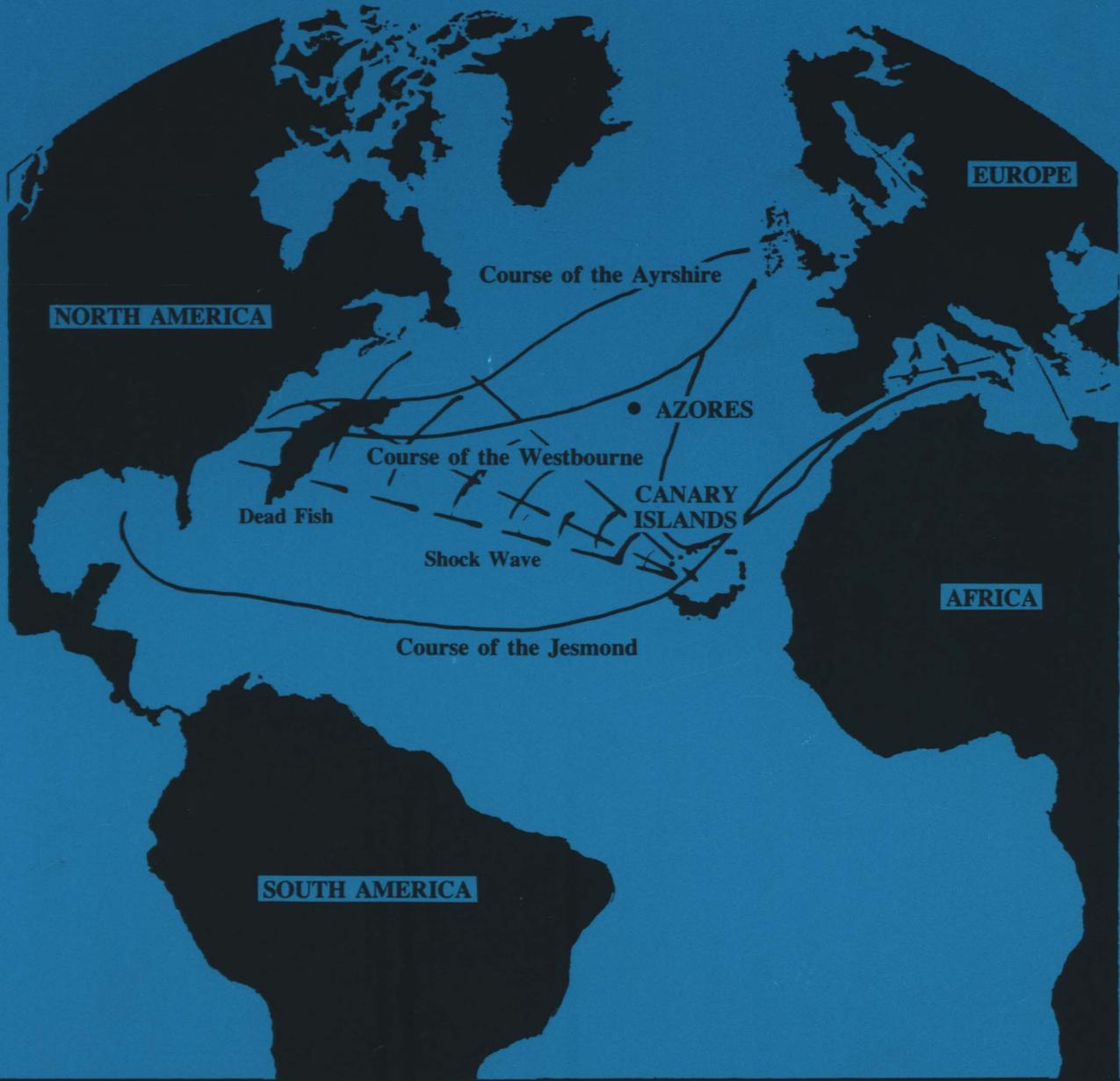


Pursuit

'Science is the Pursuit of the Unexplained'



The Society For The Investigation Of The Unexplained

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THE QUARTERLY
JOURNAL OF THE

SOCIETY FOR THE
INVESTIGATION OF
THE
UNEXPLAINED

Pursuit®

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We feel our purpose as a journal is to encourage readers to think, to question and, we hope, to investigate various unexplained phenomena of significance to all of us.

Dave Robson allows us to look more closely at an elusive bit of evidence about the legendary continent of Atlantis. Some skeptics may write his report off as an April Fool's joke since the tangible artifacts are someplace (perhaps unrecorded), the damaged ships have disappeared with time, the witnesses are dead, the alleged portions of the missing continent have returned to the sea, and the now-faded newspaper articles are themselves incomplete. Yet, Mr. Robson has given us, thanks to Charles Berlitz, that spark — that inspiration — to look further. We hope that Mr. Robson's two-part article will encourage others to do the same.

Pursuit Vol. 19, No. 1, Whole No. 73 First Quarter 1986. Copyright 1986 by The Society for the Investigation of the Unexplained, ISSN 0033-4685. No part of this periodical may be reproduced without the written consent of the Society. Robert C. Warth, Publisher and Editor, Nancy Warth, Production Editor, Martin Wiegler, Consulting Editor, Charles Berlitz, Research Editor and Oceanographic Consultant.

strated true. I would only observe as a corrective that skepticism requires an open mind, whereas opposition does not.

Checking Mr. Berlitz's account against his claimed historic press sources seemed an appropriate topic for a paper in journalism history, because the account would either stand or fall on the basis of its sources. Given the mix of a vanishing island sighted by two different steamship captains in two different places 200 miles apart, the reports of a muddy ocean and enormous shoals of dead fish, I expected it to fall.

I found confirmation.

In the year 1882 Captain David Robson of the Queen's Merchant Marine landed on the smoking remains of a volcanic sea mount (possibly a guyot) located westwards of the Canary Islands. The position reported by Robson to the *Daily Picayune* matches the position reported by Newdick in New York closely enough for an island measuring 20 by 30 miles in area.

Atlantis.

I conducted this inquiry in November 1985. Almost all sources were obtained through Interlibrary Loan, the occasion for research being an Iowa State University graduate seminar in journalism history. My operating assumptions were skeptical but open-minded and followed such hypotheses as these:

- The accounts never existed in the first place. (FALSE)
- The accounts, if they existed, had been embellished, inflated, or otherwise doctored. (FALSE)
- The accounts, if they existed, formed the basis of a fair and accurate summation by Berlitz. (TRUE)
- If the event took place as reported, other possibly related natural calamities would be observed. (TRUE)

I will first present the Berlitz account of Captain Robson's landing in full, and then follow it with all related newspaper accounts that I have seen. In the original accounts of Berlitz and his sources I have inserted my remarks, in brackets and bolder typeface contrasting with the body copy, to identify sources, commentary, original headlines, verification, and errors. (If it looks like "The Ancient Mariner," so be it.)

I have also assessed the credibility of the newspaper accounts forming Mr. Berlitz's primary source by means of content analysis and multiple verification whenever possible. The newspaper analysis centers on what the *Daily Picayune's* worst enemies in the press had to say about the paper at the time.

The reader is invited to make whatever construction of events he may. Messrs. Kusche and Randi, if they are among the readers, are personally invited to try debunking this one.

THE BERLITZ ACCOUNT

from *Atlantis: The Eighth Continent*

(Fawcett, 1984, pp. 76-79)

If a great empire once extended over a large, now submerged area, it would be logical to expect that some vestiges of it would remain on the Atlantic floor and could be identified by exploring the bottom in a deep-dive submersible. On the other hand, it would be even more convincing if parts of the drowned lands could reappear at sea level, as in the case of surfacing islands, temporarily or permanently visible in the light of day.

A very curious example of this possibility occurred in March 1882. Unlike many alleged sightings of Atlantean ruins before that time, it was well reported in a ship's log and also in the press. It concerned the encounter of a steamship with an uncharted island in heavily traveled sea lanes and the unusual material that was found there by the ship's captain and his crew.

The vessel was named the *S.S. Jesmond*, a British merchant-ship of 1495 tons [TONNAGE UNVERIFIED BUT REASONABLE] bound for New Orleans with a cargo of dried fruits from its last port of call in Messina, Sicily [CLEARED

PALERMO 28 FEB. 1882]. The *Jesmond* was captained by David Robson, holder of master's certificate 27911 in the Queen's Merchant Marine [DEPOSITION INFO, NOT IN PRESS SOURCES].

The *Jesmond* passed through the Straits of Gibraltar (the ancient Pillars of Hercules) on March 1, 1882 [IMPOSSIBLE DATE], and sailed into the open sea. When the ship reached the position 31°25'N, 28°40' W, about 200 miles west of Madeira and about the same distance south of the Azores [IMPOSSIBLE POSITION], it was noted that the ocean had become unusually muddy and that the vessel was passing through enormous shoals of dead fish [VERIFIED IN PRESS], as if some sudden disease or underwater explosion had killed them by the millions [MULTIPLE VERIFICATION IN PRESS]. Just before evening on the first day of encountering the fish banks, Captain Robson noticed smoke on the horizon which he presumed came from another ship.

On the following day the fish shoals were even thicker and the smoke on the horizon seemed to be coming from an island directly to the west, where, according to the charts, there was no land for thousands of miles. As the *Jesmond* approached the vicinity of the island, Captain Robson threw out an anchor at about twelve miles [VERIFIED IN PRESS AS FOUR LEAGUES, ABOUT 13 MILES] offshore to find out whether this uncharted island was surrounded by reefs. Even though the charts indicated an area depth of several thousand fathoms, the anchor hit bottom at only seven fathoms [VERIFIED IN PRESS].

When Robson went ashore with a landing party they found themselves to be on a large island with no vegetation, no trees, no sandy beaches, bare of all life as if it had just risen from the ocean. The shore they landed on was covered with volcanic debris. As there were no trees, the party could clearly see a plateau beginning several miles away and smoking mountains beyond that [VERIFIED IN PRESS].

The landing party rather gingerly headed toward the interior in the direction of the mountains, but they found that progress was interrupted by a series of deep chasms. To get to the interior would have taken days. They returned to their landing point and examined a broken cliff, part of which seemed to have been split into a mass of loose gravel as if it had recently been subjected to a great force [PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF ISLAND VERIFIED IN PRESS]. One of the sailors found an unusual arrowhead in the broken rock, a discovery that led the captain to send for picks and shovels from the ship so that the crew could dig into the gravel. According to what he told a reporter from the *Times Picayune* in New Orleans, where he later docked, he and his crew uncovered "crumbling remains" of "massive walls" [PICAYUNE INTERVIEW AND QUOTATIONS FROM SAME VERIFIED IN PRESS.] A variety of artifacts uncovered by digging near the walls for the better part of two days included "bronze swords, rings, mallets, carvings of heads and figures of birds and animals, and two vases or jars with fragments of bone, and one cranium almost entire..." and "what appeared to be a mummy enclosed in a stone case... encrusted with volcanic deposit so as to be scarce distinguished from the rock itself." At the end of the following day, much of which was spent getting the rock sarcophagus aboard the *Jesmond*, Robson, now worried about uncertain weather, decided to abandon his exploration of the island and resume his course [VERIFIED IN PRESS].

Several reporters examined Captain Robson's unusual finds and were informed by him that he planned to present the artifacts to the British Museum. Unfortunately for Atlantean research, however, the log of the *Jesmond* was destroyed during the London blitz of September 1940, along with the offices of the *Jesmond's* owners, Watts, Watts, and Company, Threadneedle Street. There is apparently no record at the British Museum of their having received Robson's unusual collection, although it is of course possible that the artifacts are filed in the capacious

attics and basements common to all great museums. Nor was the island ever heard of again, existing only in the sworn testimony of the captain and crew of the *Jesmond*. [EVIDENTLY THIS PARAGRAPH REPORTS THE RESULTS OF A PRIVATE INQUIRY BY BERLITZ IN FOLLOWING UP THE MATTER.]

There is, however, some corroboration of the incident: Captain Robson was not alone in reporting the sighting of the mysterious island. Captain James Newdick of the steam schooner *Westbourne*, sailing from Marseilles to New York during the same period, reported on arrival in New York having sighted a large island at coordinates 25°30' N, 24° W. Newdick's report appeared in the *New York Post*, April 1, 1882. [VERIFIED IN PRESS (PICAYUNE WIRE COLUMN); OTHER PAPERS REPORTED THE WESTBOURNE'S VOYAGE.] If the coordinates given by both captains were correct, the mystery island would have measured 20 × 30 miles in area. The volcanic activity that brought an island of this size to the surface would have killed, probably through heating the oceanic water [DETONATION IS A MORE LIKELY CAUSE], an enormous quantity of fish, just as Captain Robson reported.

The miles of dead fish, fanning out from the area first reported by Robson [ERROR; ROBSON WAS STILL AT SEA], were also commented on by a number of other ship captains and appeared in a variety of newspapers including the *New York Times*. One captain suggested that the kill could be explained by the wreck of a fishing vessel, however unlikely this explanation might be. For the quantity of dead fish, as estimated by the British Institute of Oceanography, covered 7500 square miles of the Atlantic and comprised at least half a million tons.

Crew members of various vessels that passed through the floating fish identified them as tilefish, cod, red snappers, shad, and many others. Some adventurous souls among the sailors sampled a number of the fish and suffered no ill effects. They stated that the fish were "hard and proved excellent food." [QUOTATION LOCATED, VERIFIED IN PRESS.] One might speculate that these hordes of fish did not immediately rot since they had been "pre-cooked" by the volcanic heat generated by the rising of the island from the ocean floor.

Obviously some problems exist with the Berlitz account, the most notable being the discrepancy between position plots and the impossibility of the *Jesmond* clearing customs at Palermo on February 28th to pass through Gibraltar on March 1st. Given a speed of 10 knots (240 nautical miles per day) and an 1100 mile transit from Palermo to Gibraltar, the *Jesmond* could not have sailed later than February 26th, 1882. Most likely, the published February 28 "cleared and sailed" date reflects the date the wire was sent. The discrepancy between positions plotted by Newdick (25°30' N, 24° W) and Robson (25° N, 23°40' W, as reported in the *Picayune*) is small and would, indeed, describe an island of about 20 by 30 miles; however, that island would be 200 miles southwest of Madeira, not 200 miles due west. Berlitz evidently misread the first paragraph of Robson's account. Given the *Picayune's* typesetting and proofreading in 1882, such misreading is probable.

THE NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS: ARRANGED CHRONOLOGICALLY IN ORDER OF OCCURRENCE

Once the major elements of Berlitz's tale were verified, it seemed reasonable to keep an eye open for indirect, as well as direct, evidence. It is anticipated that not all citations here presented will be relevant, but the vast majority bear directly upon the tale. For orientation, a table of events is presented below, with sources annotated.

LAST WEEK OF FEBRUARY, 1882 —

Mystery island emerges? [DEDUCED]

FEBRUARY 26, 1882 —

Jesmond leaves Palermo? [DEDUCED]

FEBRUARY 28, 1882 —

Jesmond reported "Up, Cleared, and Sailed" [PICAYUNE, MARCH 11, 1882]

"Terrible north-westerly squall" at 46°25' N, 25°50' W blows sails from British bark *Fairmount* [NEW YORK TIMES, APRIL 4, 1882]

FIRST WEEK OF MARCH, 1882 —

Mississippi flood disaster begins [WIDELY REPORTED]

MARCH 1, 1882 —

Jesmond passes Gibraltar? [BERLITZ]

MARCH 3, 1882 —

Plymouth passes first reported shoals of dead fish off Newfoundland [SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, APRIL 1, 1882]

MARCH 5-10, 1882 —

Jesmond arrives at mystery island, departs no later than 10 March [DEDUCED]

SECOND WEEK OF MARCH, 1882 —

MARCH 9-10, 1882 —

Westbourne departs Newport, England, bound to New York [DEDUCED FROM NEW YORK TRIBUNE REPORT, APRIL 1, 1882]

MARCH 13, 1882 —

Costa Rican earthquake reported [QUESTIONABLE RELATIONSHIP?]

THIRD WEEK OF MARCH, 1882 —

Possible subsidence of mystery island? [DEDUCED FROM FOLLOWING ITEMS]

MARCH 18, 1882 —

German ship *Stella* encounters seaquake at 37°21' N, 23°51' W [SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, APRIL 29, 1882]

MARCH 20, 1882 —

Mississippi floods begin to recede [NEW YORK HERALD, SAME DATE]

MARCH 21, 1882 —

Westbourne heaves to for 28 hours at 43° N, 44° W, first of two severe storms [NEW YORK TRIBUNE, APRIL 1, 1882]

FOURTH WEEK OF MARCH, 1882 —

More dead fish reports [VARIOUS PRESS SOURCES]

MARCH 22, 1882 —

Ayrshire battered by storm, position unknown [NEW YORK SUN, APRIL 3, 1882]

MARCH 28, 1882 —

Second storm strikes *Westbourne* [VARIOUS PRESS SOURCES]

MARCH 31, 1882 —

Westbourne arrives New York; *Jesmond* arrives New Orleans [VARIOUS PRESS SOURCES]

FIRST WEEK OF APRIL, 1882 —

Press coverage on principals, earthquakes, and dead fish [VARIOUS PRESS SOURCES]

While there have been floods and heavy seas and even earthquakes without the necessity of volcanic eruptions, it is nonetheless true that eruptions are generally accompanied by distant barometric disturbances, heavy seas in maritime environments, and local quakes. Let us now turn to Captain Robson's narrative, then to the storm-tossed voyage of the *Westbourne* and other ships, and finally to the commercial disaster attending the billions of dead fish.

MATTERS RELATING TO THE JESMOND:

The material following is drawn from the New Orleans *Daily Picayune*, April 1, 1882. Page numbers, original headlines, etc., are preserved in the format used for the Berlitz account.

A TALE OF THE SEA.

INTERESTING NARRATIVE OF A STEAMSHIP CAPTAIN,

A STRANGE ISLAND AND RELICS OF AN ANCIENT PEOPLE DIS- COVERED.

Yesterday the British steamship *Jesmond*, Robson, master, arrived at this port from Messina, via Palermo and Gibraltar, with a cargo of fruit for A. Cusimano, and moored at the head of Erato street.

Learning that the vessel had met with a remarkable adventure during the voyage, and in fact had made a very important discovery, a reporter for the *Picayune* called on the Captain to obtain the facts. Capt. Robson, a hale, hearty and courteous veteran of the sea, received the reporter very politely, and upon learning his mission, invited him into the cabin, where refreshments were provided.

"I have indeed made a most remarkable discovery," said the Captain, "but it would take a long time to tell you all about it, and as I'm pretty busy this evening, I can give you only the main facts."

The Captain's narrative was to the following effect, his yarn being frequently interrupted by questions asked by the reporter. **[POSSIBLE SOURCE OF BERLITZ'S ERRONEOUS INTERPRETATION.]** When about 200 miles to the westward of Madeira, the Captain's attention was called to the

SINGULAR APPEARANCE OF THE SEA.

The water had a dark, muddy look, and was covered with dead fish as far as the eye could reach. In fact, there was a vast field of fish, which floated on the surface and were easily caught up in a net. They were of several species, among them being noticed mullet, cod and bass. The reporter said he had read in the *Picayune* a few days since an account of shoals of dead fish in the Atlantic, reported by steamers coming to New York. The following is an extract from the *New York News* of recent date: "Several vessels entering this port of late, from north and south, have reported a large field of dead fish **[SEE "DEAD FISH" ENTRY, THIS REPORT, PICAYUNE ITEM DATED MARCH 29, 1882]** floating on the water as far as the eye could reach. From the reports of these vessels, it is thought by many of the most experienced ichthyologists that there is a great mass of dead fish in the Atlantic, reaching the enormous distance of 600 miles along the coast and probably 200 miles in width."

The Captain, continuing, said that soon after entering this

FIELD OF DEAD FISH,

he observed a faint smoke on the horizon nearly ahead on the course of the vessel. It was then evening and no particular attention was paid to this smoke, it being considered as coming from some steamer. Early the next morning the Captain was awakened by the second officer, and informed that land had been sighted in the course of the steamer. He was greatly surprised at this information, knowing that there was no land in this part of the Atlantic. Upon going on deck, however, he found that the

report was correct. The dim outlines of an island, broken by mountain peaks, were visible even without the use of the glass. Above it hung a cloud of smoke, which the Captain surmised came from volcanoes. The greatest excitement prevailed on the *Jesmond*, with the whole crew mustering on deck and gazing with astonishment at this

NEW LAND IN THE MID-OCEAN.

The water was more turbid than on the previous day and the shoal of dead fish thicker. Capt. Robson deemed it advisable to take soundings, not expecting, however, to get bottom, as the charts show a depth of from 2000 to 3000 fathoms in that portion of the Atlantic. Sometimes the sounding was without result, but suddenly the line brought bottom at 50 fathoms. The captain considered it prudent to alter his course a point to the south, as the island lay on the starboard quarter and trended to the north. When about four leagues distant from the island the *Jesmond* came to anchor in seven fathoms of water. The island was located 23°40' west, 25° north. **[THIS ITEM IS THE PROBABLE SOURCE OF THE 28°40'W ERROR IN BERLITZ; THE QUALITY OF PICAYUNE TYPESETTING IN 1882 WAS LOW AND ONLY CLOSE COMPARISON OF 3'S AND 8'S ON THE SAME PAGE RESOLVED THE QUESTION OF 28° VS. 23°.]**

The portion of land nearest to the vessel was seen to be a promontory, with tall cliffs, cut by rents to the eastward, and sloping gradually to a beach on the western coast. Capt. Robson determined to make an examination of the strange land, and the sea being calm, the yawl was lowered and the captain and one of his officers were rowed to the island. Soundings made during the trip demonstrated that the water did not shoal regularly, but the depth varied from five to forty fathoms, and in some places the line ran out without touching the bottom.

Upon nearing the cliffs, it was observed that they were of basalt, with strata of marine shells and gravel, and cut up by deep fissures. A landing was effected on the low coast of the western border, where a convenient harbor was found for the yawl. The captain and several of the crew, with some difficulty ascended the declivity. They were then able to get a

BETTER VIEW OF THE ISLAND.

The promontory seemed several miles in length, and joined an extensive tableau which sloped gently back to a chain of mountains at a great distance off from which rose light columns of smoke. The surface of the ground was covered with pumice stone and volcanic debris, and entirely destitute of vegetation. It was a desolate scene, where not a single living thing was to be perceived. The Captain and his companions started on a tour inland, but soon found their progress impeded by yawning chasms. It was therefore determined to return to the beach and inspect the island from that side. While examining the base of the cliff where the rock was fractured and twisted as if by some tremendous convulsion, and disclosed a bed of breccia, a

SURPRISING DISCOVERY

was made by one of the sailors. On thrusting the prong of a boathook into the loosened mass of gravel, he dislodged an object which on close inspection was found to be a stone arrow head. Excited by this incident, the search was continued and other articles of stone were discovered.

The hour had grown late, and Capt. Robson resolved to return to the steamer and to go back the next day if possible, to prosecute the search further.

The weather being favorable on the following day, the Captain returned to the island with the most available tools to be had on the *Jesmond*.

The work began early and was conducted with great diligence from 8 A.M. until 4 P.M. A large excavation was made, and it

was ascertained that the opening led between the crumbling remains of what must have been massive walls. A number of

ARTICLES WERE EXHUMED,

such as bronze swords, rings, hammers, carvings of heads and figures of birds and animals, and two vases, or jars, with fragments of bone, and one cranium almost entire. The most singular thing brought to view was what appeared to be a mummy, contained

IN A STONE CASE.

It was so encrusted with volcanic deposits as to be scarcely distinguished from the rock itself. Much difficulty was experienced in dislodging the sarcophagus, which was finally taken out whole and, with the fossils, transported to the steamer.

Capt. Robson states that he would gladly have continued this fascinating investigation, but as the aspect of the weather became less favorable and he could not afford to spend more time at the island, he sailed for this port.

He considers that the new island was raised from the sea

BY VOLCANIC ACTION,

as has happened frequently in various portions of the world. The fish were killed by the poisonous gases from the volcano. The captain thinks that the new land is a section of the immense ridge known to exist in the Atlantic, and of which the Azores and Canaries are a part. [EVIDENTLY ROBSON MADE NO REFERENCE TO "ATLANTIS" BUT KNEW ABOUT THE MIDATLANTIC RIDGE.]

He took great pleasure in exhibiting the fossils and curious articles of which he was the fortunate finder. The carved heads are in the Egyptian style of sculpturing, being distinguished by the veil or hood which characterizes Egyptian figures. The urns or vases are spherical with large mouths, and upon them may be discerned inscriptions in hieroglyphics, whether Egyptian, Hebrew, or in which ancient tongue the reporter was unable to ascertain. The edges of the axes and arrow or spear heads are blunted and jagged. The sword is a straight weapon of bronze, with a cross-hilt.

"That is the mummy," remarked the Captain, pointing to what the reporter had taken to be a long block of stone. Scrutinizing closely the lidless case, the outlines of a human figure could be traced through the coating of scoriae and pumice. It will require careful handling to remove the coating. Capt. Robson fully appreciates the extraordinary

VALUE OF HIS DISCOVERY,

and proposes to present the relics to the British Museum at London, upon his return to Liverpool, for which port he expects to head. In the meantime he will be glad to display them to any visitors.

Capt. Robson's discovery, while of an extraordinary character, is simply the realization of theories entertained for a long time, and latterly almost demonstrated by circumstantial evidence. [AN ALLUSION BY THE REPORTER TO IGNATIUS DONNELLY'S ATLANTIS, THEN NEW AND HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL.] There are numerous instances of islands rising suddenly from the sea, and of vast tracts of land unexpectedly descending into the ocean. The British Islands were once submerged to a great depth. In 1881 an island rose in the Mediterranean to a height of 200 feet. In one of the Azores a volcano sprang up suddenly in 1803 [TEXT BADLY SPOTTED AT THIS POINT, MAY BE 1803 OR 1808] to a height of 3500 feet, and near San Miguel, an island appeared and reached an altitude of 300 feet. It was stated as long ago as 1835 that an archipelago or island was forming in the Atlantic, north of Ascension. Finally, it may be said, that the scientific expedi-

tions of various nations have, by deep sea sounding observations, established the existence of a great elevation in the Atlantic, extending from the British Islands southwardly to the coast of South America, and thence southeastwardly to the coast of Africa. It is not doubted that, at some period of the remote past, an immense island or continent existed in the mid-Atlantic, and it has been alleged by many writers and thinkers that the land was thickly populated. [THE REPORTER'S CONCLUSION; FOR A CONTRASTING OPINION, SEE THE SCIENTIFIC REVIEWER'S COMMENTS ON DONNELLY'S BOOK IN THIS REPORT, PART II.]

Capt. Robson's discovery of the weapons and other

RELICS OF AN EXTINCT RACE,

which evidently belong to the stone and bronze periods, is certainly of immense scientific importance. Of course, the excavations begun by this enterprising seaman will be continued by special expeditions sent out for the purpose.

Capt. Robson's narrative is confirmed by a telegram from New York, published in another column. [SEE "WESTBOURNE" ENTRY, THIS REPORT, PICAYUNE, APRIL 1, 1882.]

New Orleans Daily Picayune, April 1, 1882, p. 2:

THE PASSES.

PORT EADS, MARCH 31. Noon. — Wind east and light.

Arrived. At 7:30 A.M., British steamship *Jesmond*, Robson, master, from Messina via Palermo and Gibraltar, with a cargo of fruit to A. Cusimano; vessel to A. B. French & Co.

Such was Captain Robson's account of the *Jesmond's* voyage, and the discovery of an island where none had been, and none should be, and none is today. Evidently his course was set to conserve coal; i.e., the *Jesmond* would ride the Canary Current on a southwesterly course from Gibraltar until it met the North Equatorial Current, which it would ride until meeting the Gulf Stream and beginning the last leg of the voyage to New Orleans.

Robson stated that his charts indicated depths of 2000 to 3000 fathoms in that portion of the Atlantic; comparing his statement with the 1968 "Physiographic Relief Map" of the North Atlantic shows the average depth at approximately 24° W, 25° N as being 2500 to 2700 fathoms on what appears to be a light upward slope adjoining an abyssal plain.

Captain Robson and the *Jesmond* received no further notice during their week in New Orleans. The *Picayune* Supplement's "Marine News" section of April 1, 1882 described the tonnage and nature of the *Jesmond's* cargo (oranges and lemons). On Thursday, April 6, the steamship *Jesmond* cleared New Orleans customs and departed, bound for Coosau, S.C., in ballast, under charter of A. B. French and Co. The departure notice was published Friday April 7.

MATTERS RELATING TO THE WESTBOURNE:

With the exception of a New York wire service note in the *Daily Picayune*, the material following is drawn entirely from New York papers. Because the New York *Post* was not available to interlibrary loan, the Berlitz account of Newdick's remarks to the *Post* has gone unchallenged. Apparently, the *Post* account is the only one which mentioned the mystery island. Sufficient press accounts of the *Westbourne's* voyage were present to leave no doubt as to the nature of her transit.

New Orleans Daily Picayune, April 1, 1882, p. 2:

A NEW ISLAND IN THE SEA.

NEW YORK, March 31. — The British steamship *Westbourne*, from Marseilles [ONLY REPORT OF *WESTBOURNE'S* SIGHTING OR MARSEILLES "ORIGIN" KNOWN TO ME], which arrived here today reports having sighted a new volcanic island about latitude 25½ degrees north and 24 degrees west.

The two reports following appeared in the *New York Times*, April 1, 1882, "Marine Intelligence" and "City and Suburban News" columns, p. 8, but without separate headlines or other identifying breaks.

New York Times, April 1, 1882, p. 8:

ARRIVALS

Steamship *Westbourne* (Br.) Newdick, Newport, E. 21 ds., with steel-blooms and iron to Naylor & Co., vessel to W. H. Thompson & Co. [ALL FOLLOWING REPORTS SHOW NEWPORT, ENGLAND AS LAST PORT CALL.]

