of Peru belong to Atlantis? Or was it near the Azores as some people believe? Mr. Berlitz examines all the lore and all the evidence, carefully weighs the complaints of the sceptics and the beliefs of the advocates, then chooses sides. Atlantis is really out there somewhere, he has decided, and he spends part of his busy life exploring the mysterious underwater world of the Bahamas. Thus far his efforts have produced little more than a suntan and this highly readable book. If you have room on your crowded bookshelves for only one Atlantis tome this year, this should be your choice.

**Secret Doors of the Earth** by Jacques Bergier; Regnery, Chicago; 1975; 159 pages..

Since co-authoring the bestselling **Morning of the Magicians** Jacques Bergier has produced a series of vague potboilers about extraterrestrial life and related matters, borrowing heavily from the literature already extant. In this new work he dimly perceives some kind of secret society directing human destiny in mysterious ways, one of the oldest and most trite cult concepts around. When he is not being frustratingly indefinite he is citing sciencefiction novels as his scholarly sources.

The "Secret Doors" of the title are described in the opening paragraphs of the fourth chapter:

"If our earth is a place of passage, there must be doors that lead to the unknown and that open from those other regions of the universe onto our world.

"Certain daring scientists, among the first of whom is the American zoologist Ivan T. Sander-son, have already begun an inventory of the possible sites of such doors. To describe them I borrow a term from H. P. Lovecraft, 'the induced gates', because I gather that we are here concerned with artificial phenomena rather than natural ones. We have not the slightest idea how a door is created. Once it is created, however, such a door makes possible accidental passages, and this would explain the appearances and disappearances of things and people ..."

If you want to find one of these "secret doors" this book will be of no help whatsoever in your search.

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Member #2104 has informed us that he has found that **ACE BOOKS, 1120 AVE. OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK, NY 10036** publishes Charles Fort's books in paperback. A catalogue is available. Prices (add 35¢ for postage and handling) are:

<b>THE BOOK OF THE DAMNED</b>	\$1.25
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The **UFO Newsclipping Service**, 3521 S.W. 104th, Seattle, Washington, 98146, advises us that they will provide a minimum of 20 legal-size pages of reproduced newspaper clippings dealing with UFO reports, but also including a good sampling of fortean clippings, once per month for a price of \$5.00 per month. Sounds like a very worthwhile enterprise, but please note that we are only alerting you to their existence, not endorsing them.

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Each author of a published article will receive copies of the issue of Pursuit in which his article appears.

#### SPECIAL NOTICE: A FORTEAN JOURNAL NEEDS HELP

**THE NEWS**, printed in England, may have to cease publication shortly if new subscriptions and renewals are not forth-coming. If you are not familiar with this fine Fortean, bi-monthly journal, we recommend that you become familiar with it as soon as possible. Write to: Robert JM Rickard, Post Office Stores, Aldermaston, Berks RG7 4LJ, England. Subscription rates: 1 year-6 issues-\$6.60; 2 years-12 issues-\$12.00 (currency exchange bank fee is included in these prices).

"There is not to be found, in all history, any miracle attested by a sufficient number of men, of such unquestioned good sense, education, and learning, as to secure us against all delusion in themselves."

—David Hume

#### FOLLOW-UP ON THE ANALYSIS OF THE FISH MODEL

In **Pursuit**, July, 1975, we printed an article **An Analysis of the Fish Model** by Walter N. Webb. This article dealt with an evaluation of the astronomical model researched and constructed by Marjorie E. Fish in an effort to locate the stars depicted in the map drawn (under post-hypnotic suggestion) by Betty Hill following her alleged contact with aliens. Recent correspondence with Dr. Carl Sagan has emphasized the very interesting material which appeared in **Astronomy** magazine: articles by Dr. Sagan and Dr. Steven Soter, both of Cornell University Center for Radiophysics and Space Research, an article by Terence Dickinson, and other articles or letters related to the subject.

We had considered writing an article based on information in **Astronomy**, but it would be virtually impossible to do justice to this material without reprinting all of it. And now we have learned that such a reprint is available from **Astronomy** magazine itself. The reprint is titled **The Zeta Reticuli Incident**, and is available for \$4.00 from: Zeta Reprint, **Astronomy Magazine**, 757 N. Broadway, Suite 204, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53202.

Readers of **Pursuit** will undoubtedly find this material to be fascinating.

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