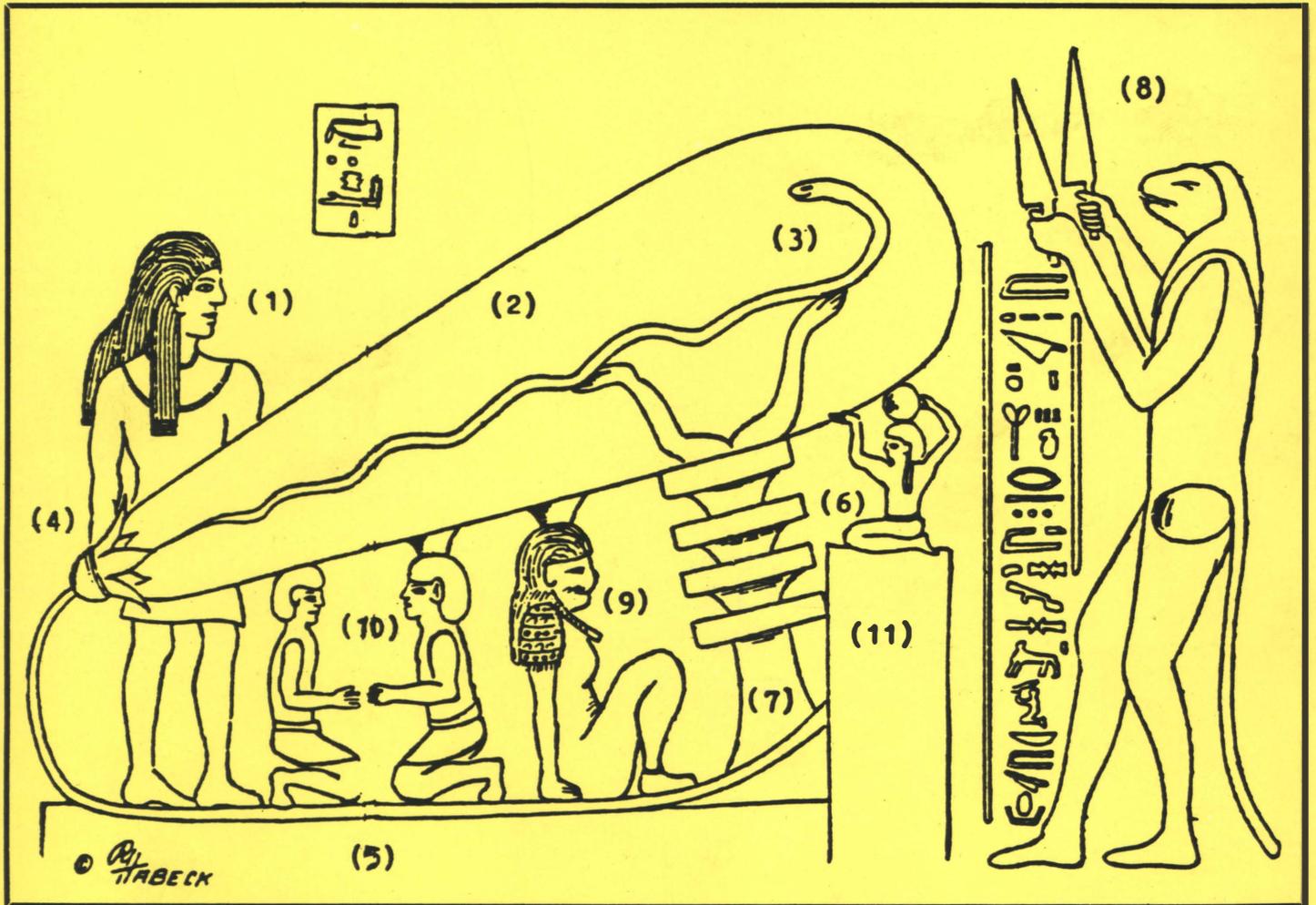
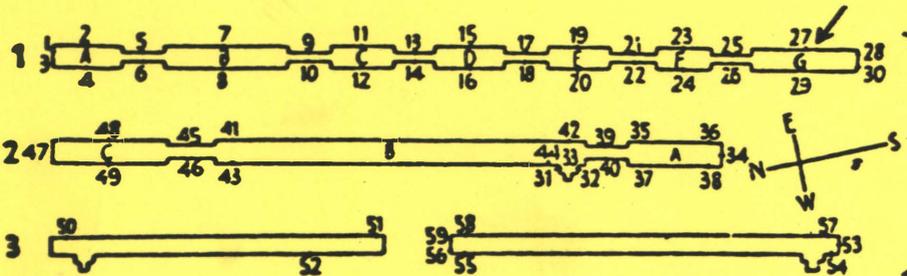


Pursuit

'Science is the Pursuit of the Unexplained'



Journal of SITU
The
Society for the
Investigation of
The Unexplained.



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East
Crypts

See "Electricity in Ancient Times" page 2

The Society For The Investigation Of The Unexplained

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SITU (pronounced *sit'you*) is a Latin word meaning "place." SITU is also an acronym referring to THE SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED.

SITU exists for the purpose of collecting data on unexplaineds, promoting proper investigation of individual reports and general subjects, and reporting significant data to its members. The Society studies unexplained events and "things" of a tangible nature that orthodox science, for one reason or another, does not or will not study.

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The Society's journal *PURSUIT* is published quarterly. In each year the issues are numbered respectively from 1 through 4 and constitute a volume, Volume I being for 1968 and before, Volume 2 for 1969, and so on. Reduced-rate subscriptions to *PURSUIT* without membership benefits, are available to public libraries and libraries of colleges, universities and high schools at \$10 for the calendar year.

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Pursuit®

'SCIENCE IS THE PURSUIT OF THE UNEXPLAINED'

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Joan O'Connell

We are sorry to have to report that Joan Whritenour O'Connell died suddenly of a heart attack on August 29, 1984 in Florida.

She was best known for having been the editor of *SAUCER SCOOP*, *SPECTRUM* and during the last twelve years, the *NEW ATLANTIAN JOURNAL*.

Others will remember her as co-author, with Brad Steiger of three best selling UFO books: *ALLENDE LETTERS - NEW UFO BREAKTHROUGH* (re: *The Philadelphia Experiment*); *FLYING SAUCER INVASION - TARGET EARTH*; and *FLYING SAUCERS ARE HOSTILE*.

She was also a teacher, prolific writer, lecturer and tireless researcher into all aspects of the paranormal, to include UFO's, psychic phenomena, and ancient healing techniques, earthchanges, and forecasting of future events.

We wish we had had the opportunity to have met Joan personally. She was close, not only in a Fortean sense as publisher of the *NEW ATLANTIAN JOURNAL* but also as a next-town neighbor when she, with her husband Pat, lived off-base in Fort Monmouth, N.J.

We would like to welcome to SITU all former NAJ members who have joined us. We offer to help to contribute to Joan's endeavor *in search of the "unexplained."*

The subject of the cover article "Ancient Electricity" will be familiar to all of our long-standing members. Ivan Sanderson expressed his opinion on this matter back in the early 1970s (see *PURSUIT*, volume 2, #3 & 4). Recently, in contact with authors Peter Krassa and Reinhard Habeck, we find they are still pursuing an answer to this enigma.

Electricity in Ancient Times

by Reinhard Habeck (translated by Ulrich Magin)

There are still some unsolved enigmas in the history of man's evolution — things, that can not fit into the usual pattern of events. An ever popular place for observing such is the Nile region of Egypt.

The mysterious Cheops pyramid of Giza, alone, whose importance was underestimated for a long time, is among the oddest of artifacts of long gone early cultures. Whoever put this world wonder into the desert, knew about the orbit of the earth, knew the density of our planet, the number Pi, the rule of Pythagoras (long before the learned Greek himself found it) and even methods of modern time measurement — all that in the age of the Pharaohs. Therefore we are faced with the question: How could the pyramid builders erect such giants? How could they lift blocks of stones with a weight of 20 tons several dozens of meters above the ground and fit them together with millimeter exactness?

The view of orthodox archaeology, that their construction was solely derived from muscle power, is poorly supported and inconceivable to me.

A few years ago Japanese scientists undertook a brave attempt to erect a 12 meter-high miniature pyramid of stone near Giza with simple tools. But before the mini-artwork was completed, it collapsed rather ridiculously.

Again I have to ask myself: Did the pre-Christian engineers only have their muscles as tools? Or did they know other, better methods?

Not only in building, but also in other things, Egypt's ancestors were real professionals. Even the technique of flying may not have been unknown to them.

This assertion is supported by a wooden bird that was found in 1898 in a grave near Saqqara (Sakkara). For 50 years the relic was lying unnoticed beside some other pictures of birds in the Egyptian Museum of Cairo, until in 1966 when the archaeologist Dr. Khali Messiha recognized the true meaning of the object. It is not a bird, but the exact model of a modern glider.

It has not only the straight wings that aroused the suspicion of Dr. Messiha, but also a vertical tail fin. Both differ very much from usual pictures of birds. And more, the proportions of wing width, nose and body fit exactly with those of modern planes. In the meantime, eight further plane models were found, one of which can still be seen in the Museum of Cairo (Corridor 22). Messiha's brother, who works as an aeronautical engineer, tested the flying ability of the models: The prehistoric find was a phenomenal glider and it possessed precise aero-dynamical form — a truly astonishing finding. One has to conclude that the ancient engineers had an amazing knowledge of the laws of aerodynamics.

Considering all this, one may ask the justified question if there is still more information of technology of the past. Knowledge that has not been discovered yet, because the writing got lost or the texts were interpreted in a wrong way?

I mainly think of several odd reliefs that can be seen in certain crypts. As soon as any one enters the rooms and corridors he or she is surrounded by darkness. It is therefore logical that the artistic works could only have been made with the help of a light source. But which light source?

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One acquainted with traditional history would think immediately of torches, candles and petroleum lamps. But this raises another problem: Neither in the temples, nor in the pyramids was any trace of soot found. Such things like torches would have left their traces on the ceilings and walls after the decades-long construction of the pyramids. How can one explain this contradicting phenomenon?

Professor Helmuth Satzinger of the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna gave me the following explanation: "I, too, know of no evidence of traces of soot. But I think I remember a certain article which said they could produce non-sooting torches then. They put the wick into hydrochloric acid and dried it that way."

Does that solve the question of the unknown light source? I'm afraid, not. Because as Professor Satzinger had to admit so far no one has in fact experimented with non-sooting torches. Do they fear the experiment will go wrong?

Another attempt to solve the problem of the Egyptian light source has also proved wrong. Egyptologists considered the use of mirrors that may have been placed in the temples and subterranean rooms. But when this hypothesis was tried out it proved to be ineffective. The majority of the sunlight was lost due to the scattering of the light rays and therefore could not light up the temples and crypts. So Professor Satzinger admitted openly: "We can only guess and speculate." There is only one light source we know of that leaves no trace of use even after centuries: *Electricity*.

Is this the solution or is it absurd to draw such a conclusion? We know that the magnetic effects of electric currents was discovered in 1820 by H. C. Oersted of Denmark. Michael Faraday continued the investigations, and from 1871 we all know of the electric light bulb of Edison.

This historic representation is, to the annoyance of some archaeologists, definitely questionable. The evidence indicating otherwise is from a sensational discovery by the Austrian scientist Wilhelm König. During the excavation of a Parthian settlement [NE Iran] in 1936, a highly curious object came to light, which seemed to have technical workings. König suspected then that this find of 250 BC could have been a battery for producing electricity.

The instrument consisted of a sheet of copper which had been formed into a 12 cm high tube and was soldered with a tin-lead alloy. It was about 2.5 cm in diameter. The bottom was formed by a tight fitting cap of copper, that was insulated with pitch. The other end of the tube was sealed with a stopper of pitch. Sticking out of this was an iron rod (insulated from the copper) going 11 cm deep into the tube. To protect this device, it was encased in and attached to a 18 cm high terracotta vase. (See Figure 1)

If this copper-iron construction was filled with an alkali (lye) or an acid solution (for example wine, vinegar or lemon juice) a working galvanistic element would result. It is interesting to note that the Italian naturalist Luigi Galvani used the same combination 1800 years later for his element. The American F. M. Gray proved, in 1957, that the battery, now in the Iraq Museum of Baghdad, actually functions. With a copy of the original he was able to produce electricity with the help of a copper sulfate solution. This experiment as recently repeated by the German Egyptologist Dr. Arne Eggebrecht of the Hildesheimer Museum.

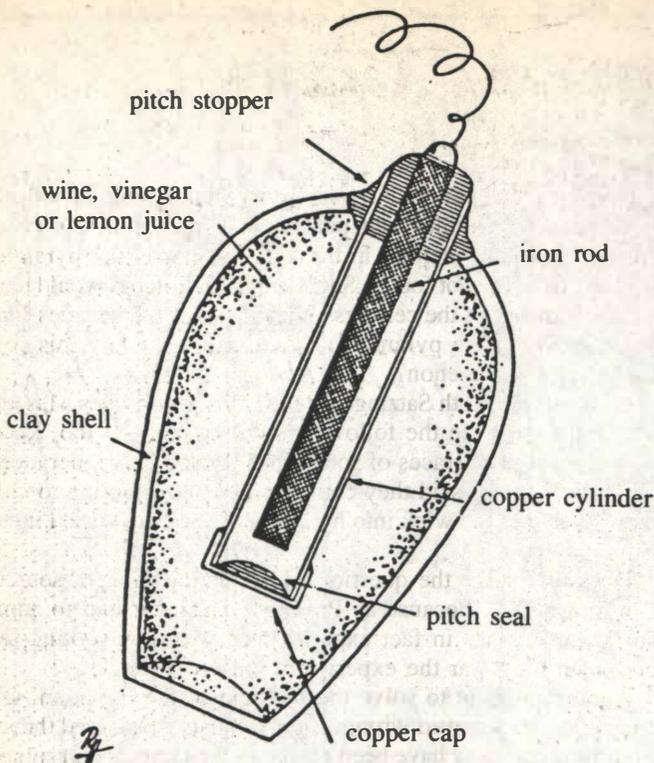


Fig. 1 In 1936 the Austrian scientist Wilhelm König found this vase-like object. Closer examination confirmed the suspicion that it is a pre-Christian dry-battery.

The successful experiment forced sceptical witnesses to reconsider their concepts. Still, the battery, when attached to a meter, emitted 0.5 volts. The so-called barbarian nomads of Parthia had an astounding technical knowledge. Information they shouldn't have had according to traditional history.

Some think that not only the Parthians, but also the Egyptian priests understood the use of electricity. There is a building that, in my opinion, contains such information.

I mean the thousands-of-years-old temple of Dendera, which was sacred to the sky-goddess Hathor, a daughter of the most superior god Re (or Ra). The temple is situated in stoic loneliness on the border of the desert, about 60 km from Luxor on the left shore of the Nile opposite the city Kena. Although it is very old it is still in good shape and is one of the best-preserved buildings of the pre-Christian era. Close by are ruins and monuments which show that the temple itself is only the remnant of an enormous archaeological site.

The most remarkable feature of the building is not its size but the fact that only a small portion of the temple protrudes out of the ground. Hidden under the earth's surface within the walls of the sacred site are twelve long, narrow crypts, access to which is difficult and which lie over each other on 3 floors. (See Figure 2)

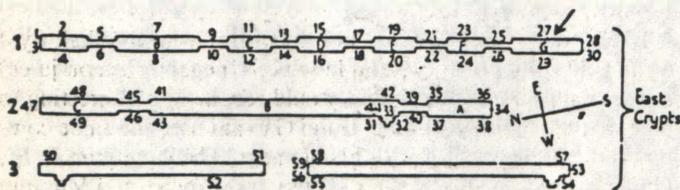


Fig. 2 In deep underground crypts strange wall carvings are found. What do they depict? Egyptologists have so far been unable to agree on just one interpretation.

When I visited Dendera in October 1979 — and some months later again in the company of the best selling author, and contributor to the magazine "2000," Peter Krassa - we both felt a mystical sensation about the remotely located temple perhaps because one is immediately confronted, after entering the building, with innumerable astronomical and other odd motifs, which can not be easily explained. But we were particularly interested in the subterranean crypts. Is it here that the secret of unknown knowledge is hidden, which the ancient Egyptian priests had? We wanted to know.

After some "Bakshish" (bribe money), which our temple guide had asked for point-blank, the way was free into one of the still-open chambers. Actually the other 11 chambers had been closed after clever robberies of the temple in 1972 and 1973.

A great number of wall reliefs were the victims of Mafia art thieves. Pried out under the eyes of obviously bakshish-corrupted officials, these reliefs are now certainly in the private collections of some unscrupulous millionaires. We were lucky that at least one chamber was unharmed.

After a rather uncomfortable entry into the narrow pitch-black corridors, we reached our destination. Peter Krassa and I could hardly move in an area of 5.2 square meters, but what we could see there rewarded all of our efforts. Distinctly the wall reliefs show human figures beside bubble-like objects (2), which remind one of oversized bulbs. Within these objects are stylized serpents (3), which seem to move in an undulating manner. Are they symbols of filaments?

The pointed ends of the "serpents" lead to lotus blossoms (4). And from this an odd cable (5) leads to a "box" which reminds one of a generator (11). Sitting on that box is a figure which is, according to Prof. Satzinger, the God of Air, Shu (6). (See Figure 3)

God of Air? Could this bubble-like "thing" be comprehended to have ionized air?

Directly beside this item is a so-called "Djed-column," with 2 arms that are often interpreted as being "serpents." Even in the circles of Egyptologists there is no agreement as to the meaning of such columns or pillars (7). It is believed by some to be a post which was used to put ears of corn around in circles which were tied on to it in steps.

Other archaeologists speak of it as a representation of a "tree" such as a "palm-tree" with supporting leaves or a backup support. But the word "Djed" also stands for "stability" and "power" which gives a connection to the interpretation as carrier of energy. The obvious similarity of the "Djed-column" with modern high-voltage insulators can not be denied, as unorthodox-thinking electrotechnicians will affirm.

Remarkable, too, is the depicted ape-creature with 2 knives in its hands (8). If you know Egyptian mythology you recognize its meaning: It is the mysterious Thoth, who was highly worshipped as god of the sciences in ancient Egypt, and who is usually symbolized, either as a baboon or the stork, Ibis. According to the myths he was the "writer of the gods" and the "measurer of time." But most of all Thoth tried to illuminate the night with his light.

Handling electricity can sometimes be dangerous — that is generally known. Would it, therefore, not be logical that the knives in the hands of the God of Science should remind us of the dangers of the phantom, namely, electricity? Egyptologists believe they've found a solution for the enigmatic reliefs. According to them they are "serpent stones." They think of large blocks of stone (tapered at the bottom), in the midst of which a serpent undulates. They were thought to be ancient signs of safety and were erected vertically in front of temples. But there

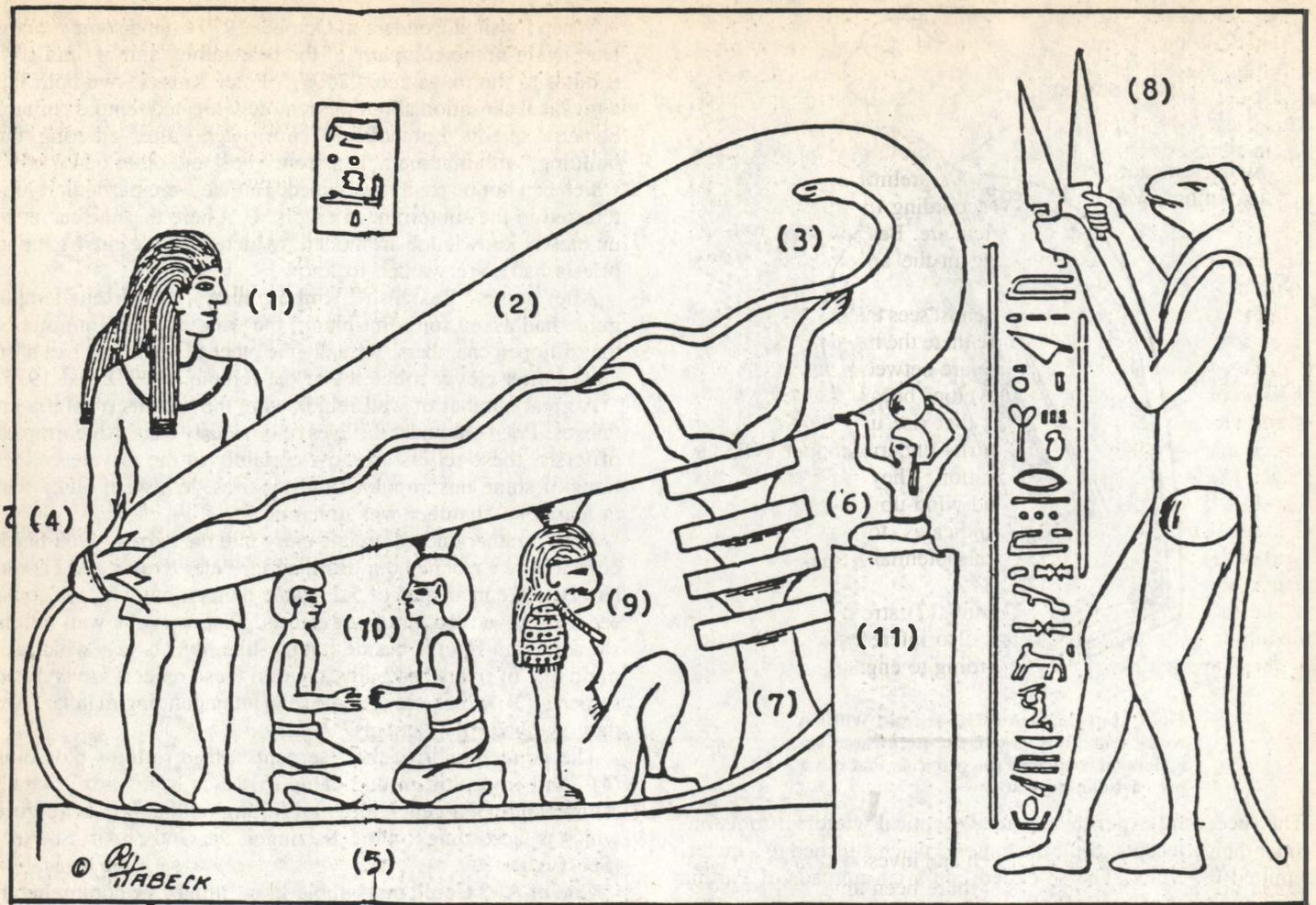


Fig. 3 Beside the bulb-like object in the wall relief there is another feature here unseen elsewhere in Egypt: The entire wall space has

been used for illustrations and hieroglyphics — many so far untranslatable.

are only a very few comparable pictures of these. Some can be found in the temple of death at Teti, in Saqqara or at Naos in Saftel-Henne.

But in the Hathor temple there is no single relief of standing "serpent stones." They are either supported by "Djed-columns" or are held by persons at oblique angles. Egyptologist Hermann Kess thinks this is to illustrate the erection of the "serpent stones." But objections can be raised against this idea. Peter Krassa and I weren't convinced. And what meaning does the cable-like cord have?

Prof. Helmuth Satzinger explains it as follows: "It could be the Barge of the Sun, the standard symbol of ancient Egypt. A boat, with which the sun-god Re navigates by day across the sky and by night through the underworld. Its form reminds one of Thor Heyerdhal's papyrus ships. On the stern they have a mat hanging down (11), whereas the bow has the form of a lotus blossom (4). The meaning or connections are still unclear."

But this is the point: Here is an explanation without any connection between the air god, a hanging-down mat, a papyrus ship and the serpent-stone. Nothing seems to fit.

Why is the "Djed-column" always in oblique position? What is the duty of the priests that stand beside each "serpent stone?" What meaning have the knives of the Science God? Don't forget the cat-like figure beneath the "serpent stone" (9). It is depicted as the moment of highest body tension. Why? Could it be a symbol of "electrical voltage?" There was never any conclusive

answer given to all these questions. Egyptologist's flee into a dreamworld of symbols and suppositions. They speak of "cult rituals" without trying to find out their cause.

But this lighthearted explanation simply does not fit with the reliefs of the Hathor Temple. They are illustrations of a special kind that are meant to express something — here engineering is on display! This has nothing to do with spirits or products of the mind.

But there is another oddity in the Hathor Temple which cannot be compared to anything else in Egypt: Nearly every inch of wall is used for writing and illustrations. The whole temple is there to transmit knowledge. But what knowledge?

It seems the answer is hidden in the dark — up to now Egyptologists have not been able to produce a reliable translation of the Dendera hieroglyphs. The discussions Peter Krassa and I had with experts in Egypt, Germany and Austria show no clear correspondence between the writings and the illustrations. We suspect that the priests of wisdom used a special code only they knew — similar to the codes modern scientists use. The question is why nobody has ever tried to think anew about these pictures. It was successful with the Cheops pyramids, but why not here? Is there no interest?

One who tried it, nevertheless, is the British Oxford scientist Dr. John Harris. He studied the stone reliefs with great care and came to the conviction that they are the exact copy of a technical writing of the kind that is in use nowadays.

This solution is surprisingly identical to that of the Austrian scientist, Walter Garn. Garn worked several years as an electrical engineer in Thailand where he supervised a power station. He did not know of the Dendera reliefs at all until Peter Krassa and I showed him photographs. With his interest awakened, he concluded that the illustrations could be interpreted in a physical and technical way. Garn's preliminary resume says that the "serpents" which are, according to the myths, symbols for fire, are in fact an electrical arc. Beginning at the middle peak of the lotus and ending in the arms of the "Djed-column."

In the physical background a scientist sees that the arc, in every case, comes out of a point because there the highest energy field is directed towards the arms. The arc between the arms is also shown correctly. A curvature develops because of the warmth of the arc and the ionized gases that rise upwards.

And even for the Egyptian spirits underneath the "serpent stones" there is a logical explanation. They are kneeling men who look at each other's face and wind-up holding their arms in a curious fashion (10). This indicates, to engineer Garn, a symbol for the opposing electrical potential between the lotus flower and the "Djed-column."

The fact that the "Djed-column" (7) strongly resembles a modern high-voltage insulator is also interesting. This choice of shape was not accidental according to engineer Garn. In his

opinion, it was intended to give the greatest possible path for the electrical discharges along the insulator surface. And this tilted position keeps it clean even if it rains or it is otherwise dirty.

There remains, yet, one question to be clarified: Which method do you use to create a high voltage in a simple manner? One possibility the electronic specialist sees is the "Djed-column" was used to mix together hot air and dust, for example, with steam. So the illustration of the air god, Shu, (6) would have a more sensible explanation.

With the help of new findings about the wall reliefs of the Egyptian temple of science at Dendera it will be possible for engineer Garn to work out a reconstructed model. Therefore, these logical connections indicate a further study of the wall reliefs could ring valuable new insight. It should not be examined from simply one perspective, but in coordination with several areas of science. Enter the technicians.

If they still talk about "cult rites" (or religious ceremonies), in my opinion, this has nothing to do with proof. Perhaps, however, a single disturbing fact has been deliberately overlooked because it would destroy the intricately-built house of cards.

A detailed account, in German, is available under the title *Licht für den Pharao* by Krassa/Habeck, publisher John Fisch-Verlag, 1982.



Whither Anomalies?

How far has anomalistic research and investigation come, and where do we go from here? Has there been any real headway made toward solving at least a few of the grand mysteries that still perplex us?

It would be pleasant to answer yes to the above questions, but the answer must be a resounding no! Starting with the post-World War II period, and setting aside from this discussion all the work that went on before 1945, in these forty years no real breakthrough has occurred that could be used to solve any major part of the chaos and confusion.

Ah, yes! There have been innumerable theories, hypotheses, ideas and concepts formulated. Countless reams of paper have been written. Numerous conferences have been held and organizations formed to study the unexplained and quite a few "serious" researchers and investigators have pooled their talents to get at the "meat" of the mysteries. But, still no breakthroughs. Computerization, statistical correlations, resource checks, mind-rackings, seminars and field trips have found no key that will unlock the fabulous door that must lead to the solution of the great mysteries.

UFOs, whoever or whatever they are, still "buzz" on their merry way. Strange beasties pop up and down without even saying a "beg your pardon." Weird lights go on and off, always "for no apparent reason." Psi remains as mysterious as ever. The World Grid and Earth Energies are still imponderable. On and on and on.

It should be obvious to any competent researcher or investigator of the unexplained that a single source or agency is responsible for instigating what we call anomalies or the paranormal. Call it the "Source," the "Intelligence," the "Power," the "Phenomenon," or simply "X," it underlies the major anomalistic phenomena, although some activity of a minor nature perhaps arises from unrelated sources. Yet nothing has edged

us closer to any of this, although there have been hints and unverified stories of researchers and investigators who have "gone too far" and are no longer with us, in one sense or another. Be that as it may, the same mysteries still confront us.

Where do anomalistic studies go from here? There have been suggestions. Some seem to think that government, or academia, or both, should fully get behind the research and investigation. As an independent scholar of anomalies I view this as a big mistake. In the unlikely event that the Establishment deigns to become involved in such studies, it would control nearly all information regarding phenomena and thereby push out us independents. I have no faith whatever in the ability of either government or academia to accomplish much of anything. What important research and investigation has surfaced has come from individual initiative — the persistent effort of small groups and lone scholars — and there is no need for governmental, bureaucratic, or academic idiocies and buffoonery. Remember, the notorious "Wipe" is ever present! What is needed is a fuller exchange of pertinent information and ideas among completely independent researchers and investigators. Better communications, scholarly roundtables and networks should be put in place; the insight, brilliance and dedication are already there.

To sum up: either the "Phenomenon" is solvable by humans, or it is not. If it is not, then let us pursue more fruitful activities. But if, at the very least, some part of it can be comprehended by humanity, then let us proceed, each on his or her own path. With diligent, small-scale, independent efforts intensified, a key — perhaps "the" key — shall be found.

Whither anomalies? The wind blows and it blows freely.

— Member #3103



The Westchester Wing – A Closer Look

by R. Perry Collins

From the spring of 1983 to the summer and fall of 1984, the counties of Westchester, New York and Fairfield, Connecticut were the focus of one of the largest UFO waves in history. An estimated 30,000 individuals in these areas witnessed an extremely large, obviously structured, triangular-shaped object cruising silently at altitudes of less than one thousand feet. It was most often described as a huge "V"-shaped flying wing. During this same period, while groups of unidentified pilots had been flying light aircraft in V formations, police departments had been visited by federal agents offering "hang glider" and "light aircraft" flights as explanations for the lights in the sky. Several months after the beginning of these sightings, a popular television series began. The show is called "V" and portrays invaders from the stars, disguised as humans, who, in reality are alien reptiles bent on conquering the world. Can all this be coincidence? If more than 30,000 people have seen this thing, why haven't the major media groups been more interested? Why are federal agents covertly investigating and attempting to censor reports of these overflights? Why now, when unidentified aircraft can be rapidly detected, intercepted and even shot down, has this object apparently not been challenged?

On August 21st, 1983 I personally witnessed the object. I grew up in the Air Force and now work as an aerospace engineer. What I saw was not an aircraft nor a group of light planes. As a result, I began an in-depth investigation of the phenomenon the next day. Prior to August 21st, I had followed reports of the object and spoken with several investigators who were attempting to determine its real nature. Then I began investigating the reports myself. I interviewed witnesses, spoke with local police officers and conferred with other investigators and with interested journalists. I found clear evidence of the existence of an aerial craft, approximately three times as large as the largest known conventional aircraft, which displayed characteristics beyond our current level of technology. I also found indications of a well-planned attempt to cover up the sightings, and covert investigations by federal agencies using FBI operatives and other federal agency personnel.

The object got major notice on March 24th, 1983 when residents of Yorktown, New Castle, Mt. Kisco and other nearby towns in New York State reported it cruising slowly at low altitude. From that date to the present (last confirmed sighting Dec. 26th, 1984) the unknown object has been reported over Westchester, Putnam, Rockland and Dutchess counties in New York and over Fairfield county in Connecticut. Professional investigators have interviewed more than 2000 witnesses, more than seventy media articles have appeared (primarily in local newspapers), and photographs and video tapes have recorded the presence of the "V"-shaped UFO. Numerous police officers have seen it. These same officers have reported attempts by their police chiefs to censor their statements. Investigators of this phenomenon have been covertly watched and, on occasion, subjected to spurious interviews by FBI agents. All of this is documented; here, by the media, in the logs of investigators, on tapes of witness accounts and in signed statements by police officers.

What is Really Happening?

Before we can attempt any analysis we must take a long, hard look at the information available. Three men have been most active in investigating these reports: Lt. George Lesnick of the

Fairfield, Connecticut police department, Philip Imbrogno of Greenwich, Connecticut, and myself. Phil and George have been more active in interviewing witnesses and relaying information that the Center for UFO Studies in Illinois. The head of CUFOs and 'dean' of UFO research, J. Allen Hynek, has personally visited the area several times to interview witnesses with George and Phil. He acknowledges this to be "one of the largest UFO waves in history."

We cannot deal directly with the object, examine it and determine exactly what it is or where it is from. We *can* examine witness reports, drawings and photographs of the object. We can examine the reaction of the media, of local police and of federal agencies such as the FAA, the ANG (Air National Guard) and the FBI.