The British steamship *Westbourne*, which sailed from England on March 10 [DATE OF DEPARTURE NOTED], arrived off Quarantine yesterday in a very dilapidated condition. Captain Neudock reports that throughout the voyage, the ship met with a succession of severe gales, and was, in consequence, on two occasions compelled to lay to for over 24 hours. Enormous seas swept over the decks at intervals, carrying away the after canvas and the steam-pipes, and causing the steering gear to break. The charts, nautical instruments, and the furniture of the main cabin of the ship were washed overboard, and one of the life-boats was carried away.

New York Daily Tribune, April 1, 1882, p. 8:

ARRIVAL OF INJURED VESSELS

The steamship *Westbourne*, the second of the overdue steamships, arrived yesterday from Newport, England, having been 21 days at sea. On March 21, in latitude 43° North, longitude 44° West [DATE AND POSITION OF FIRST GALE NOTED], the weather was so tempestuous and the seas ran so high that the vessel was hove to for twenty-eight hours. All of the canvas aft was blown away from its fastenings. Great seas broke fore and aft, sweeping everything before them, carrying away the steam pipes, the steering gear aft, and destroying two of the lifeboats. On Tuesday last, another hurricane was encountered and the vessel was hove to for twenty-four hours. [DATE OF SECOND GALE NOTED; POSITION NOT.] The cabin was filled with water and all of the furniture, charts, nautical books, and instruments were destroyed. The wheel-house, bridge binnacle, and other things about the decks were swept overboard.

New York Sun, April 1, 1882, p. 1:

STORIES OF THE SEA.

The steamship *Westbourne*, which arrived yesterday with a load of iron, was in a hurricane on Tuesday and was hove to for twenty-four hours. She labored and strained heavily in a tremendous sea, and the waves broke over her deck and filled the cabin, washing away all the furniture, charts, nautical books, and instruments, leaving only the sides of the cabin standing. Her wheelhouse and binnacle, and everything movable on deck, were swept off. The engine department was battered down during the passage.

New York World, April 1, 1882, p. unrecorded:

THE ROUGH VOYAGE OF THE *WESTBOURNE*.

The steamer *Westbourne*, which arrived in this port yesterday, consigned to W. H. Thompson & Co., and loaded with steel blooms, had one of the roughest voyages this season. Captain Newdick reports that after leaving Newport, England, while going down the Channel, they encountered a severe south gale which increased in force until they reached latitude 43 deg., longitude 44 deg., when it suddenly veered around to the north-west. The sea was very high, and finding it unsafe to proceed, Captain Newdick hove to for twenty-eight hours. The sea during this time swept over the vessel, carrying away everything movable. She labored heavily and shipped a great deal of water. The steam pipes and aft steering gear were carried away, one boat was lost and another stove in. The *Westbourne* met another blow from the southwest on the 28th. This increased until it was literally a hurricane, and once more Captain Newdick hove the vessel to. The sea was tremendous and as the *Westbourne* rolled she strained badly and shipped much water. In fact, there was considerable doubt at one time if she would pull through. The cabin was filled and the furniture, charts, books and instruments, were carried away. On the deck, the binnacle, wheel house and bridge were torn from their fastenings and washed overboard. But one man, however, was lost — the Captain's steward. It is supposed that the sea caught him and carried him overboard. During the whole passage the hatches over the engine room were battened down. Captain Newdick is a gentleman whose record is that of an unusually successful sailor. [ASSESSMENT OF NEWDICK'S CHARACTER AND RECORD.] His ship has long been a favorite with owners sending fine cattle to this country, both on account of the quick passages made and his skillful management of the stock.

Evidently the *Westbourne* entered New York looking as though she had been used as a running target for the secondary batteries of a cruiser, her bridge, wheelhouse and fittings blown away by a transit which coasted on the Great Beyond. Nevertheless, certain curiosities concerning the reports bear resolution. The *New York Journal* made no mention of the *Westbourne* aside from noting its arrival in the ships information column, probably because the *Journal* was an evening paper having no desire to cover a story of the moment which five other New York dailies (counting the *Post*) had already treated.

The position of the ship when the second gale struck goes unrecorded, probably because not even Newdick knew: the ship was saved from sinking but its navigation gear was lost.

The unanimous interest in the ship's battered condition is easily explained; first it was news and second, if ever a customer for the ship chandlers of New York existed, the *Westbourne* was it. The repairs must have been accomplished quickly; she cleared customs on April 7, bound for Matanzas.

However, a problem exists: Only in the wire report and

perhaps the *Post* was the mystery island reported; only in the wire copy and perhaps in the *Post* was the *Westbourne* listed as having come from Marseilles. The two papers which reported the position of the first gale both placed the ship about 20 degrees northwest of the island at the time, approximately one-third of the distance across the Atlantic.

Thus where does the 25½° N, 24° W position come from? Possible explanations are that the *Westbourne* left Marseilles in late February, 1882, bound for Newport, sighted the island while setting course for England, and filed the report before leaving England on March 10. If the ship's information wire traffic was as slow as it seems to have been, the wire could easily have been filed for a week pending transmission and filed for another week pending the *Westbourne's* arrival. A second and perhaps more likely explanation is that Newdick told about the sighting but only the *Post* reporter reported it, and only the wire reporter transmitted it.

Given the information presently available, the *Westbourne's* near-disastrous passage through extraordinarily heavy seas seems a strong and convincing element of indirect confirmation for the reported sighting of the island.

MATTERS RELATING TO THE SHOALS OF DEAD FISH:

With the exception of a New York *News* accredited story in the *Daily Picayune*, the material following is drawn directly from New York papers. The *News* was also unobtainable, so the story printed in the *Picayune* was assumed to be a correct and complete clipping of the original, without embellishment. The accounts are presented in order of publication unless a substantial delay existed between the report and its publication.

Scientific American, April 1, 1882, p. unrecorded:

SAILING THROUGH SCHOOLS OF DEAD FISH.

Captain Henry Lawrence, of the bark *Plymouth*, from Antwerp, and Capt. George Coalfleet, of the bark *Montreal*, from Dunkirk, lately arrived in this city, reported sailing all day through miles of dead fish (codfish, red snappers, and others) on the 3d of March, while off the southern end of George's Bank, Newfoundland. [EARLIEST REPORTED "DEAD FISH" SIGHTING; MOST DISTANT FROM MYSTERY ISLAND; SEE SOURCE OF BERLITZ QUOTE, PAGE 3.] Some of the crew of the *Plymouth* picked up some of the fish and ate them. The fish were hard and proved excellent food. The cause of the death of such enormous quantities of fish is a mystery. The results may be serious for fishermen.

New York World, March 29, 1882, p. unrecorded:

THE MYSTERY OF THE DEAD FISH.

WASHINGTON, March 25. — Professor Baird, of the Smithsonian, pronounces the fish, many square miles of which have been found dead on the Atlantic, to be tile fish — a new species discovered by the United States Fish Commission and occurring in considerable quantities along the western edge of the Gulf Stream in from 75 to 150 fathoms. Professor Baird thinks they have been killed by the terrific storm which has lately raged along the south coast of New England [CONFIRMS SEVERITY OF STORM; INDICATES THREE-DAY LAG WASHINGTON/NEW YORK EXCHANGE]. All those who have tasted the fish pronounce them excellent.

New Orleans Daily Picayune, March 29, 1882, p. 10:

BILLIONS OF DEAD FISH.

Several vessels entering this port ["THIS PORT" REFERS TO NEW YORK; APPEARANCE IN MARCH 29 PICAYUNE SUGGESTS A ONE-WEEK LAG NEW YORK/NEW ORLEANS EXCHANGE; SEE ROBSON NARRATIVE, BACK ON PAGE 4] of late from north and south, have reported a large field of dead fish floating on the water as far as the eye could reach. From the reports of these vessels, it is thought by many of the most experienced ichthyologists that there is a great mass of dead fish in the Atlantic, reaching the enormous distance of 500 miles along the coast, and probably 200 miles in width.

Mr. Eugene D. Blackford said today that he was talking a week ago today with the captain of the ship *Plymouth*, which arrived here on that day from the North, and he reported that he had come upon the dead fish a little north of the George's Banks, which are 150 miles east of Nantucket. ["NANTUCKET" IS A GUESS; COPY IS BADLY SPOTTED.] He sailed down through the field for nearly a hundred miles, then turned westward, and was all day in passing through their width.

On Tuesday last [MARCH 15, 1882?] an English steamship from Rio de Janeiro struck a field of dead fish about sixty miles off Barnegat [OCEAN COUNTY, N.J.]. Several of them were taken out of the water, cooked and eaten, and the captain pronounced them similar in taste to shad.

"As far as I can learn," said Mr. Blackford, the different species of fish found dead thus far have been cod, salmon, striped bass, and red snapper. I have seriously doubted the existence of the latter fish in our northern waters, as they are a tropical fish, and, excepting this one instance, none was ever seen north of Block Island, and that was a poor little fish, and the time was mid-summer.

"From the reports of the different captains it is my opinion that there is one immense field of dead fish extending from a point a little south of Nova Scotia, south nearly to the Bermudas, and I presume the field varies in width from 25 to 200 miles. It is not uncommon to find cod and shad out that distance from land in life.

"As to the cause of this great slaughter of the inhabitants of the sea, fishermen are as much at sea in regard to it as a newspaperman. I have talked with Seth Green and many other fish experts in regard to this matter, and as far as our theory goes, we say we agree that it is not caused by a disease among the fish, but probably by some convulsion of a volcanic nature, by which the water had been heated to too great a degree, [SEE BERLITZ'S SPECULATION THE FISH MIGHT HAVE BEEN "PRE-COOKED;" SEE CAPT. ROBSON'S REPORT, PAGES 3 & 5] or has been impregnated with gases lashing from the bowels of the earth, thus suffocating the fish. This is not the first field of dead fish discovered. There was fully as large a one in mid-Atlantic two years ago, and there are several spoken of in nautical history. Previous to the one two years ago, there was a volcanic eruption, followed by a terrible upheaval in the Atlantic."

— New York *News*

New York Herald, April 3, 1882, "Editorial," p. unrecorded:

THE DEAD FISH ON THE OCEAN.

The solution of the problem of the dead fish, recently reported as floating in vast numbers off Nantucket and Sandy Hook, does not seem to be clearly made out. The phenomenon appears to be very rare. In a letter addressed to Sir John Sinclair, cited by

Milner in his "Gallery of Nature," the statement occurs that on the 4th of December, 1789, the ship Brothers arrived at Leith from Archangel, and its captain reported "that on the coast of Lapland and Norway he sailed many leagues through immense quantities of dead haddocks," and "he spoke of several English ships which reported the same fact." It is also stated by the writer that haddock, which was the fish in greatest abundance in Edinburgh market, was scarcely seen for three years. Professor Baird, to whom specimens of the dead fish recently picked up were sent, has found them to be tile, a newly discovered food fish resembling the cod and abounding for a thousand miles along the western edge of the Gulf Stream in seventy-five fathom water at a temperature from 40 to 50 degrees. Professor Baird suggests that possibly the fish may have been killed mechanically by the motion of the waves in the late severe ocean storms. But this solution of the problem seem unsatisfactory. At depths of a few fathoms below the surface of the sea the fish could easily find security from its most violent agitation, and it is hard to see why the tile, some specimens of which weigh ninety pounds, should suffer so much, while other and less robust fish escape. Nor do we remember ever to have seen in the most detailed records of the most violent tropical hurricanes any mention of fish killed by the violence of the waves at considerable distances from land. The mortality of the fish picked up off Nantucket is not apparently traceable to disease. Perhaps it may be pertinent to inquire whether, driven too far out to sea by tempests, they perished for want of their accustomed prey, found in littoral waters, or whether possibly they succumbed to sudden and fierce changes of ocean temperature, occurring especially at this time on the western edge of the Gulf Stream as the Arctic current impinges on it. The problem, in any event, is of great interest and should be carefully solved.

Such were the press accounts concerning the sudden and mysterious appearance of enormous shoals of dead fish. If an event's appearance on the editorial page of a metropolitan daily is indeed a measure of its significance, the dead fish were a major event of enormous economic import.

Ichthyologists, fishermen, and journalists adduced three main theories to account for the slaughter — sudden fierce changes of ocean temperature at an average depth of 600 feet (100 fathoms); mechanical wave action caused by the surface agitation of storms, again at an average depth of 600 feet; or a volcano.

A fourth probable efficient cause would not be observed until the eruption of Krakatoa in August, 1883 — the propagation of a shock wave at an average speed through water of approximately 400 statute miles per hour (*Proc., Royal Society*, 1884).

NEWSPAPER ANALYSIS:

Obviously, the account here assembled relies heavily on the accuracy of *Picayune* reporting, as buttressed by isolated news items reported in other papers. If Berlitz were demonstrated to be as credible as his sources but no more, the research would be in one respect satisfied, because the original question would have been answered. However, that answer would have been incomplete: The fact that the Berlitz account matched the original accounts closely (with the exception of minor errors) demonstrated only that the story was not a hoax by Berlitz. The question loomed, "How reliable is the *Picayune*?"

Today the *Times-Picayune* is well thought of; also, the *Daily Picayune*, later absorbed by the *Times-Democrat*, appears regularly in journalism history studies. Editorial surveys of the period before the Civil War, for example, have shown the *Picayune* to be consistently restrained and responsible for the

period 1855-1859, but that says little for its reporting practice or editorial standards in 1882.

Establishing the credibility of the account therefore depended on establishing the credibility of the *Picayune* as of 1882, particularly since the *Picayune* was the only "sighted" paper to report: (a) Captain Robson's landing on a new volcanic island; (b) Captain Newdick's sighting of the mystery island; and (c) a volcanic connection relating to the mysterious shoals of dead fish.

New Orleans papers of the early 1880s proved difficult to locate. However, the *Times-Democrat* and the New Orleans *Mascot* were eventually obtained, even though the *Mascot* film had to be obtained from the Louisiana Historical Society. The *Times-Democrat* for March and April 1882 was badly deteriorated before filming, and the April 1, 1882 edition was blackened with age. Inspection of the *Times-Democrat* revealed it to have the make-up of "modern" New York papers such as the *Tribune*, *Herald*, *Times*, and *Sun*, with the front and following pages carrying dedicated news coverage. While the text was all but illegible, it was possible to scan the headlines and determine that *Times-Democrat* news coverage for March and April 1882 was devoted almost exclusively to the Mississippi floods and attendant disaster relief efforts.

The *Picayune*, in contrast, had the look of a much "older" paper. The front page was devoted mostly or entirely to advertising, and the second page to wire service notes, shipping and produce information, etc. Hence, page three was the leading "news" page. During this period, the make-up of the front page changed very little and the same ads were run in the same place on a daily basis. Probably this technique permitted the two daily editions to be set with minimum labor, perhaps only minor changes to the folio lines. The generally poor quality of proof-reading and typesetting in the 1882 editions suggested the *Picayune* was in financial trouble at the time, as did the emphasis on "clip-and-paste" exchange reporting.

While it is difficult to compare the *Picayune* with the *Times-Democrat* in the absence of *Times-Democrat* clips, some comparisons are possible. No mention of Robson or the *Jesmond* appeared in the April 1st *Times-Democrat*; however, they were duly reported as "cleared and sailed" in ballast for the South Carolina coast in the April 7th edition. Thus, one may reasonably surmise the shipping page was missing from the April 1st edition, if the *Times-Democrat* followed the New York *Times* and New York *Tribune* practice of putting ship-related stories on the maritime page. If the page was missing, then of course any reference actually made to Robson or the *Jesmond* would be missing also.

Fortunately, a second check-point existed: Oscar Wilde.

Robson arrived in New Orleans at 7:30 A.M. March 31st, by sea. Wilde arrived in New Orleans at 7:30 P.M. March 31st, by train from Mobile. (New Orleans was a literary town — the mayor was a crook named Joe Shakespeare.) Wilde received a column-length interview in the *Picayune*; Robson received a column-and-a-quarter. Both appeared on p. 3 of the April 1 *Picayune*. In the *Times-Democrat*, the only notice paid to Wilde's visit was a letter in an advice column, which bore his name and asked for a lawyer. In fact, Wilde had lawyers in New Orleans already, Richardson and Magruder, who were completing an inheritance case for him. Only his appearance in court was necessary for him to claim the "vast estate" left him by his New Orleans uncle, Judge Elgee, an estate thought by the *Picayune* reporter sufficient to "change the worshipper of the sunflower into a full-blown millionaire." The *Picayune* story bore the headline:

A DISTINGUISHED ARRIVAL

THE APOSTLE OF HIGH ART IN THE CITY — HIS RECEPTION AND ENTERTAINMENT.

From this, one may surmise the *Picayune* considered (properly) the visit of a well-known poet and lecturer as inherently newsworthy, particularly if that poet stood an immediate chance of inheriting a large chunk of local wealth. The *Times-Democrat*, in contrast, fixed its attention on a larger issue: the disastrous Mississippi floods.

Review of the New Orleans *Mascot*, a satirical, illustrated weekly devoted to local politics and journalism, shows the main story for the week of April 8th 1882 was "the journalistic fight" between the *Times-Democrat* and the *Picayune*. The *Times-Democrat* had placed a "wager" of \$10,000 on its flood coverage, and the *Picayune* apparently declined the bet. Since the establishment of credibility and the genre of debunking both demand the presentation of hostile evidence, and since the material bears directly upon the credibility of the *Picayune* as expressed by its enemies, two columns and a cover sheet for the *Mascot* edition of April 8, 1882 are presented in the familiar annotated format. ("The Autophone" was a regular column of satiric verse.)

New Orleans Mascot, April 8, 1882, p. 61:

THE AUTOPHONE. A PICAYUNE TUNE.

In New Orleans can still be found some fossilized old sheets

Journals by courtesy ycleped — known to the trade as heats.
Chief may I name the *Picayune* of those that run on brag.

[REFERS TO OBSOLETE FORMAT; ALSO TO
PICAYUNE'S STATEMENT OF HAVING LARGEST
CIRCULATION IN REGION.]

A woefully behind the times (the rhyme requires it) hag.

By countless hordes of venal men, through decades of
misrule,

The *Pic* to those that bought her aid has proved a pliant tool:
Adept in specious reasoning, and prompt in artifice,

[PRESUMABLY REFERS TO EDITORIAL POLICY.]

She's changed her shift till she can creep through any
interstice.

There has long been, among her staff, a so-called witty one,
Who doles out every morning his allotted task of "fun"

[SEE "A BARMECIDE FEAST"; THIS SECTION,
FOR A PROBABLE EXAMPLE OF *PICAYUNE*
"FUN?"]

His puns are always modeled on the chastest classic rules,
And all his jokes pass muster in the strictest ladies' schools.

Besides this jester, she has hired, regardless of expense,
A female, who is versatile in that word's broadest sense.
In fact, each of her columns, which it is the style to laud,
Might well serve as a sample of a monumental fraud.

By hook or crook, the *Picayune* has always schemed to get
A moderate support from an extremely dubious set:
A few subscriptions, therefore, she has gleaned from the
unwise [AN OBVIOUS "DIG" AT THE *PICAYUNE'S*
ADVERTISING-ORIENTED MAKE-UP],
And scattered crumbs of patronage from folks that advertise.

But latterly she has not trimmed her sails to suit her sales,
As may be seen by reference to the official mails:
And her antagonists [I.E., *TIMES-DEMOCRAT*], who
now in Hyphen's bonds unite,
Have proved their strength, and intimate they're spoiling for
a fight.

These papers as aggressive and progressive as could be,
Famous throughout the whole Southwest as the immense *T-D*,
Offered the *Pic* a wager, in a manner plain enough
To show it was in earnest and had no desire to bluff.

The casuistic copyist who does the social slush,
And the *picayunish* writers of intensity and gush,
The patent editorial man, the mucilage and shears,
Were called in requisition to annihilate her fears.

In our cartoon the artist has most certainly displayed
A lucid comprehension of the fact to be portrayed:
He makes the *Pic* a pelican, the foulest of its tribe,
A creature whose real nature is too loathsome to describe.

The difference between its habits, as they're understood,
And real repulsive features, makes a point that's clearly
good:

Its gluttonous repletion, as it crams its pouch to feed,
Is figurative of the *Pic's* own avaricious greed.

Its rival as a gamecock, and a gallant one at that,
Can readily be recognized as the *Times-Democrat*.
Symbolic of its lusty youth, no wonder it has tried
To sound to the assembled world a fanfaron of pride.

One, save in some predicament where it cannot refuse,
Will never contribute a cent for charity or news;
The other's always liberal with labor and with purse,
And is as enterprising as the former's the reverse.

The people only can decide which has its quarrel just;
the *Picayune* in *statements* vague has seemingly placed trust.
On firmer grounds for confidence the big *T-D* doth rate
Its stalwart circulation, and it measures *facts* by weight.

Undoubtedly, the verse is in some respects accurate (satires usually are) but it would appear that the *Picayune's* primary offenses against "credibility" were an outdated format, a small staff, an insufficiently aggressive news-gathering organization, an apparent willingness to print what it was told (whether through interviews or "exchange" services), a heavy reliance on advertising, and a declining circulation. These charges are repeated in the leading column reproduced below:

New Orleans Mascot, April 8, 1882, p. 60:

IN ARTICULO MORTIS.

THE MASCOT has had her eye on that brazen old hussy, the *Picayune*, for some time, and she has come to the conclusion that she is the most contemptible old fraud that was ever allowed to sneak around under false pretenses, without incurring the penalty of the whipping post.

She has been on the down grade for many years, and the late dodges she has tried to bolster herself up with before the public are worthy of Barnum, Hembolt, Talmadge and all the other quacks ever heard of rolled into one.

Not contented with lying in the most outrageous manner about her circulation, she gets up from time to time all kinds of dodges to make the public believe she has a large advertising patronage.

Quack medicines, tooth powders, wigs, false teeth and lightning rods, are eagerly taken in exchange for advertisements and subscriptions by her gangs of canvassers, that are continually making the lives of the people they pursue, in various parts of the country, one perpetual hell.

A slight sketch of some of her tricks in this direction may prove instructive to those advertisers that want to get the full value for their money out of the old woman.

Mr. James M. Robinson, the great lightning rod man of the Southwest, was heard saying the other day to a friend: "I'm blessed if them *Picayune* fellows hasn't given me the softest snap I ever had since I was born. I got an ad for a year and the price of the rods for rodding one house. But," he continued in a mournful tone of voice, "I wish I knew how I could fix the *Times-Democrat*."

So far as we can learn, that paper has not been fixed yet.

A short while ago one of the staff thought he would like to go into the spectacle business. So he got hold of an impecunious mountebank, that had distinguished himself as an imitator of the Davenport Brothers, named Herc., Housah, and a fellow called Ansell, that had failed as a jeweler in Chicago, and made them believe they were eminent oculists.

"The medicated glasses" were the result, but although they only cost from 30 to 40 cents a pair, and sell for \$2.50 a pair, the eminent oculists owe the *Pic* \$1500, and we wish she may get it.

This kind of thing has brought her down to a very low ebb, and notwithstanding the little respect that is yet paid to her mouldy old age, if some scientific surgical operation is not soon performed the old woman must go "where the woodbine twineth."

About the *Times-Democrat* we have little or nothing to say, but it has certainly made the band of duffers on the *Pic* lose the little sense that they ever possessed.

A straightforward statement has been made and it is anxious to back it with \$10,000, while the old woman shirks the issue by an assumption of dignity, which, considering its source, is a very laughable farce indeed.

Again, the *Mascot's* accusations against the *Picayune* center on its self-portrayal as an advertising medium and business-and-commerce paper; hence, the primary charge against the *Picayune* remains that it was behind the times in having not adapted its operation to the "new journalism" of the 1880s.

As of 1882, the *Picayune* had been in business for almost 50 years and was clearly a part of the New Orleans "establishment." If these attacks represented the worst her enemies could say against the *Picayune*, the mere appearance of such a long and sensational story as Robson's account of the island probably indicates the story is true. However, two additional credibility measures were performed. The first concerned an internal check of the *Picayune*, in which "odd" stories were sought. ("Odd" was considered self-evident in that this investigation concerns a report of "Atlantis.") The second concerned the frequency with which the *Picayune* was mentioned in the New York *Herald's* Mississippi flood story for March 13, 1882, as compared with the *Times-Democrat*, and thus constituted an external check.

The "oddity" check involved a content analysis of the week beginning March 6, 1882 and ending March 12, 1882; i.e., from the first Monday of the month to the following Sunday. During this time, the *Picayune* ran a total of 84 pages in 13 editions at seven columns per page. The large morning edition was followed by a much smaller afternoon edition, generally four pages

or "one fold." Two "odd" stories appeared during that week, each between six and nine inches in length. These were "The Largest Cave on Earth," which ran twice, and "An Ancient Claim." "The Largest Cave on Earth" first ran on p. 1 of the March 7 afternoon edition and was repeated on p. 8 of the March 8 morning edition; "An Ancient Claim" appeared on p. 8 of the March 8 morning edition.

"An Ancient Claim" concerned a lawsuit demanding payment (in 1882!) for gunpowder supplied during the Revolutionary War; while such legal action is bizarre, it is not strange enough to be classified with reports of Atlantis rising. In any event, the story came from the Philadelphia *Press* and was attributed as such.

The headlines to "The Largest Cave on Earth" are presented below.

THE LARGEST CAVE ON EARTH.

THE NEWLY-FOUND KENTUCKY CAVE—ITS CATACOMBS, MUMMIES AND MA- SONIC EMBLEMS.

Since the story had no evident relationship to the present investigation, no follow-up effort was made. Also, the story was again an "exchange" item attributed to the Grayson *Advocate*.

As a further check for sensationalism, a local crime story whose title concerned an "outraged" lady was investigated. The lady, a schoolteacher, had been repeatedly raped, then murdered and her body partially dismembered in the bayous. The treatment of the event was in no respect sensational — although it easily could have been — and received approximately the same amount of space as "An Ancient Claim" and "The Largest Cave on Earth."

A category emerged of stories which appeared odd but weren't, because they were not stories. The salient example which appeared during the period was entitled, "The Discovery of Treasure." It ran repeatedly and testified to the *Picayune's* effectiveness as an advertising medium; clearly, some of the *Mascot's* charges were justified but if that was the extent of the evidence (and apparently it was), the charges in no way affect the credibility of *Picayune* reporting.

Another story which looked odd but wasn't appeared in the March 29, 1882 edition, p. 10; the headline and a portion of the copy is presented below.

New Orleans Daily Picayune, March 29, 1882, p. 10

MODERN MOUND BUILDERS.

A correspondent of the Memphis *Avalanche* writes to that paper: There is a farmer who has lived in the Mississippi River bottom for thirty years without a levee, and the floods never damaged him, although the land he cultivates overflows from three to ten feet. The reason is, he elevated the ground one foot above the highest water ever known before building his house thereon. So soon as his crops are made they are safely gathered and housed before the high waters come, and he has ample room in his barns and stables for all his stock, etc. Just as the man who inhabits the extreme Northern States prepares to live through the

long, cold and snowy winters, so this man has made preparation to live through the overflow; and after the water has subsided his stock are all in good condition, and his land freshly manured by sediment to make another crop...

A BARMECIDE FEAST

While perhaps rewritten by the "patent editorial man" with "mucilage and shears" to illustrate a moral on preparedness, the story nevertheless came from a Memphis, Tennessee paper.

In short, during a detailed one-week search of 84 pages and 13 editions (several hundred stories) only two "odd" items appeared. Of these, the only one which bore upon anything remotely mysterious originated in a different paper. Hence, a close internal check of *Picayune* content revealed nothing to discredit the story and much to support it. The evidence supports the view that if Robson's account appeared at all under the Nicholson proprietorship, it was probably true.

The external content analysis compared *Picayune* flood reports with *Times-Democrat* flood reports appearing in the New York *Herald* (March 13, 1882, p. 3). The *Herald* was chosen because it provided the first comprehensive coverage of the Mississippi floods noted in a distant paper, and because it carried an extensive map (3 columns of 6). The page carried three columns of news copy, one of which was devoted entirely to wire stories about the flood. The *Picayune's* presence was indicated by a close-set one-and-one-half column story from the March 9th edition, which jumped to page 10. However, the sole evidence of journalistic enterprise by the "big T-D" was a short (25 line) story bearing *Times-Democrat* attribution. Like the wire copy, it was set with additional leading (i.e., space-and-a-half versus single-space), whereas the *Picayune* material was not. The March 9th date of the *Picayune* story carried in the *Herald* places its origin within the period examined for "odd" content. The length of the *Picayune*-attributed story, as compared with the *Times-Democrat*-attributed item, indicates that as far as the New York *Herald* was concerned *Picayune* reporters were reliable. Hence it appears the *Mascot's* charges of poor reporting were groundless and the old "pelican" was far from played out.

Only the scarcity and brevity of *Times-Democrat* copy in the *Herald* story is remarkable, considering that the *Times-Democrat* made the flood its overriding "issue," whereas the *Picayune* did not. From this, it is reasonably clear that the *Picayune* was regarded as highly credible by its contemporaries (if not by its rivals), so one may speculate that the reason the *Picayune* did not accept the *Times-Democrat's* sensational bet was that it simply didn't need to.

The rather detailed assessment of news coverage here reported demonstrates the *Picayune* to have been credible, but the fact that the story appeared on April 1st (April Fool's Day) may disturb some readers. Since one of the most obvious places for an error to occur is the report of a date or a year, *Picayune* microfilms for all of 1881, 1882, and 1883 were ordered before the inquiry began. Upon first finding the *Jesmond* noted as "Up, Cleared and Sailed" on February 28 from Palermo in the March 11 edition, I calculated the time for a 10-knot passage and estimated the ship's possible arrival on April 1st. Upon finding the report in the April 1st edition, I immediately checked the April 1st editions for 1881 and 1883 and found no "strange" stories listed. Consequently, the chance that the story was a hoax by the *Picayune* appears remote. Nevertheless, after some searching, an April Fool's story was found in the *Picayune*; the story is presented below to give an idea of what the *Picayune* thought of April Fool's jokes.

Just as the iron hand of time had told the hour of one this morning, two mysterious human beings, wearing aprons and white masks, appeared in the editorial rooms of the *Picayune*. One bore a tray on which was spread one of the most appetizing looking suppers that ever tortured hungry reporters. Alas! The grub was a man's hollow mockery. The red fish was a painted sham; the potatoes were empty; the yam was gone; the quail on toast was a printed word on dry bread; the rice dish held only a Chinese baby; the wine bottle was straw; the salad a misery; the whole a delusion and bitter mockery. The masked men presented a card which gave the sham away. It said: "I.O.O.M.: compliments of the Starlings." It was a satire on church fair generosity. It was a reminder that the 1st of April had arrived.

Such a joke might "pass muster in the strictest ladies' schools," as the *Mascot's* versifier alleged, but it would certainly never mislead the public. Hence, it appears the *Picayune* was at least as credible as its New Orleans contemporaries, and perhaps more so.

SUMMARY OF FACTS:

The present inquiry demonstrates the main facts of the Berlitz account are correct: Robson and Newdick existed and talked to the press, the *Westbourne* reportedly sighted the island, and the shoals of dead fish were widely reported and commented on. Further, the *Picayune* was a demonstrably credible paper in 1882, regardless of what its opponents in the press might have said.

The *Westbourne's* battered condition on arrival in New York, and the terrific storms on the Atlantic during this period offer further direct evidence not mentioned in the Berlitz account. This evidence is perhaps more persuasive than the mere matching of the Berlitz account against the original newspaper accounts, in that a volcanic eruption sufficient to lift a section of the ocean floor 12,000 feet (2000 fathoms) and then drop it down again would surely have had effects upon the whole Atlantic basin.

Further substantiating evidence and a modern theory of the events surrounding Captain Robson's island and its probable relationship to the great Mississippi floods of 1882 will be presented in the next issue. While those reports are not directly related to the main facts concerning Captain Robson's island, an indirect relationship is probable.

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Mr. Robson spent eight years in the Navy, where he "knocked around Conrad country and committed journalism." He is presently employed as an informal technical editor in a geotechnical research facility. His interests have included medieval werewolves, Elizabethan bar-tabs, sports cars, and lately, lost continents.

(Part II will appear in the next issue of **PURSUIT**) 

The Mysterious Savant Syndrome

by Maxwell Forbes

There exists in certain individuals a rare and special ability known as the savant syndrome. The term "idiot savant" has been used for centuries (there have been documented cases going back hundreds of years), but some find that term offensive. The word savant comes from the French verb savoir, which means "to know" and in English usage has come to mean an eminent scholar. An idiot savant is a person who has an area of subnormal intelligence with spectacular islands of intelligence. A normal genius has intellectual abilities in many areas, whereas an idiot savant has a narrow field of talent. For example, a normal person who has an "ear for music" can also learn to read music, but a savant cannot.

The savant syndrome enigma has baffled scientists for centuries. One case, going back into the 1700s, was Thomas Fuller who had extraordinary powers in mathematical calculating. He was known as the "Virginia Calculator" and was stolen from his native Africa at the age of fourteen and sold to a planter. He had never learned to read or write but could calculate in seconds. If asked how many seconds there were in a year and a half, he would take about two minutes to answer 47,304,000. On being asked how many seconds a man has lived who is 70 years, 17 days and 12 hours old, he would answer in a minute and a half, 2,210,500,800. One fellow who did these same calculations on paper during the same demonstration came up with a different answer and told Fuller he was wrong. But Fuller replied: "You forget de leap year, Massa!"¹

Similar to the case of Tom Fuller was M. Fleury who spent most of his life in an institution at Armentieres, France. Considered a hopeless and harmless imbecile, he was blind and could not do the simplest of tasks. But it was soon noticed that he had a marked flair for mental arithmetic.

There were times when Fleury stepped out of his cocoon of idiocy to astound scientists. Once, before a group of twelve of Europe's top scholars and mathematicians, Fleury was brought into the room for an exhibition of his incredible talents. He leaned against the wall simpering, embarrassed at being in the presence of strangers. His attendant read to him the question which the learned men had propounded: If you have sixty-four boxes and you place one grain of corn in the first box and twice as much in each succeeding box as the box it follows, how many grains of corn must you place in the sixty-fourth box? In less than half a minute, Fleury, the idiot of Armentieres, calculated the correct figure: 9,223,372,036,854,775,808. He could produce similar mathematical feats in seconds, a performance which could not be duplicated until the advent of electronic calculators, decades after his death.²

Some idiot savants are classified as "calendar calculators." These people are able to state, instantly upon demand, which day of the week a certain date fell on in the past or would fall on in the future.

Calendar savants are unusual people, but "George" and "Charles" won fame as *twin* savants! I do not know if they are still living, but they could identify practically any date with lightning-like rapidity and were quite likely to give their answers in unison. When the two were compared, it was found that George surpassed Charles in accuracy, particularly for dates before the 20th century. His range was also greater and you could ask your question in several different ways. For example: In

what years did April 21st fall on a Sunday? They would both answer 1968, 1963, 1957, 1946, etc., but George would regress all the way back to 1700. If you asked George in what months of the year 2002 does the first fall on a Friday, he would quickly answer February, March and November. If you asked him the date of the fourth Monday in February 1993, it would take him only a few seconds to tell you that it will fall on the twenty-second.

Despite such remarkable skill, the boys were almost totally lacking in mathematical ability. Neither of them could add, subtract, multiply or divide simple digits like 3 and 7.³

Not all savants are mathematically inclined.

Tom Wiggins was an imbecile born to a slave girl in 1849 in Alabama. He was blind and preferred to stand motionless for hours. When Tom was six, he heard music coming from the plantation house in which his mother worked. Later that night, when the house was asleep, the mistress heard the same music being played that had entertained them earlier. She was surprised to find little Tom seated at the piano, duplicating both music and tempo exactly as he had heard it a few hours before. Tom Wiggins, the blind imbecile, became Blind Tom, the musical prodigy, and was exhibited in cities all over the country. He would listen to a great pianist play, and then duplicate the performance faithfully and instantly, even to the most subtle shades of expression.²

Little Bobby was born in 1951 and put into a children's home in Kentucky when he was six. He was classified as functionally retarded. Yet, when he walked into the superintendent's office he promptly read, without a mistake, the Latin-inscribed medical diploma that was hanging on the wall. It was found that Bobby could read five foreign languages fluently, but whether he understood them nobody could tell.⁴ And there have been cases reported where the idiot savant was taken for an automobile outing; when he arrived at the destination he was able to list all the license plate numbers he had seen, in numerical order!

Others, while riding can look at an animal, building, person, etc., and be able to sculpt the object from memory with every detail in place after seeing it only once.

Some can give you the weather report for any given day. They may be able to say that the day was very cloudy in the morning but cleared up in the afternoon.

Others can tell you anything you could possibly want to know about all 40 presidents and their vice-presidents.

Some have exceptional mechanical abilities and can put clocks, radios, TVs, etc., back together, without error, after taking them apart.

Many idiot savants have demonstrated extrasensory perception. They tell you who will come through the door next, and then ask the person about his broken watch or burnt finger, things the savant could not possibly know in advance.

A number of savants have multiple skills such as the ability to mentally calculate, play a musical instrument, and retain information in a large photographic memory.

But some individuals identified as idiot savants may be, instead, autistic savants.

Autism is a severe mental disorder that appears in early childhood. It was identified in 1943 by American psychiatrist

Leo Kanner, who theorized that it was caused by a chemical disorder present in children at birth. It is a devastating condition — much worse than mental retardation. The affected children usually do not smile, make eye contact or show emotion. They may not respond to love nor show much interest in people.

Experts agree that there is a physical basis — some subtle malfunction of the brain behind the language problems, strange body movements and abnormal social and emotional behavior — that characterizes autism. “It is possibly a maldevelopment,” said Roland D. Ciaranello of Stanford University School of Medicine in Palo Alto, California. “Basically, it’s a process in which the central nervous system does not develop properly in the areas of language, thinking, emotions and mood.” It occurs once in every 2000 to 3000 live births, three times more often in boys than in girls.

The autistic savant has all the mental disorders of the autistic child but also displays a rare ability. Dr. Bernard Rimland, writing in an issue of *Psychology Today*,⁵ said: “Asking children, even the higher-functioning, grown-up children, how they do it brings nothing but frustration. They don’t know, or can’t or won’t say.”

Rimland added that a variety of explanations have been offered over the years by psychologists and other baffled investigators. His hunch is that it has to do with involuntary concentration. “In the physical world, the word ‘concentrate’ means to get rid of nonessentials so something can be made to occupy a smaller space (for example, concentrated orange juice),” he explained. “Similarly, when normal people concentrate, we narrow our focus of attention so that it encompasses only a very limited target. The target may be something in the outside world (such as a golf ball or a TV screen) or inside our heads (like trying to recall a name or word). The more specific the target, the more intensely we must concentrate.”

Dr. Rimland also referred to a number of studies that show a disproportionate number of these children coming from families with high intellectual and occupational attainment. Many seem to have inherited the neurological makeup that permits them to zero in on whatever has attracted their attention. But they lack the capacity to “zero out,” to expand their focus and comprehend the context of whatever they are focusing on. Dr. Rimland further noted “that the special abilities of the autistic-savant children are largely those considered functions of the right hemisphere. The skills that the children display in such areas as art, memory, music and in building intricate structures are largely those that are found in split-brain research to be among the various functions of the nondominant hemisphere.”

A German researcher published the first postmortem examination known to Dr. Rimland of the brain of an idiot savant. Before the patient’s death, an electroencephalograph examination of his brain showed a symptomatic epilepsy on the right side in the temporal region. Postmortem examination revealed “clearly separated cortical layers and an enlargement of the ganglion cells of the fifth cortical layer. These results are especially obvious in the temporal brain region.” Other recent findings suggest a high rate of *left* temporal-lobe abnormality in a small group of autistic-type patients.

Findings disclosed in a recent issue of *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* show that an antibody detected in many autistic children appears to interrupt messages to the brain. The researchers said that the antibody in some autistic children attacks pathways carrying a substance called serotonin, which is involved in a wide range of brain functions including sleep,

blood pressure and appetite. This biochemical anomaly may provide clues to the origins of the bizarre mental feats of the savants.

There have been attempts to duplicate the savant syndrome, and to a certain extent it can be done. Several years ago the twin “calendar” savants, “George” and “Charles,” were studied and an attempt was made to find out how they did their calculations.⁵ Two researchers, Barnett Addis and Oscar Parsons, engaged a psychology graduate student, Benj Langdon, to see if he could memorize a one-page table and equal the twins’ performance. The student became quite good at the calculating, but no matter how much he practiced he could not match the speed of the twin savants until one day — quite to his surprise — he did, and from then on it became “second nature” for him. The researchers thought that when this dramatic change took place in Langdon’s capacity, the site of processing had migrated from the left hemisphere of the brain — which specializes in logical, sequential, step-at-a-time processes — to some other area, quite possibly in his right hemisphere, which grasps patterns of information all at once. More work is being done in this area and interesting results should be forthcoming.

There are also acquired savants; they develop their skill after an injury. This is a rare condition that deserves more careful investigation.

I became particularly interested in these savant phenomena after seeing Leslie Lemke, a musical savant, on a TV program. Leslie had his eyes surgically removed as an infant, is severely retarded and has cerebral palsy. He has never had a music lesson in his life, but he can duplicate any piece of music, any length,



Leslie at the piano.



May and Leslie Lemke performing.



(Photos courtesy of Walter Uphoff)

Leslie at a performance.

on the piano after hearing it only once. He showed musical ability at age five when his foster mother found him strumming on a string, and later under his bed, "playing" the bedsprings. Now 33 years old, Lemke has the mentality of between a one and three year old. He understands orders and is generally very good-natured. Leslie's story and that of his incredible foster mother is documented in the book, *May's Boy*.⁶

Leslie's doctor, Dr. Treffort, is an expert on this condition; he is one of the few physicians studying the savant syndrome. Dr. Treffort relates the story of being in Spain with Leslie for a performance. They were outside their hotel when they heard a band of strolling musicians singing and playing mandolins. The two then went into the hotel lobby and Leslie was able to reproduce the harmonies on the piano while singing the melody in Spanish!

Dr. Treffort believes that it all boils down to a phenomenal memory-and-retrieval system. If you want Leslie to recall a particular song, you give that song a name; his mind is like a computer memory and needs a name in order to retrieve each song. "Leslie's musical abilities seem almost bottomless," says Dr. Treffort.

Dr. Treffort described another of his patients; a woman dentist who almost matched the idiot savant with her ability to recall music after hearing it only once. However, when she decided to give up dentistry and study music seriously, she lost that ability. As Dr. Treffort notes, "It's almost as if her ability migrated to some other part of the brain."

The enigma of the idiot savant is fascinating and challenging. Trying to understand the phenomenal mind should cast some new light on how the "average" mind works. There are tremen-

dous implications. If we can tap into our memories with retrieval, everything stored up there, so far beyond our reach, may suddenly become revitalized to confer incredible benefits upon each and every one.

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Editor's Note:

Leslie performed at the Uphoff conferences of 1982 and 1985. At the first of these two conferences, May Lemke was still of sufficient health to accompany him and was a dynamic little lady, extremely proud of her Leslie. It did pain her, as Leslie's constant companion and guardian, when critics expressed doubt as to how Leslie's piano playing talent began spontaneously one night a few years earlier.

This writer was talking with May as Leslie was at the piano preparing to play before several hundred conference dinner guests. She interrupted me to say, "Oh, dear God listen to him. He's never played that before." I can tell you it was not without emotion that we sat and listened to this unpretentious blind musician enthusiastically playing and singing, "The Last Time I Saw Paris, my heart was young and gay..."



European Dragons: The Tatzelwurm

by Ulrich Magin

The Tatzelwurm (German, for worm with claws) is a dragon-like animal that is said to live in the Alps, mainly in Switzerland and Austria. The natives of these two countries do not think of it as a mythical creature, and have reported seeing it for centuries. While there is early mention of the animal in old chronicles, reports of real sightings are rare until the 19th century.

In one old book about the Alps naturalist J.J. Scheuchzer mentioned that there were living dragons in the mountains five times the size of a man each with the head of a cat and a spiked ridge on its back. This vague description is about the only recorded information available and it is not until the end of the 18th century before we get the first real, eye-witness account of a 'wurm when, as the story goes, after two tatzelwurms suddenly appeared in front of Hans Fuchs of Unken in 1779, he suffered a heart attack and died. This would have been an uninteresting tale, except that the relatives of Fuchs painted a picture of his death, which included the image of the two tatzelwurms. This depiction of the two monsters is still the best we have of the creature, for I know of only one additional drawing.



The two 'springwurms' that killed Hans Fuchs in 1779.

From 1870 on the number of sightings increased and the details are usually very similar. Tatzelwurms look like oversized lizards: powerful, three-toed feet and with a forked tongue. Most witnesses agree that the head resembles that of a mammal (particularly that of a cat) or of a fish or salamander. It has a wide mouth with sharp teeth and distinctive eyes. The neck is very short or sometimes no neck at all is described. Sometimes bristles are reported as having been seen on the creature's head. The body is usually as thick as a

man's leg or arm and described as being between 60-100 cm. [2-3½ ft.] long. Beside the Scheuchzer dragons, the biggest 'wurms were reported to be 2 metres long and one other an oversized 4 metres in length. Personally, I do not believe any report of its being over 2 metres is reliable.

Since the colour of the body is reported to be whitish (11 cases), light brown (6 cases) and darker above with a white belly (1 case), we may assume its colour is rather light. It seems, generally, that tatzelwurms seen in woods are darker or brownish, whereas 'wurms seen on rocks are more likely to be lighter or whitish. On only one occasion was the colour said to be black with yellow spots and another time a witness thought the animal was totally black except for a gray belly.

As for the skin surface or texture eight observers described it as having smooth skin, five thought they saw very small scales, two reported short fur, one thought its back was "spikey" and said its skin was rough — whatever that means.

When asked to compare the body form to a known animal, most witnesses likened it to a lizard (9 observations) or a newt (4 observations). Only two persons said it looked like a mammal.

There was a wider variance, however, as to the description in number, size and shape of the creatures' appendages. Nine sighters speak only of two visible front legs. Six mentioned four legs and one observer said he definitely saw the animal had no legs at all. One man thought the tatzelwurm had, besides two front legs, three or four pairs more of legs at the rear of its body and while this sounds improbable the rest of his observation appears to be genuine.

In the cases where four legs were counted the front legs were pointed forward while the rear legs, some observers claimed, faced backwards or, perhaps more believably, the feet were pointing outward. These varied descriptions make it difficult to determine what the appendages really looked like but in the only two drawings of a tatzelwurm I saw all four legs showed like those of a lizard and therefore I may best assume that this was their actual position.

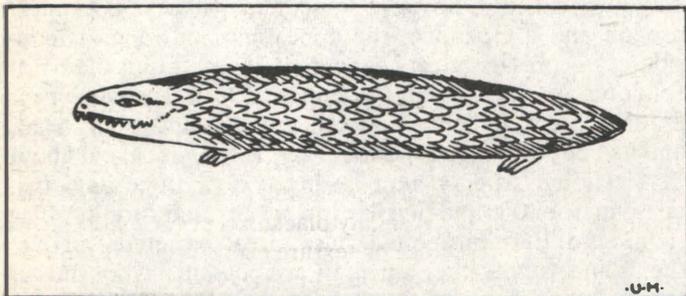
Although often likened to a lizard or newt, the tatzelwurm apparently has no lizard-like tail. Most witnesses agree the tail looks to be blunt, the remainder said the tail was quite long and pointed, but less than one quarter of the total length. Just one observer claimed the tail was one half of the length of the animal.

There is a considerable amount of material regarding the behaviour of the animal, and also this information is more consistent between the reports. For instance while the creatures seem to show no preference to either wooded areas or to rocks they are almost always reported at an altitude between 500 and 2000 metres above sea level, and then are either seen crawling or basking in the sun.

When detected the tatzelwurm immediately rushes to hide itself in a nearby hole or it attacks the observer — though I could find no pattern when it takes this latter action. I do have five reports of such attacks including one where actual

biting of a witness occurred. It is said it usually attacks by jumping directly at the witness and this leap usually covers a distance of over two metres. On one occasion the 'wurm is said to have covered about 15 metres in one jump and accurately hit the witness.

When detected or while attacking, the tatzelwurm is said to have made a short whistling noise — a very high sound said to be similar to a marmot. And, a sort of snorting was also reported. It should be mentioned here that this ability of the tatzelwurm to make long, precise leaps caused it to be given the name Springwurm (German, for jumping worm) and for its behaviour to hide in holes it has also been labelled a Stollenwurm (German, for worm that lives in holes). These various names are used locally in different parts of the Alps.



The tatzelwurm in G. v. Schulzen's book.

The inactivity of tatzelwurms during the winter is probably due to their hibernating. They usually sleep in crevices in rock formations but have been known occasionally to go into farmhouses to sleep in the hay. A farmer killed a stiff, hibernating 'wurm (see 'before 1910,' in the table below) and reported a green liquid came out of its mouth. A local legend of Tyrol says that a tatzelwurm builds itself a circular compartment underground in which it hibernates. These places can be detected above ground because no grass grows there in the spring. This surely is mistaken for the well-known "witch ring" made by mushrooms. The idea that no grass will grow there is because the farmers and natives of the Alps believed the tatzelwurm was very poisonous, and this is probably why the farmer mentioned seeing a green body fluid. What is described in legend is not confirmed by eyewitness reports since there is no mention of it being a poisonous animal. As far as I know, however, no one has ever touched a tatzelwurm thus far. Some legends express the idea that the creature's skin is poisonous which does help in its identification, as we shall see later.

Tatzelwurms are almost always alone when sighted. Apparently only Hans Fuchs saw two at one time which, as stated, proved to be a costly encounter for him. And, upon review of the sightings together it is quite clear that the observers did not mistake the 'wurm for an ordinary animal.

In the summer of 1921 a witness identified only as J.B. saw a monster near Rauris some 2238 metres above sea level. It had a cat-like head as big as a fist which was joined to its cylindrical body without there being a distinct neck area. The body was grey and ended in a very short, but pointed tail. The whole length of the animal was 60-80 cm. [2-2½ ft.]. Only a pair of front feet were seen, pointing forward. It leaped at the witness immediately after seeing him. It was said to have sprung 3 metres high and 8 metres long making a whistling sound in flight. The witness did, of course, escape.

This description does not sound like the tales of a mythical dragon nor like any commonly known animal. It, clear-

ly, is that of a little-known or unidentified creature. I could list it among another 20 such stories with as many details but I will not bore you because they are all so similar to this one. Now, if we accept the possibility that there was or is an unknown animal large enough to challenge a person in the Alps we must ask ourselves: Was one ever found dead? Does the animal live today? And, of course: What is it?

I have only two reports of dead tatzelwurms. The one the farmer killed hibernating in his hay has already been mentioned. The other came from the Mur valley stating that two witnesses found a large skeleton in 1924, 1.5 metres long, that looked to be the bones of a giant lizard except that only front leg bones were found. Unfortunately the witnesses had no idea of the value of the skeleton and none of its bones are known to exist. But, in that same place two other sightings of living tatzelwurms were reported of one being a metre long and the other a larger two-metre long animal, so it is hoped that this part of the Alps is where the biggest creatures may exist and may someday be found.

In 1930 the German science magazine *Kosmos* began an inquiry into the tatzelwurm phenomenon. The articles had a broad response. Most of the sightings I learned about were, in fact, first reported by *Kosmos*. A Swiss photographer named Balkin took a photograph of a 'wurm in Switzerland in 1934. The German *Berliner Illustrierte Zeitung* formed an expedition to find the monster in 1935 evidently with the idea of establishing a German Loch Ness monster-type mystery but there were no other sightings or photographs. I have seen a copy of Balkin's picture. It looks like a tree trunk with a fish's head. It is, I feel, definitely a hoax. In any case, after the stories were printed no wave of sightings occurred as one might expect. I doubt, for instance, that the average tourist would dare report sighting such a creature to a newspaper.

There was, however, a reported wave of sightings almost thirty years later in the summer of 1963 near Udine, Italy just south of the Alps. Several persons reported having seen a four-metres-long giant serpent with a head the size of a child and a body as round as a telegraph pole. The monster was usually seen near a hole, and was accompanied by a "pilot serpent" and made a clearly audible whistle. One witness, Antonio Toffali, tried to kill the monster but was so frightened that he ran away. It is difficult to believe that this story is anything other than a newspaper hoax. There are some similarities with the description of a tatzelwurm except for the 4 metres [13 feet] length which would surely be an exaggeration compared to the other data we have.

The last report I have was told to me by J.J. Barloy who said that the director of the vivarium in Lausanne knows a man who, in the Valley of Aosta [Switzerland], sees a tatzelwurm every year coming out of a spring whenever the water level increases. Perhaps further inquiry would bring to light more recent reports.

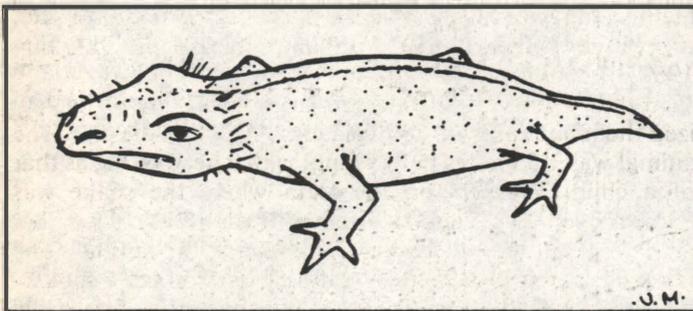
What is it?

Most scientists agree that the tatzelwurm did not and still does not exist. They claim the sightings are of otters, marmots, and lizards. When the magazine *Kosmos* in 1982 reprinted one of their 50-year-old articles on the monster they received a letter-to-the-editor comment from an Italian correspondent suggesting the monster may be a pearl lizard, *Lucertola ocellata*, which is common in Italy and reaches a length of 60 cm. But, one must remember that the tatzel-

wurm is often larger than 60 cm. and other comparative data just do not match!

Another explanation by skeptics is that the tatzelwurm is not a misidentified animal but, rather, a mythical creature of the dragon tradition. For instance, people observed their breath in cold weather, saw clouds of the same water vapor billowing from large hillside openings in winter (due, actually, to the fact that cave air is warmer than outside air) and concluded a monster was breathing inside a cave. Later, if bones of a bear or a large creature were found in the cave, this would "confirm" their beliefs in a monster or dragon, but such an explanation does not fit these sightings.

Further, there are scientists who believe the as-yet-to-be-examined monster is actually a big lizard. Austrian naturalist, Dr. Nicolussi, "identified" the tatzelwurm as a European type of the American Gila monster, *Heloderma suspecturn* (or the Mexican *Heloderma horridum*), and named it *Heloderma europaeum*. It seems however, he based his identification solely on the fact that the Gila monster is the only poisonous lizard in the world and that the tatzelwurm is said to be poisonous, too.



Author's reconstruction of the animal.

Personally, I think the animal is a European form of Asian giant salamander. The giant salamanders of China and Japan reach a maximum length of 1.60 metres — the length, I feel, is also the limit for the tatzelwurm. The Asian giant salamander lives high up in mountainous regions but in cold streams whereas the tatzelwurm seem to prefer dry land. Other than this difference both types are quite similar in description. The legend that the Asian creature is poisonous may be attributed to the secretion the amphibian emits through its skin.

And while I feel my physical comparison may be more correct than comparisons of others I must emphasize there are some strong differences in behaviour between the two types. Such as, the tatzelwurm is more active in its long jumps, its whistling noise and its attack on people, whereas the Asian giant salamander is a passive creature that is apparently found simply lying in cold water.

Even though the Asian giant salamander is physically more similar we must consider the tatzelwurm as possibly being some sort of otter. The otter's ability to jump is one clue in that respect. It also can have bristles on its back. An otter can be reptilian in appearance, at times, even though witnesses would probably have stated, I am sure, the tatzelwurm looking more like a mammal if they had observed such features.

Where do they live?

Originally I assumed the tatzelwurm was limited to the alpine region but have since found reports that the alpine monster, or a related species, lives in other European moun-

tain areas as mentioned earlier. Again, too, these may account for some of the dragon legends that originate in these other areas.

ITALY

Apart from the Alps, the country with the highest number of recent dragon reports is Italy. The observed animals often look very much like the composite picture we constructed of the tatzelwurm.

At the time the Loch Ness monster became famous in 1933, newspaper correspondents from all over the world began to report local-monster folklore to their editors. The Milan correspondent of the *London Times* (27 & 29 Dec. 1933) reported that the people of Sicily knew of a local monster they called Colovia, "something between a Chinese dragon and a crocodile, the appearance of which is considered to presage great disasters." It was more than just folklore: At the end of December 1933 it appeared near Syracuse, and had "the form of a reptile and a flat head, and its body is covered with scales. It is very thick and about 11 feet long...after a hunt lasting two or three days two peasants found it in a marsh near the city and shot it." The sightings of the monster had caused great excitement all over the island, and "the superstitious peasants who shot it feared that it might be the Colovia," and therefore burned the carcass. From their accounts, the "monster" would seem to have been a big serpent, of a type not listed among the fauna of Sicily. It is conjectured, therefore, that it was a python or boa constrictor, which either escaped from some collection or else reached the port of Syracuse in a boat from Africa and somehow managed to get to shore unnoticed."

How such a lonely, stranded animal should be the source of such powerful folklore that the peasants burned the valuable evidence of its carcass is beyond my understanding.

The next dragon to visit Italy was seen in August 1935 at Monterose, a hamlet some miles north of Rome (*Neue Mannheimer Zeitung*, 22 Aug. 1935). Witnesses who reported their sightings to officials declared the animal was about 2.5 metres (8 feet) long, with a green and yellow body. It appeared in a forest, but vanished at once when humans approached it. No more details were given, however, it was reported that an old man had first seen the monster when he was a boy, and then again about every 10 to 15 years after that event.

In 1975, another one appeared at Goro, near the mouth of the river Po. It was a many-legged, serpent-like beast, which was already mentioned in *PURSUIT* (whole No. 35, p. 62) and is described in more detail in *La Stampa* (29 June 1975). As in the other cases, there were local legends about the monster, and it even left physical evidence in the form of tracks in a tomato field.

Linking the sightings in the north with those in the south of Italy, we find a report of a dragon in Calabria.

In July 1981 several inhabitants of the town Cosenza encountered a "prehistoric monster." It had a reptilian body, was some 4 metres long, a diameter of 40 cm (1.3 feet), a head like a box and long fur. It walked on four legs. This is not the usual 'wurm description, and sounds more like a mixture between the notorious puma (there were sightings of alien big cats near Bari, in southern Italy) and the tatzelwurm. Whatever it was, it was first seen by the 55-year-old farmer Antonio Gaccione in his vineyard, and after that, by several others. The Carabinieri equipped with rifles and

cameras swarmed out, but found no trace of the animal (*Süddeutsche Zeitung*, Munich, 8 July 1981, p. 36e).

All these sightings are more or less along the mountain range of the Apennines, an extension of the Alps.

PYRENEES

The Pyrenees, the second biggest European mountain range that divides France and Spain are very similar in geographical terms to the Alps. And there are reports of animals that closely resemble the tatzelwurm.