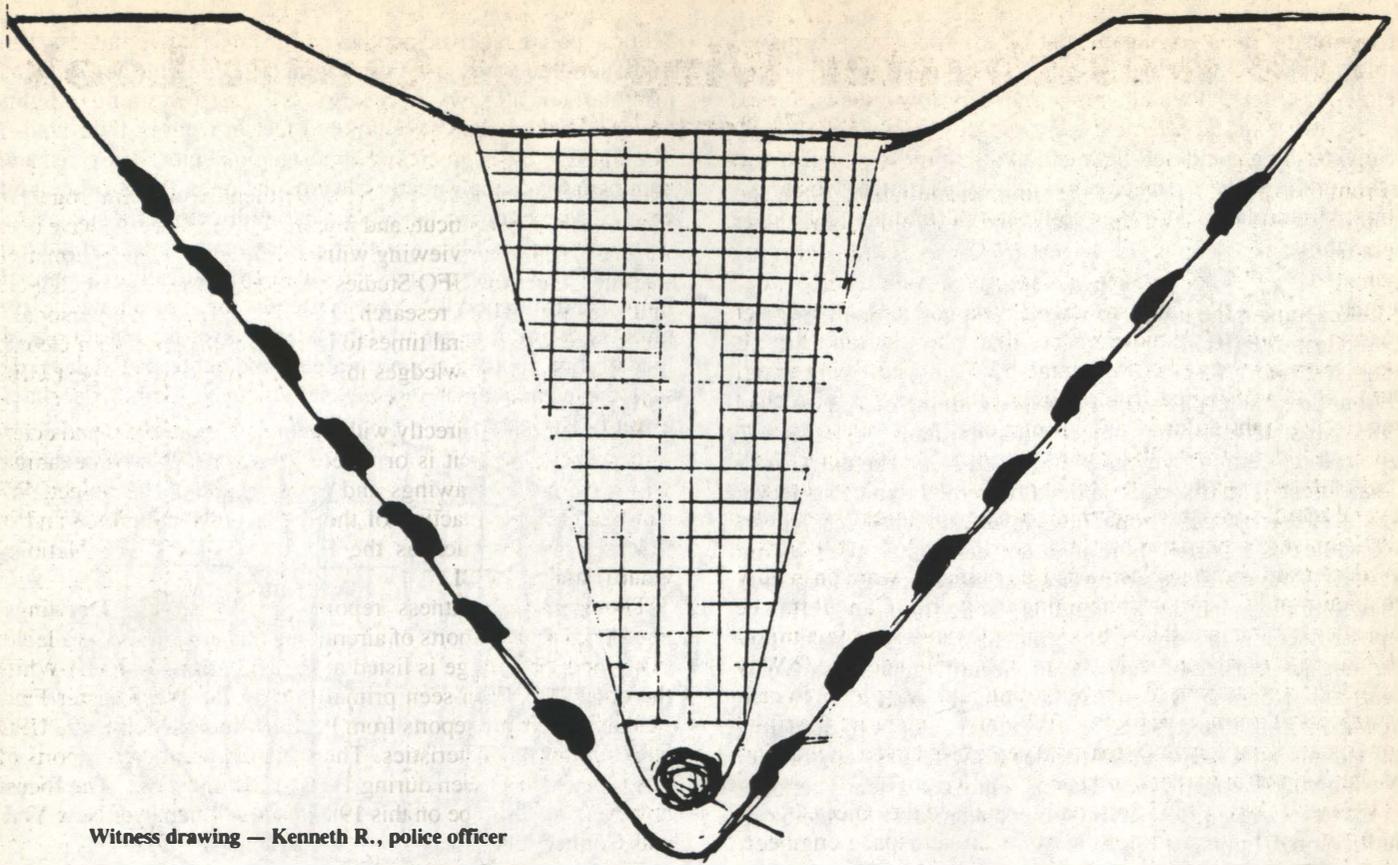
Thousands of witness reports are on record. Drawings, photographs and reports of aircraft encounters are also available. (The media coverage is listed at the end of this article.) While the object has been seen primarily over the Westchester/Fairfield area there are reports from Pennsylvania to Maine of a UFO with similar characteristics. There are also scattered reports of this type of UFO seen during 1980, 1981 and 1982. The focus, however, seems to be on this 1983 and 1984 flap over New York and Connecticut.

The first widely read media article to comment on this object was printed in the Port Chester (New York) *Daily Item*. *Hundreds Claim to Have Seen UFO* was the headline and, indeed, hundreds of reports of a large, "V"-shaped UFO with multicolored lights were received by the police departments of Yorktown, Mt. Kisco, Carmel and nearby areas. This was on Thursday night, March 24, 1983. Police officers in these towns also reported seeing it. (For the record, however, one week earlier, on March 17th, residents of Kent, N.Y. and motorists on highway I-84 had reported an identical UFO.)

The object was seen the next night, March 25th, and again the following night. Now the witnesses numbered in the thousands. Other newspapers began picking up the story. Again the object appeared on several nights in early April, this time in the area of Danbury, Connecticut and a story appeared in the *Danbury News-Times*. Then the *Sunday New York Times* on April 17th carried a lengthy article about the activity.

The name Philip Imbrogno was seen often and rightly so; Phil is one of the most authoritative experts on aerial phenomena in the area. A Viet-Nam war medical corpsman veteran, he is a high school science teacher and a graduate astronomer. Phil is a man of many talents, with an exacting attitude as an investigator and almost limitless energy. He began pursuing the mystery of this UFO and, with the aid of Lt. Lesnick, an experienced police investigator, gathered reams of data. Verbal reports on tape, written and signed reports, occasional photographs, drawings, maps of flight routes and computer evaluations of patterns began accumulating as George and Phil continued their investigations. Obliging, the UFO continued to reappear. Then, other aspects of the situation also began to occur.

It was clear to Phil and George and to most of the witnesses that what was being seen was not a conventional aircraft nor a group of them. The object hovered, made little or no noise, performed unusual and abrupt turns, rotated on its own axis and displayed extremely rapid accelerations and decelerations. Often



Witness drawing — Kenneth R., police officer

it was reported to blink off its lights, seeming to disappear, only to reappear seconds later, lights blazing, in a removed quadrant of the evening sky miles away. Official explanations began to proliferate. First they said it was hang gliders, then "ultra-light" aircraft. These explanations were shown to be inaccurate, or at least, inadequate. Such very light aircraft would be hard pressed to stay aloft even with the weight of several hand flashlights, not to mention six to twenty bright, glowing lights. Other explanations came to the fore. Light aircraft in formation became the byword of authorities and explainers. It was, at this time, more than two months after the beginning of the sightings, that attention became focused upon a group of pilots flying out of Stormville airport in New York. These pilots flew close formations, most often in V or wedge-shaped patterns. Thus, the perfect explanation for the sightings was found and publicized.

Reality, however, was more complex. Lt. Lesnick uncovered definite evidence of censorship attempts directed towards the witnesses who were police officers. These officers stated that the police chiefs of their departments had been visited by federal agents and that they had then been instructed to explain the UFOs as conventional aircraft activity. The officers were indignant about this, for they were convinced that what they saw was *not* normal aircraft activity. The Stormville pilots were very evasive and would not talk to investigators or newspaper reporters. Several times they avoided state and local police waiting in their cruisers at the landing strip by diverting themselves to other airports. More was going on than met the eye.

Throughout the summer and into the late fall of 1983 the "V"-shaped object continued to be seen. Media articles appeared, but less often, I found myself drawn to the activity, and spoke several times with George and Phil. They greatly impressed me. These men were very professional UFO investigators. Compared to them, I felt I was a hobbyist.

At the beginning of this wave of activity I began to keep a

log of all information coming my way that might pertain to this "object." My first guess was that it was some new type of military aircraft displayed in a strange attempt to gage public reaction to UFOs. After several talks with witnesses and aerospace engineers, this idea began to seem untenable. After August 21st, when the object circled and overflowed my residence, the idea that it had been constructed using our present-day technology was once I abandoned altogether.

On August 21st, 1983, I watched the object at close range for several minutes. That same night witnesses reported it over New Haven, West Haven, Bridgeport, Monroe and Stratford, Connecticut. On September 23rd, 1983, the object was seen over Newton, Sandy Hook and along Highway I-84 in Connecticut. We shall examine these two nights in depth as an expanded reference to the larger range of reported incidents. In this way we may find some tentative answers or at least some closer descriptions of its appearances and activities.

It is important that we draw no conclusions unless warranted by the data available. UFOs are unreal to most of us. We have not seen them. We see only the reports. For those people who saw this UFO, it suddenly becomes a reality which is open to various interpretations. Explanations, especially for those not directly exposed to the phenomenon, leaped forth. I saw it. I have a clear grasp of what I saw and how it interacted with me. I have also closely interviewed many of the witnesses of August 21st and September 23rd. Yet, I have no idea what it actually was — I can only report on how it appeared and what it did. What it actually was or is will remain, for the most part, unknown until it lands or openly displays itself in daylight.

Witnesses agree, no matter what may have been aloft, the object they saw was *not* a formation of light planes. Many witnesses have seen both the object and a group of light aircraft in formation over their areas (not at the same time). These witnesses, some being pilots themselves, agree that there was

no confusing the two. Again, the object was *huge*, displayed multicolored lights (which changed color and intensity), flew below 1000 feet, hovered, moved at very low speeds, turned on its own axis, accelerated very rapidly, cast unusual light beams to the ground and interacted with witnesses as if it was aware of the witness participation in its appearance. No formation of light planes, or other conventional aircraft, can do all these things.

A Closer Look

Let us look at the nights of August 21st and September 23rd, 1983, in more detail.

August 21st, 1983:

At approximately 10:30 p.m. on the evening of August 21st, 1983, an unusual flying object with multicolored lights was reported to Louis Coveyduck at Tweed-New Haven Airport, Connecticut. The first calls came in from the Foxon/East Haven area, followed by calls from New Haven and then West Haven. Six witnesses reported more than unusual lights; their reports were of a huge lighted object seen at close range. Two men, Shawn Fricker and John Trendine, both from West Haven, reported seeing the object hovering low over the Yale Bowl stadium, just outside of New Haven. Security guards Jose Velasquez and Kenneth Rayon saw it directly over the Jackson Newspaper building. Police also received calls from numerous individuals such as Robert McBride, his wife and neighbors on Washington Avenue in New Haven. They consistently reported an extremely large, low-flying object seemingly studded with multicolored lights.

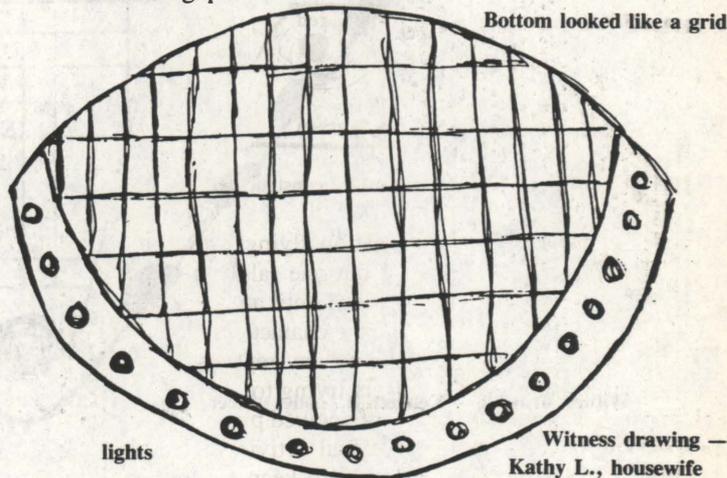
At 10:40 p.m., three women reported a low-flying "V"-shaped object near Seaside Park in Bridgeport. These witnesses became somewhat agitated as the large display of lights seemed to follow them from the shore and through Bridgeport towards the North End of town. At 10:45 p.m., I, myself, saw a set of unusual lights low over the North End near St. Vincent's Hospital. As I watched, they seemed to be drifting slowly and then blinked out. Not really believing what I saw, and attempting to rationally explain it to myself mentally, I moved to a window facing west, over Main Street. As I looked out, the lights reappeared. They were stationary now, and much closer. There were three widely-spaced lights, approximately four city blocks away, about two or three hundred feet over the rooftops. I was on the third floor of a house on French Street.

As I watched, I became convinced that the lights were unusual and that what I was seeing was a UFO. The lights, colored red, green and blue, began changing color. The green blinked out, then back on, then they all went out. At this point I moved to the north-facing window. Upon looking out and up, I witnessed a huge display of wing-shaped colored lights, moving silently and slowly eastward between me and the hospital. The hospital sits on a hill approximately half a mile away and a quarter of a mile up from my residence. Being a quality control engineer by profession, I computed the dimensions of the structure containing the lights to be at least 500 feet across and 300 feet long. I immediately called Lt. Lesnick and then went outdoors in an attempt to see the object again.

Security guard Lopes of Sikorsky Field in Stratford reported that a very excited motorist had driven into the airport at approximately 10:55 p.m. to report having seen "a huge UFO" over Route 25 moments before. The motorist would have been seeing the object at the same time and in the same area as myself.

At 11:06 p.m., the Monroe Police Department received a call from an electrical engineer living near a new golf course in the town. The engineer reported observing a set of unusual colored lights hovering over and behind his house. At 11:10 p.m., the

Monroe police received another call from a man living less than three hundred yards from the engineer. Lee Lent, his wife and his eldest son all saw a very large, "V"-shaped group of lights hovering at less than two hundred feet in front of their house. The lights, "blue, green and almost a pink color," hovered and then began moving directly towards the open fields of the golf course. Mr. Lent works as a financial director of a successful company and has often travelled by air, many times in light aircraft. "This was no plane," he stated emphatically. He and his family had watched it hovering silently for approximately five minutes before it began moving silently over his house. Shortly after this, another Monroe resident and her teenaged daughter saw the same object moving slowly over their house back towards Bridgeport.



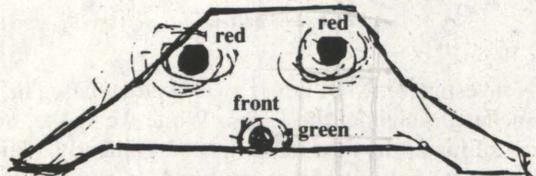
At 11:45 p.m. I returned to my house and called the Bridgeport Police Department to report the UFO. At 11:50 p.m. a young woman in the vicinity of the General Electric plant near Boston and Seaview Avenues called the Bridgeport police to say that she and several friends were watching a huge lighted object either moving or hovering in the sky. Immediately afterwards, at 11:55 p.m., Stratford police received a call from Cliff Robertson, 58, who stated that he, his wife and several others were watching a "huge cluster of lights" in the air over Connors Lane near Huntington Road, in Stratford.

Tracing the reports, we see that a huge, well-lighted, seemingly "V"-shaped object was seen first over East Haven, then New Haven, then West Haven, then Bridgeport, then Monroe, back over Bridgeport and onto Stratford. The sightings occurred sequentially from approximately 10:30 p.m. to 11:50 p.m. The flight path was a consistent line over the closely clustered towns. There can be no doubt something was there.

Phil Imbrogno has gathered many examples of this type of incident in 1983 and 1984 over Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester counties of New York. At times of peak frequency, reports of this type of overflight occurred more than twice a week. George Lesnick has made inquiries at local police departments in these counties. He has spoken to police officers who saw the object. As mentioned, the New York State Police and local police chiefs at first attempted to officially explain the sightings as "ultra-light" aircraft. More recently the official explanations have stated that the sightings were due to a formation of light planes coming out of Stormville Airport in New York. An FAA inquiry was initiated and it came to light that a group of pilots, flying light aircraft, had often flown over the same areas in close formation. The light planes appeared flying at both high and low altitudes several times, and many people, including police officers, had seen both the planes and the

“UFO” separately and reported that, again, there was no confusing the two. As early as April 23, 1983, both Phil Imbrogno and myself received reports of “very low-flying Cessnas” from a police officer and from an amateur astronomer in the New Fairfield, Connecticut area. This formation of planes was readily identified as such by both witnesses and was not referred to as being a UFO.

Surprisingly, some local police officers (who witnessed the UFO themselves) claim, somewhat angrily, that their superiors had instructed them to say it was an airplane or an ultra-light plane. Some officers reported that their chiefs had been approached by federal authorities who were attempting to “keep a lid” on the unusual activity. Investigations into the identities



Witness drawing — Paul V., construction company owner

and motivations of the “formation flying” pilots have been clouded, perhaps deliberately, but one salient fact has emerged: these flights were never noticed until after the UFO reports of March and April, 1983. Since the characteristics of those UFO reports could not be duplicated by any regular aircraft formation, either the pilots are hoaxers trying to imitate the reported UFO or they are part of a well-conceived plan to present a “rational” explanation for the unusual activity.

Such an explanation could help to keep the public calm in the face of the unknown. And, it could give defense analysts some breathing room. It is reported that UFOs have caused profound alarm at higher levels of military intelligence centers. They have interfered with the operation of long-range ballistic-missile placements. They have landed near military bases. Numerous unsuccessful interceptions have been attempted. These facts are very well documented in two books: *Casebook of a UFO Investigator* by Raymond Fowler and *Clear Intent* by Larry Fawcett and Barry Greenwood, both published by Prentice-Hall Inc. (Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 07632). A study of these two books should give anyone the foundation of an understanding of the UFO phenomenon.

September 23rd, 1983:

At about 11:00 p.m. on the night of September 23rd, 1983, three girls and the mother of one left a dance at the Sandy Hook, Connecticut high school. As they proceeded thru Sandy Hook and onto the Highway I-84 overpass, one of the girls saw a “UFO” almost directly over Sandy Hook. Excitedly, she told the others, while watching it from the rear window of the car. They began making fun of her until they, too, saw the object. The mother, driving the car, turned left onto Walnut Tree Hill Road. Suddenly they all began seeing the object off to their right, between the trees along the road. The mother stopped the car, but refused to allow the girls to get out. All four watched as the object silently flew almost directly overhead and back towards I-84. All agreed that it appeared to be very large, kite-like, with four steady, glowing lights (two red, two blue). The “leading point” of the object in flight was a red light, the two “tips” were blue and the “tail” was red. They were steady and did not blink. The lights were described as “too close together to be several planes in formation, but too far apart to be one single plane.” As the object moved over to the left side of the car, the trailing red light went out. The witnesses estimate that the object was now over Highway I-84. It appeared to be a large

triangle, with a red light at the apex and two blue lights at the “wingtips.” The blue lights then went out, followed by the disappearance of the leading red light.

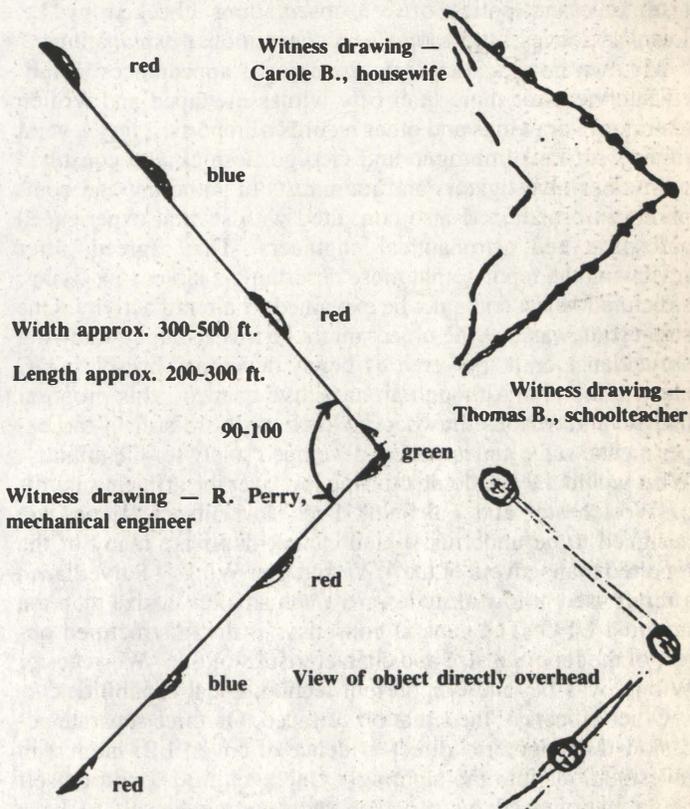
At approximately this same time, a woman graduate student of the University of Connecticut, 33 years old, saw the object as she was driving on I-84. She reported three unusual lights (a red and two blues) to the Newton Police Department. She hurriedly exited the highway near the Grand Union store and as she did, she noticed the two blue lights go out and then the red light also went out. She felt as if “the thing” had disappeared. She noticed other people on the road slowing down, as if also watching it, and talked with another woman at the supermarket who had seen “it,” too. The police dispatcher from nearby Newton told her that there had been two other sightings of a large unknown object in the past two weeks, but advised her to relax because whatever it was, the FAA was tracking it.

Barbara Allen, a resident of Sandy Hook, her daughter and her son also saw the object at approximately the same time, while traveling eastbound on I-84 in the same area. The daughter, bright for her eleven years, wrote a most cogent report:

“I was thinking about falling asleep. Then I saw a bright light above a hill and I thought it was a radar tower. As we drove along, it was going along the same way we were and it was very big or at least bigger than a large plane. We got off at Exit 10 and stopped to look at it. It was a triangular shape and had one red light and two blue lights. As we were watching it, the lights seemed to fade away. I know they (it) didn’t go behind a cloud because it was a totally clear night.”

All agreed that what they saw was unusual and that it was unlike anything they had seen before. After stopping at the bottom of Exit 10, they watched as it hovered over them briefly and then moved slowly away. Barbara talked with a teenager standing on the opposite side of the road, who had also seen “it.”

The last report from the Sandy Hook area that night came from a self-employed construction worker who, at age 28, runs his own concrete business. Paul Valliquette of Meriden, Connec-



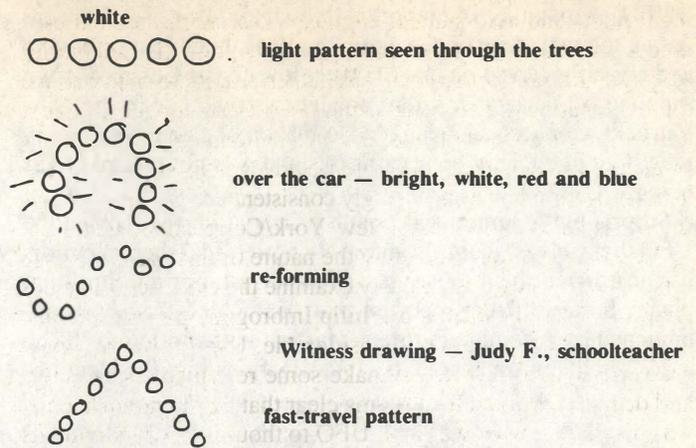
ticut was on his way home from a job when he saw it. Without fear, but with a lot of curiosity, Paul stopped his truck on I-84, got out and proceeded to get a very good look at the object at close range, with its lights on and after they went off. He gave a very concise report of an extremely large, metallic object. Using hand widths and angular measurements (he saw it hovering in front of a nearby hill), the dimensions of the object were computed by him to be approximately 800 feet across, 500 feet long, and approximately 50 to 100 feet in thickness. This seems ludicrously large, but almost every witness reported similar dimensions. "As large as a football field" was a common comparison. Paul watched the huge object for about five minutes. "It" had doused its lights, but in the moonlight he could see a "huge, grey metallic object." Suddenly its lights came back on and it "moved very swiftly" to the west at the same low altitude. Paul stated, "On a soft arc, it lifted up towards the stars and became the size of a pin head in a matter of five to ten seconds." The acceleration was short-lived, extremely rapid, and silent. It stopped abruptly, seemingly miles away, at about sixty degrees above the horizon over the area of Ridgefield, CT. At this point, Paul perceived it to be much like a star, giving off multicolored lights.

The reports from each of the two nights are not isolated to the witnesses mentioned. Media articles appeared in the *Bridgeport Post* of August 22, 1983; in the *Meriden Record Journal* of August 24 and in the *New Haven Journal Courier* of August 23. Again in September, reports appeared in the *New Haven Register* on the 24th and in the *Newton Bee* on the 30th. Police departments received numerous calls about the object in all the towns mentioned. It is estimated that there were several hundred witnesses in August and somewhat less in September.

These two nights are typical of many. Phil Imbrogno, the most persistent and perhaps most experienced investigator, has looked thoroughly into numerous sets of similar reports over Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess counties in New York. The record of his investigations, along with photographs, taped testimony and police officer observations checked by Lt. Lesnick, leaves little room for "conventional explanations."

My own investigations into the object's appearances included interviews of more than fifty witnesses, taped and written testimony, drawings and other records of reports. I met several times with Phil Imbrogno and George Lesnick and consulted with other investigators and journalists in gathering and comparing information. I also consulted with several experienced aerospace and astronautical engineers. They agreed, after reviewing the reports, that those describing a large, low-flying, structured object could not be explained by aircraft activity. One suggestion was that the object might be a very large, parawing surveillance craft, powered by newly developed brushless DC electric motors. Although an attractive concept, this proposal had several serious drawbacks. Such craft are still in the experimental stage and are being developed solely for the military. What would they be doing cruising low over the affluent suburbs of Westchester and Fairfield? Such surveillance drones are designed to be unobtrusive and cannot duplicate many of the reported manoeuvres of the "Westchester Wing." Surveillance aircraft used at low altitudes are much smaller in size than the reported UFO. The general consensus is that a structured object of the reported size and characteristics of the "Westchester Wing" was beyond our present technological capabilities.

Other aspects of the situation surfaced. On three separate occasions I encountered direct evidence of covert FBI interest in investigations into the sightings. One evening I found myself being interviewed by a person representing herself to be a



MUFON investigator (MUFON is a UFO group based in Texas with branches throughout the U.S.). While we spoke, an FBI agent was sitting at the next table, listening intently. This was verified by local police officers who had an ongoing interest in the investigation and in the presence of the agent, but especially since he had not officially notified them of his presence and intent. Other agents were identified through license plate checks. The shadow cast by the presence of federal agencies interested in the UFO phenomenon has a definite outline, although the complete image is still unknown.

Summary

It can be stated that many thousands of individuals in the New York/Connecticut area were witness to an unusual aerial object in 1983 and 1984. The object was consistently described as extremely large, structured, "V"-shaped, silent and flying slowly at low altitudes. It also was seen to accelerate "very, very quickly," to rotate on its axis in flight, make abrupt right-angle turns, hover motionlessly and display variable lighting as well as "searchlight-like" beams extending to the ground. Within one month of the first of these reports, certain pilots began flying light aircraft out of Stormville and other small airports in formations over the same areas. They refused to identify themselves to civilian investigators and several times avoided state and local police waiting for them by diverting to land at other airports. Investigations into their identities, led by lawyer Peter Gersten, have linked them, it is said, with the CIA. Several researchers experienced covert attempts of being followed and falsely interviewed. Investigations into this activity showed these attempts to be the actions of FBI employees. Numerous police officers, themselves witnesses of the unknown object, reported attempted censorship by superiors. They also reported, in several separate townships, approaches to police chiefs by federal agents allegedly attempting to cover up and explain away reports.

What were we experiencing? At this point we can only say that we were witnessing what appears to be a very large, structured vehicle which flew low over populated areas, displayed unusual lights perhaps to deliberately attract attention to it. What it was, where it was from and who was or is behind its activities is all still entirely unknown. Someone or something seemed to be trying to get our attention. Once attending, we found ourselves even further entranced with the implications of its appearance. We need to clearly separate what we know from what we may imagine. UFOs have somehow managed to consistently attract a low level of public attention for years. For some reason, this particular wave of activity seemed to be more open and intense.

Too many witnesses had seen the object for it to be explained away as an "ultra-light aircraft." Too many witnesses, among

March '83 Thru December '84

them pilots and aeronautical engineers, had seen the unknown object display characteristics completely beyond the capabilities of "light aircraft formations." Whether one chooses to believe the explanations or to believe in UFOs is no longer a cogent approach. One does not "believe in" helicopters. One can only accept the evidence, all of the evidence, in showing UFO activity occurred on a surprisingly consistent and prolonged basis in 1983 and 1984 over the New York/Connecticut area.

We cannot define completely the nature of this activity at this time. We can, however, closely examine the evidence gathered. And, thanks to the efforts of Philip Imbrogno, George Lesnick and others, that evidence is considerable. Using what we know are verified reports, we can make some reasonable statements and deductions about it. It seems clear that an unknown agency was displaying what we call a UFO to thousands of individuals in the densely populated New York/Connecticut area. The displays were consistent and presumably were attention seeking, particularly by the object turning its lights on and off. If it did not want to be seen, we may presume, it would not have illuminated itself at all. The object was seen only at night and seemed to have no clearly detectable purpose for flying low over populated areas except, perhaps, to demonstrate unusually high performance flight characteristics. The object was huge: one witness, Mr. Valiquette, compared it to the size of three jumbo jet 747 aircraft lined up in a row.

The extreme size of the object and its unusual and unbelievable flight characteristics invite us to be in awe of its presence. At the same time, it did not display itself in daylight or, as far as we know, it never made contact with the ground; its presence did not create hysteria, rather it seems we were gently introduced, over a period of many months, to the reality of its existence.

The UFO phenomenon has been following this *modus operandi* for many years. In New England the manifestations of this particular UFO showed a greater frequency, a greater consistency and a greater duration than previous UFO waves. We might deduce that the UFO phenomenon is accelerating its program. We might consider that *our reaction to the phenomenon could be just as important as our realization of its actual nature.*

Speculation

There are reports that: Minuteman missile systems have had their command and control computer systems crashed by the appearances of UFOs; UFOs have effortlessly destroyed anti-aircraft missiles launched at them over Korea, over Belgium, over Moscow; jet fighters launched at them over the United States and the Soviet Union have been lost in interception attempts; electromagnetic communications and radar have been totally jammed at military bases for hours during UFO appearances; and UFOs have closely overflown and landed near military bases throughout the world. At the same time UFOs have made appearances to isolated individuals and have overflown towns and cities without displaying hostility.

Perhaps we are being slowly and gently introduced to a superior culture which will not allow nuclear conflict on our planet. Our adolescence may be over. It may be that we shall resolve our international differences and go on to an eventual open and peaceful contact. It may also happen that we may be involved in a nuclear conflict. Such an event presumably could be stopped by the UFO "agency," since it has shown the capability for intervention. An intervention on this scale would be a tremendous shock to humanity. The Westchester overflights, the Exeter, NH sightings of the last decade, and the reports of UFO appearances in the past several decades may be designed to cushion that shock. Perhaps time will tell.

Port Chester Daily Item (NY)	3/24/83
Danbury News Times (CT)	3/28/83
Reporter Dispatch (White Plains, NY)	3/31/83
Reporter Dispatch (White Plains, NY)	4/1/83
Port Chester Daily Item (NY)	4/3/83
New York Times (NY)	4/17/83
Westchester County Life (NY)	5/1/83
Appalachian News Express (Pikeville, KY)	6/13/83
Reporter Dispatch (White Plains, NY)	7/15/83
Montgomery County Record (Jenkintown, PA)	7/26/83
Gannet Westchester Newspapers (NY)	8/7/83
Bridgeport Post (CT)	8/22/83
New Haven Journal Courier (CT)	8/23/83
Meriden Record Journal (CT)	8/24/83
Tribune Democrat (Johnstown, PA)	9/6/83
Omni Magazine (NY)	9/83
Gazette (Bedford, PA)	9/7/83
Bridgeport Post (CT)	9/11/83
Reporter Dispatch (White Plains, NY)	9/11/83
New Haven Register (CT)	9/24/83
Newtown Bee (CT)	9/30/83
Foster's Democrat (Dover, NH)	11/1/83
Union Leader (Manchester, NH)	11/2/83
Foster's Democrat (Dover, NH)	11/3/83
Foster's Democrat (Dover, NH)	11/22/83
Gazette (Schenectady, NY)	11/29/83
Journal (Lakeville, CT)	12/29/83
Journal (Lakeville, CT)	1/12/84
Hartford Courant (CT)	4/21/84
Standard Observer (Irwin, PA)	6/5/84
Danbury News-Times (CT)	6/15/84
Register Star (Hudson, NY)	6/22/84
Danbury News-Times (CT)	7/14/84
Danbury News-Times (CT)	7/20/84
Journal (Brookfield, CT)	7/25/84
Press (Ridgefield, CT)	7/26/84
Danbury News-Times (CT)	7/26/84
Patent Trader (Mt. Kisco, NY)	7/27/84
Willimantic Chronicle (CT)	7/27/84
Bloomfield Journal (Windsor, CT)	8/1/84
Eagle Tribune (Lawrence, MA)	8/5/84
Gazette (Haverhill, MA)	8/7/84
New York Daily News (NY)	8/8/84
Bridgeport Telegram (CT)	8/9/84
Journal (Brookfield, CT)	8/15/84
Danbury News-Times (CT)	8/15/84
Hartford Courant (CT)	8/16/84
North County News (Peekskill, NY)	8/21/84
New York Times (NY)	8/25/84
Herald Statesman (Yonkers, NY)	8/26/84
Reporter Dispatch (White Plains, NY)	8/27/84
Chicago Tribune (IL)	8/28/84
Bridgeport Telegram (CT)	8/28/84
New York Tribune (NY)	8/28/84
Journal (Brookfield, CT)	8/29/84
Danbury News-Times (CT)	9/2/84
Times (Beach Haven, NJ)	9/5/84
Reading Pilot (Georgetown, CT)	9/6/84
Hartford Courant (CT)	9/9/84
Asbury Park Press (NJ)	9/13/84
Register-Citizen (Torrington, CT)	9/19/84
Bridgeport Post (CT)	9/23/84
Lakeville Journal (CT)	9/27/84
Philadelphia Inquirer (PA)	9/28/84
New Milford Times (CT)	10/4/84
Journal Courier (New Haven, CT)	10/29/84
Herald (New Britain, CT)	10/31/84
Discover Magazine (NY)	11/84
Ridgefield Press (CT)	11/1/84
Times (Gloucester, MA)	11/27/84



Etruscans — ‘Eastern Atlanteans’?

by Vladimir Shcherbakov

Any story about Atlantis, the legendary insular state in the Atlantic Ocean, which sank into the sea as a result of a mammoth catastrophe, is based on two writings by Plato — the Timaeus and the Critias. In them the Greek philosopher refers to the information received from Egyptian priests.

According to this information, Atlantis was larger than Asia Minor with Libya. The powerful civilization of the Atlanteans pursued a policy of expansion and its rule extended to other neighbouring islands and to part of the African and European mainlands. However, not long before the catastrophe, the tribes of the Eastern Mediterranean defeated the Atlanteans, freeing the peoples of the littoral areas from their domination. Who were these liberators?

Vladimir Shcherbakov, a writer and scholar, maintains that Atlantis was opposed by Eastern Atlantis, situated on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. The direct descendents of the “Eastern Atlanteans” are the Etruscans, whose culture is unlike any other culture, believes Shcherbakov, who has managed, in particular, to find a key to reading the Etruscan inscription on a recently found gold plate from Pyrgi. He is also convinced there is direct connection between the Russian and the Etruscan languages. If this is so, the roots of the Slavonic tribes go back to Eastern Atlantis nine millennia before our era.

Plato’s Atlantis and the Mediterranean

B. Krivokapić of Yugoslavia says that he has been able to locate the whereabouts of the legendary continent of Atlantis. The written sources, he believes, seem to indicate that the vast sunken island was off the shores of Yugoslavia. However, this was not Atlantis: vast territories sank under the water all along the Mediterranean in time immemorial. The legendary end of the Atlanteans coincides in time with the end of the last glacial period. The land described by Plato was located amidst the ocean and blocked the way of the Gulf Stream to the north. But when it sank to the bottom as a result of a mysterious cataclysm (maybe the fall of an asteroid in the area of the Bermuda Islands), the warm current received an outlet to Northern Europe. The ice melted. The ocean level rose by 150 m, flooding the territories of the European continent many times larger than the island described by Plato. This was Eastern Atlantis which opposed the Atlanteans’ expansion.

But even before the citadels of the great civilizations of ancient times submerged to the bottom, they were razed to the ground by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, heavy showers and tidal waves. Raw bricks, the main building material of that time, could not resist the onslaught of the elements. That is why it is exceedingly difficult to find a monument of antedeluvian culture of the littoral area — the most developed region of the Eastern Atlanteans. As excavations in the continental areas have shown, the culture of the antedeluvian inhabitants of Iran was similar to that of the cavemen of Southern France and Spain. This, however, was the remote periphery of Eastern Atlantis — its cities and centres were located on the coast. The traces of the catastrophe can be found everywhere. Exactly at the time indicated by Plato, that is, ten and a half millennia ago, cemeteries of mammoths were formed in Siberia and America.