On February 15th, 1893 (other sources say 1892) a country priest encountered a giant lizard near Ossum (between Lourdes and Tarbes). One source gives 1.5 metres (5 feet), another 2 metres (7 feet) as its length. A police report at the time said: "It was a strange beast, 1.5 metres long, head and tail not included, of green colour, with scaly skin, resembling a lizard and having at both sides of the throat something like a fat pig" (a goiter?). It opened its giant mouth, and the priest fled in terror.

On May 25th, 1893, a farmer of the same village saw another large reptile: He was vespering under an oak tree when he saw the giant serpent. It was coiled around a branch of the tree but came down towards the witness only after he had noticed it. He, like the priest, fled.

The source for these sightings is Phillippe Janvier: *Le Monde Étrange des Reptiles* (Paris, Albin Michel 1973, p. 258-260), and Janvier thinks the animal in question was only an American iguana, *Iguana iguana*, that had escaped from a circus. (I want to thank Michel Raynal for this information).

But the monster was seen again in May 1939, and therefore the runaway-animal theory is not too likely. A report in the German newspaper, *Neue Mannheimer Zeitung* (10 May 1939, p. 6d) quotes the two old sightings mentioned above and then says there was new evidence for the beast: Women picking berries near Ossum encountered a giant lizard several metres in length. This was all that was reported about the monster. The reports went on to say police officers had searched in vain for the monster from which, naturally, the women had fled in terror. There is a belief among the country folk there that there are giant subterranean lakes under the Pyrenees, and that these caves are the original habitat of the monsters. This is also what the Austrian and Bavarian people report about their tatzelwurms.

Michel Raynal, a French cryptozoologist, also informed me that in the folklore of the department Pyrenees, at Saint-Girons, Foix, etc., there are legends of giant lizards with "una cresta" (in Occitan, the native language, a crest).

Jean-Jacques Barloy reported several French sightings of "giant snakes and large salamanders and lizards" in his fine newsletter, but all from this century and from geographically isolated places, so that no one habitat can be pin-pointed, and thus it's safer to consider these reports in terms of escaped pet animals.

SPAIN

Spain can boast a variety of monsters, and there are several sightings of big reptiles that can be included into this report. Usually giant serpents are seen, not tatzelwurm-like

lizards, but the myth of the "big serpent" is known all over Europe, and has some tatzelwurm connotations.

In 714 the Basque hero Don Teodosio killed a great dragon at Mount Aralar in Spain. This was a typical heraldical dragon, with sharp teeth and bat's wings, etc. After the brute was dead, a light appeared over the mountain. The date 714 marks the beginning of the Spanish reconquest, the expulsion of the pagan Arabs, so this can be understood as a symbolic legend (J. Caro Baroja: *Mitos y Ritos Equívocos*, Ediciones Istmo, Madrid 1974, p. 167).

In 1407, again in the Basque country, but this time in France, a dragon was killed by Gaston de Belzunce near Saint Pierre D-Irube. I have no description of the monster (Caro Baroja, p. 205).

A jump through time, and we're in the 20th century. There are many recent reports of dragon or serpent-like monsters in Spain. One of these animals crossed a street at Chinchilla, Albacete, on July 22, 1969. The serpent came from a sugarfield and went over the road, where a frightened motorist braked his car causing an accident that involved several other autos. The serpent, a green snake two metres long, was killed. Nobody in the region had seen such a creature before ("ABC," Spanish newspaper, 23 July 1969, p. 36c).

In the summer of 1970, a similar monster serpent terrorized the inhabitants of Orihuela and Alcoy in Alicante. The animal was 1.5 metres [6 feet long] with a head as big as that of a child. Workers on the farm where the snake was regularly seen quit, and so firemen from nearby Alcoy began, what turned out to be, a search for the animal. The newspapers reported on this "safari," and quoted a spokesman who declared they would search until they found the monster — but following issues had no further reports of the creature or the expedition ("ABC," 5 & 6 June and 9 July 1970).

Early in June 1970 several persons saw "una gigantesca serpiente" near a farmhouse at Orihuela in Alicante. The reptile was 1.5 metres (5 feet) long, and its head had the size of a child's ("ABC," Madrid, 6 June 1970). In July firemen from the nearby town Alcoy tried to capture the serpent which had frightened the people so much that no one went near the farm ("ABC," 5 July 1970). They were armed with dogs and guides, and intended to find the trail of the monster, though it had not been seen for several weeks ("ABC," 9 July 1970). No more was heard of this one.

In July 1973, near Aceuche, in the Spanish province Cáceres, another "monstrous serpent" was seen. Some women observed the animal which had the body of a snake, and according to some witnesses, a baby's head with a long mane ("ABC," 7 July 1973).

And, the most recent report: On July 15, 1975, at 9:45 p.m., in the skies over Gerona, Spain, there appeared a curious "meteorological phenomenon" — a giant glowing form which resembled a monstrous head with a dragon's tail. At 10:15 p.m. the apparition slowly began to dissolve, but the streets of Gerona were full of people taking photographs. The newspaper report also claims that a similar phenomenon had been observed exactly one year earlier over the same location ("ABC," Spanish newspaper, 17 July 1975, p. 73a). I have sought a photo copy of the appearance as well as a newspaper account of the earlier event but so far I have had no luck.

GERMANY

Dragon lore can be found everywhere in Germany, and I myself live near the place where Siegfried is said to have killed his monster. But there are very few facts in these tales, except from Bavaria. However, many parts of this country have legends of the "Schlange so gross wie ein Wiesbaum" (serpent as big as a tree) with a golden crown on its head, which could be our animal in question.

In the year 878, so an old chronicle says, where the town of Gelder is now, near Cologne, there was only a vast and deserted area where a dragon dwelled. It was a poisonous, monstrous animal that fed on humans, and by night its two fiery eyes could be seen glowing in the dark. It often uttered sounds like "Gelre, Gelre" (this is the first time the sounds of a dragon are reported). Two sons of a local lord killed the monster, and at the place where it had lived, they built a castle. This all happened near the Rhine River, so perhaps we are dealing with a distorted memory of an unusual marine visitor (Zaunert: *Rheinland Sagen*, vol. 1., Diederichs, Jena 1924, p. 101).

In 1598 an animal very much resembling the traditional tatzelwurm appeared at the border between Silesia and Oberlausitz. It was observed several times in the area, which is mountainous and full of scrub growth. It was several feet long, with a green and yellow body, and a head like that of a cat. People looking for mushrooms and berries were deeply frightened by it, and when two girls vanished in the woods, the dragon was blamed. Remember that we already have two similar reports from Silesia (Paul Zaunert: *Sächsische Sagen*, Diederichs, Jena 1926, p. 196).

About 1890, a monstrous serpent of several metres length was observed by a farmer near Olpe in the Rhineland of Germany. The farmer who observed it followed the animal, which suddenly vanished into thin air, though the farmer couldn't detect any cave or hole where it might have hidden itself. A hunt was organized. The animal was seen again and shot at, but apparently was not harmed (Paul Zaunert: *Rheinland Sagen*, vol. 2., Diederichs, Jena 1924, p. 242).

POLAND

There are two cases of basilisks being found and killed in Poland, the first at Warsaw in 1564, the second in Breslau in 1672. This, again, is the general area from which we have other dragon and big serpent reports (W.E. Peukert: *Schlesische Sagen*, B. Diederichs, Jena 1924, p. 242 and 318).

SWITZERLAND

This is a dragon report from Switzerland that does not fit the tatzelwurm pattern. In 1410 or 1420, a man from Lucerne fell into a cave at Mount Pilatus. After awaking from a long sleep he found himself in the lair of two flying dragons. He survived only on water, and lived for months in the cave until spring came. Then the first of the two dragons flew out, and realizing this was his only chance to escape, the man grabbed the tail of the second dragon just before it too flew away. He was lost in the cave on November 11, and escaped on April 10 (Ludwig Bechstein: *Marchen und Sagen*, Knauer 1985, p. 209).

Fiery Dragons

Here is a brief account of those European dragons that were seen over the years, but which cannot be explained in cryptozoological terms. These are so-called "fiery dragons," which might be explained as northern lights, meteors or, if you wish, early UFOs.

Over London a "flying dragon" surrounded by flames was witnessed in May 1593 (Arthur Shuttlewood: *UFO Magic in Motion*, Sphere, London 1979, p. 25).

The Anglo-Saxon *Chronicle* has this to report for the year 793: "In this year, dire forewarnings came over the land of the Northumbrians, and miserably terrified the people; there were excessive whirlwinds and lightnings, and fiery dragons were seen flying in the air." (Quoted by John H. Parkinson in *New Scientist*, 14 April 1983, p. 95). Parkinson thinks these dragons were northern lights.

On May 24, 1637, a fiery dragon ignited a house in the hamlet of Schleiz in Thuringen, now East Germany. The local legend reports that this house had been the home of a horrible witch, and the dragon was the familiar of another witch, and as both witches had become enemies, the pet-dragon had to set the house on fire. (P. Quensel: *Thüringer Sagen*, E. Diederichs, Jena 1926, S. 290).

Around 1840, another incident (or accident) with a fiery dragon happened, this time near Sesterbach in the Eifel (Germany). A young man was walking home in the darkness, when a fiery monster approached him from the air. He could not step aside as its velocity was too fast, so it hit him. He felt a burning pain and afterwards several severe burnmarks were found on his body. He died soon after this encounter (Paul Zaunert, Ed.: *Rheinland Sagen*, vol. 2, Diederichs, Jena 1924, p. 242).

Though this legend is widespread, I could only find two actual sightings, both from Silesia, formerly Germany, but now part of Poland. The first happened on July 26th, 1713, near Breslau (now Wrocław). A girl walking toward the house of a certain Mr. Zander was frightened by the appearance of a giant serpent, which rested in front of the door. Zander, a forester, killed the monster by cutting off its head. When the animal was dead, it was burned, but not before Zander measured it to a length of 17 feet 4 inches, making it the largest known serpent ever found in Europe.

The identity of the serpent is not the only Fortean riddle in this case: Just before the monster was seen, two strange, tall, foreign-looking men had asked the forester for work, but he couldn't offer any to them. Then the serpent appeared, and after the serpent was burned, two ugly and tall women appeared and collected the ashes of the animal. Then they too disappeared. Is this an early case of MIB or WIB? Or, more rationally, did these foreign people, probably gypsies, bring the serpent with them?

The second story comes from Breslau, as well, and is as strange as the first. It is said that in 1713 there was an old woman in the parish of Muischatz who remembered that, when she was young, a giant serpent had been seen repeatedly among her cows. The herdsmen had fled every time the monster appeared, and one day one dared kill the terrifying animal. Shortly, a woman of the neighborhood came out crying he had killed her "milk-mother." Whatever this meant, we are told that she also mourned the death of toads

with the same words. (Both reports from: J.H. Zedler: *Grosses Vollständiges Universal-Lexikon*, Leipzig und Halle, J.H. Zedler, Vol. 34, 1742, pp. 1793-1796).

(In May 1984, a 1.5 metre (5 feet) serpent which looked like a poisonous snake was observed by an unnamed woman near Schauernhe in Palatine. There are no local legends or other sightings, so that we may assume it was either a hoax or an escaped pet animal *Die Rheinpfalz-Luswigshafener Rundschau*, 10 May 1984).

GREAT BRITAIN

The dragon of St. Leonard's Forest of August 1614 has been described by several Fortean authors, so a small summary will do: It was 9 feet long; thickest in the middle and smaller at both ends; it had a marked neck; a body with dark scales above and red at the belly; and feet could also be seen. "There are likewise discovered on either side of him two great clusters as big as a large football, and (as some think) will in time grow to wings." (J. & C. Bord: *The Secret Country*, Granada, London 1982, p. 67) The animal is supposed to have vanished from Sussex, but I found a far more recent report.

In September 1934, a giant serpent was seen several times in Sussex, until it was finally discovered in a near-frozen state at the seashore. It was a 10-foot python, and was immediately brought to the Hasting Zoo, where it received a warm bath. It soon recovered, and ate 10 rats at once as a first meal. (*Neue Mannheimer Zeitung*, 27 Sept. 1934, p. 5c)

I tried to find this report in British papers of the time, but was unable to locate more information. Probably this was an escaped pet.

I have another bunch of reports of strange winged figures which correspond to the image of the winged dragon: When the Renwich Church was demolished in 1733 "from out of a dark hole there ascended a huge winged creature which flapped after those who had unwittingly disturbed it...This creature was recognized as a cockatrice, described as a four-legged cock with a serpent's tail...Whatever it was,...it's wings were shaped like those of a bat" and it was last seen around 1962. (Mark Alexander: *Enchanted Britain*, Arthur Baker, London, 1981, p. 169)

The Monster of Barridale, at Loch Hourn, Scotland, was encountered in 1880: three-legged, pterodactyl-like animal that chased a crofter. (*Scots Magazine*, Sept. 1975). Ian Thornber, in a letter to the *Scots Magazine*, which was published in the April 1976 issue, p. 98, says he saw it in the 1970s.

The most famous of these animals is surely the Mawnan mothman, but even he has a precursor: In the early years of the 20th century, a mixture between a goat and a bat was seen by the crew of the steamer 'Friesland' 10 miles off Start Point, Devon, not too far from Mawnan. The source for this is Conan Doyle's novel: "The Lost World," and this may also be mothman's origin.*

*Note: In his book: *The Mothman Prophecies* (Signet, New York, 1976, p. 32), J.A. Keel writes: In 1970 the police in Italy scoured a mountain range after several witnesses reported seeing a saurian! I have not been able to get more details, but it may well have been a tatzelwurm — Keel obviously thinks this sighting was an isolated occurrence and fails to see the connections.

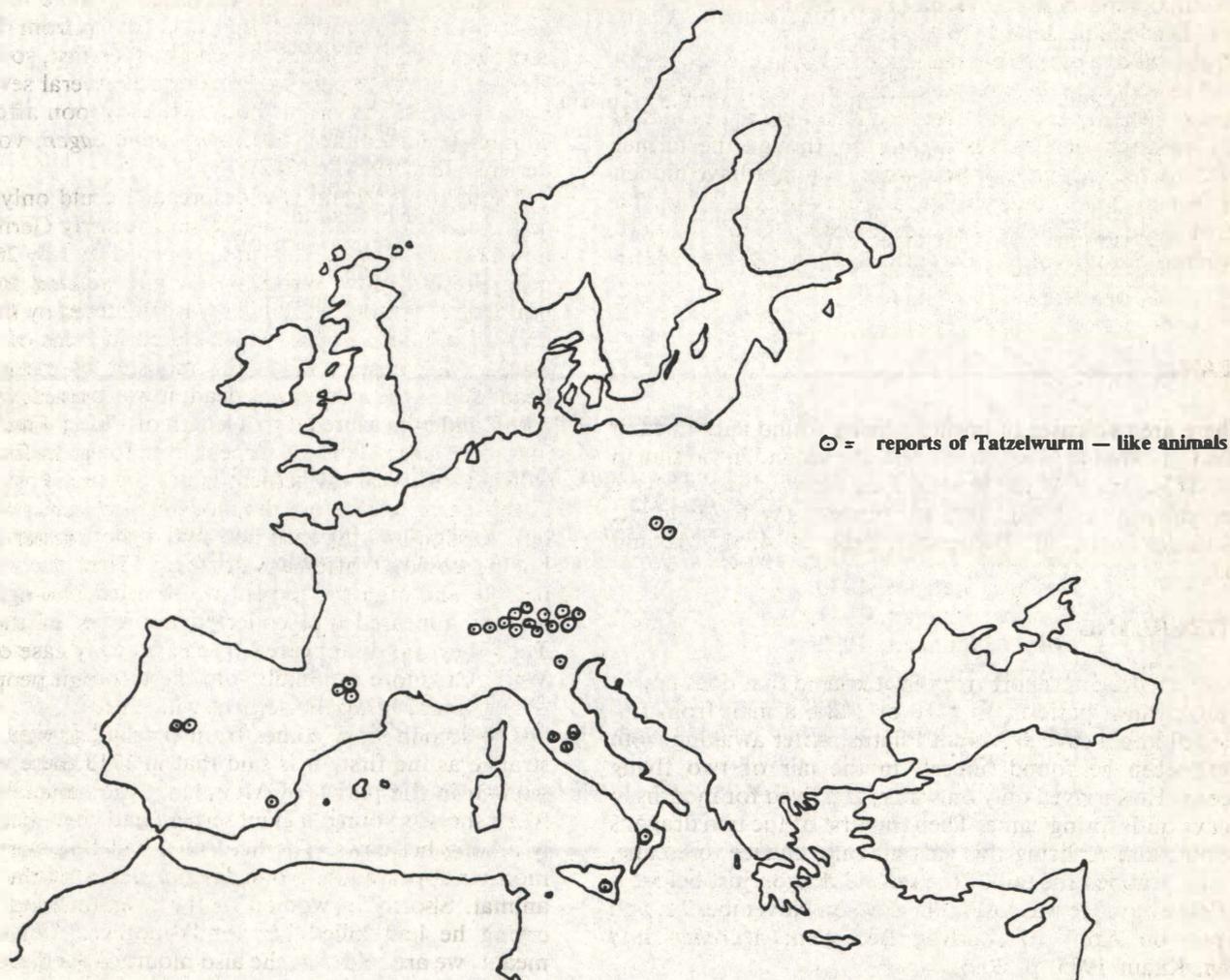


Table of Sightings of Tatzelwürms

Date	Place (or Reference)	Observer	Source/Page
1247	Bavaria, Germany	'chronicle'	II
Middle Ages	Grimsel, Switzerland	'chronicle'	V/425
1660	Alps	Scheuchzer	X/15
1779	Unken, Salzburg, Austria	Hans Fuchs	V/427
19th century	Gutannen, Uri, Switzerland	priest & teacher	V/425
1827?	Wurmbachtal, Tyrol, Austria	Roslerin	I/379
1828	Solothurn, Switzerland	farmer	IX/152
1836	"Taschenbuch für Jagdfreunde"	G.v. Schulten	V/426
1854	Wurmbachtal, Tyrol, Austria	Johann Dollinger	I/379
1857, before	Wurmbachtal, Tyrol, Austria	grave-digger	I/379
1857, before	Hallstadt, Bern, Switzerland	mountain hunter	I/379
1859	"Wildanger" by Kobell		V/425
1872, autumn	Prielgebiet, Austria	J.W.	VII/100
1881, summer	Mitterndorf, Salzkammer, Austria	J.G.	VII/100
1883/84, July	Spielberg, Tyrol, Austria	K.A.	VII/68
1884, August	Irdning, Steier, Austria	F. Sch.	VII/68
1886, before	Ruhpoling, Bavaria, Germany	forester Santner	VII/102
1887?	Hintersee, [Berchtesgaden, Germany?]	hunter	VI/119
1898	Schlading, [Schladming, Ennstal, Austria?]	farmer	VI/119
1901?	Murtal, [Hohe Tauern, Austria?]	farmer	VI/119
1902?	Aschbach, [Aschach, Linz, Austria?]	F.D.	VII/100
1907/08, summer	Murnau, Obersteier, Austria	F.E.	VII/67
1908	Ferleiten, Hohe Tauern, Austria	worker	VI/119
1910, before	South Tyrol, Italy	farmer	VII/102
1910?	Sterzig, South Tyrol, Italy	(?)	VII/102
1921, summer	Rauris, [Hohe Tauern, Austria?]	J.B.	VII/101
1924	Murtal, [Hohe Tauern, Austria?]	2 people	VI/120
1926	Murtal, [Hohe Tauern, Austria?]	12 year old boy	VI/120
1927, summer	Saalfelden, Salzburg, Austria	3 woodworkers	VI/118
1929, April	Landsberg, Steyrtal, Austria	F.R.	VII/101
1929, August	Simonyhütte, Salzkammer, Austria	M.E.	VII/100
1931, before	Steinernes Meer, Salzburg, Austria	old man	VI/119
1931, before	Gesäuseberge, [Ennstal, Austria?]	woodworker	VI/119
1931, before	Felbertal, Pinzgau, [Austria]	innkeeper	VI/120
1934, end	Meiringen, Switzerland	Mr. Balkin	III/250
1963, summer	Udine, Italy	Antonio Toffoli	IV
1984, and before	Aosta, Switzerland	a man	XI
1985, or before	Hautes-Alpes	J.C. Augustin	XII

Sources (see table above)

- I Alpenburg, J.N.V.: *Mythen and Sagen Tirols*, Meyer & Zeller, Zurich, 1857
- II *Berliner Illustrierte Zeitung*, Nr 744/1935
- III Dunkel, U.: *Kletternde und fliegende Fische*, Neues Verlagshaus für Volksliteratur, Bad Pyrmont, 1956.
- IV Kolosimo, P.: *Viel Dinge zwischen Himmel und Erde*, Limes, Wiesbaden, 1971
- V *Kosmos*, Stuttgart, 1930
- VI *Kosmos*, Stuttgart, 1931
- VII *Kosmos*, Stuttgart, 1932
- VIII *Kosmos*, Stuttgart, 1982
- IX Tschudi, F.V.: *Das Thierleben der Alpenwelt*, J.J. Weber, Leipzig, 1861
- X Hall, A.: *Bestien, Scheusale und Monster*, Ullstein, Berlin, 1979
- XI Letter from J.J. Barloy to author
- XII J.J. Barloy: *'Enquete sur le Serpent de Mer et les Animaux Mysterieux*, No.34



Evidence for Spirit Photography

By Dale Kaczmarek

Not since the early experiments of Sir William Crookes has so much attention and interest been devoted to spirit photography — the capturing of an elusive phantom image on photographic film. Science has come very far since those early camera and photographic techniques; yet, ordinary people continue to pick up strange and unusual images (sometimes with very inexpensive cameras) without realizing it. Their first thoughts are usually that something must be wrong with their camera or that the film is defective. Hence, the dismissal of yet another piece of evidence of spirit survival.

While photographing the family picnic, a graduation or any of thousands of possible situations the farthest thing from one's mind is the possibility of detecting a ghost or spirit and photographing its image. It is for this reason that thousands of vital bits of collective evidence are tossed out as trash. An expert with a keenly trained eye and knowledge of spirit photography might look at this "trash" differently.

As president of the Ghost Research Society, editor of *Ghost Trackers Newsletter*, long-standing member of SITU and active ghost researcher and investigator, I have seen hundreds of examples of spirit photographs. We at GRS have received dozens of photos from people around the world seeking answers as to how such an unusual event could happen. I've been analyzing these photographs, subjecting them to numerous stringent tests to rule out any conventional explanation for these peculiar images. While I have been able to explain away many of these unexpected images as double exposures, faulty film or camera equipment or processing flaws, others are not that easily dismissed.

While lecturing at various colleges and civic organizations, I frequently am shown photographs thought to be significant by members of the audience, and have collected many truly spirit photos in this manner.

A surer way of collecting spirit photographs is through actual investigations of so-called haunted houses. I work with many professional psychics who are actually able to "tune in" to the psychic vibrations within these houses. Coupled with the presence of a psychic or clairvoyant, the possibility of capturing images on film is greatly enhanced. Before working with psychics, the operation of photography was purely experimental and quite a hit-or-miss procedure. I would simply shoot random photos of general areas that had histories of strange phenomena and hope that something would later appear on the film. However, since beginning work with psychics of proven ability with whom I felt comfortable, I have been able to capture a great deal of strange images and apparitions on film. The sensitive would simply enter an altered state of consciousness and, while in that state, point out areas where he or she felt something of a para-normal nature was lingering. At times the sensitive would actually clairvoyantly see the image of an earthbound entity.

Armed with various recording devices such as two 35mm single-lens reflex cameras, audio and video tape recorders and sophisticated devices for detecting deviations in magne-

tic field variance, I expect some sort of recording of an event could be preserved for later analysis.

The two 35mm cameras would be mounted on separate tripods with cable releases, each loaded with a different type of highly sensitive film. Our control camera would be equipped with black and white high-speed print or slide film rated at 400 ASA. The second camera would usually be loaded with black and white high-speed infrared film which was pushed (or increased) to 400 ASA. Simultaneous photos would then be taken of a given area for later comparison.

I have had considerable success with the above process. The infrared film (which has no ASA rating because the amount of reflected or absorbed infrared light or radiation is never known) will pick up any invisible light, heat or energy, which may be present at the time a picture is taken. For those wanting to do this, there is usually a separate focusing control on all 35mm cameras for use with infrared film. The control film, which is ordinary high-speed black and white film, is used for the comparison process after the film has been developed. In this way any stray light sources, strange reflections, etc. will show up on both films and be easily identifiable. If something shows up on the infrared film and not the high-speed film, both shot at the same instant, then there is a possibility that there might be something conclusive. A visible manifestation should appear on both films. If invisible, it would only appear on the infrared film.

Finding a strange image on your infrared film does not necessarily mean you have captured a ghost's image. Various tests must now be performed to rule out natural possibilities before considering the supernatural ones. This is perhaps the most important single aspect. Don't jump to conclusions before all the facts are examined. I have listened to other lecturers in the past and have watched them display so-called true spirit photographs. After questioning these individuals about the conditions under which the pictures were taken and what tests were performed to assure the validity of the photographs, I usually discovered that no controls were employed and many times only one camera was used. Furthermore, on some occasions no tests were performed on the photos in question. All researchers and spirit photographers should be prepared to report on: conditions under which their photographs were taken, type of film, direction the camera was aimed, film speed, type of camera used, any tests that were conducted on the finished film, and, of course, the results of those tests. It is very important to assure your audience that every precaution was taken to rule out the possibility of deliberate fraud or some natural explanation. This method of reporting will lend more credence to your lecture and your responsible attitude.

You must also remember that no matter how many tests are conducted, how stringent your methods and how professionally you present yourself and your photos, you will not be able to convince everyone of their validity. There are, and always will be, many hardcore skeptics who will look at your pictures, shake their heads in disbelief and refuse to accept the concept of spirit photography. This is to be expected.



Figure 1

I would like to present some of my evidence for "spirit photography" through photos that I have taken or were sent to me. In each I will try to set the scene and circumstances under which these photos were taken and conclude with tests and theories on what is seen in these pictures.

Photograph #1 was taken with high speed infrared film at Jane Addam's Hull House in Chicago, Illinois. This house has a rich history of ghosts and hauntings dating back to the late 1890s. Shadowy monk-like figures are still seen hovering in upstairs windows by unsuspecting motorists traveling past the house near dusk. Please note, this is not the original photograph but an enlargement. You can see an interior staircase leading to the second floor. If you look carefully at the first six steps you will be able to pick out four monk-like figures. Two are located near the left of the staircase, one in the center and the fourth is superimposed within the bannister. The figure in the middle of the staircase appears to be shrouded in a monk's habit and has its two hands locked together as if in prayer. The one seen by the bannister appears to have no head; all that is evident are the rounded shoulders.

This is a one-of-a-kind photograph and subsequent visits to Hull House with cameras have not yielded any similar pictures. There was no psychic present at the time of the picture taking. This was a hit-or-miss experiment which turned out exceptionally well.

Photo #2 was taken in a cemetery on a bright afternoon with an SX-70 Polaroid Instant camera (the kind that develops a picture in sixty seconds). This film type and camera are highly sensitive to picking up manifestations of all kinds and is a great "beginner" camera, especially for those who cannot afford a more expensive 35mm camera.



Figure 2

This, again, is an enlargement of the original photo. What is most evident is a whitish streak of light that seems to be emerging from a mound of dirt. Near the bottom of the white streak are very distinct facial features. Readily identifiable are two sunken eyeholes, nose, mouth, eyebrows and hairline. There is some evidence of a neckline. I am of the opinion that if subsequent photographs were taken they would have registered more of the phenomena since it appeared to be forming from the head down. This same image was also present on the 110 Instamatic film shot at precisely the same moment. Therefore, two cameras registered the same event even though in this case it was not visible to the naked eye.

Photo #3 is again another SX-70 photograph taken in a Jewish cemetery in broad daylight. Who said there are no daytime ghosts? Most of the pictures that I have collected were taken in bright sunlight. This was taken by a woman at the grave of her grandmother who died at the age of 83. We are told that the photo the woman took before this one (#3) appeared to be perfectly normal. The next four pictures taken after this one would not exit properly and the camera refused to operate further. Since this was a loaned camera from a friend, it was sent back to Polaroid for analysis and warranty work. The camera and film were sent back to the woman without having been repaired since no camera or film defects were found.

You will notice a strange, mist-like appearance throughout the photo and, if you look closely, you will see two distinct individuals within the mist. To the extreme left of the first tombstone there is a boy's right arm and elbow extending down, appearing to be holding a young girl in his lap. In between the two tombstones there is evidence of a young

girl's face with long streaming brown hair. Her two arms apparently hold something in her lap, perhaps an animal or stuffed toy. This is an incredible picture; one that completely amazed me as to the intricate detail that I was later able to pick out.

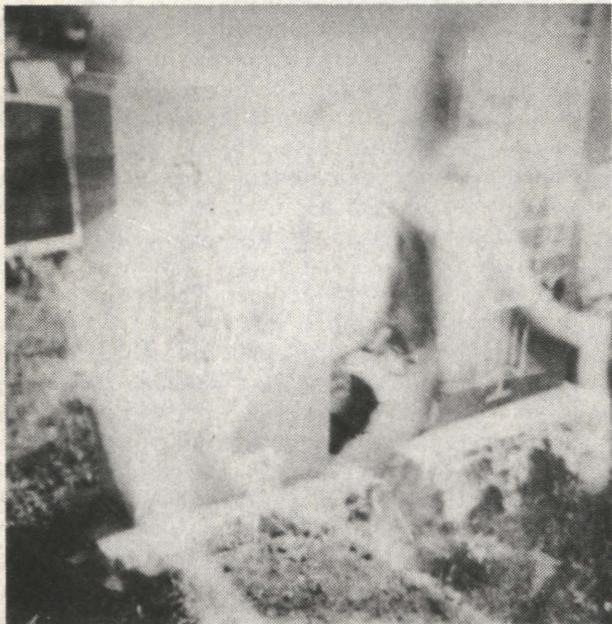


Figure 3



Figure 4

Photo #4 was taken with high-speed color Ektachrome slide film pushed to 400 ASA on Halloween evening in 1979. The photograph was taken at a mausoleum and crematorium which has no known history of haunting phenomena. The only apparent light source available that particular evening was a set of spotlights illuminating the front of the building. What is most noticeable are the two yellow areas

of light which appear in the shaded part of the building; not the reflective front as would be expected. Closer examination reveals a greenish tinge on the extreme left side of each area of light which, I feel, represents some sort of movement through the color spectrum. This photograph was shown to professional psychics who agreed that the manifestations are guardian spirits of some sort that were captured quite by accident on that particular evening. These lights, apparently, were not visible to the naked eye as is often the case. When something is not visible to the naked eye it almost always will be picked up by the film. The one time I did see something visible and photographed it, it failed to appear on any pictures.



Figure 5

Photo #5 was again taken in a cemetery just across the street from the mausoleum and crematorium in photo #4. This photograph was taken at night with high-speed infrared black and white film with a time exposure of several seconds. What is most interesting about this picture is the shadowy smoke-like image of a man standing between the tree and the double tombstones. He appears to be wearing a brimmed hat on his head; his left arm is semi-transparent. Images like these are the most common to pick up next to mist-like 'fogs.' This image was, once again, not visible to me while taking the picture and I didn't know I had captured anything on the film until after the film was developed.

The last photograph, #6, is most interesting because I now believe it is not a ghost photograph but something I refer to as a "psychic" photograph. There is a distinct difference. A spirit photograph is a picture that might depict an apparition of a once-living person while a psychic photograph is usually something that a living person might have caused. This photo was taken in 1957 near a house which no longer exists in Chicago. A girl was the subject of the picture and the camera used was an old Polaroid instant camera. There was nothing out of the ordinary about the girl at the time the picture was taken but when the film was removed from the camera, a strange whitish mist appeared.

The right side of the mist is sharply cut off while the other side is more tenuous. Some parts are opaque while other parts seem to be translucent. There are also strands or filaments of a substance which might be ectoplasm exuding from the girl's stomach region or what many psychics would

call a stomach chakra or a point of energy release. It seems to me that the girl herself might have been consciously or unconsciously producing the substance. I have since met with the girl in the photograph and found her to be extremely psychic.

In closing, psychic photography is not hard to perform but it usually takes a great deal of patience before getting a first photograph. I would like to leave you with some tips on infrared photography since this is the most promising area of exploration:



Figure 6

1. Infrared film is very tricky to use and highly sensitive to heat, therefore it must be kept refrigerated before use. About one hour before loading, take the film out and allow it to warm up to room temperature to prevent possible fogging of the film.
2. Since this type of film is highly sensitive to infrared light, it must be loaded and unloaded in *total* darkness, not subdued light. A pitch black closet will do quite nicely, and while a photographic darkroom is even better, do not use a red safety light since it also gives off infrared radiation. Put the exposed roll back in the original film canister, tape it shut and mark it properly for film developers. If you are not going to have this film developed immediately, place the exposed film back in the refrigerator. I suggest not keeping the film in the camera for more than a few days but if this is not possible, place the entire camera in a cool location. A basement is often ideal.

3. Since infrared film has no set ASA you must decide in which lighting conditions you intend to work. When shooting the film outdoors in bright sunlight, a setting of 100 ASA should be sufficient. If you intend to use the film indoors or at night, then the setting should be at least 400 ASA. Be sure to inform the processor as to what ASA setting you used so your film can be developed accordingly. Do not let anyone open the canister in the store. It must be opened in total darkness, otherwise light will ruin the film and all photographs on the roll. Black and white infrared is better to use than color infrared because of the strange tones obtained by using color film. It is easier to distinguish paranormal images because you have only black, white and varying shades of gray to deal with.
4. Kodak recommends that black and white infrared film be used with a No. 25 red filter. This is only advisable under certain conditions. It is good to try a variety of filters or no filters at all since filters restrict certain light and color spectra from reaching the emulsion layers of the film and since we don't know yet if spirits operate within these certain frequencies. You still get varied responses but this is the best bet for capturing images on film that I have found.
5. Try not to use a flash when you photograph since this will only tend to give you strange light reflections and a flash bounce which might be mistaken for ghost images. Use a steady tripod, cable release and time exposures. Doing the above should provide you with much better photographs. The use of two cameras is also important. You will then have another picture to compare to the infrared. If something appears on the infrared film and not on the high-speed film, shot at the same instant at the same area, you may have something of interest. If it is visible phenomena, a flash bounce, reflection or visible shadow, it should appear on both films, not just the infrared.

I hope these tips have been useful and I wish you good luck in your ventures in pursuit of a photo of a phantom. If you have taken a strange photograph or know of someone who has one in their possession and would like a detailed analysis of it, please put them in touch with me personally. As many details as possible should be provided such as: time of day, direction of sunlight (if any), type of film and camera, subject of photograph, and film speed. The negative should be sent whenever possible as well as the photos taken before and after the photo in question. All photographs and negatives will be returned in about two weeks.

Please note: *The analysis performed on any picture submitted to me and the Ghost Research Society is free. There is no fee for the service as we feel knowledge is priceless.*

Direct all pictures and inquiries to: Dale Kaczmarek, c/o Ghost Research Society, PO Box 205, Oaklawn, IL., 60454-0205, USA or call 312-425-5163. All pictures, names and information will be held in the strictest of confidence. Good luck!

Editor's Note: There have been various reports about capturing spirit images on film. We feel it is appropriate, since we have done articles on mechanical dowsing, metal bending, etc., to offer encouragement to our members to participate in their own investigations of various unexplaineds. Ghost phenomena experiments can be performed by each one of our members.



Who's Watching Us?

United States Military Records Strange Happenings At Nuclear / Star Wars Facilities

by Harry Lebelson

It was in 1928 when a General Electric scientist wrote in *Scientific Monthly* that if science ever achieved atomic fission, the world's "whole economic system and daily life might be revolutionized." In 1939, that dream became a reality, when successful fission of the U-235 (uranium) atom was achieved. Science had split the atom and with that came a deluge of articles detailing future predictions for its commercial and domestic use in the United States. The pabulum fed to Americans everywhere from the early 1940s on was that the new energy source would be a panacea for all problems then confronting the country. Running the gamut from atomic-powered airplanes and subterranean homes heated and cooled by walls of radioactive uranium, to an atomic-powered agricultural revolution in which "animals would grow bigger and quicker," the myths prevailed.

It wasn't until the mid 1940s however, that Americans realized that the promised potential of the atomic age would be a long day in coming. Other priorities loomed dominantly on the landscape. The country was at war with Japan and the central issue then facing the United States government was how to shorten the war and restore peace and prosperity to the world. Unbeknown to the population at large, was a top-secret government project of unparalleled dimensions known as "The Manhattan Project." Staffed by thousands of corporate executives, scientists, engineers, production men, technicians, clerks and laborers, they jointly developed, in sworn silence, the "ultimate" weapon, the atomic bomb. It was the testing of this weapon and the subsequent destruction of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the A-bombs on August 6th and 9th, 1945, that perhaps, more than any other series of events, initiated surveillance by unidentified flying objects (UFOs) of the facilities responsible for the bomb's development. Intelligence documents from such government agencies as the National Security Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency, CIA and FBI, released under the Freedom of Information Act in 1980, clearly show that such UFO overflights took place.

The Manhattan Project's main nerve centers, consisting of facilities in Chicago, Illinois; Los Alamos and Alamogordo, New Mexico; Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and Hanford, Washington, supported by millions in government funding, continued to advance the sophistication of these devices. Beginning in 1946, major atmospheric testing took place. Bombs were detonated at Bikini Atoll that year and at Eniwetok Atoll in 1948. One year earlier, in 1947, concurrent with these tests, the government began to also explore the peaceful development of atomic energy with the first pilot nuclear power plant built at Los Alamos, New Mexico. Both these military and domestic projects came under careful scrutiny by military and scientific personnel at a time when perhaps, they themselves were unknowingly under a cosmic microscope.

A Freedom of Information Act document, File No. (24-B) - 28, from the Office of the Inspector General, United States Air Force's District Office of Special Investigations at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico, clearly delineates the breaching of security by UFOs. (See document A) The subject of this official government document deals with a summary of observations of aerial phenomena in the New Mexico area from December, 1948 thru May, 1950. The memorandum, addressed to Brigadier General Joseph F. Carroll, Director of Special Investigations at United States Air Force Headquarters in Washington, D.C., discusses a liaison meeting with military and government intelligence and investigative agencies in December, 1948. The report stated:

"It was determined that the frequency of unexplained aerial phenomena in the New Mexico area was such that an organized plan of reporting these observations should be undertaken."

Along with a compilation of those sightings, the report went on to state:

"Observers of those phenomena include scientists, special agents of the Office of Special Investigations, USAF airline and military pilots, Los Alamos security inspectors, and other military personnel."

The subjects of their observations were broken down into 3 categories: (1) green fireball phenomenon (2) disc or variation of such (3) meteoric. Item six of the report perhaps best sums it up:

6. "This summary of observations of aerial phenomena has been prepared for the purpose of re-emphasizing and reiterating the fact that phenomena have continuously occurred in the New Mexico skies during the past 18 months and are continuing to occur, and secondly, that these phenomena are occurring in the vicinity of sensitive military and government installations."

The report, which included photographs of various sightings, was signed by Lt. Colonel Doyle Rees, USAF District Commander.

With the advent of the Soviet Union detonating an atomic bomb in September, 1949, the already existing atomic arms race was accelerated. Armed with a budget of over one billion dollars, President Truman in 1950, enlisted the aid of the Du Pont Corporation in building a giant hydrogen-bomb facility. Mobilizing technicians and scientists throughout the country, the project was given top priority. In fact, the Atomic Energy Commission's contract with General Electric to build a prototype atomic power plant was terminated. The work force for that project was instead diverted to bomb production. On January 31, 1950, President Truman made it official; the AEC would proceed with work "on all forms of atomic weapons, including the

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS
DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

14

DR/ms
25 May 1950

File No: (24-B)-28

SUBJECT: Summary of Observations of Aerial Phenomena in the New Mexico Area, December 1946 - May 1950

TO: Brigadier General Joseph F. Carroll
Director of Special Investigations
Headquarters USAF
Washington 25, D. C.

1. In a liaison meeting with other military and government intelligence and investigative agencies in December 1946, it was determined that the frequency of unexplained aerial phenomena in the New Mexico area was such that an organized plan of reporting these observations should be undertaken. The organization and physical location of units of this District were most suitable for collecting these data, therefore, since December 1946, this District has assumed the responsibility for collecting and reporting basic information with respect to aerial phenomena occurring in this general area. These reports have been distributed to the Air Materiel Command, USAF, in accordance with Air Intelligence Requirements No. 4, and to other interested military and government agencies.

2. There is attached, as a part of this summary, a compilation of aerial phenomena sightings that have occurred mostly in the New Mexico area and have been reported by this District Office subsequent to December 1946. This compilation of sightings is not a complete record of all reported observations, but it is a representative sample of the information available to justify their inclusion. The observations of these phenomena include scientists, Special Agents of the Office of Special Investigations (OSI) USAF, airline pilots, military pilots, Los Alamos Security Inspectors, military personnel, and many other persons of various occupations whose reliability is not questioned. This compilation sets forth the most important characteristics with respect to each observation and evaluates each sighting into one of three classifications, (1) green fireball phenomenon, (2) disc or variation, and (3) other.

3. There is also attached an analysis of the green fireball occurrences in this area made by Dr. Lincoln LaPaiz. Dr. LaPaiz is the

CONFIDENTIAL

28 May 1950

Document A

so-called hydrogen or superbomb."

Throughout the 1950s, and on into the 60s and 70s, the facilities born of the Manhattan Project such as those at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Los Alamos and Alamogordo, New Mexico, became mainstays in the development of nuclear energy for both domestic and military use. With the spearheading of innovative technology, an accelerated nuclear arms struggle began, as both the United States and the Soviet Union vied for bigger and better bombs and missiles. Attempts were made to impersonalize the nuclear threat in the 1960s and early 1970s by once again shifting the focus of the American people toward the promise of a world transformed by the peaceful uses of atomic energy. This time the utopian dream was focused on nuclear power, reinforced by the reality of power plants springing up from Maine to California. Thanks to heavy promotion by the nuclear power industry, they were viewed by most Americans in a hopeful and favorite light.

Once again, the gains made both militarily and domestically regarding nuclear energy over those three decades, came under the watchful eye of UFO surveillance. In their book *Clear Intent - The Government Coverup of the UFO Experience*, a compilation of documents related to UFOs released under the Freedom of Information Act, Lawrence Fawcett and Barry Greenwood detail the facts behind UFO scrutiny during this crucial period of nuclear proliferation. In the preface to their book (Prentice Hall, 1984) they state, "A NORAD document dated November 11, 1975, is probably one of the most signifi-

File No: (24-B)-28
Subj: Summary of Observations of Aerial Phenomena in the New Mexico Area, December 1946 - May 1950
25 May 1950

Director of the Institute of Mathematics and Head of the Department of Mathematics and Astronomy at the University of New Mexico. He was Research Mathematician at the New Mexico Proving Grounds under an GSND appointment in 1943 and 1944, and Technical Director of the Operations Analysis Section, Headquarters, Second Air Force, 1944-45. Since 1948, Dr. LaPaiz has served on a voluntary basis as consultant for this District in connection with the green fireball investigations.

4. On 17 February 1949 and again on 14 October 1949, conferences were held at Los Alamos, New Mexico, for the purpose of discussing the green fireball phenomena. Representatives of the following organizations were present at these meetings: Fourth Army, Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, University of New Mexico, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, University of California, U. S. Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, Geophysical Research Division Air Materiel Command USAF and the Office of Special Investigations (OSI). A logical explanation was not proffered with respect to the origin of the green fireballs. It was, however, generally concluded that the phenomena existed and that they should be studied scientifically until these occurrences have been satisfactorily explained. Further, that the continued occurrence of unexplained phenomena of this nature in the vicinity of sensitive installations is cause for concern.

5. The Geophysical Research Division, Air Materiel Command, Cambridge, Massachusetts, has recently let a contract to Land-Air, Inc., Holloman AFB, Alamogordo, New Mexico, for a limited scientific study of green fireballs. The results of this scientific approach to the problem will undoubtedly be of great value in determining the origin of these phenomena.

6. This summary of observations of aerial phenomena has been prepared for the purpose of re-examining and reinterpreting the fact that phenomena have continuously occurred in the New Mexico area during the past 18 months and are continuing to occur, and secondly that these phenomena are occurring in the vicinity of sensitive military and government installations.

- 4 Incls
- 1. Summary of Sightings
- 2. Photo of Sighting No. 175
- 3. Air Fr. Dr. LaPaiz to Lt. Col. MacC, dtd 23 May 50
- 4. Graph indicating maximums

D. J. Tree
DOYLE REIS
Lt Colonel, USAF
District Commander

CONFIDENTIAL

File No: (24-B)-28
Subj: Summary of Observations of Aerial Phenomena in the New Mexico Area, December 1946 - May 1950
25 May 1950

- DISTRIBUTION:
- 6 cys, Director of Special Investigations, Headquarters USAF
 - 1 cy, CG, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
 - ATM: Director of Technical Intelligence
 - 1 cy, CG, Special Weapons Command, Kirtland AFB, New Mexico
 - 1 cy, CG, Armed Services Special Weapons Project, Sandia Base, New Mexico. ATDI: J-2
 - 1 cy, CG, Headquarters, Fourth Army, Ft. S. Houston, Texas
 - ATDI: AC of S. G. 2
 - 1 cy, CO, Holloman AFB, New Mexico
 - 1 cy, CO, Air Force Research Laboratories, Cambridge, Mass.
 - 1 cy, Director, Security Division, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, Los Alamos, New Mexico. ATDI: Mr. D. O. Telle
 - 1 cy, Federal Bureau of Investigation, El Paso, Texas
 - 1 cy, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Albuquerque, New Mexico
 - 1 cy, Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, Pentagon Building
 - ATDI: -Dr. Joseph Kaplan
 - 1 cy, Research and Development Board, Pentagon Building
 - ATDI: -Dr. H. E. Landsberg, Executive Director, Committee on Geophysics and Geography
 - 1 cy, File

Document B

Editor's Note: We regret that space does not permit us to reproduce these documents in full 8 1/2 x 11 format as they were originally sent to us by Mr. Lebelson. This is the best reproduction we can offer our readers with the copy that was given to us. However, anyone wishing to receive copies of the copies that we have can do so by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Mr. Lebelson in care of SITU.

cant modern examples of suspicious unknown air activity possibly affecting national security.” (See document B) The document tells how, during October and early November of 1975, reliable personnel at Loring Air Force Base, Maine and four other facilities had visually sighted suspicious aerial objects. The UFOs were reported to be seen over sensitive military areas such as missile control facilities, aircraft alert areas, and nuclear weapons storage areas where security is generally tight.

Updating this surveillance, and bringing it into the 1980s is the recent UFO involvement in monitoring the United States domestic efforts regarding nuclear energy — its power plants. In a bold headlined story dated January 12, 1985, the White Plains, New York, *Reporter Dispatch* revealed the breaching of security by UFOs at a nuclear power plant. (See document C) “UFOs — Did aliens buzz Indian Point plant?” told how on the night of July 24, 1984, a dozen security officers spotted a large V-shaped UFO hovering over the nuclear facility. Phil Imbrogno, an investigator for the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Illinois, interviewed six guards regarding their part in the events that took place that night. Of the six guards interviewed, more than one of them had compelling stories to tell.

According to a telephone conversation this writer had with Imbrogno, the investigator stated that one of the guards, Louis Platti, a 3-year veteran with the power authority, described the object as being over 300 feet in length. “He,” (Platti) stated that “the object had a dark outline, but you could see it was a solid body.” According to Platti and other witnesses, the object made no noise during the time it was sighted. The unknown, which got to within 300 feet of the nuclear reactor at a height of several hundred feet, was in full view of the guards for at least 20 minutes. The seriousness of the event prompted supervisors to break out shotguns which were immediately distributed to all guards in case some action had to be taken. After all, this wasn't the first time this object had violated the nuclear plant's security. On June 14th, a similar incident had also taken place.

Although civilian and military uses of nuclear energy were deeply interwoven, with recycled plutonium from nuclear power plants being used for weapons production, it would take the Reagan administration to bring this technology to new heights. On March 23, 1983, in his famous “Star Wars” speech, President Reagan announced to the world his plans for a space-based missile defense system capable of denying the Soviet Union a first-strike capability. Nicknamed “Star Wars” after the George Lucas science-fiction film of the same name, but more formally known as the Strategic Defense Initiative, the program moved forward with unbounded urgency. Not since the Manhattan Project, have scientific and industrial forces been mobilized to meet the demands set upon it by an administration bent on realizing their goals in a 3- to 5-year period.

Already involved in the production of nuclear weapons, both Lawrence Livermore Laboratories and its sister facility, Sandia Laboratories, sharing a budget of \$35 billion have shifted their production skills to “Star Wars” weapons development. Also involved in this research are military installations at Los Alamos and Alamogordo, New Mexico, and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. Through the Hertz Foundation, an organization founded by John D. Hertz of Hertz rental car fame and the Yellow Cab Company, fellowships were given to graduate students in the applied sciences. This foundation had

been a conduit for some of the most talented and innovative individuals now working at Lawrence Livermore. One such recruit, Rod Hyde, took on the challenge of channeling the power of nuclear explosions into deadly beams that would flash through space and destroy enemy missiles. He and his co-workers are currently developing an x-ray laser which harnesses its energy from a nuclear explosion. The initial testing of this innovative weapon dates back to February 23, 1981, when, according to *Aviation Week and Space Technology* magazine, it was first successfully tested at a secret Nevada site. Theoretically, x-ray laser beams should be able to heat the skins of enemy missiles as hot as the sun, causing violent, extremely rapid evaporation.

While high-priority testing continues at Livermore, Sandia Laboratory engineers and researchers at Albuquerque, New Mexico are engaged in particle beam weapons research. Most of Sandia's work is done on a corner of Kirtland Air Force Base, a sprawling military complex. Located there are the Air Force Weapons Laboratory and the field command of the Defense Nuclear Agency. This nuclear design and production agency conducts its research and development over many acres of test range including a remote zone known as Coyote Canyon, an area surrounded by the barren Manzano Mountains.

From NATO-based F-16 aircraft carrying nuclear gravity bombs and Lockheed P-3C Orions armed with nuclear depth charges to the “Star Wars” SP-100 space-based nuclear reactor program, the United States nuclear threat remains all pervasive. As the SDI research takes on a life of its own and moves along “beyond any of our expectations,” according to the president's science advisor George Keyworth, security once again has become a top priority. Due to lax security conditions found at a site where the Department of Energy makes plutonium and tritium for bombs, and a similar situation at Los Alamos National Laboratory, stringent security tests were instituted. Drills, raids, and nighttime helicopter landings staged by Department of Energy auditors posing as terrorists and Soviet spies, tested security capabilities. Yet, in spite of these measures, unidentified flying objects (UFOs) have successfully penetrated such security and, in fact, have landed in those very areas where “Star Wars” research is today being conducted.

An administrative data memorandum, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act dated September 9, 1980, from Major Ernest E. Edwards of Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, tells of the bizarre encounters. On 5 separate evenings during August-September of 1980, UFOs flew reconnaissance over the Manzano Weapons Storage Area in Coyote Canyon, a Department of Defense restricted test range. The incidents began on the evening of August 8th, when, according to document number 8017A93-0/29, (See document D) the following occurred:

“On 8 Aug. 80, three Security Policemen assigned to 1608 SPS, KAFB, NM, on duty inside the Manzano Weapons Storage Area sighted an unidentified light in the air that traveled from north to south over the Coyote Canyon area of the Department of Defense Restricted Test Range on KAFB, NM.”

Three security policemen; Staff Sergeant Stephen Ferenz, Area Supervisor, Airman 1st Class Martin W. Rist, and Airman Anthony D. Frazier, all related the same statement. In summariz-

C O N F I D E N T I A L
SUBJ: SUSPICIOUS UNKNOWN AIR ACTIVITY
THIS MESSAGE IN FIVE PARTS.
PART I. SINCE 28 OCT 75 NUMEROUS REPORTS OF SUSPICIOUS OBJECTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AT THE NORAD CUC, RELIABLE MILITARY PERSONNEL AT LORING AFB MAINE, WURTSMITH AFB, MICHIGAN, MALMSTROM AFB MT, MINOT AFB ND, AND CANADIAN FORCES STATION FALCONBRIDGE ONTARIO, CANADA, HAVE VISUALLY SIGHTED SUSPICIOUS OBJECTS, PART II, OBJECTS AT LORING AND WURTSMITH WERE CHARACTERIZED TO BE HELICOPTERS, MISSILE SITE PERSONNEL, SECURITY ALERT TEAMS AND AIR DEFENSE PERSONNEL AT MALMSTROM MONTANA REPORT AN OBJECT WHICH SOUNDED LIKE A JET AIRCRAFT.

PAGE 2 RUWRNLB5409 C O N F I D E N T I A L
FAA ADVISED THERE WERE NO JET AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY. MALMSTROM SEARCH AND HEIGHT FINDER RADARS CARRIED THE OBJECT BETWEEN 8500 FT AND 15,600 FT AT A SPEED OF SEVEN KNOTS. THERE WAS INTERMITTENT RADAR CONTACT WITH THE OBJECT FROM 080753Z THRU 0900Z NOV 75. F-106S SCRAMBLED FROM MALMSTROM COULD NOT MAKE CONTACT DUE TO DARKNESS AND LOW ALTITUDE. SITE PERSONNEL REPORTED THE OBJECT AS LOW AS 200 FT AND SAID THAT AS THE INTERCEPTORS APPROACHED THE LIGHTS WENT OUT, AFTER THE INTERCEPTORS HAD PASSED THE LIGHTS CAME ON AGAIN. ONE HOUR AFTER THE F106S

PAGE 1 C O N F I D E N T I A L

RETURNED TO BASE MISSILE SITE PERSONNEL REPORTED THE OBJECT INCREASED TO A HIGH SPEED, RAISED IN ALTITUDE AND COULD NOT BE DISCERNED FROM THE STARS. PART III. MINOT AFB ON 18 NOV REPORTED THAT THE SITE WAS BUZZED BY A BRIGHT OBJECT THE SIZE OF A CAR AT AN ALTITUDE OF 1000 TO 2000 FT, THERE WAS NO NOISE EMITTED BY THE VEHICLE. PART IV, THIS MORNING, 11 NOV 75, CFS FALCONBRIDGE REPORTED SEARCH AND HEIGHT FINDER RADAR PRINTS ON AN OBJECT

PAGE 3 RUWRNLB5409 C O N F I D E N T I A L
25 TO 30 NAUTICAL MILES SOUTH OF THE SITE RANGING IN ALTITUDE FROM 26,000 FT TO 72,000 FT. THE SITE COMMANDER AND OTHER PERSONNEL SAW THE OBJECT APPEARED AS A BRIGHT STAR BUT MUCH CLOSER. WITH BINOCULARS THE OBJECT APPEARED AS A 100 FT DIAMETER SPHERE AND APPEARED TO HAVE CRATERS AROUND THE OUTSIDE. PART V. BE ASSURED THAT THIS COMMAND IS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY AND PROVIDE SOLID FACTUAL INFORMATION ON THESE SIGHTINGS. I HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED MY CONCERN TO SAFOI THAT HE CAME UP SOUNDFY WITH A PROPOSED ANSWER TO QUERIES FROM THE PRESS TO PREVENT OVER REACTION BY THE PUBLIC TO REPORTS BY THE MEDIA THAT MAY BE BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION. TO DATE EFFORTS BY AIR GUARD HELICOPTERS, SAC HELICOPTERS AND NORAD F106S HAVE FAILED TO PRODUCE POSITIVE ID.
XGDS-2.
BT
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ANNOTES
TJ

Document C

REPORTER DISPATCH, White Plains, NY - Jan. 12, 1985

UFOs

Did aliens buzz Indian Point plant?

By Jon Grady
Staff Writer

Shotguns were drawn and the National Guard was notified.

But officials of the New York Power Authority will not release details about what happened last summer at the Indian Point nuclear power complex during the reported sighting of an unidentified flying object near the reactor.

A dozen security officers at the Indian Point 3 nuclear plant spotted a large UFO on July 24, 1984, according to Phillip Imbrogno, an astronomer with the Center for UFO Studies.

Imbrogno, of Greenwich, Conn., an investigator for the Evanston, Ill. center, said this week. "It was quite an incident and they were quite upset."

He interviewed six guards who contacted him about the sighting. They said the UFO was 900 feet long and hovered over the plant for 15 minutes, according to Imbrogno. There was a similar incident on June 14, he said.

Carl Patrick, a spokesman for NYPA, operator of Unit 3, confirmed the sightings but said, "It's a six-month-old story."

Larry Rombach, a resident inspector with the Nuclear Regulatory

Commission, recalled Friday that guards were discussing the incident when he reported to work the following day.

Said Rombach, "I didn't see it, (but) I remember some guys said they saw it. I accept them as reasonable people."

He said the sighting did not interrupt plant operations.

One security officer, who requested anonymity, said the object was 100 feet long, looked like helicopters in V-formation, made some noise and hovered 300 yards above the plant. He said guards "broke out the shotguns."

John Branciforte, a power authority security coordinator, said Friday, "I think people are going to publish stories on hysteria (and) misinformation. As far as I'm concerned, it's pure speculation."

Regarding a report that officers "broke out the shotguns," the commander said, "We just don't do things like that. He (Imbrogno) could possibly be making it up or he took what they (witnesses) gave him and stretched it out."

Another officer, who also asked for anonymity, added, "I talked to some of the people who believe it was something, but some people let their imaginations get worked up. I believe it was nothing. I'm sure a lot of it was very badly inflated."

Patrick and Kenneth V. Spiro, zone sergeant for Troop K of the New York State Police, said they believed the sightings were Cessna 152s flown by pranksters out of Stormville Airport.

"As far as we're concerned, there are no such things as UFOs," Spiro said Thursday.

But Imbrogno said Cessnas can be ruled out for that evening because winds gusted at 24 mph, too strong for most small planes. Imbrogno asked, "If it were pranksters, then why hasn't anyone come down on them?"

Jeffrey Baughman of Dutchess County, who leases out two small aircraft which he says may have been involved in other reported UFO sightings, said Friday he doesn't know anything about the Indian Point incident, but, "It's possible that my

plane was involved, but I wasn't."

Because his planes are leased to Stormville Flight School, he said, any qualified pilot can rent them for the day and "do whatever they want." Baughman said the flight school keeps records of first names only and could not trace who rented the plane the day of the sighting.

Patrick said, "A lot of people saw UFOs. The sightings at Indian Point were at the same time and of the same sort as other sightings. I'm not going to confirm or deny any details."

He said pilots of private and commercial planes use the plant as a "handy landmark" when flying nearby. "From the air it's easy to pick out," Patrick said. "I don't know of any... regulations that restrict the airspace around Indian Point," he said.

Imbrogno said, "The commander gave the order to pull out the shotguns and they summoned Camp Smith, but we have no documents."

Imbrogno has filed a Freedom of Information request with the NRC and NYPA for documents on the sighting. Brian Norris, a regional NRC spokesman, said his agency received the request about three weeks ago but has no documentation of the sighting.

The first reports of Indian Point UFOs were aired this week by Gerry Culliton, night editor and afternoon anchor at WVIP radio in Mount Kisco.

Joan Holt of the New York Public Interest Research Group, which opposes nuclear power, said, "That's an angle I never thought about. The risk of UFOs."