In America, raccoons, giant beavers, peccaries, ground sloths of three species, camels, llamas, tapirs, horses and mastodons became extinct at one and the same time.

The history of the wars fought by the Atlanteans, as told by Plato, presupposes the existence of a developed civilization in those ancient times. Until recently no archaeologist would name a city dating back to that time. Quite recently, such cities have been discovered in Catal Huyuk in Asia Minor. Fragments of a copper awl and copper pins and pieces of ore are dated by the turn of the 8th millennium B.C. The inhabitants of that area knew 14 kinds of cultural plants. The pieces of fabric from that period astonish even modern weavers. The technique of polishing volcanic glass mirrors is amazing. Among the finds in Catal Huyuk are shrines and temples, even a whole priestly district of that most ancient settlement, which is many millennia older than the Egyptian pyramids.

This, however, is not Eastern Atlantis, but only later cities which rose up after the deluge. However, they are almost of the same age as the Atlanteans and Eastern Atlanteans. They were founded by the descendants of the Eastern Atlanteans. Rome’s predecessor Etruria, whose culture was called the “greatest” by the Romans was a “branch” of the submerged “tree” of Eastern Atlantis.

The Secret of Etruscan Mirrors

One of the oldest Etruscan frescos depicts a leopard sitting on the croupe of a horse. The fresco was found in Italy, but the Etruscans came there from Asia Minor. In the language of the Hutti, who inhabited Asia Minor some five-six thousand years ago, it is possible to find the root “rus” in the word “leopard.” And the Etruscans called themselves Rusens. It can be asserted that the black pottery found recently in Asia Minor near Gordium and dating back to the second millennium B.C., is very close to the pottery of the Etruscans — the famous *Bucchero*.

Despite the repeated assurance of the authors of some popular articles that the Etruscans have at last begun to speak, this has not yet happened. The mystery of the Etruscan language still remains a mystery.

This author has been able to find a key to the ancient Etruscan inscriptions. Their peculiarity is this: **the text can be read from right to left, from left to right, downwards and upwards, the letters happen to be reversed, instead of some letters others are sometimes written. Such are the inscriptions on polished bronze mirrors.**

The explanation of this seemingly odd peculiarity is that the artists and craftsmen who made inscriptions on bronze mirrors were often illiterate. Copying words and letters from other mirrors, they looked at the mirror reflection. But when reflected, especially many times over, letters turned around and words were distorted — thus came into being all the peculiarities and riddles of the Etruscan written language. After a careful study of 10,000 bronze Etruscan mirrors **I was able to find twin mirrors proving the mirror method of copying inscriptions.**

It also became possible to find the second main key to the Etruscan language. Etruscans wrote as they heard and as they

pronounced (as distinct, say, from the modern Russian). Account should also be taken of some other shades of pronunciation. The Etruscan letters "a", "u" and "o" more often than not denoted a sound close to the Russian sound "o." The letter "i" at the end of a word served to soften it in the same way as the Russian so-called soft sign ("b") does. It is superfluous to say that in ancient times vowels sounded indistinctly in general and were often omitted in writing. Here are some Etruscan words and their Russian equivalents:

Una — yunaya (young); tes — tes (wood); tee — ty (you); en — on (he); mini — menya (me); ali — ili (or); skatera — skatertj (table cloth); spoor — sbor (town); lar — larj (coffin); puin — buiny (violent); mak — mak (poppy); pulu — pole (field); aki — yako (like).

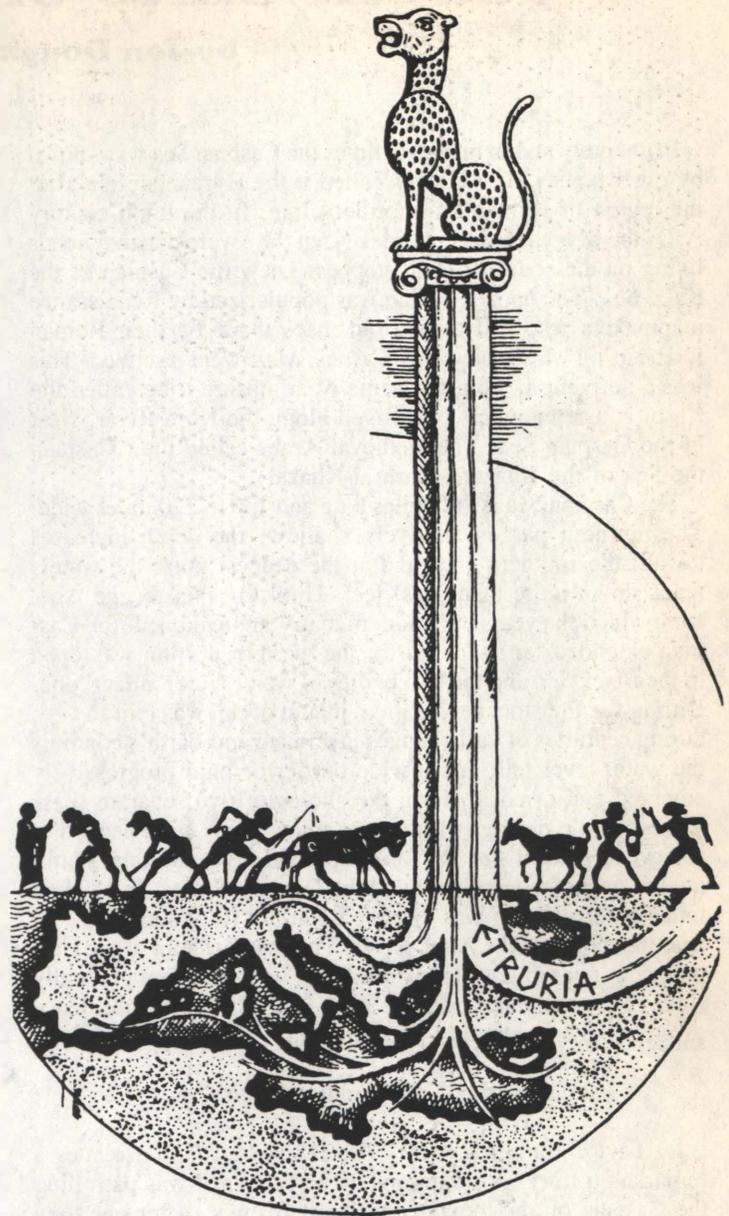
Instead of voiced, voiceless consonants were heard, and this was reflected in writing. Some of the above words are known to Etruscanologists, but their meaning escapes specialists.

The inscription "A" on the gold plate from Pyrgi is the main one of the Etruscan inscriptions that have been found. However, in deciphering and translating it, use was never made of the old Russian and old Slavonic languages. The translations made by Etruscanologists who compared it with a Phoenician inscription placed nearby is not accurate and only tends to confuse things. Thus, the last two lines of this inscription are translated as follows: "Years are like stars." But the inscription says something different: "Avil yeni aka pulu mkva." Avil means "oval" — "ovyol" (year), Yeni — oni (they), Aka - yako (like), Mkva — makova, makova, makovoye (poppy, poppy's, of poppy). The translation must be this: "Years, they are like a poppy field." And this is an example of a language which was spoken by the Etruscans and their tribesmen in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea regions: Brygges, Tripolyeites, Lydians, Libyans, Canaanites, Pelasgians, ancient Phoenicians and many others. Thousands of years before the Parthenon, the Pelasgicon, a fortress of the Pelasgians — the closest kins of the Etruscans — stood on the Acropolis. The Minoan myths of deep antiquity are the myths of the Pelasgians. According to the established rules of phonetics and pronunciation, even the name Icarus means "Igor" — literally "one who burnt." The name Boyan in "The Lay of Igor's Host" is also a common noun, meaning "intoxicated," "inebriated" — from the habit of treating a singer with a glass of wine. The ancients caringly treated the real names. All this shows that the Etruscans were, figuratively speaking, a leaf torn from the Hutti-Slavic tree. The leopard — "rus," "rys" — gave the name to the descendants of the ancient tribes of Eastern Atlantis. Scythia, whose possessions stretched from Transcaucasia to Palestine, was merely a weak shadow of the erstwhile power of the Eastern Atlanteans.

Sons of Leopard

The memory of the catastrophe and the deluge remained in the Etruscan word "toopi." The deluge was considered a god's punishment. Therefore the Etruscan "toopi" must be translated as "deluge," "punishment," "marsh."

After the catastrophe the numerous tribes of the Eastern Atlanteans were scattered and many perished. The single language of the Mediterranean began to disintegrate. Then came the Greeks. Troy was the last major stronghold of the Pelasgians in the Mediterranean. After the Trojan War the Etruscans moved westwards to the lands inhabited before them by kindred tribes who spoke the same parent language of the Mediterranean. Even before the Etruscans came these tribes created the culture of Villanova, which is well known to specialists. No one denies



these tribes' kinship with the Etruscans. For some time, the future Scandinavians — the Vikings — still held out in Asia Minor and the Black Sea region. Then, under Rome's pressure, they moved northwards along Slavic rivers. They were led by Odin. The ancient runes conveyed to us a great many roots and words similar to the Etruscan and old Russian ones. During this matchless march the Scandinavians took over the latest Germanic roots of words.

The peoples of Europe owe their migration, which continued for several thousand years, to the freeing of vast territories from ice and, in the final analysis, to the new current of the Gulf Stream after the catastrophe.

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Sunken Cities of the Caspian Sea

by Jon Douglas Singer, M.A.

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In antiquity and in medieval times the Caspian Sea was known by other names. The Greeks called it the Hyrcanian Sea after the region of Hyrcania in northern Iran. In the ninth century A.D. the Magyars, during times when they were pagan nomads living on the south Russian steppes, knew the Caspian as the Kaliz Sea. The name Caspian was popularized by Renaissance mapmakers who had copied old maps made by their Roman forebears on which the words *Caspian Mare* were inscribed. This was a derivation, from the name of an obscure tribe called the Caspi whose members once lived along the Kura River, west of the Caspian Sea. The medieval Arabs called their Caspian the Sea of the Khazars (Barh al-Khazar).

The Caspian Sea is 760 miles long and 130 to 270 miles wide. The northern part is relatively shallow; the depth increases toward the southern end, and at the deepest point the waters reach down more than 3200 feet. Until the Pleistocene Age, from which the years of "modern man" are reckoned, the Caspian extended far to the north; the western portion was open to the Black Sea and the two bodies of water were, in fact, one. During the Pleistocene this great inland ocean was rent in two; during centuries of vast changes in climate and Earth's contours the water-level fell, and a wide barrier of mud progressively emerged and dried, to form the shores of two separate seas.

Despite the passage of however many years were needed to achieve its present size and form, this land is yet unstable. Earthquakes occur frequently around the Caspian shores. In 1894 an underwater volcano was discovered at 38°10'N and 52°37'E, near the mouth of the Atrak River. The eastern shore of the Caspian continues to rise slowly while the western shore gradually sinks. The emergence of some small islands and the subsidence of others is a continuing phenomenon.

Submarine Crew Finds Sunken City

L. Taylor Hansen's book, *The Ancient Atlantic*, relates a remarkable story. A submarine in World War I was patrolling the Caspian on the lookout for German ships. After one long period of underwater surveillance, the craft surfaced so the crew could rest and go swimming. The sky was generally overcast, but for a few minutes the sun broke out and sent a sunbeam down through the waves. The rays, concentrating as a natural searchlight, penetrated deep into the waters and revealed to the swimmers on the surface the pillars of a sunken city.

The crewmen reported that the columns they sighted were huge and seemed to be made of pink marble. A large Grecian-style building was also visible and some of the nearer columns had toppled. One swimmer tried to approach the ruins but discovered that the distance was much greater than he felt able to cover. He had to come up for air, and after he surfaced his respiration took a long time returning to normal. His view of the city was "magnificent," he said, and the ruins seemed to "glow" in reflected sunlight.

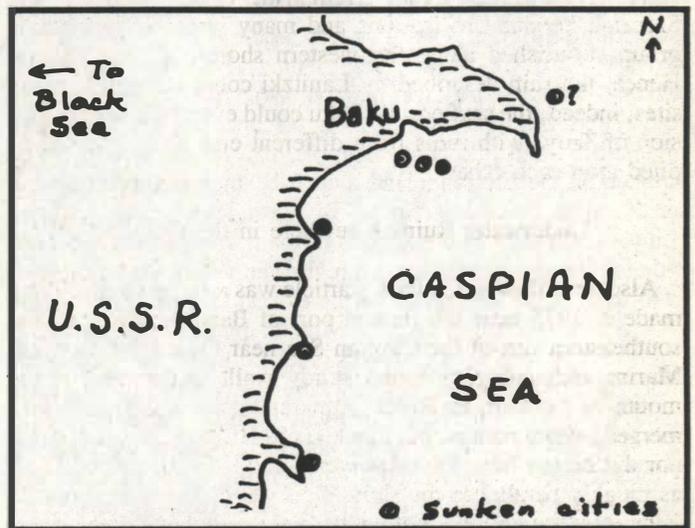
Other crewmen wanted to dive and try their luck at investigating the mystery, but the captain refused permission, pointing out that they lacked proper equipment for such difficult and lengthy work underwater. Privately, he thought that his commander ashore would merely express mild disbelief when he told the crewman's story, but a report of injury or drowning

of men while looking for underwater ruins could bring a promising naval career to an abrupt and untimely halt. The captain ordered his men back aboard and the sub departed the area.

Unfortunately, author Taylor did not identify the captain of the submarine, nor did she reveal the location of the sunken city. I have discovered no evidence which might corroborate the story and no information that could possibly lead to a rediscovery of the pillared city beneath the Caspian Sea.

Submerged Ruins in the Bay of Baku

The first real break in my search for sunken cities in the Caspian came when I read Charles Berlitz's book *The Mystery of Atlantis*. He said that the Russians had discovered a sunken city in the Bay of Baku near the western shore of the Caspian. According to Berlitz's brief description, the Soviets found blocks of masonry with pictures of animals carved in relief; there were also underwater walls and various inscriptions.



Sunken cities in the Bay of Baku

Additional details of the Russian discovery were revealed in Robert Charroux's book, *The Gods Unknown*, wherein the author reported that a great tidal wave struck the shore ten miles south of the city of Baku, and as it retreated, ruins were seen on the strip of seafloor that was briefly exposed. The event occurred in 1960. After studying the reports, Professor Berezin of Kazan University asserted that the sunken city was Poseidonis.

While some Atlantis researchers think Poseidonis was the name of the capital city of Atlantis, most now believe that the island or continent of Atlantis was located in the Atlantic Ocean, nowhere near the Caspian Sea. I searched for ancient references to Poseidonis and found none to connect with Atlantis. Plato called the Atlantean capital simply "the city of Atlantis" or "the Metropolis." Several cities in the Mediterranean were named after Poseidon, the Greek sea-god, but they date to Greek times at the earliest and obviously lack any relationship with the land or city of Atlantis. It may be that the Poseidon described by Professor Berezin was a colony established by emigrant Greeks from the coastal colonies along the Black Sea, or perhaps by deserting or disbanded soldiers from the armies of Alexander

the Great after his conquest of Persia.

A further clue to the existence of sunken ruins near Baku is briefly described in Charles Hapgood's 1966 book *Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings*. On page 186-187 he reports that Russian archaeologists discovered a sunken city near Baku, at the mouth of the Kura River (the location is actually a few miles south of Baku, near the island of Pogorelaya Plita). Hapgood noted, however, that up to the time his book was published, no detailed description of the ruins was available, nor was there any report of artifacts recovered.

In a 1973 article in the periodical *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology and Underwater Exploration*, author Günter Lanitzki updated long-ongoing investigations by Russian marine archeologists of a submerged fortification in the Bay of Baku. The scientists brought up coins and pottery from the watery depths. They also found 630 stone slabs covered with inscriptions and reliefs. The inscriptions identified the culture to which the fortification belonged; it had been built by Arabs or by people of the Islamic religion who had been influenced by the Arabic culture. The Arabic inscriptions dated the structure to exactly A.D. 1234-1235. The slabs measured 0.73 x 0.35 x 0.1 meters and were fastened to the battlements as decorations. Although this particular site was Arabic, the other sites around Baku may not be. It is important to remember that Bronze Age, Achaemenid Persian, Hellenistic Greek, Parthian and Sassanid Persian civilizations and many lesser-known ethnic groups flourished along the western shores of the Caspian. Hence, the ruin described by Lanitzki could be one of many sites; indeed, the seafloor off Baku could even be a watery version of Troy, with ruins from different eras and close by, or piled atop each other.

Underwater Ruins Elsewhere in the Caspian

Also described in Lanitzki's article was a fantastic discovery made c. 1973 near the Iranian port of Bandar-e Shah on the southeastern rim of the Caspian Sea near the city of Gorgan. Marine archaeologists found sturdy walls underwater at the mouth of the Gorgan River. Apparently the walls were submerged several meters, but Lanitzki did not give the exact depth nor did he say how the ruins were found. He described them as roughly parallel to the shoreline for a distance of about 30 kilometers, continuing vestigially on the right bank of the river. He speculated that the site might have been an ancient island called Asbeskun which later submerged; it could have also been the site of a lost city of the same name. Lanitzki noted that the works of several ancient authors not only mentioned Asbeskun as an important trading center but also places its location at the mouth of the Gorgan River.*

A number of lost cities or towns in the Caspian region appear to date from the Middle Ages. A notable example is the City of Itil, the vanished capital of the Khazar empire. The Khazars were a Turko-Mongolian tribe from the steppes of central Asia. They settled between the Black and Caspian Seas, eventually extending their empire to the Volga on the north, the Caucasus Mountains on the south and into the western Ukraine. Itil, the capital city, was probably located at or near the mouth of the Volga, but no visible traces of it remain today. A Russian

*Asbeskun could be an original or ancient version of "Abaskun," the name of a medieval Islamic city on the eastern shore of the Caspian Sea. D.M. Dunlop, in *A History of the Jewish Khazars* (New York, Schocken Books, 1967), wrote that Abaskun was attacked twice by Vikings who had settled in Russia. The first attack, in A.D. 884, was repulsed, but in A.D. 910 the Russian Vikings tried again and sacked the city.



Sunken cities around the Caspian Sea

historian by the name of L. Gumilev suggested that the Khazar ruins might have sunk beneath the Caspian Sea. He compared the homeland of the Khazars to the legendary lost continent of Plato's Atlantis saga and called the vanished land the "Volga Atlantis." He searched the waters and shores of the Caspian region for several years before finding his first physical evidence of an ancient Khazar settlement: a lonely burial mound on dry land. Further research convinced him that the primitive cemetery had actually been on an island until the 14th century A.D., when the Volga's water level lowered and left the hillock's shoreside with a new and permanent attachment to the mainland. Gumilev found some Khazar potsherds 30 meters below the surface in waters of the Volga delta. He believed they partially confirmed his theory that the Khazar sites had been submerged. At least one Russian scholar, an academician named Rybakov, disputed Gumilev's theory, asserting that the Khazars were nomads and never established permanent cities.

A careful reading of Khazar history suggests that both theories may be correct, each within its proper time-frame. The early Khazars were nomads who lived in tent towns; later generations, however, built cities of impressive dimensions. Itil, for example, had an elaborate palace and was surrounded by a formidable wall. Another important city of the Khazars was Sarkel, on the Don River; it was a true "planned community," designed by Byzantine Greek architects at a time when the Khazars and Byzantines were allies.

The empire of the Khazars was destroyed by a coalition of Slavs, Vikings who had settled in Russia, and pagan, nomadic Turko-Mongolians called Petchenegs. Remnants of the Khazar population continued to occupy parts of the Crimean peninsula for perhaps a hundred years after the loss of their empire.

Remains of settlements found near the Caspian Sea or reposing in its depths are generally identifiable with times of the Middle Ages; who built them, what sort of people they were, where they came from and what caused the eventual demise of these communities are questions which cannot be answered from information currently available. At Cape Eurgyan divers found

a submerged town. Pottery recovered at the site was of a type in use c.A.D. 1200-1300, but from such meager clues we dare not even speculate what culture might have built the drowned town.

Another submerged settlement was found eight kilometers south of Duvanni; Gunter Lanitzki believes it was inhabited until the 14th century A.D., but gives no hint as to the origin or lifestyle of its population. In its September 1975 issue the *International Journal of Nautical Archaeology and Underwater Exploration* reported that a sunken city was found at Biandovan, Azerbaijan, a few miles south of Duvanni, and that glazed pottery was brought up from the depths. A site dating to the late Renaissance (15th-17th centuries) was found submerged at the causeway to Artyom Island. It consisted of a settlement whose residents of comparatively recent times are as unknown as any of their more ancient ancestors elsewhere.

Theories about the Sunken Cities

A popular theory about the lost cities of the Caspian Sea links them to the far-flung civilization of Atlantis. L. Sprague DeCamp, in *Lost Continents*, mentioned a Russian speculation that the Caspian Sea was the true site of the mythical Atlantis. De Camp did not elaborate; he did not say who had suggested the idea, nor did he present evidence that could justify such a fantastic conclusion.

The thought may have been inspired by a 1933 book written by Reginald Fessenden, its title *The Deluged Civilization of the Caucasus Isthmus*; or, the Russians might have paraphrased a statement by Ignatius Donnelly in his book *Atlantis, The Antediluvian World*. In Egerton Sykes' edition of Donnelly's work there is a tantalizingly brief assertion about Atlantean colonies on the shores of the Caspian Sea. Sometime around 9000 B.C., the Atlanteans supposedly populated colonies thereabouts. Unfortunately, neither Sykes nor Donnelly presented archaeological evidence for the civilizations purportedly resident on the coasts of the Caspian eleven thousand years ago.

Professor Fessenden's scenario was more elaborate. He suggested that various ancient peoples, the Greeks and Egyptians, for example, had emigrated westward from the Caucasus region where their common bloodlines stemmed from a mother civilization anciently resident on the shores of the Mediterranean. But the "Mediterranean" Fessenden had in mind wasn't the same place that the Romans later called *mare nostrum*, meaning in translation, "our sea." In the last Ice Age, when a great depth of water covered the land which now rises between them, the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea were as one — a huge inland ocean that truly deserved the name earlier given to it: Mediterranean. The sister sea to its west lost nothing in the name-trade, for what is now called the Mediterranean was at first the Atlantic Ocean. When ancient civilization was destroyed, the tribes migrated and brought the old place-names with them; the old Mediterranean became the Black Sea and the old Atlantic became the Caspian, according to Fessenden.

Fessenden's theory was challenged by De Camp who cited both the dearth of evidence and an abundance of linguistic errors in Fessenden's work. Of course, the Greeks and the Egyptians were not related, linguistically or culturally, and there are no archaeological traces of a general westward migration of these or other primordial races from the Caucasus region in times of antiquity. Two respected encyclopedias agree that the Caspian once reached far north of its current spread. The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (1959 edition) states that in Pleistocene times the Caspian extended north into what are now the steppes. An article in *Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia* asserts that in early times

the Caspian Sea covered all the land between the Black Sea and the Arctic Ocean. But the geological facts do not help us answer the question whether there was, or could have been, civilized human activity anywhere in southern Eurasia at such a remote time.

The only clues to an "advanced" civilization are the conjectures of Professor Fessenden and the report by Mrs. Hansen of a sunken city allegedly sighted by members of a World War I submarine crew. If Hansen's city could be rediscovered, and dated by procedures generally acceptable to science, much firmer support for the Fessenden and Donnelly theories would surely be gained from a provable linkage to the antediluvian world.

Hansen suggested that the sunken city was an exotic metropolis of an unknown civilization, which indeed it may have been. But the Greeks who settled in Iran after the conquests of Alexander the Great could have found the same location suitable for one of their classical cities, with columned buildings similar to those more auspiciously situated on the shores of other inland seas.

With his shaky linguistic presumptions, his geographical placement of Atlantis in the Mediterranean and his insistence that the Caspian was originally the Atlantic Ocean, Professor Fessenden set himself up as a fair target for the kind of criticism that borders on insult. Yet his personal integrity remained beyond question and the constancy of his views even provoked mild applause from some of his critics.

Fessenden was a scientist, a teacher of science and a prophet of the Age of High Technology we now so proudly hail. His job as chief chemist at Thomas A. Edison's research laboratories gave him clout, and his talent for innovation produced new tools for science as well as inspiration for young scientists to persist in their own endeavors.

One of Fessenden's inventions was an acoustic sounding device for detecting subterranean hollows and superimposed strata at depths as great as a mile beneath the Earth's surface, or so it was described in U.S. patents numbered 1,217,585 and 1,240,328 filed on the inventor's behalf on August 2, 1914. Fessenden thought his primitive sonar device should work as well on water as it did on land. He expected to use it in a hunt for buried or sunken cities built by "deluged civilizations;" whether the device was actually put to that use is not known. It seems probable that the Soviets paid some attention to Fessenden's writings; indeed, his work may have inspired their ongoing hunt for sunken cities in the vast inland waters of southern Russia.

Tenuous support for Fessenden's theory may be embedded in certain *Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings* which the late Charles Hapgood compiled for reproduction in his book of that title. Hapgood proposed that some medieval and Renaissance maps of the world were based on older Roman or Greek prototypes and were not as full of imaginary or inaccurate features as contemporary geographers would have us believe. Hapgood and others, including Arlington Mallery, found that the supposedly exaggerated or distorted coastlines were in many instances close geological matches with the ancient coastal contours revealed by modern depth-sounding techniques. Mallery and Hapgood concluded that the old maps had to be copies of more ancient ones dating back to the last Ice Age, from the astonishing date of c. 9000 B.C. to perhaps as "recently" as 6000 B.C.

Maps drawn by the Greek scientist Eratosthenes and the Roman writer Pomponius Mela seem especially relevant to such a conclusion. Only Renaissance copies survive today, but they are assumed to be fair copies of the lost originals. Both maps appear inaccurate at first glance, they depict a grotesquely

misshapen Caspian Sea among other seemingly distorted features. Remarkably, however, both maps depict connections between the Arctic Ocean and the Caspian Sea. The Eratosthenes map has a narrow strait or river linking the Caspian to the Arctic Ocean; the Mela map has a broad channel connecting the northern ocean and the not-so-distant southern sea.

Many modern scientists scoff at these suppositions, noting that a good thousand miles of hilly land separate the Caspian from the Arctic. But Hapgood suggested that the maps may preserve genuine though somewhat distorted memories of long-lost sea connections to the Arctic. According to his reckoning, those connections could have existed from as early as 15,000 years ago to as "recently" as 10,000 years ago. As the Ice Age came to an end, climatic changes altered the land, and the geography of the region assumed its present form.

For anyone to believe that a map or other man-made geographic record could survive thousands of years of "pre-history" would seem to indicate either impairment of reason or overindulgence in wishful thinking. But discoveries by Harvard scientist Alexander Marshack have revealed that Stone Age people made notations on bones and developed a system of mathematics during the Ice Age. If they could do that, why is it unthinkable that they could also have devised maps? As ancient sagas verbalized details of memorable events in one age for the benefit of another, so could information about the size, distances and shapes of great land masses and waterways pass from generation to generation by means of oral pre-history until "advanced technology" discovered ways to carve or paint the record on a rock or cave wall.

Did an ancient civilization exist, as Donnelly and others have suggested, along the Caspian shores? Someday the discovery and excavation of sunken ruins in that sea may yield stone tablets with ancient maps of a lost world carved on their surfaces.

* * *

Shortly after finishing this article I read a report of the unearthing of a 15,000-year-old map at a Stone Age site in southern Russia.

Soviet archaeologists had been excavating for several years, off and on as funding permitted, at sites where "permanent" settlements were identifiable from the remains of mammoth hides and bones that the ancient residents used to build their huts in protective clusters along the banks of the lower Dnieper River and its western tributaries. Other than the lime-resistant building

materials, the diggers had little to show for their efforts until a number of artifacts with odd-looking symbols carved on them were collected near the village of Mezhirich in the Ukraine, south of Kiev and not far from the Dnieper.

Of particular interest was an irregular-shaped piece of mammoth-tusk ivory. Stylized pictures carved on one of the flatish sides were studied by author Ninelj Kornietz; he concluded that the carving was actually a map, perhaps the earliest yet discovered. Noting the row of trees depicted on the top, a row of dwellings in the center and the stylized river at the bottom, Kornietz surmised that the carving memorialized the settlement of Mezhirich; he suggested that the river could be either the Ros' or the Rosava.

The existence of a map from such an early date should encourage belief that other maps, such as those attributed by Charles Hapgood to his most ancient "sea kings," may have described pre-Stone Age geography more accurately than we have imagined. Ready to answer to the next logical question even before it is asked, Kornietz and colleagues Gladkih and Soffer assert that natural waterways were the least hazardous trade routes in times of antiquity; it seems well within the bounds of possibility that a primitive commercial network extended south to the Black Sea and along much of its shoreline.

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Related Situations

Caspian Sea Reported Deeper

The world's largest lake, the Caspian Sea in Central Asia, is getting deeper and its fish are flourishing on its increased nitrogen and phosphorous content, the Soviet news agency Tass has reported.

Tass said the level of water in the lake had risen by 5.1 inches this year alone and by about 3 feet over the past eight years because of climatic changes in the area.

It is said atmospheric precipitation falling into the sea had grown considerably while the rate of evaporation had slowed.

Prior to the climatic changes the sea had appeared to be shrinking. From the turn of the century the sea — which is bordered by Soviet Central Asian republics and Iran — had receded from its shores and its water level had dropped by about nine feet, Tass said.

Scientists at first attributed this to dam and reservoir construction on the Volga River, which flows into the Caspian. There was also a hypothesis that the bed of the lake rose and fell because of continental drift.

SOURCE: *The Sun*, Baltimore, MD
11/22/84

CREDIT: H. Hollander

Sunken City In The Black Sea

Soviet divers may have discovered the remains of a mysteriously submerged Atlantis-type village in the Black Sea, the official Soviet news agency Tass said.

The town of Akra was mentioned in historic manuscripts but until now no traces of the Crimean peninsula village could be found except for ancient coins on the shore, Tass said.

Scientists "surmised that the antique city might have become submerged, just like

mythical Atlantis," Tass said.

An underwater search was arranged last summer and immediately produced fragments of pottery and treated rocks, Tass said.

"Those were followed by bigger finds, including the ruins of a square tower with an adjoining defense wall, a harbor with anchors that had lain there for ages and an ancient well with unbroken amphoras (jars) bearing trademarks of ancient potters, black lacquer ceramics and wooden products made in the 4th Century B.C.," Tass said.

The Tass report did not say outright that Akra had been found but it indicated that the discoveries could point to a recovery of the city.
SOURCE: UPI in the *Star-Ledger*, Newark,
N.J. 12/9/84

CREDIT: #432



DIAMOND FIRE — A Close Encounter Of The Military Kind

by Harry Lebelson

It was like a scene out of a grade-B science fiction movie. With intermittent bursts of red-orange flame spewing from its bottom, the diamond-shaped, blue-tinged craft struggled to maintain itself over the desolate Texas highway. On a rendezvous to meet it were Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and her nephew Colby, all of Dayton, Texas. Returning home after an evening out, their 1980 Oldsmobile Cutlass came to a halt about 100 feet away from the water-tower-sized object as it hovered at treetop level. Curiously, Betty Cash, a 51 year-old business woman, and Vickie Landrum, 57, a restaurant employee, along with the young boy, left their car to observe the strange



Vickie and Colby Landrum and Betty Cash

phenomena. Entranced, they stared up in disbelief for several minutes until the metallic-like object, engulfing them in an excruciating heat while emitting a beeping sound, suddenly rose and moved up over the surrounding pine trees and receded in the distance. "I never saw such a bright light like that ever on this earth. Because of my religious background, I thought the world was coming to an end," stated Betty Cash in recalling the experience. The women, shaken, yet rational, resumed their journey along Highway FM 1485, only to once again engage the unknown intruder some five minutes later. This time however, the object was not alone. Surrounding it were what the women described as "a large number of helicopters," later identified as large, double-rotor types and single-rotor variety. As if in pursuit, the helicopters drew relatively close to the automobile, scaring its three occupants, while all parties continued along down the road in a game of hide and seek.

In the aftermath of this experience which occurred on the evening of December 29, 1980, the participants suffered disturbing symptoms. Back in Dayton, Cash and the Landrums grew

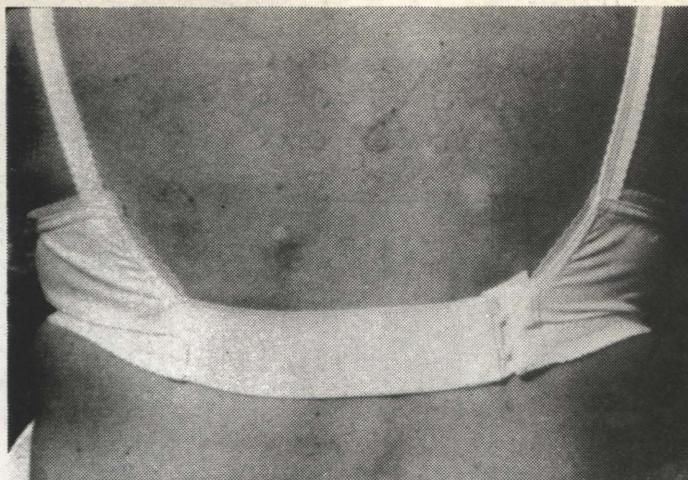
deathly ill. When Betty Cash dropped off her two friends that evening, their irrevocable physical injuries had already begun to manifest. Both Vickie and Colby had been burned, as though suffering from extreme sunburn. Severe headaches and diarrhea compounded the nausea that plagued them for days on end. Vickie Landrum, like Betty Cash who would soon require hospitalization for her injuries, developed massive knot-like boils, the size of fifty cent pieces, around her neck and head. Landrum's vision was permanently impaired, with both women suffering extreme hair loss. Even Colby, whose exposure to the mystery object had been minimal due to the fact that he returned to the car earlier than the others, was similarly affected. For Cash, the first month of the new year would be spent in and out of hospital labs at Parkway Hospital in Houston, Texas, where she had been admitted as a burn victim. According to a Dr. Shenoy of Parkway Hospital, "It was the consensus of doctors at the hospital that the only way to explain the burns was that they resulted from microwave radiation."

After treatment for her injuries, Cash, contending that the diamond-shaped craft was responsible for her troubles and those of her friends, contacted NASA for assistance. She was referred to former McDonnell Douglas space shuttle engineer John Schuessler, whose organization VISIT (Vehicle Internal Systems Investigation Team) undertook the responsibility of looking into the matter. According to an article in *Omni* magazine, February, 1982, "He (Schuessler) began to suspect, after viewing all the evidence, that the fire-spewing craft was an experimental vehicle developed by the United States military." He went on to surmise that it probably had malfunctioned and began to emit huge amounts of radiation, with the helicopters being there to assist it, should it crash.