Ms. Holt said the apparent sighting raises several concerns, including how to secure the plant from pranksters and whether the 6-month lag in official word of the July incident means it was taken too lightly or too seriously.

"We have enough known dangers at Indian Point without having unknown dangers," she said.

— Staff Writer Michael Slickman also contributed to this report.

ing Item 1 of the document, it says:

At approximately 2350 hrs., while on duty in Charlie Sector, East Side of Manzano, the 3 observed a very bright light traveling with great speed which stopped suddenly

in the sky over Coyote Canyon. The policemen then observed the object's strange aerial maneuvers (stop and go) and watched as the light landed in the Coyote Canyon area. Sometime later, the three witnessed the light take off and leave, proceed straight up at a high speed and disappear.

Item 3 of the same document states:

"Russ Curtis, Sandia Security, advised that on 9 Aug. 80, a Sandia security guard, (who wishes his name not be divulged for fear of harassment), related the following: At approximately 0020 hrs., he was driving East on the Coyote Canyon access road on a routine building check of an alarmed structure. As he approached the structure he observed a bright light near the ground behind the structure. He also observed an object he first thought was a helicopter. But after driving closer, he observed a round disk shaped object. He attempted to radio for a back up patrol but his radio would not work. As he approached the object on foot armed with a shotgun, the object took off in a vertical direction at a high rate of speed."

The document goes on to state that on August 22, 1980, three other security policemen observed the same aerial phenomena described by the first three witnesses. Again the object landed in Coyote Canyon. Item 6 of this important document records the sightings of a New Mexico State Patrolman, who, on August 10th, sighted an aerial object landing in the Manzano range at Albuquerque, New Mexico. The last entry which closed out the report stated:

"On 8 September 80, it was learned from Sandia Security that another Security Guard observed an object land near an alarmed structure sometime during the first week of August, but did not report it until just recently for fear of harassment. The two alarmed structures located within the area contains HQCR44 - Nuclear materials."

Perhaps President Reagan's Freudian slip was showing that December 5, 1985, when before a group of Fallston, Maryland high school students he hypothesized that differences with Russia would soon disappear if this planet faced a threat from a species of another world. More in keeping with reality is the possibility that alien surveillance will continue as long as world governments continue along the nuclear path toward potential planetary destruction. One only wonders if the rumblings made by the United States most recent underground nuclear bomb test of December 11, 1985 won't once again attract those spaced-out visitors from who knows where and thus create even more paperwork for those guys at Kirtland Air Force Base.

References

1. *Day Of The Bomb (Countdown To Hiroshima)*, Dan Kurzman, McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1986
2. *Star Warriors*, William J. Broad, Simon and Schuster, N.Y., 1985
3. *Clear Intent (The Government Coverup Of The UFO Experience)*, Lawrence Fawcett and Barry J. Greenwood, Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1984
4. *By The Bombs Early Light (American Thought And Culture At The Dawn Of The Atomic Age)*, Paul Boyer, Pantheon Books, N.Y., 1985
5. *Freedom Of Information Act Documents (UFO) Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS)*
6. *The White Plains, New York — Reporter Dispatch*, January 12, 1985
7. *Time Magazine*, January 6, 1986

COMPLAINT FORM		No. 1005	
ADMINISTRATIVE DATA			
TITLE KIRTLAND AFB, NM, 8 Aug - 3 Sep 80, All-ward Sightings of Unidentified Aerial Lights in Restricted Test Range.		DATE 2 9 Sept 80	TIME 1200
PLACE AFOSI Det 1700, Kirtland AFB, NM		HOW RECEIVED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PERSON <input type="checkbox"/> TELEPHONICALLY <input type="checkbox"/> IN WRITING	
SOURCE AND EVALUATION MAJOR ERNEST E. EDWARDS			
RESIDENCE OR BUSINESS ADDRESS Commander, 1608 SPS, Manzano Kirtland AFB, NM		PHONE 4-7516	
# CR 44 APPLIES			
SUMMARY OF INFORMATION			
REMARKS			
1. On 2 Sept 80, SOURCE related on 8 Aug 80, three Security Policemen assigned to 1608 SPS, KAFB, NM, on duty inside the Manzano Weapons Storage Area sighted an unidentified light in the air that traveled from North to South over the Coyote Canyon area of the Department of Defense Restricted Test Range on KAFB, NM. The Security Policemen identified as: SSGT STEPHEN FERRENZ, Area Supervisor, AIC MARTIN W. RIST and ANN ANTHONY D. FRAZIER, were later interviewed separately by SOURCE and all three related the same statement; At approximately 2350hrs., while on duty in Charlie Sector, East Side of Manzano, the three observed a very bright light in the sky approximately 3 miles North-North East of their position. The light traveled with great speed and stopped suddenly in the sky over Coyote Canyon. The three first thought the object was a helicopter, however, after observing the strange aerial maneuvers (stop and go), they felt a helicopter couldn't have performed such skills. The light landed in the Coyote Canyon area. Sometime later, three witnessed the light take off and leave proceeding straight up at a high speed and disappear.			
2. Central Security Control (CSC) inside Manzano, contacted Sandia Security, who conducts frequent building checks on two alarmed structures in the area. They advised that a patrol was already in the area and would investigate.			
3. On 11 Aug 80, RUSS CURTIS, Sandia Security, advised that on 9 Aug 80, a Sandia Security Guard, (who wishes his name not be divulged for fear of harassment), related the following: At approximately 0020hrs., he was driving East on the Coyote Canyon access road on a routine building check of an alarmed structure. As he approached the structure he observed a bright light near the ground behind the structure. He also observed an object he first thought was a helicopter. But after driving closer, he observed a round disk shaped object. He attempted to radio for a back up patrol but his radio would not work. As he approached the object on foot armed with a shotgun, the object took off in a vertical direction at a high rate of speed. The guard was a former helicopter mechanic in the U.S. Army and stated the object he observed was not a helicopter.			
4. SOURCE advised on 27 Aug 80, three other security policemen observed the same			
DATE FORWARDED TO AFOSI 10 Aug 80		AFOSI FORM # ATTACHED <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
DATE 8 Sept 80	TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT RICHARD C. DOTY, SA	SIGNATURE <i>Richard C. Doty</i>	
DISTRICT FILE NO 8017893-0/27	DCI RESULTS <input type="checkbox"/> NEGATIVE <input type="checkbox"/> POSITIVE (See Attached)		
AFOSI FORM 1 PREVIOUS EDITION WILL BE USED			

CONTINUED FROM COMPL. FORM 1, DTD 9 Sept 80

serial phenomena described by the first three. Again the object landed in Coyote Canyon. They did not see the object take off.

5. Coyote Canyon is part of a large restricted test range used by the Air Force Weapons Laboratory, Sandia Laboratories, Defense Nuclear Agency and the Department of Energy. The range was formerly patrolled by Sandia Security, however, they only conduct building checks there now.

6. On 10 Aug 80, a New Mexico State Patrolman sighted an aerial object land in the Manzano's between Belen and Albuquerque, NM. The Patrolman reported the sighting to the Kirtland AFB Command Post, who later referred the patrolman to the AFOSI Dist 17. AFOSI Dist 17 advised the patrolman to make a report through his own agency. On 11 Aug 80, the Kirtland Public Information office advised the patrolman the USAF no longer investigates such sightings unless they occur on an USAF base.

7. WRITER contacted all the agencies who utilized the test range and it was learned no aerial tests are conducted in the Coyote Canyon area. Only ground tests are conducted.

8. On 8 Sept 80, WRITER learned from Sandia Security that another Security Guard observed a object land near an alarmed structure sometime during the first week of August, but did not report it until just recently for fear of harassment.

9. The two alarmed structures located within the area contains HQ CR 44 (NUCLEAR) material.

Document D



A Look at Tibetan Buddhism in America

by Eugenia Macer-Story

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I waited on the wooden second-floor porch and marveled at the fall foliage of the Catskill mountains. The slim young Tibetan who had ushered me upstairs disappeared after informing me that Trangu Rinpoche was behind schedule but would be with me "in a moment."

I felt vaguely absurd. Having already written the questions I wanted to ask the Tibetan lama, there was nothing to do but watch some leaf-lookers wander along the highway and into the woods that border the New York state forest only ten yards from the entrance to the Woodstock branch of Karma Thegsun Choling (Karma meaning "present action" and Thegsun Choling meaning "a place for the turning of the wheels of the three vehicles of consciousness").

Additionally, I glimpsed the lama's earlier guests as they were leaving. The couple seemed ceremonial, the man dressed in a gray business suit, the woman in subdued business attire. And there I was, in brown leather jacket and Levis. I felt comforted when the translator reappeared and confirmed my first impression, that my buttoned-down purple shirt, sweater-vest and jeans were every bit as clean and unpretentious as were his chinos, sport shirt and khaki windbreaker.

The translator beckoned me into one of the rooms directly off the porch. Inside was a single bed with a gold bedspread, a tiny desk, and the Tibetan lama I had come to interview.

The Rinpoche sat at the desk. I sat on a miniscule black cushion which was covered with attractive embroidery. I set down my tape recorder and took out the notebook in which I had written my questions.

The initial response to these preparations came not from the lama but from the translator, who quickly demonstrated competence as cultural liaison and interpreter. As I reached forward to start the tape, he caught my hand and pushed it away from the machine. "Don't turn that on," he commanded. "(The lama) wants to hear your questions before he answers them on tape."

Any thoughts of capturing a few choice precepts from a timeless culture left me at that moment. This lama was no artifact rented from some museum to excite nostalgia or update a social system as ancient and honorable as any known to history. Trangu Rinpoche, an intelligent, modern cleric dressed in a maroon robe, spoke calmly; all he wanted to know was "where the reporter was coming from" before he taped an interview.

I gave the interpreter my notebook and credentials. There was a short conference in Tibetan. Then I turned on my recorder and the interview began. It was to be a simple, straightforward session without pretense. My first question:

Is specific location necessary for specific action? Is there a reason that the monastery is here in Woodstock rather than elsewhere?

Trangu Rinpoche: "Yes. The monastery is located close enough to town so this will not be a problem for visitors, but not within the city because monks cannot meditate where it is noisy and distracting. The Woodstock site was chosen by his holiness, the Karmapa, because it is not heavily populated but is accessible to visitors, to facilitate communication."

I continued: "*Can demonic presence complicate meditation? Are there entities, such as angels and demons?*"

Trangu Rinpoche: "Yes. These are mental entities, so it is hard to say precisely, because we can't trace them physically. The mind has the ability to perceive these entities. If you will look back in your own life, you will understand this. Consciousness is not visible. Memories are not visible. Yet the mind can perceive beyond words. These are beneficial and negative mental entities which can affect an individual's progress."

I was especially interested in the Rinpoche's admonition to "look back on your own life" in order to perceive the action of entities within consciousness. More than his other replies, this one seemed to refer directly to my personal experience and — since the interview — I have meditated on various crucial times of my life when decisions seemed more instinctive than reasoned, yet subsequent events have brought beneficial and quite unusual results. In retrospect it seemed to me that a "spirit guide" had been present on these occasions to help me make the appropriate choices, albeit such experiences were seldom shared with associates at work, or discussed with neighbors.

The next question: "*What can be done when the 'bodichitta' (ethical intention) causes a disturbing effect on others?*"

Trangu Rinpoche: "The bodichitta mind seeks to actually benefit all living beings. But, when a person is just beginning to realize ethical responsibilities, there will be disappointment and regret that the result of good intentions does not seem to come easily. This is because the individual has not developed a stability of attitude. When the individual has inner stability, the attitude will be firm and unchangeable and therefore of greater assistance." In other words, social action should not be masochistic or destructive; one individual can help other individuals only from a position of inner strength.

"Historically, how do you see your role within the context of Tibetan Buddhism?"

"Other religious groups provide material help and service. The Tibetan Buddhists do not provide material assistance. We provide mental assistance by means of the 'dharma' teachings.* If a person has mental peace and stability, that person can deal more effectively with family,

*"dharma" is a Buddhist term of reference to the present situation of the individual, actions or decisions made in present time, and conduct according to principles of social responsibility.

community and political problems. I am here in Woodstock because I have been invited. If others did not invite me, I could not be here effectively. I am a refugee from the current political situation in Tibet. † Personally, I had no material means to come here, but I was invited because of the Buddha dharma. Buddhism is becoming popular also in Europe and Southeast Asia, due to the spread of ideas via electronic technology. Scholars like myself do not come to 'convert' people but because people seem to be naturally interested in Buddhist thought."

The interview ended abruptly but upbeat, much as it had begun. I remember hoping, as I packed up my tape recorder, that my brief word of thanks would reassure this scholarly man that I had come not to criticize but to learn — just as he had come to Woodstock by invitation, not to proselytize but to inform. It was true. No one connected with the monastery had asked for publicity; the decision to request the interview had been solely my own.

One day soon afterwards, as I was leafing through the November 1985 issue of *Smithsonian* magazine, my attention was caught by an eight-word title over the byline of Eric Valli. Could "A Life of Buddhism, Barley, Yaks and Barter" have anything to do with the interview I was about to compile from tape and notes? Sure enough, the article recounted the author's adventures in Dolpo, Nepal, including his contact with the Bon-Po sect of Tibetan Buddhism at the Tso Gompa monastery and with the holy man Tulku-Tshewang, referred to as the precious reincarnated lama of Naphakuna.

According to the story, Tulku-Tshewang, a healer and shaman, was consulted because a guide hired by Valli had been injured in an apparent accident. By divination it was discovered that an Earth-spirit had become gravely disturbed when the guide, at a previous time, had overturned some cups containing "sacred water;" the injury was not an accident but the spirit's way of showing displeasure.

Author Valli seemed much impressed by the accuracy of the shaman's pronouncement and wrote that this experience and others like it had deepened his respect for the supernatural and had broadened his belief in the presence of gods and other spirits. It was reassuring for me to read about the survival of ancient traditions among 14 million people in a country perched atop the Himalayas — half a world away from the Karma Thegsun Choling in Woodstock, N.Y.

The primary question still remained: How does the representative of a very old religious sect function within a colony of late-twentieth-century artistic, intellectual and eccentric types in a mountain resort area only two hours from New York City?

The answer is: with a great deal of humor! Here too, author Valli's view seemed to parallel my own intuitive perceptions of what makes Tibetan Buddhism attractive to its followers on opposite continents. He mentions particularly the warm and free-spirited attitude toward matters of marriage among the people of Dolpo; they accommodate to circumstances better than Westerners, who tend to become depressed when unrealistic expectations fall short of fulfillment. For example, in Dolpo a woman whose husband travels extensively may legally have a second husband so that she will always have someone to

turn to while he is away.**

In its traditional form, the teaching of Buddhism is simply that the individual, through religious self-study, should become happy. This is not meant in the trivial sense of becoming "happy" because one had bought a new stereo, although there is no reason that a new stereo should not be a part of a situation involving fundamental happiness. It is all mental, all a matter of personal attitude.

Misgivings about the monastery still crop up in Woodstock from time to time, but the Woodstock area is also continually curious about the students and teachers at the KTC monastery. Many of the students are mature adults. The person who initiated my interest in neo-Tibetan Buddhist doctrine is a woman in her early sixties who has a local cable-TV show. Another of the students is a man in his late forties or early fifties who is fond of telling those new to the monastery that he quit a great job with a Fortune-100 company in order to develop his mental capacities, and that he took the Boditsatva vow ("I will return until all humanity is enlightened") in order to further his progress. Other students are visual artists with developed skills who have been able to link their creativity to activities in the monastery by making colorful banners and figures of the Buddha for display at public events.

The most prominent of the creative people associated with the KTC monastery is poet Allen Ginsberg who gave a benefit reading for the group in the spring of 1985. At a reception following the reading I asked if he was aware of being a "channel" whereby certain Buddhist transpersonal concepts were transmitted to the public. His answer was blunt and sensible: "If I was primarily 'aware' of that heavy concept every time I went on stage to give a reading, I would not be able to function."

Ginsberg appears to have internalized his beliefs without feeling the need to proselytize as a Boditsatva, but some of the less-famous students seem to have substituted a personal form of Buddhism for the social perceptions and activities that more "mundane" people take for granted. These "personalized" Buddhists may actually be more or less at odds with the doctrine prescribed by the lamas, although it is not easy to tell exactly what the differences are; the lamas speak Tibetan when giving instructions, which then have to be rendered in English by the young Tibetan interpreters.

The presentation of "public teachings" seems on a par with the best traveling poetic or musical groups — especially if one is oriented toward mental gymnastics. I attended Trangu Rinpoche's "teachings" session on October 23, 1985 at the Woodstock Community Center. A large decorative "om" pattern had been placed over the outside door. Inside, colorful rugs laid end-to-end marked a center aisle that led to a dais. Behind it were ceiling-to-floor banners decorated with traditional mystic symbols in pastel tones. In the center of the dais was a heavy chair covered with a tapestry. At the right were unadorned chairs for the accompanying monks, and a microphone on the left stood ready to broadcast the interpreted words throughout the hall. Heads turned as Trangu Rinpoche, robed in the tradi-

*Trangu Rinpoche, when questioned during the public teachings, said that in extending transpersonal love to humanity one should reserve a special sort of love only for one's spouse, but he did not outline exact arrangements for this conjugal love, so I have added this tale from Nepal as one humorous possibility. Customs involving marriage are in such rapid flux globally that one actually does not know what might be best, so it is best to simply practice transpersonal love and ethical consideration in any situation.

†Trangu monastery in Tibet was destroyed during the Chinese cultural revolution subsequent to Trangu Rinpoche's exile in 1959.

tional lama colors of maroon with yellow trim, strode down the aisle accompanied by the abbot of the Woodstock monastery and several monks. The session began without further ceremony.

What the Rinpoche seemed to be advocating was a simple version of the phenomenological outlook.* The central premise, that nothing can be known beyond the perceptual system of the individual, has a corollary: that each person creates his or her reality by mental means. Trungu Rinpoche reworked an ancient illustration to help his listeners understand the concept of self-reflection. Each person is a mirror that reflects the individual self, not external "reality." When we look at a chair, for example, we are aware of *ourselves seeing* the chair, not the chair itself.

Others respond to our self-image as if it, too, was a mirror. The mental attitude we project strongly influences the way in which others accept us; when we smile, others see the smile and begin to smile also. In this way, we do "control" our reality — by manipulating the way others perceive our identity. Among the many concepts discussed by the Rinpoche, this one seemed most relevant to the study of "mind control," a subject which has engaged increasingly serious attention throughout our century.

As we left the lecture hall I heard some of the students chatting about their recollections of the "magic mirror" in Walt Disney's cartoon film "Snow White." The conversation showed that the Rinpoche had indeed scored elementary points for his concept. He also made it clear to the audience that his kind of magic mirror has infinite multi-image capacity. When many selves combine, the master mirror may control all the selves that have been influenced to mimic the master mirror transpersonally. For example, Sigmund Freud was, for a short time, the master mirror for a group of selves who began to see themselves only in terms of the analytical system developed by him. This hap-

*See *IDEAS: General Introduction to Pure Phenomenology* by Edmund Husserl, Collier Books, 1931/1962.

pened not because Freud told people to obey him but because Freud so faithfully obeyed his system that others felt impelled to mimic him.

In order to cause events to occur in conformity with a "master image," one takes the image unto oneself and realizes the image within. By a process of subliminal resonance, other minds may then begin to reflect upon this image and obey the basic archetype. But according to Buddhist doctrine, the proper attitude must first be formed within the individual mind for resonance to occur. "I stand on one foot, you stand on one foot, but I must first be able to stand on one foot with complete balance and calm in order to draw you into resonance with my attitude."

The Tibetan Buddhist mirror concept encourages a "meeting of minds" in simple, close and natural ways. It deserves the attention of all those who till the fields of extrasensory perception, psychokinesis, hypnotism and adjoining areas of mind research that are still under-producing knowledge despite intensive cultivation worldwide.

Eugenia Macer-Story is a frequent contributor to PURSUIT on subjects ranging from UFOs to paratechnical speculation. She considers herself to be a psychic from birth, is a devotee to UFO phenomena and is also a respected playwright, poet and author. She is a member of the Dramatist's Guild.

Editor's Note: In reference to the SITUation below SITU readers may recall there were several curious sightings that occurred during a ten-week period in late '74/early '75 when a yeti-like creature was allegedly seen on at least three occasions in direct proximity to The Marchais Tibetan Museum. (PURSUIT, whole number 30, Vol. 8, #*2)



Related SITUation

Tibetan Replica Brought to Hill in Staten Island, NY

When Jacqueline Klauber decided during World War II to build a replica of a Tibetan Buddhist monastery to house her Tibetan art collection, she had never even been to Asia. But she knew the kind of site she wanted: hilly, isolated, tranquil.

She found it 13 miles from Wall Street — on Staten Island.

"She wanted to create a totally self-contained Tibetan environment here on Lighthouse Hill," said Rod Preiss, assistant director of the museum she founded. "If she had her way, she probably would have had yaks meeting people at the bottom of the hill."

Yaks or no yaks, the Jacques Marchais Center for Tibetan Art remains the only museum in the Western Hemisphere devoted to Tibetan art.

Mrs. Klauber, who used the professional name Jacques Marchais, "was planning to

go to Tibet herself, but she wanted to establish this museum first," Preiss said. "Then, no door would have been barred to her" in a nation closed to most Westerners.

But she died suddenly in 1948 at age 56 — six months after her museum was finished.

Today, the museum is the Buddhist equivalent of Manhattan's Cloisters, a museum that allows the visitor to appreciate art by stepping into a setting which evokes the work's own time and place.

The center's buildings, terrace and garden sit on the side of a steep hill, isolated from the rest of its residential neighborhood by stone walls, the incline and thick foliage. The complex offers a view, framed by pines, of lower New York Harbor.

Mrs. Klauber endowed her monastery with everything Tibetan from orange trees to dogs, including a huge mastiff and a tiny Lhasa Apso. The grounds contain statues of Buddha, as well as figures of elephants, carp and baboons. There is a lotus pond, and several monastic meditation cells.

"She used to have parties for Asian visitors up here for days," Preiss said. "It was all very exotic for its time, especially

for Staten Island. Most people thought she was eccentric."

Mrs. Klauber's choice of Staten Island was not eccentric. In the 1940s the island was largely undeveloped and Lighthouse Hill is one of the highest points on the Eastern seaboard.

The museum's centerpiece is its replica of a Buddhist temple, or gompa, a square stone building supported by four interior columns that symbolize the four directions.

Inside, light streams down from a cupola in the 20-foot ceiling. One wall steps back to form a four-tiered altar for displaying numerous sacred objects, such as prayer wheels and gilded statues of multilimbed religious figures. The museum's authenticity, however, is not absolute: this being Staten Island, lamps that traditionally used yak butter employ paraffin instead.

One problem is the museum's schedule: 1 to 4 p.m. on weekends, April through November.

Another is the location.
SOURCE: AP in *The Asbury Park Press*,
NJ 5/2/85

CREDIT: #432

Life Imitating Art?

A Possible Clue to the Solution of the Flying Saucer Mystery?

by Ulrich Magin

Science fiction has often been influenced by the "real" world. When flying saucers became notorious in the late 1940s, science-fiction writers changed the shape of their alien spaceships into discs; and Steven Spielberg's marvelous movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* was inspired by J. A. Hynek's books.

But did anything similar happen in the reverse direction? Did science fiction novels or movies produce sightings of UFOs? C. G. Jung thought that UFOs were projections of the human desire for religious unity with God onto objects in the sky; so what influence have our ideas on what we see? I first began to wonder about that problem when someone told me years ago he had seen a spaceship, and "it looked exactly like Starship Enterprise." He was pulling my leg; but, can art really produce sightings?

There are some interesting "coincidences" in the field of UFO lore: In the mid 1960s a strange human-like bird began to flutter around in West Virginia, and then years later a similar monster was observed several times near Falmouth, Cornwall, Great Britain. The descriptions of both animals were similar. I remembered that I had once read novels dealing with strange flying objects in both Virginia and Cornwall long before I took an interest in Fortean.

After some time I found both books in question: E. A. Poe's short story *The Sphinx* (1846) and Conan Doyle's *The Lost World* (1912). Poe describes a giant butterfly-like winged monster climbing up a hill in the Hudson Valley — in fact a moth on the window pane, and its gigantic size was due to an optical illusion. Poe lived most of his life in Virginia, and it was in the Ohio River Valley in West Virginia that "mothman" appeared — a horrible creature that can easily be compared to its literary ancestor. And Cornwall's "owlman?" In Doyle's book the famous literary character Professor Challenger brings back a pterodactyl from his journey to a "lost world" in South America. When he shows it to fellow scientists in London, the monster escapes and frightens ordinary citizens, who think it is the devil. The last view of the animal is at Start Point/Devon, by the steamer, Friesland, not very far from Cornwall. (It is described as "an animal; half goat, half bat.") It seems both "real" monsters had literary ancestors, so that we have to question if the "sightings" were in some way influenced by art.

If this seems to be far fetched, there is a far better example: the airship-wave of 1896/97 that struck most of the United States. Airships, strange lights and zeppelins were observed, and newspaper articles published. These sightings have widely been discussed by several authors and need no repeating in a Fortean magazine. However, nobody seems to have noticed that the whole flap had been described in detail in a best-selling novel years before it actually happened: it was Jules Verne's book, *Robur the Conquerer*, published in French in 1885. In it Robur, the hero, builds several different aircraft, one like a gigantic bird or plane, one like a ship full of masts with rotors — more or less like a zeppelin. He first appears in the United States and later travels the whole world with his flying machine, after he kidnaps two Americans.

The second part of the novel was published in 1905. Here, Robur, plays records in his airship, and the people on the ground wonder where the music comes from. The same thing was reported about the 1896 "real" airship (see Keel's, *Operation Trojan Horse*). Other details of the sightings, his appearance over the States, the fact that he is a mad earthling scientist who keeps his invention secret, all look like the airship wave of 1897, and makes Jules Verne into a real prophet. Or perhaps there were some newspaper editors who turned Verne's novel into pieces of news, and these became accepted as fact. Verne was famous in America at the time the strange lights appeared. (By "coincidence," H. G. Wells novel *War of the Worlds* appeared in 1898, so maybe he was inspired by "facts" that were themselves inspired by a novel!)

A modern example: In 1974 "Genesis," a British rock group, released the album *The Lamb Lies Down on Broadway*, a so-called rock opera. Its hero, Rael, a Puerto Rican New Yorker, is swallowed by a strange mist while walking down Broadway. He awakens in a wool-like cocoon in some kind of "Wonderland," where he undergoes several initiation rites and psychedelic experiences, until he is enlightened and vanishes into thin air — a typical "hippie-type story," well written and full of allusions to classical English writers.

And then comes the real Mr. Rael. Genesis' LP was a big success even in the French Top Ten. At the end of the 1970s Claude Varilhon, a Frenchman, claimed to have seen a UFO at Puy de Lassolas back in December 13, 1973, one year before Genesis' LP had been published, but he kept this secret for several years. The ufonauts, slit-eyed dwarfs in green overalls, took Claude to their home planet where he said he met, among others, Mohammed, Buddha, Elias, Moses and Jesus. And, after the aliens had brought him back, they told him that it was his job to save the world...and that his new name was Rael. All this, however, Rael revealed only years after Genesis had created Rael, the underdog on his way to enlightenment. It is very likely that Varilhon knew the record, as he was a singer/songwriter, and had a 3-year contract as musician with a French record company before he became a full-time prophet.

Now he no longer sings, but is the leader of a sect which has most of its supporters in France and Switzerland enjoying his life in his own villa. Perhaps he is the first modern "prophet" who owes his wealth not only to the UFO myth, but also to an English rock group.

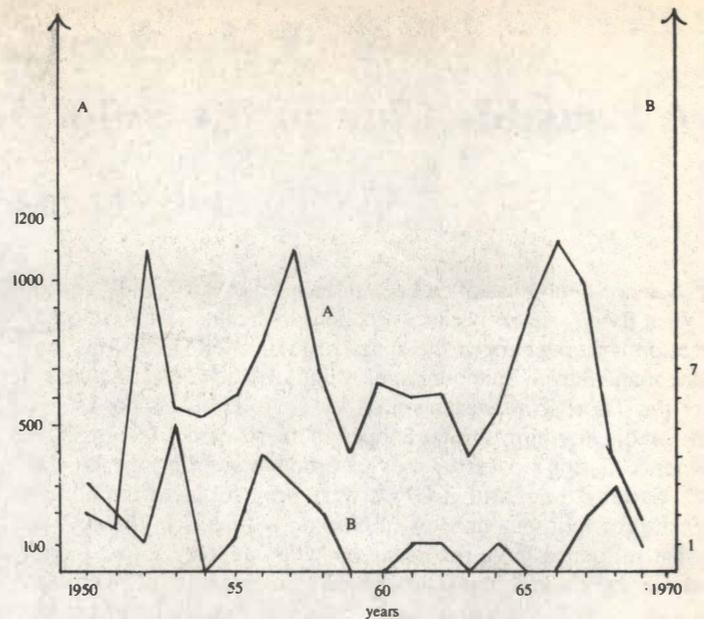
I have also tried to find out if science-fiction movies create waves of sightings, or if these sightings make Hollywood react and produce more UFO movies. I used a statistic of American UFO sightings from J. A. Hynek's *UFO-Report*, together with a list of UFO/science-fiction movies from two books on the subject. As you can see in the figure, both do have a lot in common: peaks in the production of space films matched with major UFO flaps. Yet, it is not really clear which inspired which — the gigantic wave of 1952 was followed by many movies, as was the wave of 1966. But the 1957 flap followed an increase in the science-fiction movie production. As most of the early

UFO movies mirror the American fear of communism in the period of cold war, we may also assume that both statistics are not related in a clear causal way, but that both sightings of spaceships and movies about them echoed the fears of America in the 50s, and are related in that indirect way. (The time in which *Star Wars* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* had a big success world wide we had two flap years: 1977 and 1979. It would be worth investigating to see if local flaps of sightings coincided with the showing of the films.)