Working on that premise, Schuessler subsequently contacted high ranking government and military officials seeking to determine if such an experimental or prototype vehicle existed in addition to validating the existence of the military-like helicopters. No easy task by any means, he met stiff resistance all the way, with appeals for information falling on deaf ears. The United States Air Force concluded that their units were not in any way involved in the incident, while the Army denied any knowledge of the unidentified object. However, between February and March of 1982, VISIT investigators were in contact with Lieutenant Colonel George Sarran, Department of the Army, Inspector General's Office in the Pentagon, who initially took the affair seriously enough to "probe" and see if any helicopter units in Texas were present during the encounter. Even going so far as to personally interview Vickie Landrum at her home in Dayton and Betty Cash by phone. Lieutenant Colonel Sarran, along with Air Force Major Dennis Haire, also investigating the matter, concluded that they could find no military group responsible for the helicopters or the unidentified aerial object. All this in spite of the fact that Dayton Police Officer L.L. Walker and his wife testified before Lieutenant Colonel Sarran that four to five hours earlier, in the exact same area where the incident took place, they had observed CH-47 helicopters which appeared to be searching for something on the ground. As a result of the claims of military involvement, Betty Cash and



Betty Cash - Hair loss 1 week after incident



Betty Cash - Boils on back



Betty Cash - Hair loss 1 week after incident



Betty Cash - Blisters on hand

Vickie Landrum were urged by Senators John Tower and Lloyd Bentsen to go to Bergstrom Air Force Base to give testimony as to what occurred and obtain papers to file a claim for damages, which they did.

Thereafter, tapes of the interview of Vickie Landrum by Colonel Sarran were later forwarded to New York criminal attorney Peter Gersten, who had an interest in the case and later agreed to represent Cash/Landrum. In January, 1984, the three Texans filed suit in federal court in Houston, asking \$20 million in damages from the United States government. Attorney Gersten told reporters at a press conference "We're assuming the craft is a government device because of the presence of helicopters." Is Gersten's stand justifiable in view of the evidence? A look back at past events surrounding the effort on the part of the United States military to develop such a vehicle seems to indicate so.

Interest in nuclear power on the part of the military as a source of propulsion dated back to the final year of World War 2. It was then that an alert army air corps colonel, Donald J. Keim, sought entry into the Manhattan Project to determine the feasibility of using nuclear power for aircraft propulsion. In 1946, that interest had developed into a passion which gave birth to a full-blown project known as NEPA (Nuclear Energy for the Propulsion of Aircraft). NEPA, later known as Project Kiwi,

had enough faith in the concept to sustain an ample air force commitment to research that possibility. According to the recent book "Nuclear America" by Gerald H. Clarfield and William M. Wiecek, "The military rationale for the nuclear-powered aircraft was that the air forces of the world, including that of the United States, were in danger of becoming too defense-oriented through the development of fuel-guzzling, high speed defense fighters, leaving the long-range strategic bombers, necessary to deliver atomic bombs, at a disadvantage relative to the fighters that would be attacking them." This possibility greatly concerned General Curtis Le May, a proponent of strategic air power at that time. The navy, also interested in nuclear power for propulsion was already designing a propulsion reactor for a destroyer escort, a small navy warship. Behind this momentum was Captain Hyman Rickover through whose dedication the navy launched its first nuclear-powered submarine, the Nautilus, in January, 1954.

The following year, John Jay Hopkins, president of General Dynamics Corporation, builder of the Nautilus, predicted an atomic aircraft would cross the Atlantic in a half hour's time. Earlier that year, General Nathan Twining, Air Force Chief of Staff, revealed that a nuclear-powered craft was being developed by the Air Force. Not only had the design structure been solved, but the hangar and highly complicated machinery necessary to



Vickie Landrum - Unhealed wounds months later

remove the reactor by remote control for reloading and service work had also been realized. During the Truman and Eisenhower years the main target of research was the perfection of a nuclear propulsion system for aircraft and the solving of all inherent problems associated with it. After the Soviets launched Sputnik in 1957, Eisenhower, under constant pressure from the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and interested congressmen, was forced to fuel this research program even more. In "Nuclear America," the authors state, "The message of those who fought hardest for a nuclear powered airplane was always the same and usually effective: if the United States did not develop one, the Russians would."

Like some self-fulfilling prophecy, the following year, *Aviation Week*, the principal magazine of the aerospace industry, announced that a nuclear powered bomber was being flight tested in the Soviet Union. In a story for its December 1, 1958 issue datelined Washington, they stated "It has been observed both in flight and on the ground by a wide variety of foreign observers from both Communist and non-Communist countries." Quickly, President Eisenhower, claiming better sources of intelligence, denied the validity of the story. Even with over ten years of research into our own development of a nuclear-powered craft, problems still persisted. Yet, funding continued, and would continue, at least up until the time of the Kennedy administration and perhaps until today. Could such difficulties such as the danger of dispersing radioactive material in the event of a crash or the weight problem of the reactor and the essential core shielding be overcome so that the project could be realized? Recently unearthed documents and similar sightings of unidentified aerial objects such as Cash/Landrum witnessed, would seem to indicate a successful end to this American military nuclear project and possibly the design and development of an object as bizarre in appearance and behavior as the one the three victims interacted with.

In a *New York Times* article dated September 12, 1945, Ralph Lucas, chief engineer of the United States Industrial Research and Development Company of Elmira, New York announced a new breakthrough in atomic engine research. Under the headline "Atom Energy Test In Engine Planned," the article stated that the inventor had succeeded in releasing atomic energy from mercury in lab tests. Continuing on, it emphasized "With that, he would begin at once the construction of a turbine engine designed to use atomic energy." He had already built small scale models, which according to the article, "had operated suc-

cessfully." The next item, a 1948 *New York Times* page one grabber, was even more startling. An announcement by Professor Eugene P. Wigner, a Princeton University physicist revealed that scientists were then working on harnessing the atom in the propulsion of space ships. Only three years later, six years after the first atomic explosion, *Aviation Week's* May 21st, 1951 issue announced the feasibility of nuclear powered aircraft propulsion, stating that it had been demonstrated at least in theory. That article would be the first of four detailing those accomplishments.

Continuing to lend credence to the possibility that the United States has by now realized an atomic powered craft, was another 1955 *New York Times* item. This three column obscure biographical piece dealt with General Donald J. Keim, a man noted for his anonymity. According to the article, Keim, not having been heard from publicly since the end of World War 2, remained active in his dedication toward the military application of nuclear propulsion. It detailed how, as Chief of the Office for Aircraft Nuclear Propulsion, he had testified on the need for nuclear aircraft many times in Capitol Hill. More news items appeared in the years 1964 thru 1975 hinting at substantial progress toward that end. One such press release described how the "first true nuclear reactor" had been put into orbit on April 3, 1965. Designated SNAP 10A (System for Nuclear Assisted Power), it was developed by Atomic International for the American Nuclear Energy Commission.

However, it wasn't until 1977 that the most crucial part of that research would become a reality. On May 10th, 1977, patent 4,023,065 was granted to Paul M. Koloc of College Park, Maryland, a retired Navy research physicist for what he called a compact thermonuclear reactor. The *New York Times* article describing the patent stated "A future energy application predicted for the reactor is as power for propulsion of space ships." Koloc, in order to exploit his invention, according to the news item, "founded a corporation, Prometheus 2, and applied to the Energy Research and Development Administration for funds to support his research in nuclear fusion."

If, since that time, a nuclear craft has been developed and was responsible for Cash/Landrum's injuries, the United States Government would be hard pressed to admit it. Since attorney Peter Gersten first instituted a lawsuit in his clients behalf on December 27, 1982, the opposite seems to be true. In spite of news accounts of others having witnessed similar objects, the military remains adamant in its denial that such an aircraft or prototype exists.



Scene of incident - Highway FM 1485

Yet, a Plum Grove, Texas woman, her husband and three daughters swear they've witnessed just such a craft. "It was triangular-shaped, rounded at the bottom and gave off a vibrating hum," the woman stated. The February, 1984 sighting reported in the Conroe, Texas *Courier*, took place only five or six miles from where the Cash/Landrum incident occurred. In New Windsor, New York, on April 10, 1980, four years previous to the above interaction, another newspaper item told how five children between the ages of seven and fifteen years, witnessed an aerial object fitting the description given in the Cash/Landrum encounter. When interviewed in her home near Newburg, New York, the eldest child, Kimberly Turner stated, "We were all sitting around on the road talking about 9 p.m., when the kid down the street, Billy McDonnell said 'look up in the sky' and we saw this diamond figure." She went on to describe it as swaying slightly from left to right at about treetop level. Kimberly, like her sister Jill, described the house-sized object as dotted with multi-colored lights and surrounded by a red-orange glow. A later conversation with Diane Turner, the mother of the two girls, revealed that sketches made by the youngsters immediately after the incident were almost identical.

Although attorney Gersten's initial complaint for \$20 million in damages against the United States Government was denied on May 23, 1983, reconsideration was sought and again denied on September 2, 1983. On January 18, 1984, the attorney filed his current action. The civil complaint, filed in United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas alleges that the United States owned and operated an "experimental aerial device of a hazardous nature" and that through negligence, it not only allowed the object to fly over a public road and come in contact with the plaintiffs, but that it also failed to warn them of the object.

Shortly after the lawsuit was instituted, Gersten received a motion addressed to the court filed by Assistant United States Attorney Frank Conforti. The document asked for a more definitive statement regarding the events of the night in question. It read: "1. The complaint alleges that the defendant (United States Government) owned and operated particularly, the described helicopters and an experimental aerial device of a hazardous nature. The complaint further alleges that plaintiffs observed a large unconventional aerial object. Initially, nowhere in the complaint do plaintiffs indicate whether the sighted experimental aerial device and unconventional aerial object are one and the same. The plaintiffs are vague and ambiguous on this essential point." Based on that conclusion, the United States Government reasoned that the ambiguousness and vagueness of Cash/Landrum's complaint "precluded the framing of a responsive pleading," going so far as to suggest that possibly what the women saw was either unconventional or seldom seen aircraft.

Gersten responded to the request and the government in turn, answered the complaint. Putting in a "standard defense," the U.S. Attorney said, "that if there is any responsibility for the incident, it's the plaintiffs for being there, they assumed the risk." To add insult to injury, the government claimed they had insufficient information to form an opinion regarding the helicopters or the object. Not satisfied with that, attorney Gersten, on April 24, 1984, secure in the fact that the United States Attorney had not moved for a dismissal, sent off a list of questions. In seeking information of a sensitive nature regarding CH-47 helicopters, the type observed at the scene of the incident, and the identification of coded military projects, perhaps relevant to the case, the attorney would be assured a long wait before a response would be forthcoming.



CH-47 Helicopters - Type involved in incident

It wasn't until September 26th, that the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas responded with the following: "The Offices of the Secretary of Defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, National Military Command Center, National Security Agency, and Defense Intelligence Agency have advised me that they do not have any information, records, or knowledge concerning the incident referenced in the complaint, nor have they conducted any investigations of the incident." Still to come were responses from such agencies as the United States Army, United States Air Force, the Navy and NASA.

Gersten would later receive that information in the form of a motion for dismissal filed on January 17, 1985. The basis for the motion was the sworn affidavits of Robert W. Sommer, Chief of NASA's Aircraft Office at the time of the incident, Colonel William Krebs, United States Air Force Chief of Tactical Aeronautical Systems, Vice Admiral Robert Schoultz, United States Navy, and Richard Ballard, Acting Chief, Aviation Systems Division. The affidavits established that "the object allegedly seen by plaintiffs, and which it is alleged was the proximate cause of their asserted injuries, is not, and was not, owned, operated, or in the aircraft inventories of the United States of America nor was such an object under the control of the United States of America or its employees." On that basis, the United States moved for dismissal. They went on to argue that even if the United States was responsible for the operation of a hazardous object and failed to warn that the vehicle was in a specified area, the government would be exempt from liability under the discretionary function exception. (28 U.S.C. S2680 (a)) Examples that apply under that clause are military supersonic flights and experimental flights. Since Cash/Landrum stated in their complaint that the "aerial device" was "experimental," the exemption stands.

A court date was recently set for September on the United States Attorney's motion for dismissal. When asked to comment on what his chances were of bringing the case to trial, the plaintiff's lawyer answered "zero."

The author wishes to express his appreciation to attorney Peter Gersten for the loan of U.S. Military and U.S. Government court documents in writing this article.

He wishes to acknowledge his thanks to Betty Cash and Vickie Landrum for the use of their photographs.



SITUATION

Mystery Cloud Baffles Scientists

Capt. Charles H. McDade, pilot of Japan Airlines Flight 36 from Tokyo to Anchorage was flying off the northern coast of Japan when he put in a Mayday call to Anchorage:

"We have a ... round ball cloud ... looks like a nuclear explosion, only there was no lightning, but the cloud was there very definitely ... We're at altitude 33,000 feet — the cloud continues to explode like a great big cloud, easy to see ... and it expanded very rapidly ... I turned off course to get away from it as much as possible ... We are on hundred percent oxygen just as a precaution..."

McDade was not alone. At about the same time, four other airline pilots in the area reported seeing the same huge mushroom cloud rise to a height of 60,000 feet in two minutes.

The pilots, fearing they were witnessing a nuclear explosion, reported the sighting and, upon landing, had their planes checked for radioactivity.

None was discovered at this time, October 1983.

The next day the Japanese government sent a reconnaissance plane into the area to search for radioactive dust or debris. None was discovered, according to a statement from the Japanese Defense Agency at the time.

Today the event remains shrouded in mystery, with one scientist claiming the explosion could not have been a known natural event and a former Army lieutenant colonel claiming despite skepticism from many experts, that the clouds were the product of a Soviet test of a new type of long-range beam weapon.

In statements to the Federal Aviation Administration, the pilots — two of them flying Japan Airlines planes, two others in Flying Tiger cargo planes and one piloting a KLM passenger plane — all reported seeing the mushroom cloud at basically the same time.

According to a report from an FAA special agent who interviewed the pilots, Cornelius Vander Berg, captain of KLM's Flight 868, reported that he sighted a bubble rising out of a low-level layer of stratus clouds about 100 miles northwest of his aircraft. That would have put the cloud about 200 miles off the north-eastern corner of Japan.

"The bubble increased in size and formed a sphere, which then separated from the stratus layer and increased in size and altitude," the FAA report said, quoting Vander Berg. "At first the cloud was opaque, then as it got large; you could see the stars through it. The development continued until the sphere was massive, then dissipated ... (Vander Berg) and the first officer agreed they had never seen anything like it. They did not see any flash or light nor did they notice any effects on their aircraft from the formation. They did not experience any turbulence, nor were there any effects on their radio, navigational or engine instruments..."

Following their inquiry, FAA officials attributed the event to any "unexplained natural phenomenon" — perhaps the eruption of an underwater volcano or the release of methane gas in an earthquake.

That might have ended it — except for subsequent findings by Dr. Daniel A. Walker. A professor of geophysics at the University of Hawaii, Walker monitors an array of hydrophones on the ocean bottom that record acoustic signals from seismic and volcanic activity.

In a telephone interview, Walker said he initially believed the cloud resulted from the eruption of a submarine volcano. "That was my bias. I looked forward to analyzing the data and tying it up neatly. It would have been a feather in my cap to identify the source of the cloud," he said.

"But the science proved otherwise," Walker added.

After analyzing the data, Walker concluded that there was no source of volcanic or seismic activity in the area where the cloud was sighted.

Perhaps, he thought, the cloud emanated from an active volcanic site nearly 1000 miles south of the area in which the pilots were flying. "But I checked the wind records for that time and I found that the wind was blowing too softly — and the wrong direction — for it to have transported the cloud to where it was spotted." Nor, given the speed with which the cloud rose into the atmosphere, could it have been a thunderhead — or any other kind of known cloud formation.

Walker, whose paper on the event has been accepted for publication in *Science Magazine* in the next few weeks, concluded that the cloud was an unknown natural phenomenon — or a man-made atmospheric explosion.

Taking pains to distance himself from "wild speculations" about its origins, Walker emphasized that he is not answering the question of what caused the cloud. "All I can say is what it is not," he said.

"Wild speculation" is the kind of language that mainstream scientists use to characterize a theory about the cloud being promoted by two former military officers, Thomas E. Bearden, a retired Army lieutenant colonel, and Dr. Stefan Possony, a former Air Force intelligence officer. They believe the cloud is evidence that the Soviets are testing a new type of beam weapon unknown to US scientists and researchers.

The 54-year-old Bearden, who worked on high-energy lasers and did analyses of surface-to-air missile for the Defense Department, claims the Soviets are exploiting a branch of physics developed by Nikola Tesla, a contemporary of Thomas Edison, whose theories on electromagnetism have been largely dismissed by mainstream physicists.

According to Bearden, who lives in Huntsville, Ala., and currently works on weapons analysis and artificial intelligence systems for a private contractor, two electromagnetic beams can be calibrated in such a way that at their intersection they can create enormous amounts of directed energy.

He contends that "scalar" waves can be manipulated to inject or extract energy from the environment, causing explosions, jamming or facilitating communications, even altering weather patterns by causing high- or low-pressure areas.

The mushroom cloud sighted off Japan was caused, Bearden says, by a Soviet test of a "Tesla-type" weapon.

Bearden claimed in a telephone interview that he has collaborated with a physicist to create a prototype of a Tesla-beam weapon. "We can create a hot or cold spot at a distance of three to four meters away from the lab bench, which proves the mechanism in principle," he said. He added that the physicist declined to be identified because he is awaiting publication of a paper about his work in a scientific journal.

Many leading physicists and arms analysts dismiss Bearden's ideas, but Dr. Stefan T. Possony, a former Defense Dept. intelligence officer, is more sympathetic.

"Bearden is up to good insights. He knows what he's talking about," Possony said in a recent interview from his Los Altos, Calif., home. "Once the (Tesla) physics are validated — and they have been in one way — then their various applications are almost secondary. The event off Japan really is a warning that somebody can do something we don't know about."

Calling on the defense establishment to pursue Tesla's work, Possony wrote in a recent issue of *Defense & Foreign Affairs Magazine*, "Tesla weapons (could) mean a military transformation whose magnitude would exceed that of the nuclear and electronic space revolutions."

But a number of prominent physicists and weapons analysts say Bearden's theories are simply not credible.

"There is absolutely no credence to that Tesla stuff," said Dr. Richard Garwin, a weapons analyst with IBM in New York.

Added Dr. Kosta Tsipis, an MIT arms specialist: "Bearden is off the deep end."

Prof. Michael McElroy, an atmospheric physicist at Harvard, speculated in a telephone interview that the sighting probably involved an unusual pattern of vertical turbulence in the atmosphere that was misinterpreted by the pilots, who may have been nervous because they were flying in the area where the Soviets shot down a Korean Air Lines jet almost a year earlier.

But Capt. Charles McDade, now 60, the pilot of Japan Airlines flight 36, responded, "No way. As a former B52 flier, I'm not skittish." Nor, he added, would anxiety have produced the same reaction in five pilots.

In a telephone interview from his Anchorage home, McDade said that in conversations following the sighting he learned that several Japanese fliers had witnessed a similar separate cloud within a few days of the one he sighted.

Recalling the sighting, McDade explained that "after about a minute and 50 seconds, this thing grew so tremendously it was unbelievable. When I really saw how fast it was growing, that's when I turned south to get away."

SOURCE: *Boston Globe*, MA
1/13/85

CREDIT: Hillyer Senning

Turkish Physicist 'Looks' At Noah's Ark

Bulent Atalay, 42, is a researcher into theoretical nuclear physics who helped search for Noah's Ark in Turkey. Friends rib him that he's become a new Indiana Jones.

In fact, a letter from the National Petroleum Council came addressed to "Indiana Atalay, Finder of the Lost Ark." Atalay says of the letter, "I was embarrassed. It's not an image I want to convey. I'd rather be thought of as a docile theoretical physicist."

The expedition was led by Marvin Steffins, an investment counselor from Louisiana who is president of International Expeditions, which is in the business of finding Noah's Ark and the Titanic. The expedition found an ark-sized depression near Mount Ararat that Atalay describes as in the shape of a pistachio. Atalay thinks this could have been an ancient shrine to the ark.

Born in Ankara, Turkey, Atalay is the son of Kemal Atalay, a Turkish general. Having connections in Turkey is important to an ark seeker, because the area around Mount Ararat, where the searching is done, is at the militarily sensitive border area of Turkey (a member of NATO), the Soviet Union, and Iran. Getting permission to get into the area is difficult.

Atalay came to this country in 1951, when his father was named Turkish military attache to Washington. He has studied at Georgetown, Princeton and Berkely and has been a member of the Department of Theoretical Physics at Oxford. He is now a physics professor at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Va., and a member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

Q. What was it that spurred your interest in archeology generally, and specifically in the ark?

A. Ever since I was a young boy growing up in Turkey I had heard legends and myths about an ark having landed on Mount Ararat. An uncle of mine, who became the director of the archeological museum in Istanbul, had been sent up there in the 1950s to resolve once and for all whether there was anything up there.

Q. How old were you then?

A. Ten or 12. In the early '50s a Frenchman, Ferdinand Navara — who I understand had made a considerable fortune inventing wrecking balls — made it a great avocation to search for this ark. He came back with some wood and some black and white movies he had shot with his son that show him going into a crevice and emerging with a rather large piece of timber which he chopped up and, in the best of promotion efforts, sent a piece to De Gaulle and a piece to the pope. The French immediately recognized him as the discoverer of the ark. He wrote a book, "J'ai Trouve L'Arch" ("I Found the Ark").

Q. What was the wood like? A piece of lumber?

A. The pieces I eventually saw from the original timber had a cross-section of a 90-degree L. It definitely had adz marks, so it was hand-hewn. It was carbon-dated to be quite old — 4,000 to 5,000 years. The one thing that made me uncomfortable was that he claimed it came from somewhere around 13,000 or 14,000 (-foot) peaks. That's where the plateau and the crevice was that he found this in.

As a conventional, theoretical physicist, I'm very much more cautious about floods at high altitudes. There's no way I can accept water rising to 17,000 feet, which Mount Ararat is. There simply isn't enough water in the atmosphere if you were to con-

dense it, or in the poles if you were to melt them, to get above three or four hundred meters.

Art, archeology and physics are essentially my three fields. In archeology, I'm more interested in applying state-of-the-art science and physics to archeology than I am in this Indiana Jones-type archeology which expeditions to Mount Ararat are pretty much about.

Q. How did you happen to become involved in these expeditions?

A. In the United States there's a subculture of archeologists and fundamentalists who overlap. There was a group of Seventh Day Adventists, (who) approached me in the '60s to see if I would be a scientific consultant to them as they mounted an effort to acquire permissions to climb the mountain, and perhaps to evaluate their findings afterward.

Q. How did they happen to pick you and not someone else?

A. My father was a general in the Turkish army. They thought he might be able to help them get permission. They also realized that I was a scientist and could possibly give them some scientific credibility. Most of these people are very honest, nice people. They're fundamentalists; I don't see eye-to-eye with them in religion certainly. I have no problems with incompatibilities of religion and science, but I do with fundamentalist causes. Some of them really do have trouble believing in evolution.

Q. In those expeditions at Ararat in the '60s, you were up there at one point?

A. I helped them get permission but I didn't go up. This original group was SEARCH, an acronym for Scientific Research and Archeological Foundation. This group mounted most of the serious attempts in the late '60s. Navara, the Frenchman, joined them. He took them right up to that point of his aforementioned expedition when he found pieces of wood. They found 17 pieces of wood, the longest of which was 22 inches. There was a great disparity in the ages of the wood. Some of the pieces were indeed very old — 4,000 or 5,000 years. Others were as new as 1,200 years. I can't explain this great disparity in ages coming from the same area. You couldn't really tell whether they were hand-hewn. You could tell that they didn't belong up there because there are no trees for miles around. This is a volcanic mountain with absolutely no foliage. It rises from a plateau of roughly 2,000 feet to a peak of 17,000 feet. It's incredibly imposing.

Q. Was the expedition you joined the most recent?

A. Yes. Until two years ago there had been a prohibition on people climbing the mountain, mainly because of the mountain's location. It's right on the triple-point border between the Soviet Union, Turkey and Iran. The Soviets often ballyhooed about United States espionage work going on up there.

Q. Do you believe that there is an ark up there?

A. There could be a shrine up there. Rebuilt. The item that we found has the shape of an enormous pistachio. Looks like a boat. It's not at 14,000 or 15,000 feet, it's at only 5,000 feet, which is certainly a little bit more palatable. The dimensions are just about what the Bible suggests as the size of an ark. Three hundred cubits long. A cubit is about 18 inches — the distance from the middle finger to the elbow. So 300 cubits makes it about 450 feet, and that's what this is, within four or five feet.

(continued on page 31)

'There'll Always Be a Monster in Loch Ness'

by Gary S. Mangiacopra

Editor's Note

In 1941 Mussolini's paper Popolo d'Italia printed the news that bombing of Britain had been so intense and successful that the Loch Ness Monster had been killed by a direct hit. An Italian bomber pilot had apparently claimed to have straddled Nessie with a stick of bombs and left her lying on the surface. (Witchell: The Loch Ness Story, Terence Dalton Lavenham, 1976, p. 104)

Ulrich Magin, in his article "Captures and Strandings of Monsters in Loch Ness," quoted the above as an example of "Italy (seeming) to have some fun in inventing unlikely Nessie stories."*

Few readers of World War II vintage will disagree with Magin's assessment. But critic Charles Fort, if he and not Magin had told the tale, would probably have thought it more "preposterous" than unlikely; and naturalist Ivan Sanderson would surely have questioned author Witchell's presumptive references to Nessie's femininity before dismissing the whole affair as "balderdash."

Semantics notwithstanding, one good piece of research often begets another, as in this case. Gary Mangiacopra's recent studies of the nature and use of "monster" propaganda in World War II turned up an extended, personalized version of the same incident that Witchell and Magin had reported in brief.

Read and marvel at the wondrous ways of propaganda; then be thankful that this and many more serious ploys had no discernible effect on the outcome of the war.

Propaganda is a fascinating concept. It can be used either to strengthen the solidarity of a nation or ethnic group, or damage or destroy the morale of an adversary. In time of war, opposing sides fight each other directly with the most advanced physical weapons they can make or buy. Simultaneously and indirectly, using subtle means that sometimes verge on the bizarre, warring nations fight with words.

One of the most interesting propaganda intrigues of World War II had a curiously Fortean twist, and ultimately involved a trilogy of nations: Italy, Britain and the United States. Essentially, it was an attempt by Axis propagandists to demoralize the military and civilian population of the war-torn British Isles by pretending the destruction of Scotland's Loch Ness Monster.

The false report claiming responsibility for this wanton act of cryptozoological slaughter was first featured in the Italian newspaper *Popolo d'Italia*, official organ of Benito Mussolini's fascist government. During a raid over England, the newspaper said, a bomber of the Italian air force had attacked and probably killed the famous creature.

The "news" filtered down amongst the population of the British Isles during the midsummer of 1941 when its cities were reeling under almost continuous bombardment by the German Luftwaffe. No wonder, then, that the British government paid little attention to the pain many Britishers must have felt from the double injury to their national pride — that Nessie's name and fame had been besmirched by such an implausible report; and, what was worse, that a *foreign* newspaper had broken the story!

Rebutting the Italian propagandists' announcement, the London *Daily Mail* published the following dispatch from its correspondent in Inverness, Scotland, of a sighting he said had occurred at Loch Ness shortly before the date of publication, September 26, 1941:

Mr. J. MacFarlan-Barrow and three of his children were out in a yacht dinghy when the monster broke surface near Glendow pier. They saw a long, snaky neck and 15 to

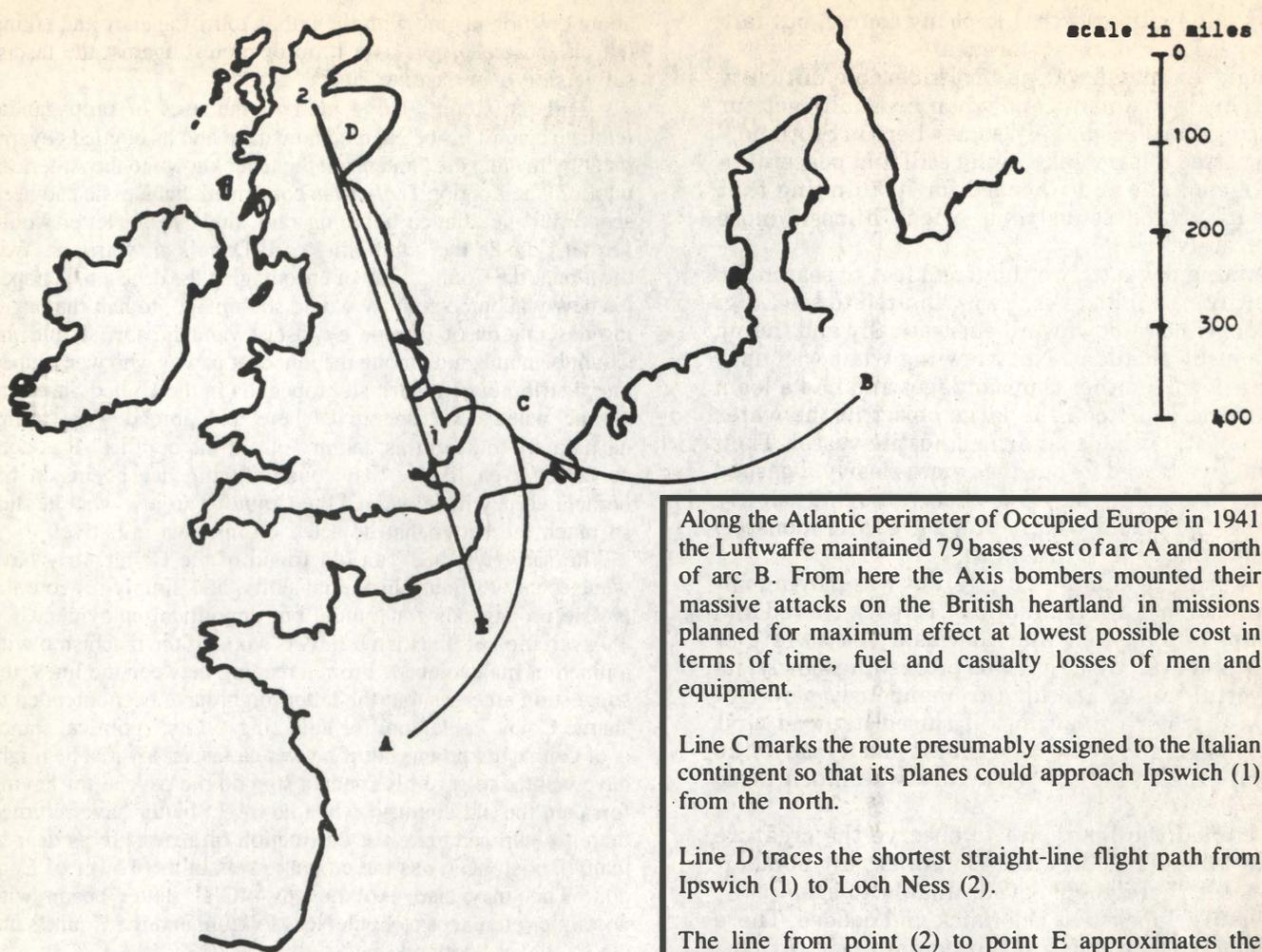
18 feet of the body, shaped rather like an upturned boat. Obligingly, the monster remained in sight for 10 minutes. Miss MacFarlan-Barrow told me: "It raced up and down across the Loch as if in really high spirits. Occasionally it dived and reappeared with the agility of a giant sea bird. It must have covered seven miles during the display. Sometimes it moved so rapidly that columns of water several feet high were thrown up. It dived and disappeared about a half mile from Fort Augustine.

Curiously, the MacFarlan-Barrow sighting is not shown in the "official" chronologies of observations of the Loch Ness Monster, and that may explain why this incident seems to have been passed over by researchers whose primary interest was to locate and authenticate the elusive creature, not to exploit its fame for purposes of wartime propaganda. Also to be noted is the possibility that the MacFarlan-Barrow sighting may have gained greater credibility among a wider readership than it ever could have won under the normal constraints of peacetime.

What started out as a minor skirmish in the word-battle between Britain and the Axis powers should have ended with the assurance that Nessie was alive and well. But across the sea, in the United States which had not yet sent its forces into the European conflict, the Nessie propaganda was resuscitated by one of America's greatest media propagandists, William Randolph Hearst. It was Hearst who founded the "sensationalist" school of American journalism, still called "yellow journalism" by media critics who so define news-writing that doesn't allow truth to interfere with the telling of a good story.

At the peak of its power and influence, the Hearst empire owned outright 21 newspapers, including such prominent city dailies as the *San Francisco Examiner*, *Chicago American*, *Boston American*, and *New York American*. A journalistic development also credited to Hearst was the cooperative Sunday supplement, a general-interest weekly magazine tucked inside Sunday or weekend editions of all the newspapers in a chain. Either

*PURSUIT No. 67, Third Quarter 1984, p. 121.



Along the Atlantic perimeter of Occupied Europe in 1941 the Luftwaffe maintained 79 bases west of arc A and north of arc B. From here the Axis bombers mounted their massive attacks on the British heartland in missions planned for maximum effect at lowest possible cost in terms of time, fuel and casualty losses of men and equipment.

Line C marks the route presumably assigned to the Italian contingent so that its planes could approach Ipswich (1) from the north.

Line D traces the shortest straight-line flight path from Ipswich (1) to Loch Ness (2).

The line from point (2) to point E approximates the shortest straight-line flight path from Loch Ness to an area in Occupied France where the Luftwaffe had ample emergency landing facilities for Axis aircraft unable to reach "home base" following their raids on Britain.

The Loch Ness Digression

Parade or *Family Weekly* and a slew of colorful advertising supplements will likely fall out when you pick up the Sunday newspaper from a newsstand or the bushes in front of your home this weekend. But in Hearst's heyday, his *American Weekly* was the preferred antidote for Sunday boredom in hundreds of thousands of households across the land.

The *American Weekly* of October 5, 1941 contained a one-page article describing the British-Italian conflict over the Loch Ness Monster. Included was a letter allegedly received by a Count Goffredo Pantaleoni, described as "recently resigned" from his position as head of the Italian Tourist Information Bureau in New York city. The letter:

September 3, 1941

My dear Goffredo:

I am writing to tell you about a most fantastic coincidence. First, let me say, however, that I have at hand your letter in which you denounce Fascism and state that you have resigned from the party as well as the head of the bureau. Naturally, I was shocked to hear that an early party member and respected son of a distinguished parent, professor of political economy and former friend of Il Duce himself, should choose such a course. I understand you have become an American citizen!

But about the coincidence I mentioned. You will recall here in the old days you told me about your uncle, Dr. Harrison Cripps, and his villa "Glen-daruel" in Argylshire, Scotland, which you visited on your holiday. I remember that I thought the tales which you told seemed to be most amusing folklore. Goffredo, I have not only seen the Loch Ness monster at which I once scoffed, but I have bombed and perhaps killed him!

This incredible thing happened on the last big bombing raid over England when I participated with my German comrades.

It was a bright moonlight night when we had our rendezvous over the eastern side of the Channel. The Germans were to blitz London and our Italian contingent was to descend on Ipswich and Harwich from the north.

Everything went according to plan until we were almost in sight of Ipswich, when suddenly there was a deadly screen of anti-aircraft fire thrown up between us and our objectives. Then the English Spitfires and Hurricanes arose like hordes of angry hornets and disrupted our formation.

I turned about and headed north, without having dropped a bomb. Thinking we would rendez-

vous some miles north, I kept my course, but failed to see any of my comrades.

Gigi, my navigator, had considerable difficulty with his instruments and when he finally got our bearings he placed us as "somewhere in Scotland."

I spotted a large lake, lying still and peaceful in the moonlight and I headed for it, thinking that our navigator could then orient himself more accurately.

Coming down to two thousand feet to search for identifying landmarks, I was amazed to see Luigi suddenly point downward energetically and thump me on the shoulder. Not knowing what was up, I came down another thousand feet and had a look.

At first I mistook the large object in the water for a boat, perhaps an armed hostile vessel. Then as my eye traced its outlines more clearly, I gasped with astonishment. For there, moving slowly across the placid water, was a gigantic monster, perhaps forty feet in length!

It wasn't swimming exactly, but was moving forward in a series of undulations, its back curved into humps like a caterpillar. It was a dirty white in color and even though it was proceeding slowly, its powerful tail kicked up a tremendously powerful wake. Two or three times it raised its head as it progressed and I saw then that it had a lizard-like head, except that the structure was much more bony.

I circled the lake once to observe the creature from all angles. Gigi and Dominick, my bombardier, sat there goggle-eyed, unable to speak.

Finally, I looked at Dominick and nodded. There was no sense in carrying our bombs home with us. This was as good as any other place to drop them. So I gained altitude and Dominick let them go.

The stick straddled the shore and shallows and burst with a mighty roar. Looking backward, I could see the monster flopping violently and then his entire body came to the surface, either stunned by the concussion or killed outright, I do not know.

I would very much have liked to stay around longer and observe the effects more slowly, but we were running short of petrol, so I had to head for home.

Until your next letter,

Affectionately,
G

What allegedly transpired was, of course, well within the creative ability of a Hearst writer assigned to whip up a page of macabre amusement for Sunday afternoon reading. Since further information about Count Pantaleoni may never be available, answers to some other questions could help resolve other doubts. For example:

—Why was such a specific New York City address of 636 Fifth Avenue given for the Italian Tourist Information Bureau, unless the letter was actually sent there?

—What is to be learned from the contents of the letter, now presumably in better historical focus than 44 years ago?

—Why would the worthy Count have received such a letter from "G," claiming to have maimed or killed the Loch Ness monster and coloring the deed in vivid hues of self-approbation? (Mussolini's Italy had joined Nazi Germany in the war against Britain, and the Count had told his friend, in a previous letter,

about quitting his job with the Italian tourist agency and taking out citizenship papers as a form of protest against the fascist subversion of his native land.)

—Did the Count, being alert to the uses of propaganda, retaliate against his beleaguered homeland and its hogtied government by making the contents of the letter known to the American public? The London *Daily Mail* confirmed that Nessie had been seen after the alleged bombing raid, and "G's" letter would further ridicule the infallibility of Il Duce's air warriors. Was this, then, the Count's way of encouraging the decision he hoped his newly adopted country would soon make, to halt the ongoing desecration of Europe by fascist vandals? Or, should the Count be numbered among the innocent pawns who were duped into distributing anti-British propaganda in the United States, at a time when Axis operatives here and abroad were trying desperately to keep this country out of the conflict? It is conceivable, even likely, that counterintelligence agents in his homeland may have wanted the Count to do just what he did; so much the better that he acted on his own initiative!

Alternatively, "G," an old friend of the Count, may have wanted only to flaunt his aerial skills, and simply rewrote the Nessie propaganda for mutual but unpolitical enjoyment.

A variation of this theme flavors some of the machismo with a pinch of malevolence. From a reading between the lines, the suggestion emerges that the letter might have been intended to shame Count Pantaleoni for defecting. "G's" political stance is of course unknown, but if he were a fascist loyalist he might have wanted to give his friend a slap on the psyche for having forsaken the old country, when he might better have returned there to help celebrate the destruction of a treasure as dear to many British hearts as the crown jewels in the Tower of London. This may also explain why "G's" letter began with nostalgic references to Loch Ness folklore and the Count's uncle's villa in Scotland.

Another explanation — possibly the best one to come through the murky spy-counterspy atmosphere of those times — is that fascist agents prodded "G" to write and send such a letter. Why? Because "G's" close personal friendship with the defecting Count practically guaranteed that the letter would be "sourced" by a major news organization and widely publicized, to turn revulsion over the killing of a world-beloved animal into admiration for an all-Italian combat team that converted the indignity of getting lost over England into a propaganda victory for the Axis side. This way, the Count is seen as an unwitting stooge, used to disperse information that he thought would score against his former homeland when in actuality he was doing precisely what the fascist manipulators wanted him to do; the psychological effect would be devastating to the many on this side of the Atlantic who admired the pluck of the British but felt no urge to become directly involved. If this scenario seemed ridiculous at the time, and seems more so now, it may be only a little less comprehensible than the notion that war best enables a nation to achieve its "manifest destiny."

Did *anyone* bomb the Loch Ness Monster into extinction? The answer is a resounding No! Careful analysis of the vague and sparse aeronautical information reveals so many inconsistencies as to clearly establish the incident as propaganda.

In a wartime situation the need for security is omnipresent, so it is unsurprising that the letter gave no reference to the make or type of "G's" bomber. But the available information on the distance flown is detailed enough to prove outright fraud.

At midyear of 1941 the German Luftwaffe had 79 operational air bases in Belgium, Holland, Denmark, France and Norway.

With Ipswich as its objective, the Italian bomber presumably took off from one of these bases and arrived in the rendezvous area just east of the Channel with some 300 miles to be traversed in order to reach the target city. Forced to abort the attack, "G" flew his bomber northward, hoping to rejoin the German contingent. When the navigational instruments failed, he maintained course and kept on flying until he arrived over "a large lake, lying still and peaceful in the moonlight."

If the large lake that appeared in "G's" view was really Loch Ness, the airplane under his command had also to be nearing some kind of performance record for Italian heavy bombers flown in World War II. The distance from the vicinity of Ipswich to Loch Ness is approximately 400 miles. This additional distance is assumed to be the minimum that could have been flown if the bomber had followed a straight-line course at normal cruising speed and altitude, in a north-by-northwest direction. If the aircraft had flown an irregular course or had encountered turbulence or unfavorable winds, the fuel consumption would have increased without much apparent deviation from the compass heading. Retention of a full bomb load for so lengthy a time and distance would have wasted still more fuel. Actually, the bomber crews of those days usually dumped their bombs within a few minutes, once decision was made to abort a mission. With loads expended, they had a better chance to avoid or outmaneuver enemy fighter-aircraft, and the fuel saved might mean the difference between ditching in the Channel and safe arrival at a friendly base in occupied Europe.

Another curious aspect of this incident was the amount of time spent over hostile territory. The Italian bombers of 1941 had an average speed of about 275 mph with a full bomb load. In order to reach Scotland from Ipswich, "G's" bomber would have had to fly over Britain for a minimum of one hour and twenty minutes, during which time it would have invited the attention of RAF interceptor aircraft or anti-aircraft guns, and possibly both.

Under the rules of war (and the dictates of common sense) the commanding officer of a bomber aircraft bears primary responsibility for the safety of his crew and the airplane. It is hard to believe that pilot-commander "G," having fended off the attack which caused the mission to be scrubbed, would not have turned immediately east by south, say 150 degrees, reckoning by mechanical compass or by guess since his navigator's instruments were out of service; such a new heading would direct the airplane toward one or more of the Luftwaffe airfields which Axis intelligence routinely described in briefings to bomber commanders to their runs over Britain.

Upon reaching Loch Ness, at least two members of the all-Italian crew were able to identify Nessie — instantly, positively, and by moonlight. So distinct were its features that "G" could describe the creature in fuller detail than most other witnesses, who, for many decades, had been reporting much closer sightings — views that did not immediately vanish in the wake of an aircraft overflying at more than 200 mph, or would appear and disappear among the shadows cast by moonlit trees, or were remnants of rising mist distorted by cross-currents of wind and water.

Subsequent actions of the bomber crew were also remarkable. Having determined that the waterborne object was not an errant British watercraft but was the Loch Ness Monster, they treated the unsuspecting creature to a full-scale, fuel-wasting bomber run before resetting course for the return trip "home," referring to some airbase that could not have been less than 500 miles distant from the turnabout.

Adding all the mileage figures gives a total distance flown of at least 1200 miles. This minimum-distance figure offers further evidence that the contents of "G's" letter to Count Pantaleoni was a deliberate fabrication.

With two exceptions, none of the Italian bombers flown against Britain in 1941 had sufficient range for a non-stop trip of 1200 miles. The Cant 2 1007 Alcione had a delivery-and-return range of 800 miles, as did the Caproni Ca 135. The Savoia-Marchetti S.M. 81-Pipistrello was rated for trips up to 930 total miles with a full bomb load on the strike segment. One Italian bomber that boasted exceptional range was the Fiat B.R. 20 Cigona; it could transport a full bomb load to target and return within a total distance of 1200-1700 miles. But the Cigona was withdrawn from the air war against England in January 1941 — much earlier than the supposed date of the Loch Ness attack. Only the Savoia-Marchetti S.M. 79 Sparviero, operational at the time, was capable of a continuous flight of 1240 miles. If this was the airplane that "G" piloted, he must have suffered from acute hyperanxiety all the way home; in a big gas-guzzler such as the S.M. 79, a margin of only 40 miles is about as safe as no margin at all.

Further to be considered are such details as might be culled from a mission report. Upon returning to base, the crewmen would have had to make oral and/or written statements of what they saw and what they did. If any report had hinted at such a fantastic assault as "G's" letter described, the crew would likely have been reprimanded and pilot "G" fined a month's pay or more, for having subjected men and airplane to unnecessary hazard, and for failure to dispose of unexpended ammunition in a "more productive and useful" way. Small wonder that official acknowledgment of an air-strike against the Loch Ness Monster seems to be absent from the voluminous records of World War II; and besides, members of the military bureaucracy, of whatever nationality, are seldom turned on by the humor that often lurks in odd places.

Clearly, the published accounts of the assault on the pride and joy of Loch Ness were products of rampant imagination. Planted or not by Axis counterintelligence, the story was a simple hoax of poor construction and little consequence.

Paradoxically, though, it may have won new friends and increased credibility for the Loch creature(s) by once again confirming that There'll Always Be a Monster in Loch Ness.

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"Cabbage Snakes"

Harold Holland has brought to our attention the obscure "cabbage snake" mystery in *Pursuit* #67 (Third Quarter, 1984). Because of a remarkable coincidence, I am able to recount the complete story of a "cabbage snake" infestation in northeast Georgia. Whether this is the only such story, or only one of several, I do not know, but it is enlightening in any case.

Several months ago, I discovered the "cabbage snake" story in the course of my newspaper research. I noted only the date, because the story sounded like a tall tale, or like an exaggeration of a common worm. Upon joining *SITU* recently, I intended to query the membership about the subject in order to determine whether further research was worthwhile. Then my first back issues of *Pursuit* arrived, containing Mr. Holland's answer to my yet unmailed query. Thanks to his letter, I have pursued the story, and this is the result:

A farmer named Dyer, from White County, Georgia, brought a strange worm to Gainesville on October 17, 1903. He claimed that such worms infested the cabbage crop in his county and that several people had died after eating contaminated cabbages.

The specimen, supposedly viewed by hundreds, was said to be one or two inches long (reports differ), as thin as a needle, and "of a whitish color." It allegedly resembled a snake, and *The Atlanta Journal* (Oct. 22) even said, "Under the microscope it looks like a snake." But the only specified, snake-like characteristic was that it had "licked out its tongue like a snake and acted in every way like a reptile," when Dyer had touched the leaf upon which the worm rested (*Alexandria* (Va.) *Gazette*, Oct. 23).

Dyer's story caused great alarm in Gainesville, which was a major distribution point for cabbage. Within a few days, the cabbage market collapsed, and later reports confirm that the scare caused an economic disaster among the farmers of northeast Georgia.

The story hit the newspapers on October 22, but the papers treated it in various ways. The full telegraphic dispatch, such as appeared in the *Alexandria Gazette*, spoke of cabbages "saturated with poison" and "a score of deaths," and claimed that the deaths had been occurring for weeks before the advent of Dyer. This part of the story is undoubtedly the result of rumor or sensationalism. If the infestation or the alleged deaths had been going on for weeks, the story would surely have been published earlier.

As for the supposed poison, this rumor gained credibility because it was claimed that the state chemist had examined the worm and had "reported that it contained enough poison to kill 15 persons." (The fact that the chemist's name was not given is a clear indication that no one had bothered to ask him whether the claim was true.) *The Atlanta Constitution* carried this claim with the major headline: "Deadly Poison Causes Dread." But they had to retract the claim the next day, because the state chemist, Dr. J.H. McCandless, told them, "I know nothing whatever about these cabbage worms, and the report from Gainesville that I have analyzed them and pronounced them violently poisonous is wholly unfounded and untrue."

The *Savannah News*, on the other hand, went to the other extreme and published nothing on the story. They later explained in an editorial (reprinted in *The Atlanta Journal*, Oct. 31) that they had doubted the false report credited to the chemist because "the fact would have reached the public from Atlanta long before

it was circulated" in Gainesville. This was good reasoning, but they carried it too far when they disregarded the entire story.

Only *The Atlanta Journal* got the story right. A specimen had in fact been sent to the state entomologist, W.M. Newell, "who pronounced it an 'eel-worm' or 'hair-worm,' akin to the fishing worm and tape-worm..." This identification has a disturbing vagueness that should be familiar to Forteaners, for eelworms and hairworms belong to two different classes within the phylum *Nemathelminthes*. (This is somewhat worse than saying 'the animal is either a human or a monkey.')

Significantly, Newell sent the specimen to Washington, D.C., so that "more may be learned of the species." But nothing more was ever learned by the newspapers' readers.

Eelworms belong to a class of cylindrical, unsegmented worms, *Nematoda*, which includes animal parasites such as hookworms and whipworms. Many nematodes are free-living forms (in water and soil), and two genera (*Heterodera* and *Anguillula*) are important agricultural pests, but it is hard to imagine them being mistaken for snakes.

Hairworms, which belong to the class *Nematomorpha*, are also known as horsehair worms because of the folk belief that horsehairs turned into such worms in water. They are thread-like, unsegmented worms, and as adults they are colored brown and live in water. Only in their second larval stage are they the size and color of "cabbage snakes." But during this stage they live within hosts, usually an aquatic animal, beetle, or grasshopper. We can therefore definitely eliminate the hairworm as a suspect.

But a different phylum of unsegmented worms, *Nemertinea*, resembles the description of the "cabbage snakes" in several ways. Most importantly, nemertines have a long, retractable proboscis that could easily be mistaken for a snake's tongue. In some forms, the lining of the proboscis sheath even has stinging cells similar to those in jellyfish, as well as a calcareous stylet that could conceivably prick someone. Many nemertines also have eyes, while others have lateral cephalic pits that look like eyes, thus enhancing the resemblance to a snake. The nemertines are most often colored brown, red, or green, but they are sometimes striped or banded with white markings. The only significant objection to this identification is that most nemertines are marine animals. Even those that live on land are generally found in the mud or sand of shores. So perhaps this is a case of "out-of-place" worms.

Whatever the "cabbage snakes" were, the sudden infestation is mysterious in itself. But did an infestation really occur? We cannot be sure. Dyer may have concocted a hoax so as to manipulate the cabbage market. It is highly suspicious that the story dropped out of the news overnight and that few details were published. On the other hand, the *Savannah News* editorial concentrated on debunking the alleged deadly nature of the worm, but did not question the existence of an infestation.

Another bizarre story complicates the assessment of the "cabbage snake" mystery. On November 6, *The Atlanta Journal* reported that scientists at Mercer University, in Macon, had discovered an unknown type of worm. It was said that they had gathered nine specimens from the Macon vicinity and were looking for more. The worm had supposedly stung "quite a number of people," leaving "two holes in the flesh," with an effect "in nearly every case somewhat similar to that produced by a

rattlesnake bite." But no one had died as yet.

Although this sounds like a continuation of the "cabbage snake" story, the description of the new worm confuses the issue. It allegedly resembled a caterpillar, except that it was shorter and "more blocky," and it fed on hackberries and elm leaves. Some people also said that the creature's fuzzy coat produced a sting — just as some North American caterpillars do — but the scientists claimed that it did not. Why the creature was called a "worm" was not explained.

Since no scientists were named, and no follow-up story appeared in the succeeding four weeks, the report was probably a hoax played upon the *Journal*. (The *Journal* was a very sober paper, not given to sensationalism. In six months of issues, only one other unusual story — about a possible "missing link" in Java — was published.) Yet, the dichotomy between the "worm" designation and the caterpillar-like description, as well as the absence of an attempt to link the story to the "cabbage snake" scare, makes this an unusually subtle hoax, if it was a hoax.

The "cabbage snake" scare returned briefly in 1904, but it seems to have been even less justified than the year before. Our only information comes from a debunking report in the September 12 *Atlanta Journal*. Dr. H.B. Roberts, city health commissioner in Cordele, Georgia, had sent a specimen to Newell six days before. Newell identified it as "a common earth worm." Newell added, "The many nonsensical yarns about 'cabbage snakes' seem to be based upon the accidental oc-

currences in cabbage of an eel worm, or hair worm — *Mermis albicans*." (This is a parasitic nematode of the order *Ascaroidea*. Since it usually lives in animals, its occurrence in cabbages is rather odd.) Newell also claimed that he had investigated "dozens" of reports and had "been unable to locate a single person who was made ill by eating cabbage or a physician who has ever treated a case supposed to be caused by eating one of these worms."

How Mr. Holland's information fits into the foregoing narrative is unclear. Details such as the date, location, size, and the infestation of water are different, although not irreconcilable. Perhaps the infestation, or the rumor, spread to Kentucky. Or perhaps his informants originally lived in north Georgia. The most likely possibility is that a wholly different event occurred in Kentucky at some other time, but tracking it down would be most difficult.

Before closing, some Fortean coincidences should be mentioned. A mosquito infestation of unprecedented severity plagued Georgia in the summer and autumn of 1903 and received considerable publicity in the newspapers. The discovery of an unknown type of boll weevil, said to be similar to the Mexican boll weevil, was announced on September 11, 1904, one day before the "cabbage snake" debunking report. And finally, fans of the "name game" may wish to ponder the fact that a man named Dyer brought the dire news that people were dying because of "cabbage snakes."

Secrets Of The Almousseri

"In Foutatoro, and among the Moors, there exists a sort of free-masonry, the secret of which has never been revealed," Gaspard Mollien wrote, referring to the Almousseri, in *Travels in the Interior of Africa*. Mollien's book is a chronicle of his 1818 expedition into Northwest Africa where he gained a place in history by discovering the sources of the Senegal and Gambia Rivers. During his hazardous journey, Mollien met some Almousseri and learned about their traditions.

The Almousseri were village shamans. But unlike other African witch-doctors, who were usually hostile to rivals, the Almousseri constituted an elite guild or brotherhood. According to Mollien, an initiate would be "shut up for eight days in a hut ... allowed to eat but once a day" and would be subjected afterward to severe tests of his physical courage. Upon their induction into the fraternity, "The initiated pretend that ... they are enabled to behold all the kingdoms of the earth, that the future is unveiled to them, and that thenceforth heaven grants

all their prayers."

Despite his skepticism, Mollien recorded a remarkable testimonial from Boukari, his native guide and sole companion. Boukari was not an ignorant savage, but a civilized, intelligent, professional guide. He served Mollien honestly and loyally through the entire expedition, a record that is quite exceptional in the annals of exploration. Thus his character lends some credibility to his anecdote.

Mollien wrote: "One day Boukari told me, after attesting the truth of what he was about to say by the most solemn oaths, that being in a canoe with one of these men, there fell such a heavy shower of rain that he would not depart; yielding, however, to the wishes of the Almousseri, he set sail; 'torrents of rain fell on all sides,' added Boukari, 'but our bark remained perfectly dry, and a favorable wind swelled our sails. I asked this Almousseri to explain his secret, but he answered, that if he revealed it his brethren would infallibly destroy him.' "

The Hopping Horror

The science-fiction movie *Alien* is noted for a gruesome scene in which a baby monster, having grown within a human, emerges with fatal results. Once again, however, truth is stranger.

The bizarre story is told in a letter from Eliphalet St. John, of Ballston Spa, New York, and co-signed by Samuel L. Mitchell, M.D., L.L.D., presumably the attending physician. This letter was printed in the August 8, 1829 issue of *The Mirror*, a newspaper published in Fincastle, Virginia (reprinted in *Botetourt County History Before 1900: Through County Newspapers*).

A young woman, the daughter of a "respectable farmer" in Edinburg, New York, felt a sting on her shoulder while in the hayfield one day in the summer of 1828. That winter she

discovered a painful "tumor" on her shoulder. The tumor vanished after three weeks, but it returned the following May, when it appeared on her neck. After treatment by her physician, the tumor once again disappeared. But the tumor reappeared on her shoulder in July and grew to the "size of an hen's egg." When her physician opened the tumor he found a "small discharge of unhealthy pus, and along with it a living grasshopper, two inches in length, and breadth proportionate." The doctor concluded that "the egg must have been deposited the year before, and arrived at maturity by a process of incubation."



Fact or Fiction?

Don Juan Matus: Yaqui Brujo

by George Agogino

Primitive religion, witchcraft, and supernaturalism are subjects I have researched and taught for more than three decades. Among my published articles are several with emphasis on either Christian or native religious practices among the Otomi, Huichol, Pima, Huasteca, Seri, and Kickapoo Indians of Mexico. From this viewpoint I have read Carlos Castaneda's books describing Yaqui supernaturalism and have been favorably impressed with their approach and the general tone of their contents. But until now, I have resisted the temptation to comment on the validity of his Yaqui confidant, Don Juan Matus.

In the late 1970s I had the further opportunity to work in north-west Mexico with the Yaqui and their cultural cousins, the Mayo. I published an account of their Easter Judeo ceremony (Agogino and Ferguson, 1976, pp. 12-14). While working with the Yaqui and Mayo Indians I discovered that Carlos Castaneda had a firm grasp of general Yaqui-Mayo culture and religious beliefs. But where, I wondered, had he obtained his information?

Although these groups are not nearly as well known as their northeast neighbors, the Tarahumara, it is relatively easy to assemble basic factual material from ethnological sources and published anthropological articles such as *The Handbook of Central American Indians*. Additional non-published information could have been obtained from sizable Yaqui-Mayo colonies in Tucson and Los Angeles and from smaller groups in the western United States cities and in Juarez, Mexico. (It has been stated that more Yaqui Indians are now resident in the United States than in Mexico, their traditional homeland.)

It is possible that Carlos Castaneda obtained much of his information without leaving the U.S. The Yaqui of the American Southwest continue to conduct both Christian and non-Christian ceremonies which adapt their underlying beliefs to new settings. For example, the Yaqui Easter observance in Tucson is conducted in part from their employers' company warehouses, emptied of crates. These Yaqui, like those in Mexico, have brujos and brujas (witches) as well as curanderos, shaman and sorcerers. Both groups use mind-altering drugs such as peyote and magic mushrooms, and they believe in the use of birds to steal souls (DeMille, 1976). It is clear that comparable information on Yaqui religious beliefs and practices could be obtained from U.S. and Mexican sources (DeMille, 1976, p. 61).

I have asked laymen and native practitioners of religion in both Tucson and Mexico if they knew a Carlos Castaneda or had run across anyone with similar occupational and personal traits. Responses have always been negative. (I wish I had a picture of the controversial author, but he apparently disliked being photographed and no clear pictures of him are available.) The responses to my questions about the identity of Don Juan Matus, the famous brujo, were also negative, including those from curanderos or shaman. This is not conclusive evidence that Don Juan doesn't exist; an anthropological investigator, especially one from a non-Yaqui culture, could intentionally or honestly be forgotten, and anthropologists have been known to create fictional names in order to protect the identity of their principal informants. I asked if they knew of any sorcerers who, regardless of name, had the characteristics of Don Juan. (His gray hair



An Indian Brujo (or witch doctor) but not necessarily a Yaqui.

and great age would eliminate most candidates among the Yaqui, where gray hair is rarely seen and life expectancy hovers around the half-century mark.) All respondents declared that no individual existing now or heard of in the past could be identified with Don Juan. A few said, "We wish we had someone like Don Juan!" Don Juan is most likely a composite of several native practitioners, and certainly not one shaman, curandero or sorcerer I know among the Yaqui has the combined sophistication and knowledge attributed to him.

Even in Castaneda's writings, Don Juan seems to be a composite and is an enigma. In his controversial responses to Castaneda he is at times crude, unsophisticated, and entirely Indian Yaqui, carrying the "shame burden" characteristic of Mexican peasants (Aguilar, 1980, pp. 65-78). Obversely, he is the master teacher, knowledgeable in a philosophy that is somewhat imbued with oriental wisdom, and he appears much too articulate and polished to be the Yaqui sorcerer (DeMille, 1976, p. 48). Viewing Don Juan as a medium for defining the Yaqui mythological world, with some oriental touches added, would help to explain the uncomfortably large territorial scope

and range of activities attributed to the charismatic brujo who sells herbs in a native market in Oaxaca and travels in Arizona while still maintaining a base in southern Sonora. The mystery of Don Juan becomes less puzzling when we regard "him" as more of a medium and less of a man; we begin to understand why he has so far escaped identification, and why Dr. Castaneda always found Don Juan at home whenever he went to Sonora for a visit.

My doubts about the validity of Don Juan and the Castaneda books comes from examining all of Dr. Castaneda's published works rather than the contents of a single volume. There is a general feeling of inconsistency throughout. Don Juan is just too much. His magic is too sophisticated. While he appears to know Yaqui religion and culture, he keeps blending oriental beliefs and philosophy into his sorcery. Castaneda's books lack specifics; few names are traceable to individuals and there are few clues to locations of events that an investigator might be able to verify. I am convinced that some, perhaps even most, of the episodes in these books are fictional; but I would certainly hesitate to claim that everything included has its source in the mind of Carlos Castaneda.

A part of the difficulty in assessing the anthropological value of the Castaneda books is the personal lifestyle of the author, which is so secretive as to arouse suspicions among professional anthropologists as well as non-academic readers. His personal history is confusing and contradictory and subject to change with every interview.

This much is clear: Carlos Castaneda has a good knowledge of the general practices of native shaman and sorcerers. He also knows both the philosophy and general methods of operation of brujos. As an anthropologist who has spent thirty years working with such specialists in Mexico, I am satisfied that anthropologist or novelist Carlos Castaneda has done his homework well. Much can be gained from reading his books. Whether the contents are real or imaginary, whether they have scientific merit as fact, are tangent questions which should not divert attention from the author's main thrust. Aimed to heighten the reader's appreciation of the lifestyle and religion of the Yaqui Indians of Mexico and the American Southwest, Castaneda's books are right on target.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Bobbie Ferguson, who has worked with me extensively in Mexico, has improved this article with editing and suggestions. — G.A.

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(continued from page 23)

This thing that we found is not on the main mountain but across from it. There is a valley between the mountain and this hill where we found the object. The same thing was originally photographed by a U-2 pilot back in the late '50s. There seems to be a rocklike formation around this huge pistachio-shaped anomaly. It's conceivable there was a boat there and this fortification was built around it. That's why it survived the weathering causes of the earth. It's under hard terrain, so without proper equipment it would be pretty difficult to dig there. What we found we haven't been able to date yet.

My fundamentalist friends are very excited about it, but it would be premature to make any statements. But even if we find a boat on Mount Ararat, whether at 5,000 feet or 15,000 feet, I would feel comfortable with the idea that there was a flood down at pedestrian levels and this thing was erected as a shrine at either 14,000 where Navara insists it's located, or where we found this anomaly at about 5,000 feet.

Q. What would happen if other civilizations stumble upon this site? Do their legends mention it in anyway?

A. That's a good question. Four to 5,000 years ago, the Hittites were roaming around. The Sumerian civilization had lived there just previously. The Assyrians were there. So civilizations really do live through, before and after this period. There are legends of a flood there. Different civilizations talked about a flood. Maybe a fairly large flood. But the idea of a universal flood is scientifically untenable. There isn't enough water on the earth now and there wouldn't have been 5,000 years ago to actually submerge most of the earth.

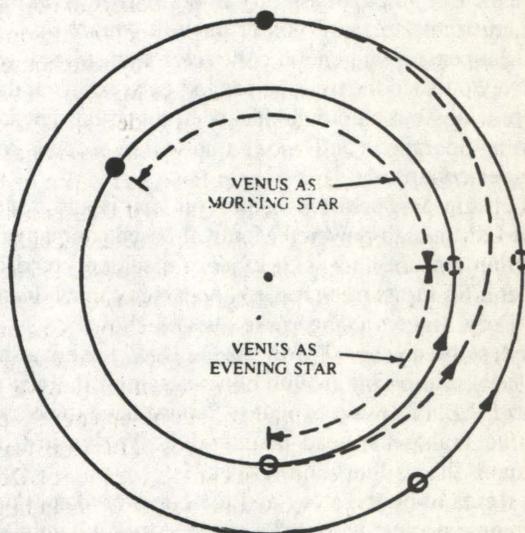
SOURCE: *Asbury Park Press, N.J.*

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CORRECTION



Dr. Greenwood pointed out our typesetter's error in reversing the Evening Star and the Morning Star in Vol. 17, #4, page 148 — The Maya and the Synodic Period of Venus.

An Oak Island Mystery Update – Six Have Died Trying To Unearth Island Treasure

Legend says 7 must die before discovery!

by Janet Crowley

Beneath the gritty sands and umbrella-like red oaks that shelter Oak Island, Nova Scotia may lie a buried treasure worth untold millions.

The legendary bounty has variously been reported to be Captain Kidd's pirate plunder, the jewels of the Inca nation, gold from a Spanish galleon and even Marie Antoinette's crown jewels.

The only thing treasure hunters agree on is that something of great value was concealed on the island between 1500 and 1750 by someone who went to a lot of trouble to make sure it wasn't found.

Like most good buried treasure stories, this one has all the elements of a tantalizing mystery, providing just enough clues to keep treasure hunters turning over the sandy soil for almost two centuries.

There even is a local legend to accompany the quest. It says the treasure will not be recovered until seven men have died in its pursuit (six have died so far) and all the island's oaks have disappeared (their number is decreasing).

Among the artifacts unearthed so far are bits of iron and wire carbon-dated to between the 1400s and 1700s, links of gold and wood and antique parchment from the same period and layers of coconut fibers believed to come from the Caribbean.

On a more macabre note, a television camera inserted down one shaft at the end of a pole several years ago showed what viewers said appeared to be a floating, severed human hand and several carved wooden chests.

Thus far, the island's secret has remained secure and untouched despite great infusions of manpower and money. It is guarded by a cunningly constructed network of underground tunnels and the tides that persistently flood each excavation, leaving the frustrated treasure hunter back at square one.

Dan Blankenship, a general contractor from Miami who has obsessively pursued the treasure for 15 years, scoffs at the curse of seven deaths but admits he has been thwarted repeatedly in his dibbing operations and once came within seconds of dying in a tunnel collapse.

Blankenship is operations chief on the island for Triton Alliance Ltd., a high-powered Montreal-based company that has tackled the treasure hunt with modern machinery and drilling equipment. So far its track record appears not much better than that of early diggers using pickaxes and shovels.

In the last three years, Triton has managed to sink a shaft only 100 feet, reinforcing it with concrete along the way. "The soil is bad," Blankenship explains, "so we have to be careful."

Then he shakes his head plaintively, "We've just tried so damn many things that didn't work."

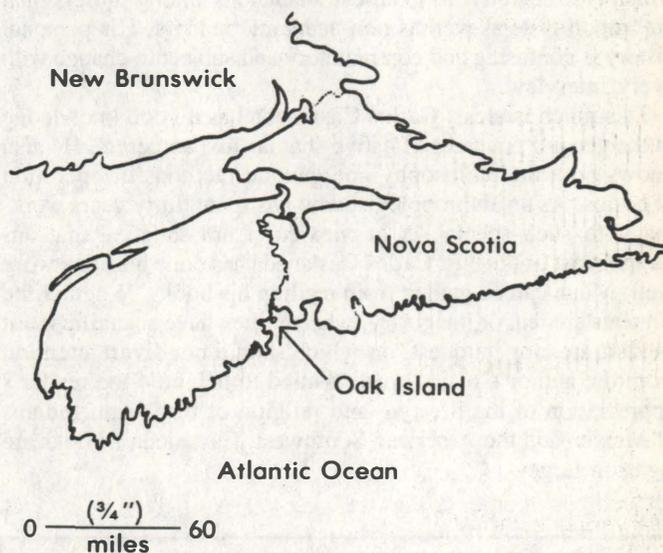
That seems to be the story and the curse of Oak Island, the reason it has become the world's costliest treasure hunt and certainly one of the longest. Whoever buried something there has, so far, outwitted all comers, leaving the last as frustrated as the first.

The first, of course, did not know exactly what they were after.

They were three young men named Anthony Vaughan, Jack Smith and Dan Ginnis who, on a sunny summer day in 1795,

paddled their canoe along Nova Scotia's rugged south shore, searching for a picnic site.

They settled on Oak Island, a bleak piece of land less than a mile long and half a mile wide in Mahone Bay about 45 miles from Halifax. Captain Kidd reportedly sailed the nearby waters of the north Atlantic a century earlier and there were stories he and other pirates had used the island as an execution ground, leaving it infested with evil spirits. According to local superstition, "strange lights" burned at night on the island and had lured at least two fishermen to their deaths. As the youths began exploring the heavily wooded, eastern tip they stumbled upon a saucer-shaped depression in a small clearing. Directly above it was a towering red oak with a branch that bore the distinct marks of a rope and tackle hoisting device.