Perhaps future UFO authors should not only pay attention to the obvious relationship between folklore, dreams and UFOs, but also between art (novels and movies) and waves of sightings.

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A — Number of UFO observations, re: Hynek.

B — Number of UFO-related science-fiction movies.



Related SITUations

'House In Sky' UFO

A strange shape with many lights passed over Connecticut Thursday night. Phone calls began pouring into police stations, newspapers, and radio and television stations across the state early in the evening.

Betty Johnson of Sharon saw the phenomenon a few minutes before 9 p.m. when she happened to look outside. She watched it for two or three minutes while it hovered south of the Ellsworth district where she lives.

"I've never seen anything like it," she said. "It was just loaded with lights. It was like a two-story house in the sky."

After her husband came to the window to see it the object began to move slowly away, and disappeared behind a hill. Mrs. Johnson often looks at the heavens at night and has seen many kinds of celestial sights, she said. "I've seen every kind of plane you could imagine."

Many people are afraid to speak up about strange and unexplained sightings because others may think they are crazy, she said. However, she was not the only one to see this object. It was reported as far east as Mansfield, and was said to be moving west. It was seen by residents from Winsted to Harwinton and New Milford.

Many said the UFO stopped to hover, split up and reformed at times. Larry Graber, manager of the Dutchess County (NY) Airport, said the most likely explanation is that it was a group of small airplanes flying together.

"From the ground it looks strange to people," he said. Pilots often fly in formation on Thursday nights, he said. "They're creating a

nuisance."

But Mrs. Johnson is not satisfied with that explanation. "How could it be (airplanes)? It was standing still. This thing was just sitting there," she said. "It was something that I've never seen before."

SOURCE: The Lakeville Journal, NY
1/16/86

CREDIT: Trish Pfeiffer

Residue of Eerie Rock Has Officials Puzzled

It looked like a red rock. It felt like a red rock. Walter Breen thought surely it was a red rock, and a nice one, so he put it in his car and planned to use it in his rock garden in Port Salerno, FL.

Then it caught fire, melted the car's carpet, and disintegrated. Five days later, an eerie green glow began to radiate from the carpet. Now, Walter Breen does not think it was just a red rock.

He is a little mystified.

"I cleaned the whole car out yesterday with a vacuum — I'm going to look at the vacuum today and see if it's glowing," Breen said, laughing. "Flash Gordon has finally come into my life."

Breen, 62, found the rock on Stuart Beach near Sailfish Point Friday and picked it up because of its unusual reddish-orange color. He threw it in the back of his wife's 1986 Mercury Grand Marquis.

Two hours later, he discovered it was missing. The car's windows were fogged with smoke and all that was left of the 3-by-3-inch rock was a burn spot in the car's rug.

Breen said he and his stepsons, Bruce and Jim

initially thought the rock might be debris from the space shuttle Challenger. When the Cathcart brothers called, NASA said it was unlikely the rock came from the Challenger.

Breen thought the incident was "kind of bizarre" but he wasn't too concerned about it. Wednesday night, however, while he was visiting Bruce Cathcart in Jenson Beach, his stepson noticed a dim glow radiating from the burn spot in the car's carpet.

Bruce Cathcart and Breen became concerned the rock might have been radioactive and contacted the Martin County Fire Department, which dispatched a crew of six experts in hazardous materials.

"The rug was glowing and the metal of the floor was glowing like phosphorous," said Walter Breen's stepson Bruce Cathcart. "I had put my fingers in it and they were glowing."

Martin County Fire Chief Fred Monks said six of his men went to Bruce Cathcart's home to examine Breen's car at about 11 p.m. Wednesday to determine what was causing the glow. The glow was dim, but yes, they could see it.

"We thought that it could be a piece of the shuttle or something radioactive," Monks said, "but what stuck in my mind as most likely was that it was a piece of flammable metal such as magnesium or phosphorus because they react with air."

Monks said it is possible, based on Breen's description of the rock, that it was red phosphorous, a substance in flares often used by ships. Breen cut out the burnt portion of the carpet and turned it over to Monks.

Monks, who said the residue from the rock did not appear to be toxic or radioactive, contacted a field chemist at the Metro-Dade Fire



THE SPOT — In a field, about 150 yards from his house in Frankville, Jesse Henson studies the area that was most disturbed by a mysterious explosion Wednesday. Plants were twisted off at their base and some thrown nearly 100 yards. (Press Register photo by Ron Colquitt)

Department in Miami and said he is planning to conduct additional tests with the chemist to identify the rock.

"We have not made a positive identification yet, but right now everything indicates it is probably red phosphorous," Monk said yesterday afternoon. "We should know by (today)."

Monks will have to settle for tests based on residue from the red rock. He does not have any solid red rock to test.

"The object is gone," Monks said. "It consumed itself."

SOURCE: by Salli James in the *Post*, FL 3/7/86

CREDIT: Avis Smith

Something Mysterious Causes Stir

With a "ssssssss-boom!" a mysterious something fell from the sky into the backyard of the Jesse Wallace Hensons in Frankville, AL.

Whatever it was blew chunks of "poke salad" plants "higher than the treetops" and scattered other brush around, according to close-at-hand witnesses.

Meteorite, piece of satellite, ice dropped by a high-flying airliner or something else, it seemingly vanished after all the commotion.

Friday, two days after the incident, no one has the vaguest idea what really happened in the small, northeast Washington County community.

Mrs. Kathleen Henson, whose house, she says, is about 150 yards — "too close for com-

fort" — from where the thing hit or blew up, tells it this way:

"We were walking up from the creek about 1:30 or 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. She — that's my daughter-in-law, Debbie — was pushing a wheelbarrow. All of a sudden we heard this hissing sound. I put my hands over my ears because I thought it was a plane hitting the sound barrier.

"Then came the concussion. We weren't 100 yards away but there were trees between us and where it hit.

"Debbie was looking right in that direction and she says she saw pieces of plants and grass fly higher than the trees."

Mrs. Henson said another daughter-in-law, Tammy, was in the house.

"I told the girls to stay back because of radiation or poison gas or something, but of course they had to go down there with me," she said.

They found the tops twisted off some of the "poke salad" (pokeweed) plants and some brush scattered around for 100 feet or more.

Otherwise, Mrs. Henson said, the only sign of anything being hit was "one little log with a skinned place on it."

"We called the sheriff (Sheriff William J. Wheat) and he came by," Mrs. Henson said. "He didn't find anything more than we did, I guess."

Sheriff Wheat's office in Chatom confirmed Friday that a call about the mysterious object had been received and that he had visited the site. He was not available for comment Friday afternoon.

There was no hole visible in the earth that could have been made by an object either exploding or striking the ground. The place where the greatest number of plants had been twisted off is on a mound of soft earth and tree roots left over after the field was cleared for crops.

"The ground isn't even disturbed," said Mrs. Henson.

Kathleen Henson has her theory about that. "I think the thing exploded just before it hit the ground," she said.

"If it had hit, we would have felt the shock, wouldn't we?"

With that in mind, Mrs. Henson said she went "out there" again Thursday and Friday, looking for pieces of metal "or something."

So far, nothing.

"Of course," Mrs. Henson added, "you don't go kicking around too much there. You could get snakebit."

"I'm not really scared, but it bothers me," she said. "One thing, we're going to bring in a Geiger counter and get the spot checked for radiation for sure. We thought about burning the area but we are afraid we would be burning something we don't need to burn, but I guess that will be the only way of finding it in the tall grass."

"The sheriff didn't laugh when I called him," she said, "and I felt kind of foolish about it, but I didn't know what else to do."

SOURCE: by Ron Colquitt & John Fay in *The Mobile Press Register*, AL 3/8/86

CREDIT: Ian Robertson



Southern Africa's Great Stone City

Masvingo, Zimbabwe

Great Zimbabwe, one of the world's most dramatic ruins, hasn't had much luck since its Shona builders abandoned it under mysterious circumstances in the 15th century.

The walls were left to crumble, and villagers of the 19th century found its majestic hilltop enclosures useful only as cattle pens. In its day, which lasted 300 years, Great Zimbabwe had been the most important city of southern and central Africa, with a population of 10,000.

The first Europeans to see Great Zimbabwe looked at its gray granite walls and saw gold. They formed an Ancient Ruins Company to ransack the site for treasure. Wild tales and legends about the place spread, giving rise to H. Rider Haggard's 1875 novel, "King Solomon's Mines." (Evelyn Waugh, a seasoned Africa traveler, lost patience with the phony traces of King Solomon he kept finding and joked that tour guides in the next millennium would be leading Englishmen to the ruins of hydroelectric dams and attribute them to Solomon.)

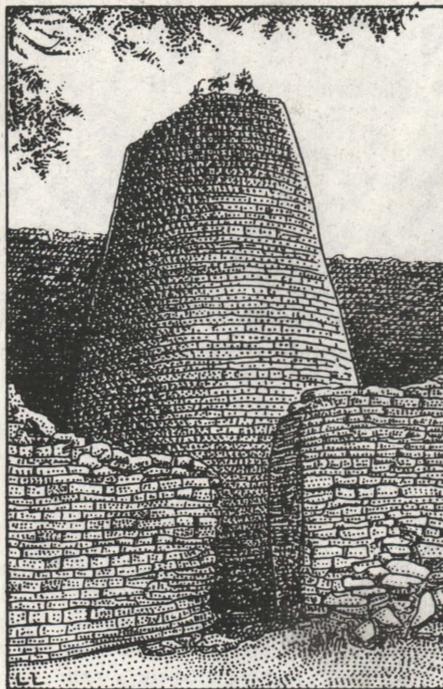
As early as 1906, archeologists had in fact determined that Great Zimbabwe (the word means stone house) was built by Africans. But race prejudice overpowered scholarship. White settlers in what was then the British colony of Rhodesia insisted that no African society could have built Great Zimbabwe. So, until independence came in 1980, school texts attributed the stonework to non-Africans. But as early as 1961, nationalists fighting against colonial rule were using the name Zimbabwe in their political movements. After independence, they named their new country Zimbabwe and put an image of the site's largest sculpture, a stone bird, on the nation's flag.

Most tourists who visit Zimbabwe spend the largest part of their time at the nation's game parks and at Victoria Falls, named by David Livingstone, who reached them in 1855, more than 10 years before any European saw Great Zimbabwe, and the ruins still are not a first priority for most visitors.

If Great Zimbabwe is a bit off the beaten track, it is by no means hard to get to. Zimbabwe has excellent roads and efficient car-rental services. The domestic air service is equally good and there is an airport in Masvingo, about 19 miles from the ruins. A tourist can stay either at the small and pleasant hotel less than a mile from Great Zimbabwe or at several other hotels in town.

The absence of camera-clicking crowds and bus tours is another of Great Zimbabwe's attractions. The morning I arrived I had the ruins to myself until a second lone tourist appeared two hours later. We surprised each other coming around a corner of a wall. "Pretty impressive, isn't it," he exclaimed. I agreed. We parted. By noon there were five cars in the parking lot.

Of the great stone city that once flourished here, two main structures survive. There is the Great Enclosure on the plain and a smaller, but no less impressive, series of walls atop a steep hill. Europeans, drawing ineptly on their own traditions, once called it the Acropolis.



On that hill, Great Zimbabwe's masons fitted natural boulders into their design so that, seen from certain angles below, the walls of granite blocks blend into the natural surfaces. As Peter Garlake, a Zimbabwean archeologist whose brief guidebook is a valuable companion at Great Zimbabwe, points out, one towering boulder so resembles the emblematic stone bird that it takes little imagination to see it as the sculptor's inspiration.

Great Zimbabwe also preserves elements of a maze. Its builders favored narrow passages, sharp turnings and multiple entrances. Most striking of all is the so-called Parallel Passage, which you walk along, hemmed in by walls 20-some feet in height, your shoulders almost touching the granite on each side. Mr. Garlake argues that privacy was an important part of the rulers' lives. This passage let outsiders enter the Great Enclosure and reach its conical tower without spying on the living areas.

Ruins inspire awe at the creative energy that built them and the unknowable aspects of a life so different from ours. Why did the stone-building begin? How did men learn to lay straight, dry-wall courses? What ambition kept them at it, piling almost a million blocks, weighing 15,000 tons, just for the 750-foot wall around the Great Enclosure?

Of all the enigmas at Great Zimbabwe, none surpasses the conical tower. It stands 25 feet high, but its top has crumbled and no one knows how it was originally finished. The surviving monument is 12 feet across at the base and five at the top.

To the white settler's eye, it looked like a hiding place. Again and again the tower has been probed and searched for a secret chamber. In 1929, archeologists tunneled underneath it. All the probes have confirmed that the tower is solid and sits on the solid earth.

No one knows what the tower was for. People have guessed that it might be a symbol of male power, or, because it resembles a giant grain bin, that it stands for the richness of the state. Perhaps it's not symbolic of anything, but a demonstration of Great Zimbabwe's masons' triumph in a new, difficult form. Great Zimbabwe's artisans got better over the centuries. Later sections of wall show better coursing and dressing of the stones. The masonry of the tower is the best of all, showing the masons at the apex of their skill, at work on the last of Great Zimbabwe's structures.

Viewed as a single creation, Great Zimbabwe is like no ruin elsewhere in the world. (But its cultural influence can be seen in about 200 smaller stone ruins scattered around the country.) For the visitor comfortable with straight lines and right angles, it is disturbing. You're in the presence of a unique sensibility. The gray walls are a series of irregular curves. Inside the walls, people lived in gaily decorated clay-and-thatch huts, often fitted closely into the turning of a wall. These have all disappeared, so what you see at Great Zimbabwe is the skeleton of the plan.

Clearly, the rulers of Great Zimbabwe had grown rich on cattle and trade before they settled down to build their city, with the wealth to employ builders who did no agricultural labor. Yet in the 15th century, the people abandoned all they had built. Perhaps there was a plague or an infestation of tsetse fly that threatened the cattle in their valley.

The most popular theory for the end of Great Zimbabwe, however, is a cautionary tale of ecological collapse. As the number of people and cattle grew, they destroyed the local resources of timber and pasture, which left them no alternative but migration. But the 19th century Africans living in the area had no oral traditions linking them to Great Zimbabwe.

Mr. Lescaze is an assistant foreign editor of the Journal.

SOURCE: By Lee Lescaze in the *Wall Street Journal*, NY 1/7/86

CREDIT #2692



Books / Tapes Reviewed

THE SUN AND SOLAR SYSTEM DEBRIS, compiled by William R. Corliss (The Sourcebook Project, P.O. Box 107, Glen Arm, MD 21057), 1986, 282 pps., \$15.95.

Reviewed by Robert Barrow

To merely *count* them has become something of a chore, but this is indeed volume number 22 from editor Corliss and his creation, The Sourcebook Project (TSP). In order to devote full concentration to content, it should be made clear at the start by this reviewer that, no, there has never been anything less than an informative, top-quality volume from TSP, and, yes, the current release fulfills traditional standards.

Actually, this one is itself a "current event," as nearly 50 pages on comets alone are featured. Having selected recent and older anomalous events from various scientific journals (which, in general, is what TSP is all about), Corliss sets out to challenge long-standing theories about the celestial mechanics of comets. Among the entries in question here is the fact that Halley's and several other comets routinely exhibit increases and decreases in the periods of time observed (for example, comet Halley returned three days later than anticipated in 1910), and Corliss asks whether some comets "may be gravitationally perturbed by large objects as yet undetected from earth." Numerous instances of comets doing what they are not *expected* to do were detailed earlier, and it appears that Corliss is particularly keen on criticizing the influence of the so-called "Oort cloud," located somewhere far out in space, from which "the perturbations of passing stars occasionally nudge some (comets) toward the sun."

To be sure, comets comprise only a portion of this volume, and multiple examples of other solar system "debris" are allowed their day in Corliss' court of celestial anomalies. Common hypotheses about asteroids are soundly disputed, along with popular scientific rules regarding planetary orbits and the relationships alleged to exist among varied solar system bodies.

Corliss' chapter on "enigmatic objects" nicely presents the difficulties astrophysicists encounter in determining identities for some of the more unusual inhabitants of the solar system — or, as Corliss offers in a preface:

"What, for example, is the difference between a very large meteor and a very small asteroid? Or, do cometary nuclei devoid of halos and tails differ from asteroids? Enigmatic objects occupy the gaps, if any, that exist between categories."

Rightly so, considerable space is devoted to sun-related phenomena; the last section regarding solar and interplanetary magnetic fields would seem of paramount importance to our space program. And while quirky meteor/meteorite characteristics are also awarded depth, Corliss' assertion that "in fact, all meteors should have been flushed out of the solar system long ago" is certain to raise a few conventional eyebrows.

Origins of the "zodiacal light" complete this latest *Sourcebook* treasure, but *not* to be ignored is a brief yet highly intriguing passage on "Planet X," which actually

refers to several possible unknown bodies, hence planet Xs, in our solar neighborhood (motion picture buffs, of course, will immediately think back to the old fifties science fiction movie, "The Man From Planet X," and while this recollection has nothing whatsoever to do with this review, it *is* interesting to note that an old movie title helped predict a future astronomical term).

Is this book worth having in your library? Well, if you already have the previous 21 *Sourcebook* volumes, you'll want to keep the collection going.

THE PSYCHIC CONNECTION: Video tape (available in VHS or BETA) produced by Alan Neuman, Postscript Productions, Inc., 6725 Sunset Blvd., Suite #505, Hollywood, CA 90028; \$29.95 plus \$3.00 postage and handling (California residents add 6.5% sales tax. For Canadian residents it is \$40.80 plus \$4.05 postage and handling).

Reviewed by Robert C. Warth

I had the opportunity of first viewing this tape at the 1985 Uphoff Conference. As per the info on the tape jacket, this is a 105 minute motion picture color feature shot on 20 different locations worldwide.

"The film is an exciting adventure into the world of those who dare to see beyond light, to hear beyond hearing, to breach boundaries, to leap beyond known frontiers.

"All the psychic phenomena is presented in a totally visual manner. You observe occult manifestations and happenings, ritual and scientific, on five continents. You witness psychic surgery, prior-life regressions, skin vision, metal bending, materializations, animal ESP, exorcism by fire, Haitian Vodoo, School for Psychic Surgery, dowsing, psychic diagnosis, tongue skewing, precognition and poltergeist manifestations. You view a crystal skull, hear paranormal voices and attend a seance.

"*The Psychic Connection* is a fascinating account of the world of the paranormal, and the men and women who are probing the magic of Man's psychic being.

"The film is considered much too shocking and controversial for television and regular theatrical release."

I feel that Mr. Neuman has given a straightforward representation skimming several subjects on psychic phenomena. I recommend this tape to introduce the subject of psychic phenomena that cannot be expressed in written form. You may write to Postscript Productions for a list of other psychic phenomena tapes.

THE UFO LITERATURE: A COMPREHENSIVE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WORKS IN ENGLISH, by Richard Michael Rasmussen, McFarland & Co., Inc., Publishers, Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640; 1985, 263 pps., \$29.95 (\$31.45 ppd. from publisher).

Reviewed by Robert Barrow

Just as Tom Lind's *Catalogue of UFO Periodicals* (reviewed in *PURSUIT* No. 62) documented a wealth of information on past and current international journals, newsletters, magazines and bulletins whose themes concerned UFOs, Rasmussen has done the same for UFO-related books and booklets published in English.

Such undertakings have surfaced before, of course, the most obvious being Lynn E. Catoe's *UFOs and Related Subjects: An Annotated Bibliography*, printed by the Library of Congress in 1969. But, since Catoe's excellent project covers books and, for the most part, periodicals through 1968, Rasmussen's accomplishment, alphabetized by author with a helpful cross-referenced index, is a welcome update which carries us to more recent times. In addition to the inclusion of the customary publication history, a generally informative synopsis is given for each title wherever possible; in fact, the author's compendium succeeds tremendously as a series of mini-book reviews.

A pleasantly concise surprise is Rasmussen's chapter, "UFOs in Literature: A Brief History," in which some 36 years of UFO history are condensed via a chronological overview of major books that emerged at crucial times. The first chapter, "The Nature of the Literature," is also well-presented and of interest for the categorization of people involved in UFO study among three major groups (cultist, enthusiast and rationalist) — though more emphasis could have been made that such distinctions can have exceptions and an overlap of characteristics.

One's first impression might be that this is a handy reference source for both libraries and people intrigued with an elaborate English-language UFO reading list, and this premise is well-satisfied. But *Literature* is, likewise, a valuable addition to the bookshelves of researchers who actually *have* most of the titles; an occasional thumbing-through serves as a good reminder of forgotten material lurking between those rows of dusty, sun-bleached covers.

MUTE EVIDENCE by Daniel Kagan & Ian Summers (Bantam Books; \$4.95; 528 pps.)

Reviewed by George W. Earley

Cattle, as any rancher can tell you, will sicken and die quite suddenly from a variety of causes. For example, in 1973 nearly 2 million cattle and calves died in Minnesota. That was 30% of the total state cattle population.

Contrast that with claims that approximately 10,000 animals were allegedly killed by mutilators in two dozen states between 1969 and 1979 and you may well begin to wonder if cattle mutilations didn't exist more in the eyes [or minds] of the beholders than in actual fact.

To summarize the entire mutilation phenomena would take more room than is available to me so let me simply quote first from the back cover of *Mute Evidence* and then add a few observations of my own.

"A bizarre phenomenon swept the American west in 1969. Hundreds of cattle, horses, and other animals were found dead — hearts, eyes, genitals, cleanly severed and missing from their bodies. During the next decade, over 10,000 cases were reported — animals mutilated with surgical precision, often drained of blood, with no trace of tracks around them.

"Who — or what — is behind this monstrous slaughter? UFOs? Satanic cults? A supernatural force? Or a massive conspiracy reaching to the highest levels of business, government and the media? The FBI, government probes, scientific inquiries, state and local police in 23 states — no one found an answer. There were no witnesses, no suspects and not one person was arrested."

The cover hype concludes by asking "Will human beings be the next victims?"

To answer that last question first...I rather doubt it and so will you if you take the time to carefully read this book.

[Let me note at this point one major flaw in the book — there is no index, meaning you either take extensive notes as you go along or, days later, you find yourself paging through trying to find a specific reference you wanted to re-read].

So-called "mutilation reports" still trickle in, but the phenomena seems to have largely faded from the public eye due, I feel, to the fine job Kagan and Summers have done in untangling the tangled threads of the mutilation mystery. Some questions remain unanswered — the 'mystery' helicopters, for example — but on the whole I believe the authors have shown that the mutilation mystery was more fiction than fact.

Let me cite two examples, one drawn from the book and the other from, perhaps surprisingly, a ufo journal that has given a certain amount of credence to a mutilation/ufo 'link.'

The authors show that examinations of the 'mutilated' animals were carried out, not by forensic veterinarians [doctors who specialize in the causes of animal death] but by local vets whose training is primarily designed to keep living animals healthy and not to ascertain why an animal has died. Of those carcasses sent, for example, to a pathology laboratory in Colorado, no unnatural causes of death were found although it was determined that in a few cases sharp instruments had apparently been used to sever some body parts after death. Such cuts could have been made by the 'satanic cults' whose alleged activities were the explanation most favored by most law enforcement agencies, although no such cultists have ever been found.

Now while I could cite more examples from the pages of *Mute Evidence*, I would like to turn to the January 1985 issues of the *Mufon Journal*, the monthly publication of the Mutual UFO Network of Seguin, Texas, for my concluding example.

In that issue, editor Dennis Stacy tells of attending a bullfight in Mexico and watching the carcass being butchered immediately after the matador had killed the bull. Noting that "the operation was remarkably bloodless," Stacy wrote that "The point I am trying to make here is that incredibly deft and devastating violence can be wrought on a fresh carcass by skilled hands, in the field, and leave only an amazingly small residue of blood behind. It does not require covert funding or extra-terrestrial spacecraft, and I might not have believed it if I had not seen it with my own eyes."

And, of course, the dismembering operation Stacy witnessed was far more extensive than any reported 'mutilation.'

Reviews of *Mute Evidence* seem scarce. There has been grumbling by some ufo investigators, but to date all I have seen have been attacks on the authors and their conclusions without any point-by-point refutation of their findings. And certainly no independent confirmation of either ufological or governmental involvement in alleged 'mutilations' have been put forth by anyone. Of course, to some paranoid types this will confirm their fears that the conspiracy is both widespread and leakproof but lacking any rational challenge to the finding put forth by Kagan and Summers, it seem to me that cattle mutilations are destined to become but a footnote in American folklore — further proof that some people can fool themselves for a remarkably long period of time.

Readers with contrary views should read *Mute Evidence* before quarreling with this reviewer.

CURIOUS ENCOUNTERS: PHANTOM TRAINS, SPOOKY SPOTS, & OTHER MYSTERIOUS WONDERS, by Loren Coleman, Faber & Faber, Inc. (50 Cross St., Winchester, MA 01890), 1985, 167 pps., \$11.95.

Reviewed by Robert Barrow

Loyal readers of Coleman's work will find him up to par here. Essentially, he takes up where he left off with 1983's *Mysterious America*, a Fortean phenomena sampler.

As in the previous release, unidentified creatures consume top priority, and tidbits of their strange characteristics and occasional proclivities are arranged in separate chapters on weird beasties of the air, land and water. And while it is refreshing to note that Coleman is more careful than ever to inject *possible* scientific explanations for appropriate critters and events, his momentary excursions into little asides also help make this pleasant enough reading.

For example, in mention of a 1955 incident in which an Indiana woman swimming in the Ohio River was allegedly grabbed by "something" underwater — a something that caused scratches and "a palm-print shaped green stain below her knee" — researcher Coleman interestingly parallels the occurrence with the popular monster film of the 1950s, *The Creature From the Black Lagoon*. Cinematic side-trips such as this are particularly appealing because almost the only movies to which Fortean events have been compared in recent years are *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (UFOs) and *Endangered Species* (cattle mutilations).

Subjects further explored, although briefly, in the book include phantom trains and spook lights, stone fort-like

structures, unusual geographic areas and the significance of their names, and patterns of various events. Some intriguing thoughts are advanced in the chapter on patterns, and Coleman's all-too-brief section on early religions approaches the insight demonstrated in the book, *Witchcraft and the Gay Counterculture* (in which writer Arthur Evans, despite his other radical views, convincingly makes the reader both respect the early pagans *and* want to run from organized religion as if fleeing for one's life: I only regret that my enthusiastic review of this 1978 book never found a home).

Style-wise, it is noteworthy that Coleman increasingly seems to write in the manner of veteran Fortean researcher John Keel — who, by no coincidence, is frequently mentioned in the pages of *Curious Encounters*. There is something about Coleman's cross-country, Fortean-scavenging trek accounts that reminds me of an old Keel book entitled *Jadoo*.

Undoubtedly, we can expect similar books from Coleman in the future, if his attitude serves as any sort of barometer. In his own words:

"Frankly, we have to come to grips with the concept it is really weird out there. And it's a lot weirder than it was yesterday. By now almost everyone has heard of UFOs, poltergeists, Oogopogo, Champ, and even the Jersey Devil. But there is an elaborately strange slew of entities and locations haunting the countryside. Even researchers into matters cryptozoological, paranormal, psychic, or otherwise strange, have been taken aback by the vast waves of critters and places that just do not fit into the usual world of the explained."



Memos & Miscellany

We repeat an appeal from Joe Zarzynski, "We are studying the mysterious Loch Ness-like animals of Lake Champlain. If you are intrigued by aquatic mysteries then CHAMP CHANNELS newsletter published by the Lake Champlain Phenomena Investigation may be the periodical you seek." For subscription information and any reports of sightings or fish finder/sonar targets that might be from a "Champ" animal please contact: Lake Champlain Phenomena Investigation, PO Box 2134, Wilton, NY 12866 (518) 587-7638.

We highly recommend, especially to our European members, the Basel Psi Conference to be held at Basel, Switzerland from Thursday, October 30 to Sunday, November 2. The theme of this years conference will be Exotic Psi - Paranormal in Other Cultures. The conference will be in English, German and French with simultaneous translation. For information please write to: Basler Psi-Tage 86, c/o Schweizer Mustermesse, Kongressdienst, Postfach, CH-4021, Basel, Switzerland.

We wish to give a special thanks to the editors of *Venture Inward*, the journal of the Association for Research and Enlightenment (A.R.E.) of the Edgar Cayce Foundation, for the several kind paragraphs about *PURSUIT* and *SITU* that appeared in their March/April issue. We also welcome all new members that joined us as a result of the mention.

Likewise, we recommend *Venture Inward* to our readers and information about the A.R.E. may be obtained by writing to: Venture Inward, PO Box 595, Virginia Beach, VA 23451.

A sincere thanks to Ms. Agnes Somos for donating the extensive library of her recently deceased father, Stephen Somos, who took excellent care in cataloging and maintaining the hundreds of Fortean-related books, articles and newspaper clippings. Both Ms. Somos and her father enjoyed the old farm of Alma and Ivan Sanderson and they were often see there picnicking and talking with Ivan and his many visitors.

Anyone wishing to submit original material for possible use in *PURSUIT* such as a manuscript, book review, a letter to the editor, etc., please be reminded that it should be typewritten, or if that is not possible, handwritten in block letters, double-spaced on one side of each 8½ x 11 inch sheet of paper with at least one-inch margins on all four page edges. This facilitates easier editorial corrections and comments.

We always welcome comments, advice or constructive criticism from our members and readers. Should you request a reply, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope and someone of our volunteer staff will be back with you as soon as it is convenient.

Please take note that all original material, photographs, newsclippings and other contents should be sent to *SITU* headquarters. Also everything pertaining to your membership in *SITU*, production and mailing of *PURSUIT* should be sent to:

SITU
PO Box 265
Little Silver, NJ 07739 - 0265 USA



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).