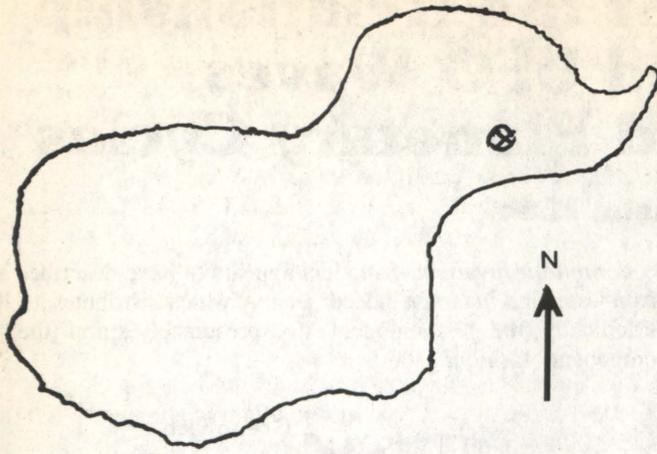
Oak Island location off Nova Scotia

Mindful of the local lore that Captain Kidd had buried his treasure somewhere along the Nova Scotia coast, the trio returned to Oak Island the next day with pickaxes and shovels and made the first in a long series of excavations.

They made their first discovery only two feet down; a layer of carefully laid stones not native to Oak Island. Beneath that was a circular shaft with fitted oak logs embedded in the sides and a layer of snugly fitted logs about 10 feet down. An identical oak platform was found 10 feet farther down and again at a depth of 30 feet.

Convinced they needed outside help to continue the dig, the youths tried to enlist their mainland neighbors but received a cool reception. It was six or seven years before they managed to interest a group in digging out what later came to be known as the "Money Pit."

As they dug down to the 90-foot level, they began uncovering more oak platforms and puzzling layers of charcoal, putty, and a fibrous material that later turned out to be coconut fiber.



Oak Island — X designates treasure

At 93 feet down, they made the most astonishing discovery; a large, flat stone on which was carved a mysterious inscription. One translation — perhaps wishful — by a professor of languages at a Halifax university was: “Ten feet below are 2 million pounds buried.”

The diggers never found out. Hours after the stone was removed, the pit was flooded with 60 feet of water. Baffled, the explorers attempted to sink a nearby shaft to drain out the first one. That collapsed, as well, with a spectacular roar, and the digging stopped.

It wasn't until years later that experts decided the oak platforms and mysterious stone had provided some kind of primitive seal, keeping water out of the shaft. Once removed, in the quest for the treasure promised beneath, it unleashed the water that would keep the treasure safe. It was a carefully planned, astonishingly clever practical joke.

Over the years, more attempts were made to reach the bottom of the Money pit, all as unsuccessful as the first. But among the items recovered along the way were three links of gold chain (which later disappeared — as did the stone with the mysterious inscription), and a small piece of parchment with the letters V and I.

Soon hundreds of other shafts were being sunk on the island. The young Franklin D. Roosevelt was one of those who came to the island, in 1909, to try his luck. Like all the others, he failed.

Today the Money Pit is a tangled depression, overgrown by weeds and no longer worked by fortune hunters. The visitor can peer down into a shaft guarded by tumbled crossbars of old wood and hear the water dripping inside. The original red oak is long gone, but the porous, sandy soil still squishes underfoot as it presumably did when trod by the first trio of explorers.

About 180 feet northeast of the Money Pit, up a slight incline, is Bore Hole 10-X. This is where Triton is digging and where Blankenship said he and three other men saw a human hand when a television camera was lowered 10 years ago.

“It was severed at the wrist and just floating there in perfect equilibrium,” he said, “But when we twisted the pole to move the camera it stirred things up and the hand just floated off.”

Blankenship, 58, with a weathered face that reflects the harsh Canadian winter, lives on a corner of the island with his wife and works the pit virtually year-round.

He's cagey about disclosing what he has found, making a passing reference to “classified” discoveries, and shies away from elaborating on what he expects to recover.



“We know someone did a hell of a lot of work deep in the ground a long time ago,” he said. “Common sense says it must be something of great value. Let's just say we're not looking for bottle caps.

“All I can say is that if what's down there is what I think is down there, it's going to be a lot more dramatic than a couple of chests filled with gold.”

Theories as to what's hidden on the island are as plentiful as the honeycomb of drilling shafts. In addition to the Captain Kidd theory, one of the other popular legends is that the Incas were the “original people” who hid their treasures beneath the oaks.

According to this theory, the residents of Tumbes, an Inca city in what is now Peru, were fearful of a takeover by Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro. So they packed up their great wealth, including emeralds the size of small eggs and gold in every variety, and took them overland to the Caribbean, where they set sail looking for an uninhabited island.

But, according to the theory, they were caught by violent storms and driven northward until they landed at Oak Island, where they stored their cache.

Others suggest the treasure was left by Spanish pirates, who looted gold and silver, as well as jewels, from the Incas of Peru and the Maya and Aztecs of Mexico.

One thing seems certain, however. Whoever buried the treasure expected to recover it. Anyone clever enough to devise the diabolical system of tunnels must have left some kind of safety catch for himself.

Somewhere on the island must lie a trapdoor, a tunnel, a plug — something that would lead explorers directly to the treasure. Now they just have to find it.

Reprinted from the *Coin Wholesaler*, April 1985



A Preliminary Study of the Relationship Between So-called UFO Waves, Natural Constants and Planetary Cycles

by Keith L. Partain, M.Sc.

Whereas the controversy surrounding so-called UFO waves (or 'flaps') is not unknown to me,¹ it is assumed for this argument that waves described by Saunders² validly constitute one aspect of an actual phenomenon. In my attempt to rehabilitate the controversial Mars cycle and resurrect Damon Knight's remarkable study of Fortean data relating to Mars and Venus,³ I found in Saunders data a shocking revelation, even, perhaps to a Fortean.

For a number of reasons Saunders' 61-month (or 1853 days) cycle is profoundly curious. It shows every indication of being anything but a statistical artifact due to its regularity (by definition, and the absence of a 1962 wave notwithstanding) and its tendency to a presumably retrograde longitudinal shift, demonstrating what Saunders believes to be an astronomical invariant, a spatio-temporal invariant in other words.⁴ Only the "negatively skewed" waves (describing the statistical nature of the reports⁵) showed these characteristics: an oscillating latitude shift, a retrograde longitude shift and a 61-month periodicity. (Saunders mentions some "oddball" waves which do not have these characteristics; they are raw material for the rehabilitated Mars cycle in the latter half of this paper.) Assuming the 1962 wave did occur and was unobserved, and inserting this hypothetical event into regrettably but unavoidably sparse data, a roughly *spiral* path around our planet is observed (Figure 1). As a result, certain mathematical constants were suspected.

Saunders appears to have derived the figure of 1853 days from $(5)(365) = 1825$ and $1825 + 28 = 1853$ days. I wish to argue that such is too simplistic. I have chosen to define 61 months as $(365.25219)(5) = 1826.251$ and $(1/12)(365.25219) = 30.437683 + 1826.251 = 1856.6986$. This differs from Saunders' 1853 by 0.1996%. Now, divide 1856.6986 by 365.25219, the true sidereal terrestrial year. The result is 5.0833333. Now, assume a value for the golden ratio, phi, of 1.6180339 and a value for pi of 3.1415927. The product of $\pi\phi$ is 5.0832034! The difference is 0.0001299, which is in the fourth decimal place! This value will change *slightly* — depending upon the value of an "average" month which is clearly *not* the 28 days Saunders appended to five years of 1825, $(365)(5)$, days. A more exact "average month" might bring the 61 month cycle to exactly equal $\pi\phi$ to many more decimal places.

The equation $\log r = a\theta$ describes the equiangular or logarithmic spiral. The equation $r = a\theta$ describes the spiral of Archimedes. Both are related to ϕ , the golden ratio. If indeed the UFO wave follows one of these curves, set "a" equal to the golden ratio. When the angle theta, θ , equals π , we have the value 5.0832034 (it actually, theoretically, extends to infinity since both π and ϕ are irrational numbers and natural constants). We also describe a spiral which more data may determine which curve originates it (Figure 1); the problem being at the present the added elements of a third dimension and a fourth one (time!) as well. Clearly, however, we have a more-than-two dimensional representative of a cycle that answers *both* to ϕ and π in matters both of *space* (the spiral's configuration) and *time* (the spiral's duration). Being *constants*, π and ϕ are,

by definition, invariant. Saunders appears to have described a *spatio-temporal invariant* indeed: a curve which distributes itself periodically (the π component) in a presumably spiral (the ϕ component) fashion!

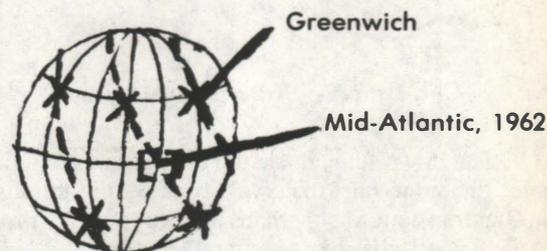


Figure 1 - Tentative diagram of hypothesized spiral of the 61-months UFO cycle (modified).

On this very digrammatic globe a set of points represented by Xs (and brackets in one case, for 1962) are the approximate geographic locations suggested by Saunders' data and graphs (not reproduced). Instead of a polar equation $r = \phi\theta$, I have chosen for simplicity the equality $r = 2(\phi\theta)$ which graphically and clearly demonstrates the retrograde spiral. The dashed lines represent this spiral which in its simplest form is very recursive and the retrograde motion is not as immediately perceptible.

What produces this wave? Researchers have often asserted the nonterrestrial-nonhuman intelligences might choose to communicate *via natural constants*. We could be dealing with, on the other hand, a *natural phenomenon*,⁶ and those two constants are involved in many natural phenomena. There could be an extraplanetary connection, too.

Note the synodial year of Venus: it is 583.91776 days. Divided by 365.25219 we obtain 1.5986701. That roughly approximates 1.6180339, or phi. Closer still, we take the sidereal year of Venus (224.70022 days) and divide that into the sidereal year 365.25219. We obtain 1.6255088, another approximation of ϕ or phi. The sum of both results averaged remarkably approximates phi; it is 1.6120895. What is even more remarkable is what happens when one raises e to the 1.6255088 power:

$$e^{1.6255088} = 5.0810037.$$

That differs from Saunders' cycle by 2½ days and from my approximation of the 61-month cycle by less than a day. What is truly fascinating is another equation for the equiangular spiral (which can embody phi):

$$r = e^{a\theta}$$

This does strongly suggest that the UFO wave follows a three-dimensional variation of the equiangular curve over time! These are not crude approximations as sceptics might assert!

The Fortean data which Damon Knight had Mallows of Bell Telephone Laboratories put through a computer analysis (UFO waves are a subset of Fortean data) demonstrated correlations above chance for inferior conjunctions of Venus and the data.⁷ Here is a planet with an anomalously near-precise circular orbit which is nearly $1/\phi$ as long as the Earth's showing *two* examples

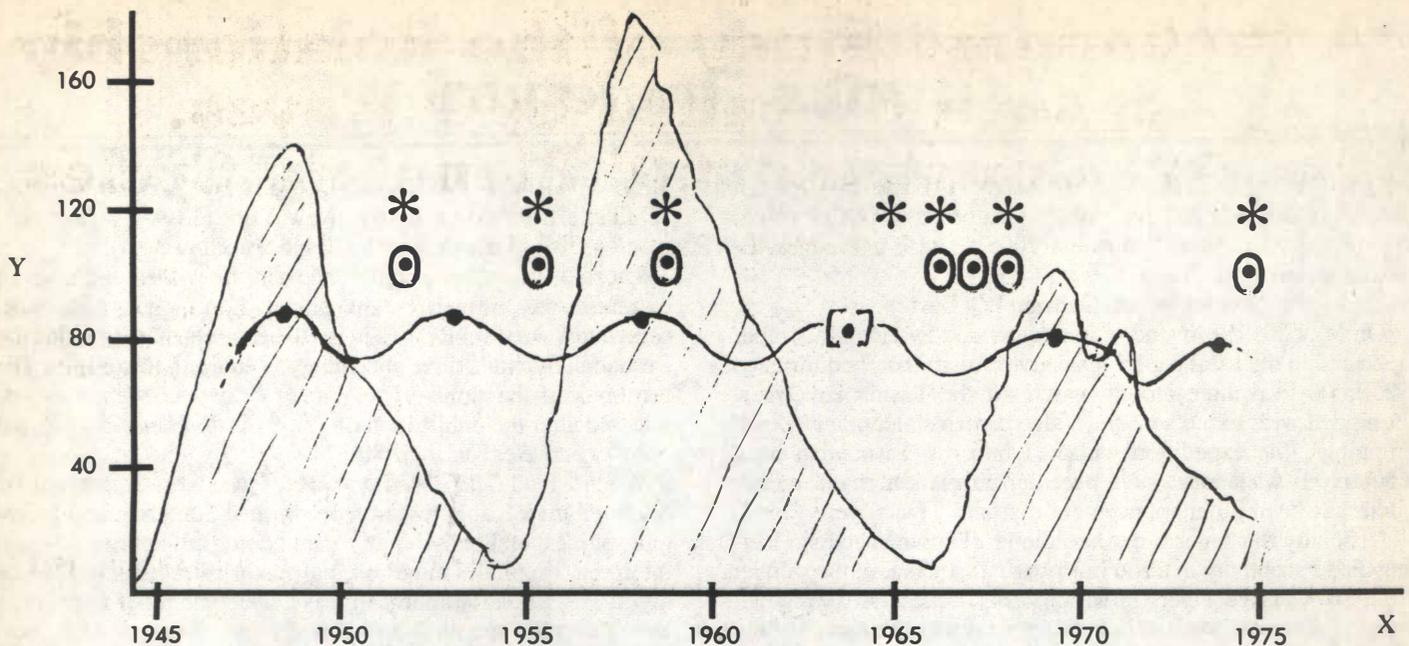


Figure 2 - The 61-month cycle and Mars Data superimposed over the sunspot cycle versus time. (Sunspot date adapted from NOAA and NASA sources. Brackets indicate extrapolated wave.)

* = Mars data ⊙ = "oddball" waves
 Smooth curve = 61-month cycle (with extrapolation)
 Shaded curve = Sunspot-number versus time
 X = Time
 Y = Sunspot-number

of strong positive correlation with two different sets of UFO data. I will not, of course, insist upon a correlation of UFO waves and the planet Venus (and I am not involving either naive astrology nor the naive notion of Venus as a "base") without further study.

Intriguingly enough, the 61-month cycle shows another invariance, this time with the sunspot cycle. The level of solar activity and sunspot number appears to have no affect whatsoever on the 61-month cycle. It does, however, appear to relate to the benighted Mars cycle (Figure 2).

In Saunders study there were seven (herein called "oddball" by this author) other UFO waves which were not negatively skewed as a group: their statistical skewedness was presumably random.⁸ This brings in again what this author calls, without facetiae, the Fort-Knight hypothesis linking Fortean (such as UFO waves), Mars and Venus.^{9,10} Despite an objection that Fourier analysis of the Mars-Venus cycle is needed,¹¹ the Fortean data was subjected to signal analysis. (This does not rule out future analysis by any means.) Nevertheless, assuming variation with the solar cycle and simple Martian epochs (alone; without Venus) we can turn our attention to the seven "oddball" waves. Assuming a cycle of Martian epochs of 2.135 years and a 5% deviation on either side of the epoch (38.928 days), three waves fell within this interval. This cycle of epochs alludes only to oppositions of Mars. Four waves remain. Allowing, as Knight did in his study, conjunctions and quadratures of Mars, two do not fit at all, one does fit and a final one exceeds the parameter by 1.46%. The oppositions, in any case, coincided with the waves in a way suggestive of nonrandomness which is not true of the other two epochs (invoked because a wider range of phenomena — Fortean — were under study). It may also be seen that they coincided only in years of low sunspot

number (Figure 2). Of course, only further study will show if indeed the Mars cycle does operate ± 3 years from the sunspot minimum, but this alone calls for reconsideration and rehabilitation of the infamous Mars cycle. There have been many premature burials of a still valid hypothesis.¹²

In closing, there have been certain views expounded. Primarily, Saunders' spatio-temporally invariant UFO waves appear to be exactly that, embodying $\pi\phi$ or e ...or both. A cycle of anomalies — the UFO wave — containing natural constants suggests either a natural phenomenon or nonterrestrial-nonhuman intelligences communicating mathematically. Extraterrestrial influences are suggested by orbital peculiarities of the planet Venus. To pursue Saunders' view further, however, we will need more current data — for the 1977 and the 1983 waves. Other, more anomalous UFO waves suggest that it was premature to discard the controversial connection between Mars and UFO waves. The fact that these latter waves are apparently variable with solar activity only adds to the mystery of UFO waves — about which Mrs. Hynek correctly calls controversial — and the fact that whatever UFOs turn out to be (extraterrestrial, extradimensional or an unusual natural phenomenon) their origin is clearly polyphyletic. Problems such as these will be addressed in future papers. There's one thing fairly certain, however: we are *not* dealing with a human artifact or a trivial natural phenomenon.

Notes

1. Personal communication with Mimi Hynek, May, 1980.
2. Saunders, D.R., "A spatio-temporal invariant for major UFO waves." Courtesy Mimi Hynek, CUFOS.
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9. Knight, *op cit*.
10. Fort, Charles. *The Complete Books of Charles Fort*, Dover, pp. 392, 398, 434, etc.
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SEARCH FOR THE TASMANIAN TIGER by Quentin Beresford & Garry Bailey; Blubber Head Press (P. O. Box 475, Sandy Bay, Tasmania, Australia 7005); 1981; 544 pages, illustrated, no price listed.

Reviewed by George W. Earley

On May 20, 1984, a news item datelined Sydney, Australia, appeared in my local paper. It said two Australians had invested \$250,000 in a three month search for the Tasmanian Tiger. Equipped with sound sensors, video cameras and other hi-tech trappings, the expedition vanished into the Tasmanian back country on what must have been a fruitless search. Certainly there has been no announcement that any Tigers were found.

Officially the Tiger is extinct, the last known specimen having died in captivity in a zoo in Hobart, Tasmania, on September 7, 1936. Captive Tigers in various zoos outside Australia had already died, no one had bothered to replace them and as they would never breed in captivity the Hobart beast was the last one.

The entire sad story of this creature, not a tiger at all, but a "pouched dog with a wolf's head" (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*, to give it its scientific name) is told in this slim, and handsomely illustrated, little paperback.

The authors, Beresford is a historian and Bailey a journalist, trace the history of the Tiger from the advent of Europeans in Tasmania in 1803. The settlers brought sheep, the Tiger was promptly accused of slaughtering sheep and its doom was thereby sealed, although it took over 125 years to apparently wipe them out.

But is it extinct? Officially, yes — the one that died in the Hobart Zoo is considered the last of the breed. Reports persist, however, of sightings of both the beasts and their tracks, an important point since the forepaws of the Tiger leave a 5-toed track, unlike that of other Tasmanian beasts including feral dogs.

Expeditions have been mounted repeatedly, usually on the proverbial financial shoestring, but to no avail. Despite sensors, traps, and robot cameras, the Tigers, if they do still exist, have managed to elude those who once killed them and now avidly search to see if any survive.

The authors describe both the expeditions and the various sightings that have, over the years, kept alive the hope that somewhere in the wilds of the Tasmanian wilderness, small breeding groups still survive.

There are also some reports from the Australian mainland but these are almost totally discounted, even by those most hopeful that Tigers may still exist in Tasmania.

The authors conclude their book with a brief bibliography. While virtually all references are to Down Under publications, there is one that *PURSUIT* readers should find in their local library's: "*Natural History*" magazine, December 1972. In it, Jeremy Griffith, an Australian zoologist, tells of his own searches and describes, though in less detail, much of the history contained in this book. Griffith's article is illustrated with several photographs and a striking two-page color drawing of the Tiger.

The July 1983 *Fate* magazine also carries a Tiger article which mainly reprises the data of Griffith's article but does include information on the few sightings made since that piece appeared.

As it stands now, the Tiger remains officially extinct with both sightings and footprints "explained" by Establishment scientists as misinterpretations by overeager and inexperienced observers. Sound familiar, fellow Fortean?

THE WAR OF GODS AND MEN by Zecharia Sitchin. Available from Avon Books, New York, \$3.95, softcover.

Reviewed by Barbara Clow

Those of you who secretly entertain the wildest fantasies of extraterrestrial influences on planet Earth, but who wish somebody would PROVE it, will be more than satisfied by Zechariah Sitchin's three part trilogy, *The Earth Chronicles*. The last book of the series, *The War of Gods and Men*, was just released after the publication of *The Twelfth Planet* in 1976 and *Stairway to Heaven* in 1980.

When I read *The Twelfth Planet*, I was very impressed by Sitchin's impeccable research on original Sumerian and Egyptian sources, and his scholarly methodological approach which interprets original sources as real historical events instead of myth. His scholarly approach was a welcome relief from other author's highly speculative and unsupported forays into the question of just who were "the Gods," the Nefilim. The book also documented another planet outside Pluto, a 12th planet member of the solar system which is called "Nibiru" by the Sumerians. I was reminded of it again in 1982 when NASA reported the probable existence of a celestial body beyond Pluto orbiting the sun. Then when I read the Dec. 27, 1983 San Francisco Chronicle article on the latest findings of the IRAS (infra red) Satellite probe, I rushed out and bought a new copy of *The Twelfth Planet*. This report was of a celestial object "possibly as large as Jupiter" and "50 trillion miles from Earth" and "there was some speculation that it might be moving toward Earth." Now, Sitchin's careful Sumerian research on Earth records was being corroborated by the latest space probes, just as Immanuel Velikovsky's controversial theories on Venus in the early 1950s were backed up and proven by Mariner probes in the 1970s. And, according to Sitchin, we possess accurate dating on the orbital cycle of Nibiru around the sun because we actually have an ancient Sumerian source, "The Hymn to Eridu," (translated by A. Falkenstein) which records the visit of the Nibiruan Pantheon in 3800 BC. And, Anu and Antu, God and Goddess of Nibiru, are described in a Sumerian ritual as they observe the Twelfth Planet rise above the horizon!

Since the topic of this review is extremely credible research by trained scholars into extraterrestrial influences on Earth, I'd like to mention that extraterrestrial visitation to Earth has been conclusively established by Robert Temple in *The Sirius Mystery* (St. Martin's Press, New York) by means of Temple's brilliant study of Dogon (African) sacred rites in relation to the orbit of Sirius B and Sirius A. In *The Earth Chronicles*, however, Sitchin actually completely documents a HISTORY of the Nibiruans on Earth since 350,000 BC! We only have good archeological records going back to about 9,000 BC due to the destruction in the flood in 11,000 BC, but "the Gods," the Nefilim, have furnished Earthlings with ample records of their history in all ancient cultures. Sitchin sticks very close to his careful methodology and does little speculating, but assuming Nibiru passed close in 200 BC, I found it irresistible not to speculate on the real meaning of the bizarre stories in the Nag Hammadi scrolls, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and in some of the fragments of Berossus and Marcion. And, when I visited Abydos, Egypt this spring, I found the alluring story of the transformation of Seti I, the birth of Horus from the phallus of Osiris, and the King List of Seti I open to an entirely new and

radical interpretation. I found myself ruminating on Seth/Seti I, and I found myself wondering why Seth is dropped in the Hebrew Bible, and I finally wonder if Seth/Seti I might not be from Nibiru?

I could speculate endlessly, and I think readers of Sitchin's trilogy will find themselves doing the same because this trilogy is one of the most complete and radical histories of planet Earth ever written. So, to entice you further, I will briefly summarize the contents of the first two books and then go a little deeper into *The War of Gods and Men*.

In *The Twelfth Planet*, Sitchin studies the geneology and history of the Sumerian Pantheon from ancient sources. He examines the Earth record of the once-every-3600 year orbit of Nibiru, and gives information on the periodic rises and falls of Earth culture in relation to the placement of Nibiru. Archaeologically, Sitchin's theories are being slowly validated as the digs on Earth go back farther and farther in time with more specific information being gleaned from more sophisticated techniques. Even if Sitchin's basic theories are too radical to some readers, his presentation of ancient Sumerian seals and documents should be savored because so much of this information lies in the basements of museums untranslated and unread because so much new material is being dug up everyday. Sitchin's theories on the sudden and inexplicable rises of great cultures, such as the birth of cities 3400-3000 BC all over the world, need to be given fair competition by serious scholars. Sitchin also examines the technology of the Nefilim from ancient sources. He works with a powerful paradigm in his research: Seemingly enigmatic stories, objects and unusual sites, become understandable when the same story occurs, when the same object is created, when the same site is developed, in our culture. In other words, it becomes possible to speculate that Jacob's ladder is a ladder into a space vehicle after our present culture has reinvented space vehicles. So, Sitchin suggests that a previously undecipherable mysterious clay tablet found in the Royal Library of Ninevah is a route map for landing space vehicles at the Sippar Spaceport now that our astronauts are utilizing similar landing maps. Or he suggests that the incoming Nefilim spacecraft (Fig. 1) has wings that look just like the solar panels American spacecraft use to convert the Sun's energy to electricity. Try it yourself: Try studying ancient Sumerian seals and come up with a non-technological interpretation. In *The Stairway to Heaven*, Sitchin concentrates more on the various religious rituals such as the Egyptian passage rites, the searches for the Tree of Life and Immortality, such as the Gilgamesh Epic. In these rituals and myths, Sitchin finds a continuous desperate attempt by men and women to be like "the Gods," to gain immortality. These are stories of separation from a reality and beings that humans know which can *only* be fully understood in light of the human desire to reconnect with our divine origins. And not to belittle the creativity in the extraterrestrial movies of the last ten years, the genesis for most of the plots of these films can be found in Sitchin's trilogy. *Stairway to Heaven* is particularly heartrending and fascinating because it is a real explanation for the yearning for freedom from the constraints of linear time and limited space that we all feel.

It has been a long wait for Book Three, *The Wars of Gods and Men*. At the end of his new book, Sitchin offers a chronology of the Nefilim, and he presents even more complete and startling proof of his basic thesis. His integration of history is a feat that most fans of Velikovsky and von Däniken will find enviable. His exposition of the Creation Story as the creation of Adam (man and woman) by the Nefilim so that they can have a helpmate on Earth is richly developed in reference to the

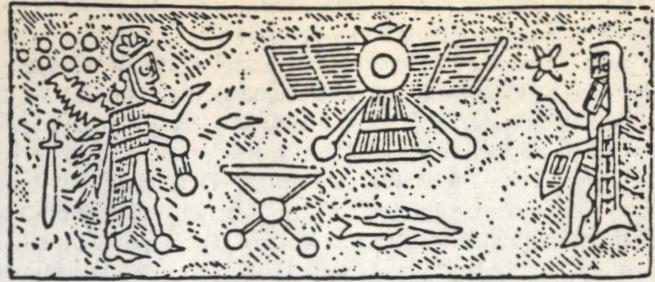


Figure 1

Hebrew Bible and New Testament as supported and deepened by Sumerian, Babylonian, and Egyptian sources. This third book is a challenge to contemporary theologians, particularly those who are concerned with the meaning of the Creation Story. A related subject, that of creation as genetic manipulation by "the Gods," the theory that the Nefilim created the genetic fiber of *Homo Sapiens* is richly developed in *Genius of the Few* (Turnstone Press, Northamptonshire, England), and the full history of that great turning point in evolution is carried out to its logical conclusion in relation to the Fall. *War of Gods and Men* is a book about life and death. *In vitro* fertilization techniques now make it possible to develop new insights about "the Gods" mating with human females in the various mythologies. The further back in time one goes, the more we see the awesome respect the so-called primitives observed toward life and genetic purity. Some contemporary feminist writers theorize that the Goddess once ruled everything because primitive people did not know the cause of pregnancy and therefore divinized the birthing woman. But, Sitchin and O'Brien argue that the creation of Adam and Eve, the first parents, is actually a very sophisticated genetic technological triumph. And, scientifically, the radical dichotomy appearing in *Homo Sapiens* has not yet been explained; and theologically, this theory might explain why we humans sense we are half earth and half sky. Certainly, this interpretation of the Creation is evocative, and perhaps it could lead to a greater respect for the fragility of our DNA.

Like all complete histories, *The War of Gods and Men* also contains tragedy. Possibly the most admirable trait of Sitchin's thought is his thoroughness. He carries his work on the Nefilim to its logical conclusion. And so, about death as well as life, Sitchin theorizes that the Nefilim unleashed a nuclear holocaust in 2024 BC. Using his paradigm that contemporary technology will often reveal the secrets of the past, Sitchin traces through ancient sources and discovers the most plausible theory on the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah this reviewer has read. And, not to close on a depressing note, one assumes that 2024 BC and 1600 BC were when Nibiru was the farthest from Earth. If 2024 BC was the holocaust, and we know that 1600 AD was the plague before the rise of science, then Nibiru is now 400 years closer to us in its orbit. And judging by the numbers of extraterrestrial sightings since the 1950s, the Nefilim wish to contact us. Perhaps we should look toward the sky and clean up our act on planet Earth so we can greet our brothers with proper awareness.

SKY CRASH: A COSMIC CONSPIRACY, by Brenda Butler, Jenny Randles & Dot Street; Neville Spearman Ltd., Great Britain, 1984, 283 pps., 7.50 pounds.

Reviewed by Robert Barrow

Every so often, a book comes along whose whispered existence encourages so much controversy, such an abundance of "buzz" and comment from sources having some relationship to the basic story and its aftermath, that a reviewer's obligation

to provide a fair analysis becomes a virtual perplexity. *Sky Crash* meets these criteria, and its short bookshelf life already having acquired a reputation of both kudos and slams, it is apparent that involvement with the book alone is not enough.

By now, the series of UFO encounters allegedly having occurred in England's Rendlesham Forest — next to important military bases — for three days in late December, 1980, has been outlined in a number of UFO-related publications, including *Fate* and *Flying Saucer Review*. The ongoing investigation into the mystery was, as well, the subject of a TV documentary aired on Ted Turner's Cable News Network (CNN).

Exactly what happened in the forest? Actually, *exactly* is precisely the question here. In what quickly turns out to be far more than a just-another-UFO-in the woods incident, we are confronted with a fascinating situation in which U.S. military personnel discover UFOs in British woods, complete with aliens. There are marks reportedly left in the soil, and samples are taken. There is a report of radiation in the area. There are films and audio tapes of the affair. There is an unusual aspect of what appears to be refreshing military candor and cooperation in regard to confirmation of a bizarre happening, yet there are ominous threats and evidence of a government cover-up as well.

Far removed from the Rendlesham Forest enigma as this reviewer is, yet perfectly willing to accept the investigative quality of the case, I must admit to some discomfort with the concern for accuracy in *Sky Crash*. Several months ago, veteran UFO researcher Lucius Farish informed me of some misinformation regarding his "role" in the affair, as mentioned on page 29. The authors depict Farish having met with a U.S. Air Force man, recently returned from a tour of duty in Britain, who claimed the Air Force discharged him "because he had refused to keep silent about 'something big' that had taken place on the base where he was stationed in England during last December and early January."

Alas, however, for this appetizing scenario is without any credibility whatsoever. Farish, co-editor of the UFO Newsclipping Service (UFONS), comments on the falsely reported incident on the part of at least one of the authors in a letter I received in 3/85, he clarifies the facts (quoted by permission):

...let me try to set the record straight: I received a letter from one of the UFONS subscribers, as well as a portion of a letter which a friend or relative of his had received. The letter-writer was (as memory serves) the wife of someone stationed at Woodbridge AFB. She mentioned some of the rumors making the rounds of the base (landed UFO, possible alien contact, etc.). This would probably have been in late January 1981 when the letter was sent to me. As it was the first I had heard of the case, I wrote a postcard to Norman Oliver in London, asking if he knew more about it. I was later contacted by both Dot Street and Brenda Butler, but they were not given any information which would allow them to construct the "scenario" in *Sky Crash*. ...For what it's worth, the next piece of mail which Norman received from me (following the postcard), an issue of *UFO REPORT*, had been opened and re-sealed along the way.

Such inaccuracies do not give us solace. Nevertheless, *Sky Crash* generally strives to tell an important story, and we are intrigued. But rather than belabor the point, I would direct the reader to several issues of the Mutual UFO Network's *MUFON JOURNAL* for 1984, particularly #201, 203 & 204, in which pro and con aspects are examined in some depth. On one hand (issue #203), we are enlightened by British science writer (and, may we suggest, staunch UFO skeptic, if not debunker extraor-

dinaire) Ian Ridpath as he blames lights seen in the sky on a nearby lighthouse. Similarly, he dismisses physical evidence such as UFO landing traces as "rabbit diggings" and bum marks on trees as axe marks left by foresters.

The following issue (#204 for 4/85) offers Jenny Randles, herself one of the book's authors and certainly the best known for her UFO investigations, who excoriates her critics and bemoans the treatment afforded the author's work by both the British and American publishing industry. Her comments are significant.

Frankly, the Rendlesham Forest incidents of 1980, as documented in both the book and the current monsoon of controversy, are enough to drive a reviewer to the brink. While it is impossible to feel the pain the authors must be experiencing from the barbs (both deserved and undeserved) cast at their efforts to date, I can sympathize. A few years ago, slouched in a theater seat to watch a new motion picture entitled *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, I nearly fractured a vertebra and foamed at the mouth in my haste to sit up when a scene appeared in which one of my own articles from a national publication had apparently been used as a prop for the character portrayed by actor Richard Dreyfuss to destroy at a crucial moment of mental torment. Of course that particular article was probably one of the worst things I ever wrote, but the sight of it being destined for the trash basket on the big screen gave me a horrible sensation.

I just hope that the authors of *Sky Crash* find a little more reward in the world of *reality*, because they might have stumbled into something that makes fantasy films pale by comparison.

VISIONS * APPARITIONS * ALIEN VISITORS by Hilary Evans; The Aquarian Press, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, England, 1984, 320 pp. illus. \$18.50.

Reviewed by Sabina Warren Sanderson

It has always been the practice to treat and investigate the various kinds of visions or apparitions as if they were discrete categories; i.e. a ghost hunter wouldn't dream of looking into a case of a religious vision, and someone interested in religious visions wouldn't dream of going ghost hunting. That this has been a bad mistake is, I think, amply proven by Hilary Evan's book.

There is first a fairly brief but cogent introductory section that deals with general matters such as what we mean by "real" when dealing with apparitions — possibly they are not "real" in the sense that a piece of paper is real, but they *are* real to the percipient (the person who 'sees' an entity). I said "possibly" because no one really knows what these entities are, and until this is established, the point remains moot.

Part One, "The Entity Experience," examines in detail the various forms in which entities manifest spontaneously to percipients. Mr. Evans notes that "Some critics would say that I have cast my net too wide: but I think the evidence does not permit us to set aside totally any of the categories we have considered." Paradoxically, I agree with both parts of this statement.

He begins with entities in dreams, which may sound a bit irrelevant but is not and provides an important basic fact: "whatever creates our dreams has access to a far greater range of material than our conscious minds appear to enjoy." Further, "in dreaming, one part of us is spectator to the drama which another part of us is staging. Throughout our study we shall need to consider whether the same may be true of *all* the phenomena under our consideration."

Evans then deals with a wide variety of entity experiences

ranging all the way from hypnagogic imagery (visions seen while falling asleep*) MIBs, UFO-related entities and entities as folklore, including, of course, such 'standard' items as hallucinations, ghosts, and religious visions. Though in a sense all are quite different, they all share certain characteristics. All are perceived visually, though objective analysis forces one to conclude that the entity was not 'real' in the ordinary sense. Also, the apparent (the person the entity appears to be) can be of three kinds: known persons — most dreaming cases, doppelgängers, some apparitions and most hauntings; stereotypes — religious and demonic visions, folklore, and possibly MIBs and UFO cases; and unknown — most hypnagogic and hallucination cases and cases of 'imaginary' companions and counsellors.

Part Two, "Experimental Entities," deals with deliberate attempts to conjure up entities by methods ranging from scientific experimentation to old-fashioned 'magic' and hallucinogenic drugs.

Part Three, "Explaining the Entity Experience," considers how and why the entity experience occurs and why it takes the form it does. There are a number of hypotheses ranging from Jung's collective unconscious to dissociated personalities, and each is carefully considered. None can be said to be completely satisfactory since none really covers all the various types of entity experience. Nor is it entirely clear whether psychological or physical circumstances *cause* the entity experience or simply *make it possible* for it to occur.

*Technically, those seen while walking are hypnopompic images — I have suffered from these on and off for years.

The subject is far too complex to permit an even remotely satisfactory summarization, in part because the theories vary so widely and are so complex in themselves. Any simplification, let alone over simplification, would be a disservice to the author and to the reader. Some are, naturally, more 'attractive' than others, but each certainly deserves full consideration.

The author draws no final conclusions, but as a 'teaser' I should like to quote two significant statements: "Wherever they originate, by whatever means they penetrate to the mind of the percipient, those entities are to some degree material artifacts." Secondly, "Within our minds there exists a creative, intelligent, sympathetic and understanding capability, whose function is to fabricate non-real scenes and scenarios, for purposes only some of which can be guessed at. The capability, which for the sake of convenience we may call the *producer*, may plausibly be conceived as a parallel personality to our conscious personality." (I find intriguing his suggestion that 'real' sleep, i.e. non-dreaming sleep, may be when the 'producer' takes a rest.)

Of course there is still a great deal of work to be done in this field before anyone can even begin to be certain of the answer, but Hilary Evans is to be both thanked and congratulated for the really remarkable job he has done in providing a sound base for further research. The book is not 'easy' reading but is well worth the concentration required. There is a good bibliography tied to the text and an index. Certainly no Fortean library should be without this most important book.

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editor:

There is one point on which I wish to make clear that I disagree with Professor Petit (re: *Where Have the Flying Saucers Gone?* - *PURSUIT* #68). In the process of translating, I could have deleted the passage in question with an ellipsis, but did not do so, as that would have been censorship on my part of controversial aspects of someone's else's work. So I translated the passage as I found it, although I disagreed with it, seeing it as the only flaw in an otherwise brilliant and original exposition of ideas.

I happen to be one of the "cultists," to whom Professor Petit refers so disparagingly. Phenomena such as levitation, telepathy, and automatic writing occur far too frequently in both reports of sessions with psychic sensitives and in UFO reports for these persistent recurrences in both fields to be dismissed as irrelevant. Other paranormal phenomena, such as materialisation and dematerialisation, action at a distance, and passing matter through matter, also recur persistently in both reports of sessions with psychic sensitives and in UFO reports. To compare UFO researchers investigating the psi hypothesis with what sociologists call the Cargo Cult is an inane and gratuitous insult. It marks the only point on which I feel I should state publicly that I do not agree with Professor Petit.

Except for this one Bronx cheer, I wholeheartedly applaud all the rest of Professor Petit's superb statement.

—George Andrews

Dear Editor:

I've been with *SITU* for a number of years now and one develops a sense of loyalty.

I have to agree that there has been a tendency to take

yourselves too seriously and to indulge in mathematical speculation far beyond my understanding.

Please retain a *degree* of what you refer to as "light but still ... something to think about." (See *PURSUIT* editorial #68)

—R. W. Chatterton

Dear Editor:

I must take exception to several of the statements attributed to Prof. Jean-Pierre Petit in the article "Where Have the Flying Saucers Gone?" (v. 17, no. 4, pp. 153-156).

His *ad hominem* attacks against Hynek and Vallee are absurd and beneath notice. If these two respected researchers, whose reputations are at least equal to Petit's, lean toward the parapsychological hypothesis, it is because their years of study have pointed them in that direction.

It is Petit's claim that, in our star system, only Earth has undergone tectonic plate phenomena. (This may or may not be true.) He also claims that tectonic plate phenomena are the only causes of mountains and related topographical features. (This is completely false.) Therefore, according to Petit's premises, the mountains and craters of our own moon do not exist. The reports of Olympus Mons and the Valles Marineris on Mars must be hoaxes. Obviously, this is all poor geology.

Also, Petit's assumption that natural barriers are the only cause of cultural differences is suspect. Certainly, the use of Europe as an example of the uniformity of culture is a poor choice.

Petit's statements illustrate once more the need of the individual xenologist to have a broad-based educational background.

—Kim L. Neidigh



SITUATIONS

In this section, mostly contemporary curious and unexplained events are reported. Members are urged to send in newsclippings and reports they deem responsible. Please be sure to include the source of reference (name of newspaper or periodical), city of publication, date of issue in which article appeared, and your first initial and last name (or membership number only, if you prefer to be credited in that way).

China's Captive 'Wild Man' Said to be Rare Monkey

A Chinese newspaper has reported new details on the capture of a hairy ape-like male beast that indicate it is a rare monkey, not a mythical "wild man" as previously claimed.

The Canton newspaper *Yangcheng Evening News* reported the new details in a special dispatch from the central city of Wuhan, headquarters of the China Wild Man Research Institute, where the beast reportedly has been kept. The report was seen in Peking.

Chinese press accounts claimed that a hairy, 3-foot-tall specimen of the legendary "wild man" — China's version of the Himalayan "abominable snowman" — had been captured in Hunan.

But leading anthropologists were quoted as saying they were skeptical of the find. No photographs of the beast have been published.

A front-page story in the *Yangcheng Evening News* quoted the wild man institute's deputy secretary, Li Jian, as saying the creature was captured October 24th by rural people from Shuitou village in a mountainous region of Hunan which is honeycombed with caves.

The newspaper said 32 rural people and 11 hunting dogs in Hunan province tracked down the creature, which clawed the ear off one human captor and was knocked unconscious with a pole.

After a few days the "mao gong," or "hairy male," became used to its captors and started eating fruits and nuts, the report said.

SOURCE: AP in the *Gazette*,

Schenectady, NY, 2/11/85

CREDIT: Joe Zarzynski

Psychic Leads to Discovery of Woman's Body in Field

The body of an elderly woman who wandered away from a Hempstead nursing home has been found in a pasture where a Dallas psychic said she would be found.

The body of Mayme E. Knight, 74, was found in a pasture three miles from Hempstead Retirement Care Center almost ten days after she disappeared.

An autopsy was performed to determine the cause of death but Hempstead Police Chief Randy Johnson said Knight is believed to have died of exposure or suffered a heart attack.

Dallas psychic John K. Catchings, asked by the nursing home to aid in the search, came to Hempstead and told police the woman's body could be found in the pasture, located off Mitckmore Road.

Catchings went to the site where Knight was last seen, about a mile from the nursing home, and began walking, Johnson said. Catchings walked through a wooded area, crossed a creek, passed through one pasture and then into another pasture, Johnson said. Catchings then walked back to the first pasture and told police Knight's body was there.

Johnson said police searched the pasture but did not find the woman. A relative of the owner of the property found the body later behind a bush.

Johnson said although police had conducted an extensive search for the Odessa woman since she was reported missing, they had not searched the area where the body was found because they did not believe she would have walked that far.

Johnson said he had doubts about the use of psychics in police work when Catchings joined the case and thought following Catchings' lead was a waste of police time.

"I've always depended on facts," Johnson said. "It's hard to accept something like this."

Johnson said he had changed his mind about the use of psychics.

SOURCE: *Chronicle*, Houston, TX

1/3/85

CREDIT: Ray Nelke

Artifacts Evidence of Ancient Religion

A tiny cave in Israel's southern Negev Desert has yielded thousands of prehistoric objects, including the oldest fabric ever found and evidence of a 9,000-year-old religion, the Israel Museum has announced.

Meir, the museum's vice president, called the discovery "one of the most important finds in this area" in the last 25 years.

The cave was found in 1983 when Israel was taking a comprehensive survey of the southern Negev Desert after the country decided to relinquish the Sinai peninsula as part of its 1979 peace agreement with Egypt.

Israeli authorities sent archaeological teams into the Negev to research claims that relocation of military bases from the Sinai would destroy hidden treasures.

The teams found the cave in a desert valley west of the Dead Sea called Nahal Hemar, "the river of asphalt." Its opening was about the height and width of a tall man.

The site is near what is believed to be the biblical location of Sodom, about 50 miles south of Jerusalem and roughly the same distance from the caves in which the Dead Sea scrolls, which include fragments of the Old Testament, were found in the 1940s.

Among the thousands of objects found in the cave was a ceremonial mask painted in pale streaks of red, green and brown. It was only the second mask of that period found in the Holy Land and the first with its paints preserved, museum officials said.

Archaeologists also found a human skull coated with an asphalt decoration, four thumb-sized figurines of human heads carved from bone, fragments of a life-sized stone figure and some of the oldest wooden beads ever unearthed.

Tamar Noy, curator of the museum's prehistoric collection, said she concluded from the intricate artwork, the delicate weaving and the use of colors that most of the objects were for religious ceremonies. The bone figurines were believed to be deities.

"We have never found in one place this kind of cult material," Noy told reporters. "This period has always been an enigma for us."

She said the evidence points to "a strong ancient level of religion and cult."

The dry desert conditions, constant temperature and darkness of the cave helped preserve organic materials such as plaited rope, string and a napkin-sized cloth made out of woven flax.

Anthropologists were familiar with the style of weaving from impressions in ancient clay, but no cloth this old was found before, Noy said.

She said the cloth and rope were the first proof that flax was cultivated during this period not only for oil but also for weaving, a process requiring great preparation. Carbon 14 testing in laboratories in Israel, South Africa and at the British Museum in London showed that pieces of string dated from 7160 B.C., plus or minus 300 years.

SOURCE: AP in *The Morning News*,

Wilmington, DE, 3/22/85

CREDIT: H. Hollander

Body Cues Help Unmask Counting Dog

Sheba, the dog who added, subtracted and even did cube roots, has been unmasked. Her eye, it seems, was sharper than her mind.

Richard and Frances Morgan's bright little Spitz-Keeshond had amazed people by barking answers to complicated math problems.

About two years ago, Morgan said, Sheba was bouncing around the kitchen begging for a cracker.

"I told her, 'I'm going to teach you to count for your crackers,'" Morgan said. That afternoon, Sheba learned to bark once when Morgan said "one" and held up one finger, twice for

two and three times for three.

Pretty soon, Sheba was counting to 10 and beyond.

So Morgan asked Sheba to add two and three. Sheba barked five times.

The little brown dog went on to do subtraction, multiplication, division, square roots, even cube roots.

A calculating dog is hard to keep quiet in a town of 2,325 and Sheba soon became a celebrity.

A reporter, not convinced, brought in Erich Klinghammer, associate professor psychology at Purdue University.

Sheba, Klinghammer said, reads body language — tiny movements of the eyes or head or body — to know when to stop barking.

The questioners, he added, aren't aware of giving the cues.

To test the thesis, the reporter wrote three sets of problems, each so complex that someone reading them to Sheba couldn't solve them at the same time.

On the first page of 10 problems, the correct answer was at the right. On the second set, a wrong answer was at the right, and the third set had no answers.

With Morgan reading the problems, Sheba scored an "A" on page 1, then barked every "wrong" answer on page 2.

If the questioner didn't know the answer, there was no body language cue to stop. The mystery was solved.

SOURCE: *News-Democrat*, Belleville, IL
1/21/85

CREDIT: Ray Nelke

Turtles Gather on Islands

Tens of thousands of giant sea turtles, obeying one of nature's most powerful instincts, have been converging for several weeks on a cluster of tiny islands off the northern tip of Australia's Great Barrier Reef, beginning last October.

Scientists say it is one of the largest gatherings of sea turtles ever documented, with thousands of the huge migratory reptiles crawling ashore nightly to lay as many as 100 eggs each in the beach sand, and then, as dawn approaches, returning to the sea.

The researchers estimate that between 50,000 and 150,000 turtles, known as green turtles, have joined the gathering. Many have come from feeding grounds as much as 1,500 miles away, returning to the same beaches on which they hatched decades earlier.

The islands lie in waters about 3,000 feet deep, about 50 miles off the northern tip of the state of Queensland. They are believed to be the main nesting grounds, or rookery, of all the green turtles inhabiting the waters from Indonesia to the west in the Marshall Islands in the southwestern Pacific.

"There are always a few turtles coming to nest all year round, and the numbers usually peak about this time," said Colin Limpus, an Australian scientist who has been monitoring the phenomenon. "But the numbers started picking up every night. We go out there now,

and the beach is just turtle after turtle."

On Raine Island — the largest island — all of a mile across — Limpus said he has counted as many as 11,500 turtles in a single night. The turtles weigh an average of 300 pounds each. Some weigh as much as 400 pounds.

"That means there was about 1,700 ton of turtle stepping ashore that night alone," Limpus said in an interview from his office at the Queensland National Park and Wildlife Service in Townsville.

When he walks about the rookery to make his nightly counts, Limpus said, there is sometimes no space between turtles, and he walks on the backs of the gridlocked reptiles. Their shells average about 3½ feet in length.

"There's a lot of traffic, but it's actually pretty quiet," Limpus said. "Each female is trying to find a nice quiet place to dig her nest, and sometimes they'll wander around for hours looking for the right place. When they start digging, it looks like a dust storm — thousands of buckets of sand flying in all directions."

The beach on Raine Island is about 100 yards wide, and once the night's turtles have come ashore, there are about six for every yard of waterline.

No one knows why there are so many turtles this year, but it is known that mass nestings recur, Limpus, an internationally recognized biologist who has been studying Australia's sea turtles, recalled a similar phenomenon on the same islands 10 years ago. He suspects climatic changes in the ocean trigger the phenomenon and is searching for evidence of this.

Sea-turtle experts in the United States were astonished on hearing how many animals were showing up on Raine Island.

"That's just incredible," said Archie Carr of the University of Florida at Gainesville, widely considered the pre-eminent sea-turtle researcher in the United States. "We've seen large concentrations of other species at times in the Caribbean, but not this big."

Carr said green turtles were severely depleted in Caribbean waters. About 30 or 40 show up each year on Florida beaches. Far more plentiful are such other species as loggerheads and olive-Ridley, he said. About 60,000 olive-Ridleys have been known to turn up on Caribbean beaches.

Christopher Columbus reported seeing vast concentrations of green turtles when he landed on Grand Cayman Island in the Bahamas. "What we're seeing on Raine Island is probably what Columbus saw," Limpus said. "There hasn't been a green turtle on Grand Cayman in 80 years. They've all been hunted out for the meat."

Although the Raine Island population is one of the last large concentrations left, hunting is catching up with it, too, Limpus said. In 1983, statistics show, 36,000 green turtles were killed in Indonesia for food and for the shells. Thousands more were taken in other parts of the animal's range.

Maturity for the green turtle does not come until it is about 50 years old, give or take a decade, Limpus has calculated. By then, the animal typically weighs more than 200 pounds and measures about three feet in shell length.

Measurements of shell length over these intervals show that the turtles grow about two millimeters a year. Limpus would not speculate how long green turtles live. Carr said that although there were no exact figures available, "I have no doubt there are turtles breeding in the world that were born over a hundred years ago." Records from hunters of long ago indicate that individual turtles weighing up to 800 pounds have been caught.

Whether any hatchlings from this year's extraordinary season on Raine Island will live long enough to reach that size is, in Limpus' words, "very much in doubt," given all the hunting. Radiocarbon dating of turtle fossils from the island indicate that the reptiles have been breeding there for at least a thousand years.

"I wonder," Limpus said, "whether we'll ever see anything like this again."

SOURCE: *The Philadelphia Inquirer* PA
2/3/85

CREDIT: H. Hollander

Man Lifts Car in Rescuing Two Children

A 32-year-old welder who stopped to help two youngsters hit by a car said he lifted the front end of the car off one of the children because "it was the only thing to do."

Robert Hauser, Jr. came to the rescue of Ebony Harris, 6, and D'Andria Harris, 10, after they were struck when they got off a Bridgeport, CT school bus.

"One of the girls went flying into the grass median, the other went down under the car and was dragged about 100 feet," Hauser said.

He said he had no option but to lift the car because the 6-year-old "was wrapped under the wheel."

Ebony was listed in serious condition at St. Vincent's Medical Center in the intensive care unit, while her sister was in fair condition, according to a nursing supervisor.

The driver of the car, Helen Hanson, 53, of Stratford, has been charged with failure to stop for a school bus, said Officer Eugene O'Neill.

Hauser said he didn't have time to think about what had to be done.

Hauser stopped his truck in the middle of the street when he came upon the accident. After trying to push the mid-size car, he turned on its ignition to take it out of gear.

"As I got out, I grabbed underneath the driver's door because you get more leverage and picked up the car as high as I could and a guy came out of nowhere and pulled her out," he said.

A nurse was nearby, and another passer by covered the girl with a coat as they waited for an ambulance.

Hauser said he lifts weights and has bench pressed 275 pounds.

SOURCE: *Chronicle*, Houston, TX
1/19/85

CREDIT: Ray Nelke and Scott Parker

A 'Green Cloud' Adds to Soviet UFO Lore

Witnesses say it first appeared as a yellow light, then as a white ray. Then, it became a green cloud that turned into something resembling a plane.

It was the latest example of a phenomenon that has caught Russians' imagination — sightings of unidentified flying objects.

The witnesses were the passengers and crew of Aeroflot 8352 on a night flight from Rostov to Tallinn and ground controllers who had seen unexplained blips on a radar screen. And their audience was a member of the Academy of Sciences, who solemnly declared that the sighting must have been of "what we call a UFO."

The report, carried today in the labor union newspaper *Trud*, was one of a number that have appeared over the years in a nation fascinated by unexplained phenomena such as Abominable Snowmen, the Bermuda Triangle, Loch Ness monsters and the search for the lost city of Atlantis.

In 1967, the Soviet Air Force set up a commission to investigate UFOs, though its findings have not been made public. And *Trud* carried an appeal from a Commission on Anomalies asking for more reports of sightings.

The newspaper account emphasized the sobriety of the crew, giving the names, educational backgrounds and flight experience of its four members.

The second pilot, Gennadi Lazurin was quoted as having said during the flight, "Of course, they are going to say we are not normal."

But it seemed from *Trud's* account that, on the contrary, they were being taken quite seriously.

According to the account, the adventure began at 4:10 A.M. on a clear night some 75 miles from Minsk when crew members saw a bright yellow light that shot a thin white ray toward the ground.

They watched, transfixed, as the ray turned into concentric cones of light, and then dissipated into a green cloud that crossed their flight path and began to take on the shape of a plane.

"Tell them it is some sort of cloud," the captain, Igor Cherkashin, is said to have told the flight attendant. "Say the yellow thing is a reflection of city lights, the green thing of polar lights."

But ground controllers in Riga and Vilnius confirmed the presence of a cloudlike plane next to the Aeroflot airliner.

After landing in Tallinn, the crew learned that ground controllers had seen not one but two blips following the Tu-134 across the radar screen.

Nikolai N. Zheltukhin, a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences, ruled out weather as an explanation and said a genuine UFO was involved.

He said his Commission on Anomalies had made a study of UFOs and he called the sighting a valuable documentation of the transformation of an unidentified flying object.

Not all newspaper accounts have taken UFOs seriously. A television documentary in 1981 derided them, along with underwater monsters, snowmen and the rest.

In 1976, an underground document attributed to a professor at Moscow's Aviation Institute referred to 300 UFO sightings over the years. The report was not confirmed, but its author did not publicly refute it.

Some of the purported sightings have become classics. These include a 1976 UFO said to have hovered for 36 hours over Nalchik; a flying saucer that purportedly appeared above a railroad crossing near Moscow in 1961, stalling engines for 45 minutes, and an object that, like the one reported today, trailed an airliner from Xorkuta all the way to Omsk.

The document drew a sarcastic rebuttal in the youth newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, deriding UFOs "and humanoids everywhere, in trolley-buses and in palaces of culture," as Russians call their community centers.

Komsomolskaya Pravda even managed to blame the Americans. It said the Pentagon was using the UFO scare to justify more military spending, calling flying saucers the "secret weapon of the Bolsheviks."

SOURCE: *New York Times*

1/31/85

CREDIT: Greg Arend

Teenage 'Wolf Boy' Dies in India

A teenager who died at a missionary home for the destitute and poor was reported to be the second wild "wolf boy" discovered in India within a 22-year period.

The boy died at Prem Nivas, a home operated by the Missionaries for Charity, said a spokeswoman at the home in Lucknow, 270 miles southeast of New Delhi.

The spokeswoman said India's major newspapers erroneously reported that the teenager was Ramu, the original "wolf boy" raised by a pack of wolves and found in 1954. Ramu died several years ago.

"The boy who died was not Ramu. We called him Bhaskar. He was originally called Bhaloo, meaning bear," the spokeswoman said in a telephone interview.

She said Bhaskar was originally called Bhaloo because he had long, thick hair on his body.

The Press Trust of India domestic news agency said Bhaskar was found by a local village chief in 1976 "frolicking with three wolf cubs in a forest in Sultanpur district, near Lucknow."

People believed he was reared by a wolf and so they called him a "wolf boy," the Press Trust said.

It said Bhaskar was about 8 years old when he was found. His nails had grown into claws and he had a tangle of matted hair on his head.

The village chief tried to civilize the child but failed, the Press Trust said, and Bhaskar was then sent to Prem Nivas.

SOURCE: UPI in the *Plattsburgh Press Republican*, NY, 2/25/85

CREDIT: J. Zarzynski

Ancient Spud Peels Back Time

A botanist whose life's work is studying ancient potatoes says the discovery of 10,000-year-old spuds in South America proves civilization began in the New World at about the same time as in the Old.

The remains of potatoes found in the Chilca Canyon of Peru — a desert region that apparently was once fertile — clearly had been cultivated from earlier, wild varieties, said Donald Ugent, an ethnobotanist at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

"Previously, finds of wheat have been unearthed in Iran and Iraq dating back also to about 8,000 B.C., but nothing of a similar age had been discovered in this part of the world," said Ugent, who has spent 25 years studying potatoes and related crops of the Andes Mountains in South America.

"But now, we have evidence that domestication of plants probably sprang up all around the world at relatively the same time period — roughly about 10,000 years ago," he said.

Agriculture is generally regarded as a hallmark of civilization.

By studying the structure of starch grains in the potatoes Ugent determined the potatoes had been cultivated and not grown in the wild, he said.

Ugent, 51, said the discovery supports the theory that early man migrated from Asia to the New World via a land bridge before the ice age began and that agriculture began on two continents virtually at the same time.

"Formerly, everybody pointed to Mesopotamia as the Cradle of Civilization, that region in the Mediterranean stretching from Turkey to Iran, Iraq, Palestine and Syria," he said. "But apparently at the same time that area was developing, we had a cradle of civilization, so to speak, developing in South America as well," Ugent said.

Ugent recently returned from Peru, where he is acting as chief botanist for an archaeological project funded by the National Science Foundation.

"I get some ribbing now and then about my work," Ugent said. "I'm called Potato Head, Mr. Potato, Old Spud, but I don't mind...It's what we're finding that makes it worth it."

SOURCE: AP in *The Morning News*, Wilmington, DE, 3/22/85

CREDIT: H. Hollander

Welshman Found America First?

A Welsh seafarer named "John the Skilful" discovered America 17 years before Christopher Columbus and may have explored from Hudson Bay as far south as Maryland, a British expert claimed.

Arthur Davies, a retired geography professor who conducted a 50-year study, said in a paper published in the journal of the respected *Royal Geographical Society* that Skilful, whose real name was John Lloyd, reached North America in 1475. Columbus' voyage of discovery was made in 1492.

Legend, of course, says the Vikings got there

before any of them.

Why didn't Lloyd trumpet his discovery?

He wanted to keep it quiet, Davies reasons, to keep rivals from moving in.

Columbus, said Davies, talked Queen Isabella of Spain into letting him claim possession under the Spanish crown of all the lands he found when he sailed west. But Lloyd, like most navigators of his day, had no such charter and kept quiet to protect his find.

"Earlier discoverers of North America, with no such charter, gained nothing save by preserving secrecy from rivals who would otherwise move in," Davies wrote.

Lloyd was also trading with Greenlanders, which was forbidden by royal decree at the time, Davies wrote.

Davies was professor of geography at Exeter University in southwest England from 1948 to 1971 and is an honorary fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

He claimed that Lloyd later passed the secrets of his voyages to the famed navigator John Cabot.

Cabot, a Genoese like Columbus, perished in 1498 while trying to find the fabled Northwest Passage route to China, in what is now northeast Canada, under the patronage of King Henry VII of England.

It is widely accepted that Norsemen reached what are now Canada's maritime provinces and the New England coast in the early Middle Ages.

English fishermen are generally believed to have fished off Newfoundland as early as 1482. But there is no firm evidence they made it to any New World landfall.

Davies said in his paper that Lloyd reached Hudson Bay in 1477 to rescue a hunting colony of Greenlanders he'd taken there in 1475 aboard Welsh ships trading illegally with the declining Viking colony on Greenland.

"He took a hunting colony across from the old Viking settlement in Greenland, which was dying out through lack of trade with Europe, into Hudson Strait, because there was fresh water, land and plenty of animals," Davies said in a radio interview.

"In 1477, when he went to rescue them, he found them all frozen to death."

"There is a map which goes back to 1499 which clearly shows the Hudson Strait and the American coast down as far as New England," Davies said.

"And yet the first man, according to documents, to go through the strait was Henry Hudson, an Englishman, in 1610. We can see from maps that it was done 110 years earlier."

Davies said in his paper that his theory was the result of a lifetime curiosity about persistent legends in his native Wales and Madoc, a Welsh prince voyaged to the Americas in the 12th century.

Davies said that when Cabot sailed from the English port of Bristol in 1497, five years after Columbus, he was taken in a Welsh ship, the Mathew, on a secret route to the mouth of the St. Lawrence River in Canada.

"The conclusion is inescapable," Davies wrote. "Before Cabot set out, the Atlantic seaboard of North America was already known

from Baffinland to well south of what is now the USA."

Davies said a globe compiled in 1536 marked a point on the north coast of the Hudson Strait, the southern tip of Baffinland, which "John Scolvus" reached "about 1476."

Many records refer to Scolvus as a Dane. But Davies said Lloyd, or Llwyd in the old Welsh tongue, was the navigator known as "Scolvus," an old German word meaning The Scholar. He was referred to in contemporary documents as "the greatest mariner in all England."

Davies said records in 1480 note that Lloyd had returned from a 9-month voyage to the west some years earlier.

He added that "only when the Gulf of St. Lawrence proved a dead end (to the fabled route to Cathay) in 1497" did he pass on his secret to Cabot, who concealed the Welshman's identity as "John the Skilful, which as John Scolvus remained a mystery until now."

SOURCE: AP in *The Tennessean*
1/8/85

CREDIT: Harold Holland

Language of Love Unites 'Talking' Ape and Kitten

Koko the gorilla, which its keeper says has a 1,000-word vocabulary in sign language, can flash the symbol for "happy" now — she has a new kitten to replace her pet cat struck and killed by a car.

Koko had been in a funk ever since her old pet manx, All Ball, was killed in an automobile accident, officials at the Gorilla Foundation said.

Ron Cohen, secretary of the Gorilla Foundation, said the 13-year-old ape gave out a tearless distress cry — a high-pitched hooting — when she learned of All Ball's death.

He claimed Koko understood when he told her the cat had been hit by a car.

Whenever the subject of cats was brought up in Koko's presence, she would say the equivalent of "sleep cat" in American sign language, Cohen said. She became so despondent that it was decided to get her another cat.

So Cohen and his associates showed Koko pictures of various cats and he said the gorilla indicated she wanted a tailless male cat similar to All Ball.

A seven-week-old manx was located in Riverside, Calif., and the cat was driven to the Gorilla Foundation in Woodside, a San Francisco Peninsula community, and given to Koko.

"This is an exciting period for Koko," Cohen said. "She is gentle with the new kitten, hugging and kissing him and placing him on her stomach as she lies on her back.

"She wraps him in a blanket and shows him her toys and tries to sign talk to him. The kitten's fine. It's a beautiful cat and it likes Koko."

Koko was moved to the foundation from the San Francisco Zoo when she was a year old.

SOURCE: UPI in *The Star-Ledger*,
Newark, NJ, 4/3/85

CREDIT: Member #432

Sand, Time Fail to Keep Ring from Owner

A ring given as a Valentine's Day present in 1936 is back on Ernestine O'Kane's finger after being lost in the surf off Waikiki beach for 48 years.

"I can't believe it," Mrs. O'Kane said last week. "It looks just like it did the day I lost it."

Mrs. O'Kane is the wife of Richard O'Kane, a retired admiral and holder of the Congressional Medal of Honor. She was given the ring, a miniature of her husband's class ring from the U.S. Naval Academy, on Valentine's Day in 1936.

Four months later, she and O'Kane, her childhood sweetheart from Durham, N.H. were married. In June 1937, the ring slipped off her finger near the Outrigger Club in Honolulu.

The ring was found by Wayne Schutt, 21, a Navy hospital corpsman, who was roaming Waikiki with an underwater metal detector.

"I found it about a foot and a half down in the sand," Schutt explained as he sat in the O'Kane's kitchen. "It was all black.

"I could make out the diamonds and sapphire, though, and I knew it was an academy ring."

After some scrubbing, Schutt made out the inscription: "E.D.G. from R.H., O'K."

Schutt found the Naval Academy's 1934 yearbook in the naval library at Pearl Harbor and identified O'Kane as the only class member with those initials.

Schutt mailed the ring — glistening like new — and a personal Valentine to Mrs. O'Kane by registered mail. At the O'Kanes' invitation, he decided to fly to California to spend a few days with them.

O'Kane commanded the submarine Tang during World War II. The Tang went through five patrols before it was sunk by a runaway torpedo.

O'Kane survived the sinking and was taken to a prison in Japan.

SOURCE: AP in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*
2/17/85

CREDIT: Ray Nelke

Birds Intoxicated by Berries Hit Cars

Hundreds of birds have been eating fermented berries and flying beak-on into cars on U.S. Highway 101, officials said.

Karen Fraad of the Santa Clara County Humane Society said the birds got drunk after eating the small red berries of the pyracantha bushes along the freeway, about 50 miles south of San Francisco.

No human injuries have been reported, but at last one accident involving several cars has resulted. The birds are dying by the hundreds.

The California Department of Transportation reported plans to trim the bushes as soon as possible.

SOURCE: *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, MO
2/10/85

CREDIT: Ray Nelke

Cause of Giant Divot Remains a Mystery

Among aficionados of oddball natural occurrences, it's called the "cookie-cutter" puzzle.

The term refers to a mysterious hole in the ground that was discovered in northwestern Washington state on the Colville Indian Reservation, not far from the Grand Coulee Dam.

A chunk of earth 10 feet long, 7 feet wide, and 18 inches to 2 feet deep, weighing at least a couple of tons, was uprooted from a depression in a wheat field. It apparently arched through the air, rotating slightly en route, and landed virtually intact 73 feet away.

Since the time it fell, winter storms have blanketed the hole with snow. Cows grazing in the field have trampled down the edges.

Nobody has figured out how or why the dirt took flight. Several scientists have examined the divot and come away scratching their heads. Investigators of unidentified-flying-objects (UFO) phenomena have expressed interest.

Okanogan County farmers Rick and Pete Timm, who found the displaced dirt, notified Don Aubertin, director of mining on the Indian reservation. He suspected a meteorite fragment. A geologist hired by the reservation took a look and said no.

"There was no sign of impact," Aubertin told a newspaper reporter when the story came to public attention. "The hole was not a crater. It had vertical walls and a fairly flat bottom. It was almost as though it had been cut with a giant cookie cutter."

Theories abound. One is that an earthquake caused the freakish upheaval. A quake with a 3.0 rating on the Richter scale, its epicenter some 20 miles from the hole, had rattled the area nine days before the Timm brothers' discovery.

Stephen D. Malone, a University of Washington earthquake expert, discounts that possibility as "beyond the incredible." A quake that small, he explains, lacks the power to boost a heavy patch of turf out of the ground.

"A hoax, I think, is a possibility," Malone says. So do some other scientists who have not inspected the site.

Others say they don't see how a hoax could have been perpetrated in the field, situated in a remote area sprinkled with massive boulders the local residents call "haystack rocks."

For one thing, no sign of human intrusion — no wheel tracks, footprints, or evidence of machinery — were found.

Robert L. Schuster, a geologist with the U.S. Geological survey in Golden, Colo., examined the puzzling hole. He leans toward the theory that an underground methane gas explosion may have popped the earth out.

"I'm not ruling out the earthquake, myself," says Greg Behrens, a geologist with the federal Bureau of Reclamation at Grand Coulee Dam. Behrens, who probably has spent more time studying the riddle than anyone else, thinks the methane theory is improbable.

Nevertheless, he sent soil samples of the bureau's regional office in Boise, Idaho, for

analysis. No lab tests had yet been conducted; low priority and a shortage of staff were given as reasons. The government plans no further investigations.

The quake could have generated concentric surface seismic waves, Behrens says. "Trouble is," wrote John P. Timmerman, chairman and treasurer of the Center for UFO Studies, "that anything this large has neither been witnessed nor monitored during a seismic event."

In his letter to Timmerman, Behrens cited other potential natural causes of the so-far inexplicable uplifting: a "freak tornado" or a "complex freezing action" combined with strong winds. But, he wanly noted, the weather was warm when the incident is supposed to have occurred.

Behrens went on to mention several conceivable man-made causes, among them an excavation dug by an enormous crane or an airborne pickup of the earth by a helicopter.

"Man has done more spectacular things," Behrens concluded. "But the cost would be high and the profit nil."

The cookie-cutter mystery "doesn't hold up as a very strong case for our field of study," says Timmerman, a savings-and-loan executive in Lima, Ohio. But, he adds, "It's a little hard to walk away from something like this, because it's so tantalizing. It's very suggestive."

One scientist who is particularly tantalized by the Washington incident is Bruce N. Kaliser, hazards geologist for the Utah Geological and Mineral Survey.

In 1978, on an inspection trip following a 3.5 earthquake in northern Utah, he came upon a cross-shaped depression 14 feet in diameter. The "only possible explanation" for it, Kaliser concluded, was "an object dropped from an aircraft," possibly a large chunk of ice.

Holes in our planet almost never go unexplained. Most common are sinkholes, the kind that occasionally make headlines with cave-ins that swallow buildings, cars, and sometimes people. Such subsidence, as it is called, usually occurs in the 15 percent of the United States that overlies soluble limestone that erodes underground, from causes both natural and man-made.

Nobody can say with certainty whether an answer to the enigma, will ever be found. "It's the most bizarre thing I ever saw," says Don Aubertin.

"There are just enough unknowns about this case to have it hanging in the air, so to speak," says Timmerman.

SOURCE: *The Saginaw News*
3/9/85

CREDIT; Member #432

Cod Beats The Odds In Yielding An Earring

Waldemar Andersen has found a gold earring that his wife lost in the North Sea a week before, in the stomach of a cod that he caught at the same place, a Norwegian newspaper says.

Andersen's wife, Ragnhild, told the newspaper *Verdens Gang* on Wednesday:

'Think of all the fish swimming around here — and that the same cod that swallowed my earring should bite on my husband's fishing hook a week later. It's completely improbable.'

The fisherman said he had not realized he was fishing from the spot where his wife lost the earring. They live in Oslo, Norway.

SOURCE: *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*
11/2/84

CREDIT: R. Nelke

Feline Friend Braves Wilds to Find Owner

When Alphonse Bodry suddenly became sick and was taken to the hospital, he had no doubt that his cat, Misele, would join him.

Misele dashed nine miles through stone quarries, fields and forests to St. Nicolas de Sarrebourg hospital. Ignoring visiting hours, she instinctively found Bodry's room, pushed the door open, and walked in.

"So, here you are," Bodry, 82, said matter-of-factly, as if he had expected his friend to show up.

A nursing supervisor, who said she could not give her name, confirmed the story to *Associated Press*.

Bodry and Misele live in the Moselle countryside outside Sarrebourg in northwestern France. They share their small farm with some chickens and cows.

The hospital administration is closing its eyes to the violation of the rule against animals in the rooms.

SOURCE: AP in the *Chronicle*, Houston, TX
1/25/85

CREDIT: Ray Nelke

Astronomer Says Pyramids not Designed for Stargazing

The theory that the Great Pyramid in Egypt was oriented to serve as a star observatory is apparently incorrect, a U.S. Navy astronomer reports.

For many years Egyptologists and astronomers have speculated that the pyramid was positioned to allow viewing of the North Star.

That is now being challenged, however, by astronomer Dick Walker of the U.S. Naval Observatory's Flagstaff, Ariz., station.

Walker has calculated the positions of the stars 4,800 years ago, when the pyramid was built, and determined that at that time no prominent star could be seen from the base of the passageway.

He found that if a builder places three stones of equal dimension in a line horizontally, and then raises the elevation by placing a fourth stone on the end, an angle of 26.5 degrees is developed. That means the passageway's angle could simply be the result of a common construction practice.

SOURCE: AP in the *News-Democrat*,
Belleville, IL, 1/16/85

CREDIT: Ray Nelke



SITUATION

Reports of Panther Sightings In Delaware

Our thanks to our regular-clipping contributor, H. Hollander, for bringing this panther "mystery" to our attention. And thanks, also, to William T. Ficka, reporter for Delaware's Harrington Journal, who was kind enough to send us the backup material that he wrote on the animal as follows:

On June 27, 1984 —

The mystery animal seen on the evening of June 19 in the small wooded area between Liberty and Clark streets in Harrington is just that — a mystery.

Harold Ellwanger, who lives on E. Liberty Street, thought it was a honey bear. He and his wife, Gertrude and neighbors Billy and Carol Ann Porter walked to the small wooded area where the "honey bear" had been seen.

Lying there was a black creature of undetermined species.

"I still don't know what it was. It looked like a panther," said Carol.

The mystery animal was between two and three feet high and over four feet long, (including the tail, which was about two feet long) and was wearing a collar, according to Carol.

"I couldn't believe the tail. It stood out straight. It looked real muscular. But the collar makes me think it was someone's pet," Carol said.

"We threw rocks at it, and it just walked off like it was king of the jungle. It had a round face, and its ears stuck up like horns," Carol added.

Carol, who had brought a camera, snapped a few shots (see photo) with a telescopic lens.

Paynter Lynch, game warden at the Fish and Wildlife Division, said that with the exception of the height, the description of the animal fits that of an otter.

Otters are about 35 inches long with tails that are about 25 inches in length, but they stand only 10 inches high, according to Lynch.

Lynch said there are no bears of any kind in Delaware.

The shape of its head and neck would make it hard to put a collar on and keep it there," Lynch added.

Carol's original color photos definitely rule out the possibility of the animal being an otter.

Those who have seen the pictures think the animal resembles a panther or mountain lion.

On July 18, 1984 —

Harrington's "mystery animal" was sighted again Saturday (July 14) on County Road 311 near Five Points, outside Harrington.

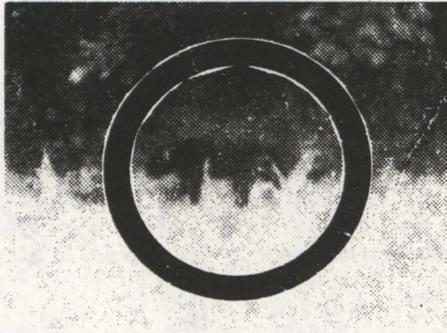
David Jones, president of JC Penney National Bank in Harrington, was driving his car when a large black cat-like animal dashed across the road and into the weeds.

"I couldn't believe my eyes. I've never seen anything like it," said Jones.

Last week Norwood Shahan, of Greenwood, reported seeing a large black animal in the same vicinity.

Shahan, who sighted the animal from a distance of 100 yards, said it was an "Afghan hound."

But Jones, who saw the creature up close, said, "It definitely wasn't a house cat or a dog. Its tail was real thick and long."



The "mystery animal" walks off like "king of the jungle." This animal was photographed about 8 p.m. on June 19 in the small wooded area between Liberty and Clark streets in Harrington. Photo by Carol Ann Porter

On July 25, 1984 —

Two large German shepherds and a mongrel apparently were attacked last Thursday (July 19) by the big cat-like animal that has stalked the Five Points area for the past three weeks.

"It about took the hide right off them," said Sylvia Ellers of Five Points.

"He (one of the shepherds) can bite an automobile tire and flatten it. So you know that animal has to be pretty big and strong to cut him up," said her husband George.

"That's right," said Sylvia, "Our mailman had four brand new tires, and that dog bit a hole right through one of them."

Sylvia said she saw a large animal go under her house about 9 a.m. on Thursday.

"At first I thought it was an overgrown cat." George and Sylvia raise chickens in a pen in their backyard.

The five dogs they own have been "acting up for the last couple of weeks," said George.

He believes the "big cat" could be trying to get at the chickens and that the dogs have picked up its scent.

Twelve-year-old Jimmy Wilkerson was in his home when he saw the animal in a cornfield about 15 yards from the house.

"It didn't really come out of the cornfield. It stuck its head out and went back in. It looked like the head of some kind of big cat. It was all black."

On Nov. 21, 1984 —

A large black animal believed to be the "big cat" that was sighted on several occasions during the summer was spotted again on Nov. 12 near a wooded area one mile east of Harrington.

Mary Korbel, who lives on County Road 432, Harrington, was in her kitchen at 7:30 a.m. when she sighted the animal near a wooded area

at the edge of a field about 100 yards from her home.

"I was in my kitchen and looking out. I couldn't believe it. It was pure black, and much bigger than a dog. It started running so fast, it was like it had wings. I thought to myself 'Could that be a black deer!'"

Well-defined paw prints, apparently made by a large cat, were tracked across the field leading to a wooded area about 150 yards from the road.



'Huge Black Cat' Reported in Delaware

Is a panther on the loose in rural southern Delaware? State wildlife officials are skeptical, but several reported sightings of a black, 4-foot-long feline here are the talk of this town of about 2,500 residents.

At least 15 people, including a state trooper, say they have seen the animal since mid-June. Dozens of others have seen the hand-size tracks the creature apparently has left behind.

"There's something out there. People keep seeing it and calling us about it," said Harrington Journal owner Harry Farrow. Unhappy with the state's reluctance to solve the mystery, Farrow has posted a \$50 reward for anyone who captures the animal alive.

Farrow, who has never seen the mystery cat, reserves judgment on its true nature. But there are a few doubts among those who have close encounters.

Gertrude Ellwanger, 65, said she and her husband got to within 20 feet of the animal as it rested in a field behind her house one morning.

One possible explanation is that it is the pet of some local eccentric. Another is that it escaped from a circus that visited the Harrington fairgrounds in late spring. Details about the circus and its owners were not immediately available.

Dietrich Schaaf, curator of mammals at the Philadelphia Zoo, said black panthers were indigenous to tropical regions, such as in Asia and South America, but could adapt to the Delaware climate given enough food and shelter. He said the mountain lion, a relative of the black panther, was native to the eastern United States but was driven out by settlers 200 years ago.

Whatever the animal's origin, eyewitness accounts of a giant cat's roaming the area have failed to impress state wildlife officials. Paynter Lynch, the local game warden, has refused residents' requests that he set traps or conduct a search for the animal, and he has told the Ellwangers and others they probably saw a dog or an otter.

"If something unusual is found, we'll be interested in it, but I suspect this is just a dog," said H. Lloyd Alexander, Jr., supervisor of operations of the state wildlife department.

SOURCE: *The Philadelphia Inquirer*
12/7/84

CREDIT: H. Hollander

Anstead's work on Ionian Isles, pp. 415-19.

1840 Oct. 30-Nov. 6 / 100 shocks at least / Zante / Athenaeum 1840-1014.

1840 Nov. 2 / Jozieux / France / Meteor / BA 60.

[BCF, p. 635:

London Times, Nov. 6, 1840 — the *Rosalie*, a large French ship, bound from Hamburg to Havana — abandoned ship — no clew to an explanation. Most of the sails set — no leak — valuable cargo. There was a half-starved canary in a cage.

But I suggest that, with our hints of Teleportation, we are on the wrong track. Crews of vessels have disappeared, and vessels have disappeared. It may be that something of which the inhabitants of this earth know nothing, is concerned in these disappearances, or seizures.]

1840 Nov. 11 / (q and water) / Severe shock at Phil accompanied by an unusually heavy swell in the Delaware, but members of Amer Phil Soc [Reverse side] could not determine whether caused by q or a meteor. / See Nov 9, 1810.

1840 Nov. 11, 12, 13 / Mets watched for in Washington, but none seen. / Proc. Amer. Phil Soc 1-301.

1840 Nov. 12 and Dec. 15 / Volc / Gedeh, Java / N.M. / C.R., 70-878.

1840 Nov. 12 - 13 / Nothing of ext. mets in Parma / C.R. 13-1035.

1840 Nov. 14 / ab. 9 p.m. / Philadelphia? / Shock and sound attributed to exploding meteor. / [Reverse side] Proc Amer Phil Soc, 1-301.

1840 Nov 17 / Aurora over Comrie / Scotland / vast cloud form [illustration] in sky at night / L.T., Nov. 25/7c, 1840. / [See *The Fortean*, #16, p. 245, C. 3.]

1840 Nov. before 19[h] / Portstewart and Derry coast of Ireland / bet 3 and 4 a.m. / A shock as of earthquake or stor[m] or firing of guns at sea. 20 minutes later, a flash of [Reverse side] lightning and sound of thunder — that been similar phe in Scotland. / L.T., Nov. 19, 1840 / (Portsewart).

1840 Dec. 4 / Zurich / Meteor / BA 60.

1840 Dec. 6 / 9 a.m. / by an astronomer of Reimes (sic), 10 sunspots / Y.B. 41-262, quoting *Times* of Dec. 12.

1840 Dec. 12 / [LT], 2-f / Singular phe in Rutland.

1840 Dec. 21 / Worcester / Aurora / in North horizon / streaks of light darting toward horiz[on] / L.T., Dec. 25.

1840 Dec. 24 / [LT], 2-e / 3 large spots on sun.

1840 Dec. 25 -p // Moravia, etc. / Meteor / BA 60.

1840 Dec. 26, // Insects / Niles National Register of — fall of insects [Reverse side] with snow near Pottsville, Pa.

1840 Dec. 27 / Mitau / Meteor / BA 60.

1841

1841 Jan. 2 / See Jan. 1, 1842.

1841 Jan. 24 / q. / Carmarthen / p. 147

/ See Oct. 30, 1868.

1841 Jan. 24 and 26 / Fall of manna widely in Asia Minor / La Sci Pour Tous 1-128.

1841 [Jan. 24 and 26] Gelat like Wilna / Asia Minor / (D-48).

★ ★

[BCF, pp. 4-48:

Competes Rendus, 23-542:

That, in Wilna, Lithuania, April 4, 1846, in a rainstorm, fell nut-sized masses of a substance that is described as both resinous and gelatinous. It was odorless until burned: then it spread a very pronounced sweetish odor. It is described as like gelatine, but much firmer: but, having been in water 24 hours, it swelled out, and looked altogether gelatinous —

It was grayish.

We are told that, in 1841 and 1846, a similar substance had fallen in Asia Minor.]

[BCF, pp. 53-54 / See 1829 //.]

[BCF, pp. 60-62:

In *All the Year Round*, 8-254, is described a fall that took place in England, Sept. 21, 1741, in the towns of Bradly, Selborne, and Alresford, and in a triangular space included by these three towns. The substance is described as "cobwebs" — but it fell in flake-formation, or in "flakes or rags about one inch broad and five or six inches long." Also these flakes were of a relatively heavy substance — "they fell with some velocity." The quantity was great — the shortest side of the triangular space is eight miles long. In the *Wernerian Nat. Hist. Soc. Trans.*, 5-386, it is said that there were two falls — that they were some hours apart — a datum that is becoming familiar to us — a datum that cannot be taken into the fold, unless we find it repeated over and over and over again. It is said that the second fall lasted from nine o'clock in the morning until night.

Now the hypnosis of the classic — that what we call intelligence is only an expression of inequilibrium; that when mental adjustments are made, intelligence ceases — or, of course, that intelligence is the confession of ignorance. If you have intelligence upon any subject, that is something you're still learning — if we agree that that which is learned is always mechanically done — in quasi-terms, of course, because nothing is ever finally learned.

It was decided that this substance was spiders' web. That was adjustment. But it's not adjustment to me; so I'm afraid I shall have some intelligence in this matter. If I ever arrive at adjustment upon this subject, then, upon this subject, I shall be able to have no thoughts, except routine-thoughts. I haven't yet quite decided absolutely everything, so I am able to point out:

That this substance was of quantity so enormous that it attracted wide attention when it came down —

That there is no record of anyone, in England or elsewhere, having seen tons of "spider webs" going up, September, 1741.

Further confession of intelligence

upon my part:

That, if it be contested, then, that the place of origin may have been far away, but still terrestrial —

Then it's that other familiar matter of incredible "markmanship" again — hitting a small, triangular space for hours — interval of hours — then from nine in the morning until night: same small triangular space.

These are the disregards of the classic explanation. There is no mention of spiders having been seen to fall, but a good inclusion is that, though this substance fell in good-sized flakes of considerable weight, it was viscous. In this respect it was like cobwebs: dogs nosing it on grass, were blindfolded with it. This circumstance does strongly suggest cobwebs —

Unless we can accept that, in regions aloft, there are vast viscous or gelatinous areas, and that things passing through become daubed. Or perhaps we clear up the confusion in the descriptions of the substance that fell in 1841 and 1846, in Asia Minor, described in one publication as gelatinous, and in another as a cereal — that it was a cereal that had passed through a gelatinous region. That the paper-like substance of Memel may have had such an experience may be indicated in that Ehrenberg found in it gelatinous matter, which he called "no stoc." (*Annals and Mag. of Nat. Hist.*, 1-3-185.)]

1841 Jan. 25 / 5:40 a.m. / shock and rumbling sound / N.Y. and N.J. / Niles Nat Reg 59-352.

1841 Jan. 28 / Lat 75° - 48 S / Long 168° - 33 E / Mt. Erebus, active volc, discovered

[Reverse side] by Sir James C. Ross. / A. J. Sci 2/7/328.

1841 Jan. 31 / qs at Carmarthen / B Assoc '54/301.

1841 Feb. 9 or 11 / Assam / q and met / B Assoc '54 / See BA '60.

1841 Feb.-March / Black substance found (after qs at Comrie?) BA 54, p. 289.

1841 Feb. 14 / Comrie / 247 shocks recorded bet Oct. 3, 1839 - Feb. 14, 1841. / Edin N P. J 32/107.

[BCF, pp. 405-406 / See Oct. 3, 1839.]

1841 Feb. 17 to April / Nothing in Sydney *Morning Herald*.

1841 Feb. 17 / Vernet (Pyrenées Orientales) / Salmon-colored dust / C.R. 13/62.

1841 Feb. 17, 18, 19 / Oily matter at Genes, Genoa, etc. / (D-63) / (72) / [Reverse side] CR, vol. 12.

★ ★

[BCF, p. 64 / See April 11, 1832.]

1841 Feb. 18 / q and fall of discolored rain / Edin New [Phil] Jour 35/148 / (?)

1841 Feb. 18 / 17-18-19 // repeat q and repeat red rains / Stat and shock / Genoa / a q slight, at 5 p.m. / another at 11 p.m. and 3 showers of red rain / (B Assoc 1854/302) /

[Reverse side] Red rain fell, evening of 17th; at different times, 18th; and 8 a.m. 19th. / oily matter / (Ec. Mag 68/437) / decomposed seeds and sand / CR 13-216.

[BCF, p. 74:

Substance that fell, Feb. 17, 18, 19, 1841, at Genoa, Italy, said to have been resinous; said by Arago (*OEuvres*, 12-469) to have been bituminous matter and sand.]

[BCF, p. 418:

For full details of the following circumstances, see *Comptes Rendus*, 13-215, and *Rept. B. A.*, 1854-302:

Feb. 17, 1841 — the fall at Genoa, Italy, of a red substance from the sky — another fall upon the 18th — a slight quake, at 5 P.M., February 18th — another quake, six hours later — fall of more of the red substance, upon the 19th. Some of this substance was collected and analyzed by M. Canobbia, of Genoa. He says it was oily and red.] [BCF, pp. 405-406: / See Oct. 3, 1839.]

1841 Feb. 19 / At Bagnone, 8 miles from Pont-Tremoli, rain of mud. / C.R. 12/789 / Genoa and Parma.

1841 Feb. 21 - 22 / Foggia, Italy / q. / II [Medium] / BA '11.

1841 Feb. 23 - 25 / (Rain and q) / 3 days and nights of incessant rain with a violent gale / on 26th, q which continued daily / B.A. '54-302.

1841 Feb. 25 / (Fr) / Chanteloup / N. France / "A stone or some substance x x very doubtful." / BA '60.

1841 Feb. 25 / Met / Parma / also Cherbourg and Chanteloup / BA 60-78.

1841 Feb. 25 / 3 p.m. / Meteorite fell on a house in Chanteloup (Coutances). / CR 12/790 //

[Reverse side] CR 12/514 / At Bois-aux-Roux, Commune of Chanteloup, ac. to several witnesses, fell on roof of a building and set it on fire.

1841 Feb. 25 / 27 / March 8 // Meteors / Parma / BA 60-78.

1841 Feb. 26 / Violent q, Zant, ab 7 p.m., preceded by 3 days and [Reverse side] nights of incessant rain. / BA 54.

1841 Feb. 27 / 4:40 a.m. / Met / Parma / greater than apparent size of moon / See Feb. 25.

1841 Feb. 27 / Rat / *Times*, Mar 3/6/e.

★

1841 March 1 - 31 / Jour. des Debats / nothing.

1841 March 8 / (det) / See Feb. 25. / 9:30 p.m. / Guastalla (Parma) / Met 4 times size of Jupiter / Loud explosion.

1841 March 15 / Princeton and New Haven / Meteor / BA 60.

1841 March 20 / q. / Italy / Lipari Islands / BA '11.

1841 March 21 or 22 / Detonating fireball / St. Menchould, France / BA '60-78.

1841 March 21 - 22 / night / Detonating meteor at Commercy and Sainte-Menehould (Meuse) / See Feb. 25; and C.R., Ap 12, 1841, p. 662.

1841 March 22 / Auro. / Durham / Aurora Arch, 8:45 p.m., passed midway bet Aldebaran and Alph. Orionis, north of Castor and a little south of

[Reverse side] Ursa Major and ab 5 N of Arcturus. At 9 — bet Cast. and Pol. and a little N or Arcturus. 9:15 — s of C and Pol, and southern edge just

- covered Arcturus. / (T. Y. Book '42-271) / *Timbs Y. Book*.
- 1841 March 22 / q / Coblenz / "A bluish meteor was observed during the previous night over the volcanic mountains near Brohl; [Reverse side] and on the same night a ball of fire of unusual size was seen at Troyes, in France. / [Timb's] Y. Book, '42-247.
- 1841 March 22 - 24 / Qs on 22, along Rhine — 23 - 24, magnetic perturbations, Italy, Belgium, Canada. [Reverse side] "Meteors were observed at several places." / BA '54.
- 1841 Mar. 22 - 24 / Q met / Shock in Germany. Magnetic perturbations, probably earth-wide. "Meteors were observed at several places." / B.A. '54-302.
- 1841 Mar. 22 / Grüneberg, Silesia / q / BA '60 / (F).
- 1841 March 24 / 10:05 p.m. / Geneva / met 8 or 10 times size of Venus / See Feb. 25. / Ref.
- 1841 March 30 / 9:02 p.m. / Geneva / met as if from Gemini — abo[ult] 1/4 or 1/5 size moon / Ref — Feb. 25.
- 1841 April 8 — / Venus / Greatest brilliancy.
- 1841 Ap. 17 / Op Mars / (A 1).
- 1841 Ap. 18 / From 8 p.m., at Vidalia, Louisiana, [Reverse side] 60 meteors in 2 1/4 hours from Virgo. / *Am. J. Sci* 42/397.
- 1841 Ap. 19, 20 / Many mets / America / BA 47-15.
- 1841 Ap. 20 / [LT], 5-c / q / Zante.
- 1841 April 21 / See Comrie, Jan. 8, 1840.
- 1841 spring / S.S. President vanished, N.Y. to Liverpool.
- 1841 Ap. 29 / No Sydney *Morning Herald* nearer than May 8.
- 1841 Ap. 29 / 20 inches of rain / South Head, N.S. Wales / Sydney *Morning Herald*, Feb. 26, 1873.
- 1841 May 4 / Shower fish / Buchen (Baden) / *Annals and Mag of Nat Hist* 10-3-5.
- 1841 May 13 / Brussels / Meteor / BA 60.
- 1841 May 14 / Venus Inf Conjunction Sun / (A 1).
- 1841 May 16 / d'Essone / met / CR 13/91 / 11 p.m.
- 1841 May 16 / Montargis and Essonne / E to W / slow meteor / BA 60.
- 1841 May 18 / Armenia / great q / [BA] '11.
- 1841 about / Fishes — streets of Salisbury / *Phil Jour(?)* 37/382.
- 1841 May 30 / "Waterspout" fell at Orange (Provence), France. / Timb's 1842-275.
- 1841 June / Tutbury, Staffordshire / frogs / NQ 8/6/191.
- 1841 June / Fishes and frgs / Boston, Eng and elsewhere.
- 1841 June 1 / q. / Jamaica / preceded by heavy rains / BA 54.
- 1841 June 8 - 9 / Italy (Abruzzi), q / 10, Tarante, etc., Italy / 14 - 15, Azores / BA '11.
- 1841 June 8 - 9 / Abruzzi, Italy / 10 — Chieti, Italy / 14 and 15 — Azores / q's / BA '11.
- 1841 June 9 / 8:35 p.m. / bolide, reddish white, at Saint Rambert / C.R. 13-903.
- 1841 June 9 / 8 p.m. / bolide of Angers and Toulouse / C.R. 13-229.
- 1841 June 12 / June 12 and July 4 // Stones / Repeat in 1842 but Toulon and Spain / but see June 4.
- 1841 June 12 / bet 1 and 2 p.m. / Metites of Chateau Renard, in the Loiret / Timb's 1842-271.
- 1841 June 12 / (F) / Trig. Chat-R / Loiret, France / weighed 75 lbs / at 1:30 p.m. / BA 60.
- 1841 June 12 / See June 12, 1850. / Paris / Stone in Japan.
- 1841 June 12 and July 2 / Montargis, in depart adjoining Loiret / See Sept. 6.
- 1841 June 12 / See June 12, 1840. / July 17?
- 1841 (June 12) / July 12, C.R. of / A member of the Acad says that the fall of [Reverse side] an aerolite near Beaune was a pure fabrication. / not same as Chat-R — See CR 12-1191.
- 1841 June 12 / 1:30 p.m. / Aerolite of Chat. Ren / C.R. 13-88 // [Reverse side] Commune of Triguères / 14-1048.
- 1841 June 14 - 15 / q / Azores / BA 54.
- 1841 June 14 - 15 / Azores / qs / II [Medium] / BA '11.
- 1841 June 20 / Venus / Greatest brilliancy.
- 1841 June 23 and before / Notable sunspots / LT, July 17-6-d.
- 1841 June 29, 30 / Shocks and sounds / France / BA 54.
- 1841 June 29 - 30 / night / in Uckermark / Rain of fishes / *Jour. Amer. Museum Nat. Hist* 21-616.
- 1841 June 29 / 10 a.m. / first concussion, dept de l'Indre / 30, 11:30 a.m., a stronger concussion / July 4 - 5 / C.R. 13-232.
- 1841 June 30 / Concussion / 11:25 a.m. / and sound / La Blanc (sur Indre) / CR 13/80.
- 1841 June 30 / Fish in Boston / Eng? / D-175.
- [BCF, pp. 183-184:
Living Age, 52-186:
That, June 30, 1841, fishes, one of which was ten inches long, fell at Boston; that, eight days later, fishes and ice fell at Derby.
- In Timb's *Year Book*, 1842-275, it is said that, at Derby, the fishes had fallen in enormous numbers; from half an inch to two inches long, and some considerably larger. In the *Athenaeum*, 1841-542, copied from the *Sheffield Patriot*, it is said that one of the fishes weighed three ounces. In several accounts, it is said that, with the fishes, fell many small frogs and "pieces of half-melted ice." We are told that the frogs and the fishes had been raised from some other part of the earth's surface, in a whirlwind; no whirlwind specified; nothing said as to what part of the earth's surface comes ice, in the month of July — interests us that the ice is described as "half-melted." I the *London Times*, July 15, 1841, it is said that the fishes were sticklebacks; that they had fallen with ice and small frogs, many of which had survived the fall. We note that, at Dunfermline, three months later (Oct. 7, 1841) fell many fishes, several inches in length, in a thunderstorm. (*London Times*, Oct. 12, 1841.)
- 1841 July 1 / (Cu[1]) / Town of Bayazid that disappeared — or "was swallowed up" in a quake. "The account requires confirmation. / B Assoc 54/306.
- 1841 July 2, 23, 25, 26, 30, 31 / Shocks / Comrie / 23, 5, 6 really severe / 30, violent / BA 54.
- 1841 July 2 - 3 / (See May 16.) / A-1 / Loud detonations heard at Montargis. [Reverse side] Considered very mysterious / no known cannon and the sky was clear.
- [Second page] The next day it was learned that at Chateau-Renard, had fallen from the [Reverse side] sky, a round black stone weighing 45 kilogrammes. / *J. des Deb* 9-2-3.
- 1841 July 3 / 3 p.m. / at Navalcamero, near Madrid / An insupportable heat. / *J. des Deb* 13-3-2-t / [Reverse side] At 4, a tremendous tempest and a rain of stones. Said that the surrounding country was white as snow with the stones. It may be that they were hailstones.
- 1841 July 4 - 5 / Indre / violent detonation and strong concussion / 3, from ab midnight to 4 a.m. / CR 13-232.
- 1841 July 4? / Montargis / See substance, July, 1849.
- 1841 July 4 - 5 / Violent th. storms reported from Tours, other places. / *Jour des Debates* 8-3-3.
- 1841 July 4 - 5 / q. / Paris / (BA 54) / C.R. 13/28, 80, 149, 232 / [Reverse side] [*London Times*, July 12-5-c.
- 1841 July 4 / Fireball / Blois and Brussels / BA '60 / ab midnight 4 - 5, the q in France.
- 1841 July 4 - 5 / q's and stone / (France) / night / *Edin New Ph J.* 36/368 / At 12:25, 3 shocks at Blois — at 1 a.m., a globe of fire [Reverse side] burst in the air — great red clouds and 2 explosions at Paris, Tours, and Nevers, at 12:45. / shock at Orleans at 4 a.m. / at Pontlevoy at 12:30 and 3:40 a.m. / [Front side] Explosion heard at Montargis, and it is said that half a league from Montargis a stone fell from the sky. "This stone was round and of a dark color [Reverse side] and weighed 95 lb." / See a series before 1810? / C.R. 13/28, 80.
- 1841 July 4 - 5 / At Nevers during q, clouds on the horizon were [Reverse side] reddish and charged with electricity. / *J. des Deb* 9-2-3.
- 1841 July 4 / night, and early 5th / qs and storms / large part of France / *Morning Chronicle*, 12th, p. 5.
- 1841 July 5 / 7 p.m. / Violent th. storm in Paris and shocks felt / *J. des Debat* 5-2-4.
- 1841 July 5 / q / large part of central France / Orleans, the weather lowering and [Reverse side] the atmosphere seemed charged with electricity. / BA 54.
- 1841 July 7 / evening / Explosion / powder mill near Faversham, Kent / [Reverse side] *Sheffield Patriot*, July 13.
- 1841 July 7 / (ver) / Timbs, 1842-204 / Considerable number of fishes [fell] at the Townhill, ab a mile northeast of Dunfermline.
- 1841 July 8 / fishes and frogs / *Times* 15-6-d — from the *Sheffield Patriot* — at Derby — torrents of rain "mixed with half-melted ice" and [Reverse side] hundreds of small fishes from 1/2 to 2 inches long, but one of them weighing 3 ounces — some with spikes on backs, commonly called "sticklebacks" — many picked up alive — and frogs from size of a horse bean to that of [Front side] a garden bean — many came down alive but most of them were killed by fall on pavement.
- 1841 July 8 / Frogs at Derby / "mostly killed by the fall on the hard pavement" / Timb's.
- 1841 July / Writer in *Derbyshire Courier*, 10th, says had seen some of the little frogs alive in a glass of water and leaves. [BCF, pp. 183-184 / See June 30, 1841.]
- 1841 July 8 / Naples / 10 — Naples / 13 — Vienna / qs / BA 54.
- 1841 July 13 / Austria / q. / I [light] / BA '11.
- 1841 July 13 / Denmark / Met — q / BA '54.
- 1841 July 14 / Marseilles / 17, at Alte / "Extraordinary movements of [Reverse side] the sea were observed. / BA 54.
- 1841 July 15 / bet 4 and 5 p.m. / Denmark and earthquake and "a vibration in the [Reverse side] air like that produced by a discharge of artillery. / BA 54.
- 1841 July 15 / *Morning Chronicle* of 1841 / Yam from Woodstock. A large tree been cut down. Taken 7 or 8 [Reverse side] horses to mov[e]. Was seen suddenly to roll up a hill. / [Front side] See June 20, 1902.
- 1841 July 16 / qs / [16] — Naples / 17 — Savoy / 18 — Baden / 20 — Parma / 22 — Leghorn / BA 54.
- 1841 July 17 / Milan / stonefall, ac to Quetelet / BA 60.
- 1841 July 18 / Between Orleans and Rouen — torrential rains, roads under water / L.T., July 26-3-f.
- 1841 July 18 / Hurricane disaste[r], Strasburg, but sky bright and the upper clouds motionless. / [Reverse side] L.T., July 26-3-f.
- 1841 July 20 / Geneva / Meteor / BA 60.
- 1841 July 22 / q / Marseilles and Leghorn / L.T., Aug 3-5-d.
- 1841 July 22 / Th. stone / L.T., Aug. 2-7-4 — from *Chelmsford Chronicle* — "During the thunderstorm on the 22nd instant, a 'fireball' was seen to fall on a field in Eldo, near Bury, adjoining the gardens of the Mount. It has

(to be continued)

The Society For The Investigation of The Unexplained

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- Dr. Vladimir Markotic, Professor of Anthropology, Department of Archaeology, University of Alberta, Canada (Ethnosociology and Ethnology)
- Dr. John R. Napier, Unit of Primate Biology, Queen Elizabeth College, University of London, England (Physical Anthropology)
- Dr. Michael A. Persinger, Professor, Department of Psychology, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada (Psychology)
- Dr. Frank B. Salisbury, Plant Science Department, College of Agriculture, Utah State University (Plant Physiology)
- Dr. Berthold Eric Schwarz, Consultant, National Institute for Rehabilitation Engineering, Vero Beach, Florida (Mental Sciences)
- Dr. Roger W. Wescott, Professor and Chairman, Department of Anthropology, Drew University, Madison, N.J. (Cultural Anthropology and Linguistics)
- Dr. A. Joseph Wraight, Chief Geographer, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D.C. (Geography and Oceanography)
- Dr. Robert K. Zuck, Professor and Chairman, Department of Botany, Drew University, Madison, N.J. (Botany)

ORIGINS OF SITU/PURSUIT

Zoologist, biologist, botanist and geologist Ivan T. Sanderson, F.L.S., F.R.G.S., F.Z.S., in association with a number of other distinguished authors, established in 1965 a "foundation" for the exposition and research of the paranormal – those "disquieting mysteries of the natural world" to which they had devoted much of their investigative lifetimes.

As a means of persuading other professionals, and non-professionals having interests similar to their own, to enlist in an uncommon cause, the steering group decided to publish a newsletter. The first issue came out in May 1967. The response, though not overwhelming, was sufficient to reassure the founding fathers that public interest in the what, why and where of their work would indeed survive them.

Newsletter No. 2, dated March 1968, announced new plans for the Sanderson foundation: a structure larger than its architects had first envisioned was to be built upon it, the whole to be called the Society for the Investigation of The Unexplained, as set forth in documents filed with the New Jersey Secretary of State. The choice of name was prophetic, for Dr. Sanderson titled one of the last of his two-dozen books "Investigating the Unexplained," published in 1972 and dedicated to the Society.

Another publication was issued in June 1968, but "newsletter" was now a subtitle; above it the name *PURSUIT* was displayed for the first time. Vol. 1, No. 4 in September 1968 ("incorporating the fourth Society newsletter") noted that "the abbreviation SITU has now been formally adopted as the designation of our Society." Issue number 4 moreover introduced the Scientific Advisory Board, listing the names and affiliations of the advisors. Administrative matters no longer dominated the contents; these were relegated to the last four of the twenty pages. Most of the issue was given over to investigative reporting on phenomena such as "a great armadillo (6 feet long, 3 feet high) said to have been captured in Argentina" – the instant transportation of solid objects "from one place to another and even through solids" – the attack on the famed University of Colorado UFO Project headed by Dr. Edward U. Condon – and some updated information about "ringing rocks" and "stone spheres."

Thus SITU was born, and thus *PURSUIT* began to chronicle our Investigation of The Unexplained.