Schoolboy Sees The Beast

One of the closest ever sightings of the Beast of Exmoor was made yesterday by a 13-year-old North Devon schoolboy.

The Beast, which is believed to have killed hundreds of sheep and lambs since it was first spotted three years ago, was seen in the grounds of the Broomhill Country Hotel and Farm, near Muddiford, a tiny village about three miles from Barnstaple.

Graham Mugleston was alerted by his father Chris and ran up the hill at the back of the family home to try to catch a glimpse of the creature.

He came almost face to face with the notorious beast. "It was frightening," said Graham. "I hadn't really believed in it until now."

The creature was also spotted by Graham's mother Audrey and family friend Mrs. Caroline Johnson. An extensive search of the area revealed nothing but a few large paw prints.

Mrs. Mugleston said: "Our alsation Zara has been howling and barking for a couple of days now. It's probably the Beast that upset her."

"The creature I saw slunk along almost on its belly. As soon as the dog really started barking it was off."

Mrs. Johnston said her first thoughts were that the mysterious creature was a lynx.

"It was very dark with pointed ears and a bushy sort of tail."

Despite a fruitless search, the Muglestons were last night taking no chances and had locked away all their chickens before darkness fell.

SOURCE: *The Western Morning News*, England 1/17/86

CREDIT: D. Rossiter via R. Nelke

Creek Features Mysterious Creature

The Rev. Tinsley Silas Rector of Wildwood Lane says only that this strange event "has everybody mystified."

And the Indiana conservation officers who came out and took a look at the evidence:

"Yep," says Silas, "they were mystified, too."

What could be so puzzling, strange, enigmatic that it could draw the attention of a major metropolitan newspaper?

Call it the Creature of Grassy Creek.

"Just like to satisfy my curiosity, as much as anything," he said.

Grassy Creek is an ambling little stream a mile from the Hancock-Marion County

Line, just east of the Rev. Rector's house. It runs at the foot of a small hill, in a swale, so to speak. All around are trees and brambles and raspberry bushes and other mildly forbidding things. It also serves as home to rabbits, squirrels, possums, raccoons and a fat old groundhog or two.

Until last October, there hadn't been a sign of anything more nefarious living along the creek bank. Certainly nothing with a penchant for malevolence against mankind.

But now, who knows?

It was in October that Silas and his wife came home from a vacation to Florida to discover that some sort of creature had paid them a visit.

"It had tried to eat my metal shed," Silas explained. "Tore pieces of the sheeting back. Dragged lumber out of my lumber pile and left great, big teeth marks on it. Some kind of animal, for certain. A big one."

The creature, or whatever it is, also chewed through parts of the wooden floor of the shed, dragged tools outside, and ate some fertilizer. The first incident sparked curiosity and some concern for Silas.

But it was the return visits that bothered him.

"I heard something one night and went out with the shotgun," he said. "But I didn't see a thing. And my neighbor, he brought over some traps. We put traps all around the shed. But the next morning they were all tripped and wasn't a thing in them. It's smart, whatever it is."

Just a little over two weeks ago, the creature made its last visit and left the shed a shambles. It tore the door off its railing, bent tall sheets of metal, pulled the screws right out of the building, and dragged a half of bag of cement mix into the yard. It left catlike tracks.

"The conservation officers said it wasn't a bear. No bears around here. And who knows then what it might be. I tried to make an insurance claim but the company wouldn't pay. They said I wasn't insured against domestic animals, and that's what they thought it was."

Silas said he has a neighbor with a Great Dane. The dog was a suspect for a while. In fact, a neighbor familiar with hunting tracked the dog from the vicinity to its home a half-mile away.

"But it's only 8 months old," Silas said. "A pup. I don't think it could do that kind of damage."

SOURCE: *The Indianapolis Star*, IN 2/23/86

CREDIT: R. Nelke

Bounty Offered in India for Man-eating Elephant

Authorities in India's remote state of Meghalaya are offering a reward of 2,000 rupees (\$180) for the killing of a rare man-eating elephant, United News of India reported yesterday.

The news agency quoted state wildlife officials as saying the wild elephant killed five people last year and feasted on "their flesh and blood."

The report said wildlife experts are trying to find out why the pachyderm turned carnivorous since elephants normally eat only vegetation.

SOURCE: AP in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, OH 2/10/86

CREDIT: Wayne Cermak

Lady Killer, Tiger

A killer tigress stalking the Himalayan foothills is puzzling experts — because all its victims so far have been WOMEN. The tigress only attacks at weekends and has caused panic at Haldwani, in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.

A senior wildlife warden said: "We would like to know more about the behaviour pattern of this tigress."

SOURCE: *Daily Express*, Great Britain 2/15/86

CREDIT: David Rossiter via R. Nelke

Dugong Sighted

A herd of up to 500 dugongs, secretive sea mammals previously thought endangered in the Gulf, has been sighted in a survey of the waterway. Biologists had feared the Gulf's dugong population was no longer viable.

SOURCE: *The Guardian*, England 3/12/86

CREDIT: David Rossiter via R. Nelke

Giant Pacific Squid Saved in Fish Market

An 8-foot-long giant Pacific squid — one of the rarest beasts in the ocean — has joined the world's largest collection after almost being chopped up at a fish market.

The squid was accidentally netted by the crew of a fishing boat 20 miles off Half Moon Bay. The California Academy of Sciences, in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, now has four giant Pacific squids, the most of any collection. Only eight have ever been captured.

SOURCE: UPI in the *Houston Chronicle*, TX 1/19/86

CREDIT: Scott Parker via R. Nelke

Horror Story Laid to Rest

In what looked like a scene from a vampire movie, police Monday dug up a coffin in a Bavarian village cemetery and put an abrupt end to a horror story that has gripped West Germany for the past few days.

The exhumation, ordered after gravediggers reported hearing knocking on the coffin lid, showed that the 93-year-old woman inside is dead and could not have been responsible for the eerie sound.

Public prosecutor Elmar Fischer, who supervised the exhumation, said the "knocking" heard after the coffin was lowered into the grave had been caused by splitting of the coffin's lid under the weight of the earth shoveled onto it.

SOURCE: *Chicago Tribune*, IL
1/14/86

CREDIT: R. Nelke

3rd Centenarian Dies Within Month in Egypt

A state-run newspaper yesterday reported the death of a woman, 134, in the Suez Canal area, the third Egyptian centenarian to die within a month and the second from the Suez region.

Al-Akhbar published a picture of Helena Mansour Salama, who it said had 99 grandchildren.

The daily quoted a grandson, Azmy Ekladious, as saying she never had been to a doctor and had refused to be evacuated from her 33-acre farm when her village was a battle zone.

Salama's death followed that of Tafeida Hassan Adwy, 126, Dec. 26 and Meddallah Soliman Mursy, 130, Dec. 27.

SOURCE: AP in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, OH 1/8/86

CREDIT: Wayne Cermak

Urn With Baby's Ashes Abandoned for 'Humming'

The urn sits in the Tucson Police property room. It looks somewhat like a steel ice bucket. Inside are the ashes of a 7-month-old boy who died in June 1982.

The boy died in Long Island, N.Y. The urn traveled here with the boy's mother, a topless dancer in her 30s.

But the mother moved on, leaving the ashes here with people who said they heard humming noises coming from the urn. That's why the police have it now.

Sgt. Kirk Simmons and officer Jon M. Heiden said they were flagged down Wednesday in the University area by a man who told them he had an urn with remains in it and he wanted to turn it over to the police.

He couldn't take the eerie humming any longer, Heiden said.

Heiden said the child's mother used to room with the 22-year-old man on East Adams Street but moved out about two years ago.

She left an old wooden box behind. In it, Heiden said, was the urn, a birth certificate, a newspaper clipping on the boy's death and a cremation certificate from a New York mortuary.

The former roommate said that at first he kept the box with the urn in his child's room, but the child complained of humming coming from the room. The man's present girlfriend told Heiden she could hear it, too, through the walls of the house.

So, Heiden said, the man told him he moved the wooden box and urn to a broken-down van in his yard.

But the humming didn't stop.

The man, Heiden said, told him that when he worked on the van, the urn hummed.

"That's why he wanted to get rid of it. When it started to hum, it bothered him," Heiden said.

Simmons said the paperwork with the urn showed the remains to be those of Harold Matthew Montgomery. The sergeant said the boy died of natural causes.

SOURCE: *Arizona Daily Star*, AZ
8/18/85

CREDIT: Member #826

A Brush With Destiny

As a young man, long before he entered politics, Peter Walker saw a painting in a junk shop which took his fancy.

It was a portrait of a man called Peregrine Hoby.

The portrait has been in his home ever since — unremarked and unremarkable — until this month when he bought a new family house. Going through the old deeds, he discovered something fascinating.

A previous occupant, from 1535 to 1565, was, yes, you have guessed it, Peregrine Hoby.

The painting now has a prominent position in the new Walker home and friends say that if he is such a gifted seer as this, then the premiership upon Mrs. Thatcher's retirement must surely be his!

SOURCE: *The Daily Mail*, England
2/9/86

CREDIT: David Rossiter via R. Nelke

As Luck Would Have It

How lucky can you get? Surely not much more than a 79-year-old hobo named Dick Luck.

Southend police said Friday that they were trying to trace Luck to tell him his 12,927 pounds (\$18,614), which he twice lost and retrieved, and apparently thought he had lost a third time, is safe in the bank.

Detective Sgt. John Soames said the absent-minded vagrant first had reported the loss of his brown bag containing spare socks, underwear, a mirror, hat and savings last month in this seaside resort in south-eastern England.

Someone found it at Southend Central railroad station and handed it intact to police, Soames said.

The police returned it to Luck and advised him to open an account with the bank across the street to keep the money safe. He did.

But a few days later, he withdrew the cash from the account and went off on his travels again.

Last week in London, Luck again reported the loss of the bag and cash. Again, it was turned in to police with nothing missing.

Police returned it to Luck a second time and advised him to reopen a bank account, which he did before setting out on more travels.

On Tuesday, Luck once more reported the loss of the bag and its contents. But this time, he apparently forgot that the money was in the bank.

"It seems that his luck is still in," said Soames.

SOURCE: AP in *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*,
MO 11/2/85

CREDIT: R. Nelke

Matching Maestros' Million to One Mix-Up

Salesman Elwyn Jones was delighted at the smooth way his A-registered blue Maestro 1·6 saloon was running as he drove home.

Pleased as punch, Elwyn parked the car outside his house and went off to bed.

A few miles away however, accountant Paul Rivers couldn't understand why the engine of his A-registered blue Maestro 1·6 saloon suddenly sounded so rough.

Then the penny dropped — Paul was in someone else's car!

And as if that wasn't bad enough, he'd left the keys to his front door in his own car.

The million-to-one mix-up occurred in Oxford when the two men — complete strangers — both decided to go to the same cinema on the same evening.

In the dark, they didn't realize they were parking their identical cars alongside each other.

But the most astonishing coincidence occurred when they came out of the film separately later in the evening.

The keys were also identical!

Paul thought it wiser to walk home having told the police his car was missing. But Elwyn didn't realize his boob until the next morning.

Yesterday an Austin Rover official explained that the odds against any Maestro key matching another were 65,536-1.

SOURCE: *Daily Express*, Great Britain
1/22/86

CREDIT: David Rossiter via R. Nelke

Skull Found

A giant skull washed up on the beach at Sea Palling, Norfolk, could be that of a prehistoric woolly mammoth.

SOURCE: *The Western Morning News*,
England 2/19/86

CREDIT: David Rossiter via R. Nelke

Rare Whale Bones Found

The bones of a saber-toothed whale washed up on an Oregon beach last week are so rare that scientists had never before seen an entire adult male skeleton.

The remains of the 15-foot Stejneger's beaked whale sparked the interest of local experts, who planned to ship the skeleton to the Smithsonian Institution.

The beaked whale is also known as the saber-toothed whale because it has distinctive teeth, about the size of axes, sticking up from each side of its jaw, said marine mammals specialist Bruce Mate. The animals are found mainly in the Bering Sea, he said.

"We presume they inhabit deep water, and they are shy of ships," he said. "We also presume they have the capability to remain submerged for up to an hour."

SOURCE: *Detroit Free Press*, MI
3/4/86

CREDIT: Bill Kingsley via R. Nelke

Scientists Find Fossils in Nova Scotia

Discovery of a huge fossil deposit in Nova Scotia, containing thousands of bones from dinosaurs and other animals that lived 200 million years ago, means that long-overlooked rock outcroppings down the East Coast of the United States may be sources of valuable fossils, scientists say.

Researchers announced yesterday the discovery of the largest fossil find in North America, an abundant trove that already has yielded more than 100,000 pieces of bone from a crucial period in evolutionary history.

The finding on the shores of the Bay of Fundy northeast of coastal Maine illuminate the turbulent era when dinosaurs emerged to rule the Earth while tiny mammals bided their time. It also points to an unexpected source of fossils in related sandstone deposits that dot the East Coast, they said.

Geologist Paul E. Olsen of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory and biologist Neil H. Shubin of Harvard University, with the aid of a half-dozen colleagues and students, found the cache last summer.

"Bones were sticking out all over the place. They were everywhere," Shubin said of the site, located on the north shore of the bay near rural Parrsboro.

The fossils were found in a rock formation known to geologists as the Newark Supergroup, the remains of an ancient, deep rift which stretches from Nova Scotia to South Carolina. Major outcroppings of these sedimentary rocks, which are between 225 million and 175 million years old, appear in New England, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia and North Carolina.

"As students, we were taught that the Newark Supergroup was barren of fossils, so no one bothered to look closely," Olsen said in an interview. "This discovery should change that. We've done some preliminary

sampling in the Richmond (Va.) area and found good fossils there. This is really just the beginning."

Some of the more significant finds so far are 12 skulls and jaws of Trithelodonts, the reptiles that are closest evolutionally to mammals. These are the first found in North America and represent the largest single collection of these rare fossils in the world.

They said they hoped the abundance of new fossils would help clarify such evolutionary mysteries as whether mammals came from reptiles or if both groups evolved from a common ancestor.

SOURCE: AP in *The Star-Ledger*, NJ
1/30/86

CREDIT: N. Warth

Vampire Linked to 1978 Death

An investigation into the mysterious 1978 death of a woman was reopened after the arrest in Florida of a man accused of raping a woman and drinking her blood in a vampire-like attack, police said Thursday.

Deborah Fitzjohn, 25, disappeared in January 1978 and her skeletal remains were discovered nine months later by hunters in woods outside Washington, D.C.

Her remains were so decomposed the cause of death never was determined.

The investigation stayed largely dormant for eight years until Nov. 23 when authorities in Brevard County, Fla., arrested Brennan Crutchley, 39, of Malabar, Fla., on charges of raping a 19-year-old woman.

He also is accused of inserting an intravenous device into her arm and drinking her blood. The woman eventually escaped, running from Crutchley's residence handcuffed and naked, said Warren Carmichael, a Fairfax County police spokesman.

"Because of the information gathered from Florida authorities, we have reopened our investigation into the death of Deborah Fitzjohn," said Carmichael, who refused to elaborate. "If we find evidence then (Crutchley) will be charged."

SOURCE: UPI in the *Republican Press*, NY
1/24/86

CREDIT: J. Zarzynski

A Tail of the Comet Egg

Last time it happened in Reno, Nevada. Before that it was Marburg in Germany. This time the Halley's Comet egg has turned up in England.

Regular as clockwork, every 76 years when the wandering comet visits the earth, it is said that a hen somewhere lays a 'comet egg'. With a 5,000 pound prize at stake, British hens alone produced no fewer than 350 this time around. There were eggs with star shapes, eggs with speckled tails, eggs with lumps and ridges. But the one Linda Franklin nearly threw away at Becketts Poultry Farm in Studley, Warwickshire, was the oddest of the lot.

Regional Egg Inspector Kim Miller from

the Ministry of Agriculture reverently picked up Mrs. Franklin's egg from its tray yesterday, frowned, shook his head in disbelief and said: "I've seen eggs by the millions with every sort of imperfection — but I've never seen anything like this. What we have here is a repeat of the Reno egg of 1910."

Mrs. Franklin, 36, took the egg home during a spell working for the poultry farm, to show her 12-year-old son Tony. "I didn't know anything about comet 'eggs,'" she said. "I never even saw the comet. It was my mother who told me about the competition."

But then legends have a habit of working themselves out against all the odds. A 300-year-old woodcut shows that the Marburg egg was marked with a five-pointed star at one end and a long tail.

And in 1910, County Clerk Fogg of Reno went out into his backyard to see the comet and found his pet hen had laid "an egg with a long tail on it."

Frank Powell, marketing director of Thames Valley eggs, who organized the egg hunt, announced: "We'll be offering it to a museum."

SOURCE: *Daily Mail*, England
1/18/86

CREDIT: David Rossiter via R. Nelke

Picture Causes Turmoil

The teenage son of one of my neighbors arrived at my doorstep in a state of great anxiety. He had just accidentally slipped with a knife and slashed "The Crying Boy" portrait in his house.

Popular folk legend has it that the "Crying Boy" is a bad omen anyway and students of superstition point to the large number of fires in homes where the picture hangs. The curious thing is that when the home burns, the picture survives.

So if an ordinary "Crying Boy" can reduce your home to ashes what sort of revenge would the picture wreak for being slashed?

Public fears about the picture reached a near epidemic state at the end of last year when a spate of "Crying Boy" fires all received a lot of publicity.

In a misguided public spirited gesture *The Sun* newspaper urged anxious readers to send them their copies of the painting so that they could stage a mass burning.

Since then, of course, *The Sun* has been in complete turmoil and now has to be produced from behind barbed wire in Wapping.

I cannot help feeling that this will have brought a smile to the face of the "Crying Boy."

My neighbor's teenage son asked if sending just one more "Crying Boy" picture to *The Sun* would cause any more unnecessary harm there.

SOURCE: *The Western Morning News*,
England 3/11/86

CREDIT: David Rossiter via R. Nelke

Buried Boy Reappears in China After 13 Years

A 3-year-old boy who was entombed 13 years ago after being presumed dead has reappeared alive, the official English-language China Daily reported Saturday.

The boy had been thought dead after being hospitalized for one day with stomach pains, the newspaper said. But at dusk on the day he was buried, the boy's father, Long Wenze, found the hillside tomb open and his son's body missing.

Apparently a passing farmer had heard the child crying inside the tomb in the southern province of Buizhou, dug him out and took him home, the China Daily said.

The mystery remained unsolved until the farmer who took the child decided to look for the real parents. The report did not say why he had waited 13 years, nor where the boy, Long Jun, would now live.

SOURCE: AP in *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, OH 3/31/86

CREDIT: Wayne Cermak

Corpse Bursts into Flame

Police were astonished when the body of a cemetery worker, who apparently died from a heart attack, burst into flames on the floor of his smoke-filled house this week, a state assistant medical examiner said.

Authorities at first believed spontaneous combustion, in which bodies are said to burst into flame for no reason, was the cause of the fire, but medical examiner Dr. Claus P. Speth provided a more plausible explanation Tuesday for what happened to Herb Cook of Franklinville, N.J.

Speth said Cook, 81, appeared to have had a heart attack Friday and fallen dead atop a gas heater. When firefighters opened the door to his house, they probably let in enough oxygen to fuel a fire, Speth said.

Cook, who opened and closed the gates at Cedar Green Cemetery in Clayton, had failed to report for work Friday and was reported missing Tuesday. His body was found that day.

SOURCE: AP in *The Asbury Park Press*, NJ 3/20/86

CREDIT: #432

Smart Dog

Dogs aren't exactly equipped to fight fires, but when it gets too hot for puppies, they can sometimes improvise.

No one was at the Sandra Schrader home in Farmington, N.J., when a heat lamp in a storage shed toppled into a bed occupied by Kako, a Queensland Heeler, and her seven pups. The lamp started a fire in blankets and paper used for insulation.

Instead of moving her pups away from the fire, Kako moved the fire.

Mrs. Schrader says when she returned home, she found the dog had dragged the blankets and papers out to the lawn and had pulled the heat lamp away from the bed.

SOURCE: *Asbury Park Press*, NJ 1/2/86

CREDIT: Nancy Warth

Carried Ice Pick In Brain 50 Years, Dies of Bad Heart

Police thought they had a murder on their hands when they found out Rev. John Smith died with a 2½-inch fragment of an ice pick in his brain, but the cause of death turned out to be heart disease.

The medical examiner's office discovered that the metal fragment had been lodged in the Baptist minister's head for half a century. It was left there by a robber who attacked him in 1936.

"He's an 82-year-old guy who's been walking around for 50 years with a 2½-inch ice pick in his head," said Ira Kanfer, an assistant medical examiner.

"And then he blows a pulmonary embolism while being treated for heart disease," Kanfer said Wednesday. "Amazing."

Smith's wife, Gussie Mae Smith, 69, told his story.

She said he was walking through a section of Miami called "Good Bread Alley" one day

in 1936 when he was surprised by a robber who plunged the ice pick through Smith's skull and into his brain.

A witness, who did not know Smith, called police and he took him to Jackson Memorial Hospital. His wife, who married him later, said he woke up in the hospital unable to remember anything, including his name.

His friends and family had no idea what happened to him for six months.

"He lay flat on his back for all that time," she said. "He didn't know who he was, but he lay there praying. Then the spirit told him to go into the bathroom, when he could drag himself a little, and called him by his name three times or nine, I can't remember."

SOURCE: UPI in the *Schenectady Gazette*, NY 1/24/86

CREDIT: Bob Girard

And there's that mysterious love factor, for the young, and for the old.

Final Act of Love

A 15-year-old boy who learned that his girlfriend needed a heart transplant told his mother three weeks ago that he was going to die and that the young woman should have his heart.

Felipe Garza Jr., who his half-brother said had seemed to be in perfect health, died Saturday after a blood vessel burst in his head.

His family followed his wishes, and Felipe's heart was transplanted Sunday to Donna Ashlock as his last act of love.

His half-brother, John Sanchez, 20, said Felipe told their mother, Maria, three weeks ago: "I'm going to die, and I'm going to give my heart to a girlfriend."

Donna, 14, who also lived in this farming community 75 miles southeast of San Francisco, had just learned that she had an enlarged heart and needed a transplant.

Felipe complained of pain on the left side of his head when he woke up Saturday morning.

"He was losing breath, and he couldn't walk," Sanchez said.

Garza was taken to the local hospital, then flown to a larger hospital in Modesto, 20 miles away.

But the blood supply to Felipe's brain had been cut off so long by the burst blood vessel that he was brain dead, and remained technically alive only because he had been placed on a respirator, Sanchez added.

The family decided to let physicians remove Felipe's heart for Donna and his kidneys and eyes for others in need of those organs.

"The doctor told me that through an angiogram, it was revealed he (Garza) had a venous malformation at the basal ganglia which caused the spontaneous intracerebral bleed," said Deputy Coroner Sarah Stewart.

"That's a natural death," she said. "Basically, it's a burst blood vessel."

A team of surgeons removed Felipe's organs, and Donna got her transplant in a five-hour operation Sunday afternoon.

SOURCE: AP in the *Star-Ledger*, NJ 1/7/86

CREDIT: N. Warth

Born a Day Apart, They Died Hours Apart

Clarence Figel was born on Aug. 23, 1898, in Hillsdale, Mich. Malinda Figel was born Aug. 24, 1898, in Fort Wayne, Indiana — just one day apart.

They were married on Armistice Day, 1921. The marriage produced two children, five grandchildren, and a contracting company — Clarence W. Figel, Inc. He was president and she was his bookkeeper.

Their togetherness became more difficult about three years ago when Figel had a stroke and became partially disabled.

"So he went to the Lutheran Home where we knew he'd get the care he needed. Mom went to him almost every day — when she couldn't go in person, she would call," said their son, Bill Figel.

Mrs. Figel was summoned to the retirement home Thursday because her husband was not feeling well. When she and her daughter arrived, they learned he was dead.

"We went home, and Mom fixed something to eat," Bill Figel said. "She sat down but then slumped over in her chair. We rushed her to the hospital, but there was nothing anybody could do." She apparently suffered a massive brain hemorrhage.

After more than 64 years of marriage, they died "with dignity and very much in love with each other," said their daughter, Clarlynn M. Young.

SOURCE: AP in the *Asbury Park Press*, NJ 1/8/86

CREDIT: Member #432

The Notes of Charles Fort

Deciphered by Carl J. Pabst

ABBREVIATIONS

(+)	exceptional note	Hist. Astro	History of Astronomy
(A)	[?]	Inf Conjunction	Inferior Conjunction
ab	about	Lat	Latitude
ac to	according to	Lit. Gazette	<i>Literary Gazette</i>
A. J. Sci	<i>American Journal of Science</i>	1st mag	first magnitude
(A 1)	[? Almanac ?]	LT	<i>London Times</i>
An. de Chim	<i>Annales de Chimie</i>	Mag of Sci	<i>Magazine of Science</i>
A. Reg.	<i>Annual Register</i>	Manchester Morn, Post	<i>Manchester Morning Post</i>
BA	<i>Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science</i>	Metite	Meteorite
BCF	<i>The Books of Charles Fort</i>	Myst	Mysterious
bet	between	Niles Nat. Reg	<i>Niles' National Register</i>
Bib. Univ.,	Bibliographic Universelle	(N.M.)	No More
Bull Seis A	<i>Bulletin of the Seismograph Society of America</i>	N. Orleans	New Orleans
B. W. I.	British West Indies	N.S.W.	New South Wales
Calcutta Jour. Nat. Hist	<i>Calcutta Journal of Natural History</i>	N.Y. Herald	<i>New York Herald</i>
cols	columns	obs	observations
com.	comet	[p.] 184	page 184
cor	correspondent	Phil time	Philadelphia time
C.R.	<i>Comptes Rendus</i>	[?]	[?]
Det met	Detonating meteor	q	earthquake
disap	disappeared	q phe	earthquake and phenomena
Edin N. P. J.	<i>Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal</i>	/// [Reverse side]	probably not related
Eng. pubs.	English publications	S.C.	South Carolina
Ext.	Extraordinary	[Tas]manian Jour of Sci	<i>Tasmanian Journal of Science</i>
(F)	<i>Fletcher's List</i>	(t)	[?]
(Fr)	France	th. storm	thunderstorm
Galignanis Mess	<i>Galignani's Messenger</i>	Timbs	<i>Timb's Year Book</i>
Gaz de France Nun Nat	[?]	Trans Roy Irish Acad	<i>Transactions of the Bombay Geological Society</i>
and Cour. France	[?]	Trib	<i>Tribune</i>
Ghst	Ghost	ver.	[?]
Guad.	Guadeloupe	Volc	Volcano
h	hours	W.I.	West Indies
		(x)	[?]

(continued from PURSUIT Vol. 18, #2, page 96)

- 1842 Aug. 12 / 9 p.m. / Aosta / Meteor motionless "dizaine" seconds. / [Reverse side] Bib. Univ., N.S., 42-396.
- 1842 Aug. 12 / Great meteor at Grand Lemps (Isere) / C.R. 15-451 / 9 p.m. 1842 Aug. 19 / bet. 7 and 9 p.m. / Pitlochry / 3 shocks and sounds / LT, Sept. 1-3-c.
- 1842 Aug. 22 / bet. 6 and 7 / Bangor, N. Wales, etc. / booming sound and q / LT, Aug. 25-3-f.
- 1842 Aug. 27 / (psychic) / S. Herefordshire / Man saw glow near a hedge — thought it reflection from some meteor. / BA 52/187.
- 1842 Sept. 3 / Parma — Fireball / BA 60.
- 1842 Sept. 5 / See Aug. 5. / Harrowgate / huge stone / ½ ton — in th. storm / Mechanics Mag 37/272.
- 1842 Sept. 6 / [LT], 7-e / Water-spout.
- 1842 Sept. 9 / (Hun) / q / Gross-Kanischka / BA '11.
- 1842 Sept. 22 / [LT], 5-f / Strange if true.
- 1842 Sept. 24 / NM / 5:55 a.m. and ab 7 p.m. / shocks — Comrie / L. T., Oct. 10.
- 1842 Sept. 25 / (Pax) / ext. magneti[c] disturbance note[d] at Greenwich Ob. / *Annals of Electricity* 6/112.
- 1842 Sept. 25 / evening / St. Louis / brilliant meteor detonating like discharges of artillery / *Niles Nat. Reg.* 63-96.
- 1842 Sept. 30 / Parma / Fireball / BA 60.
- 1842 Oct. 2 / bet. 6 and 7 p.m. / at Dinau, in Depart. Calvados / Shock [Reverse side] and sound like thunderclap, but it came distinctly from the ground." / BA-54.
- 1842 Oct. 4 / Reported by Mr. Glaisher, of the Cambridge Ob — a bright streak of light in Orion and a center about bright as Jupiter, a center from which were coming quick, flickering waves of light [Reverse side] lasting 10 seconds. The waving ceased and there was a bright star in the center. It faded and in 2 minutes disappeared. / *Timb's Year Book* 1843/279.
- 1842 Oct. 4 / Cambridge / Fireball / BA 60.
- 1842 Oct. 6 - 7 / night / Shock / Dinau (Calvados) / BA 54-324 / "Accompanied by a hollow sound, which some [Reverse side] persons took for a clap of thunder; but the sky was perfectly free of clouds, and the noise came distinctly from beneath upwards."
- 1842 Oct. 12 / Meteor / Isere / 13th, on Rhine, q and loud noise / BA 54/324.
- 1842 Oct. 18 / Hamburg / Fireball / BA '60.
- 1842 Oct. 23 / Det met heard all over Silesia / BA 60-80.
- 1842 Oct. 25 / Spout / Scotland / LT, Nov. 24-4-8.
- 1842 Oct. 28 / 7 p.m. / Comet in Draco / A.J. Sci 44/211.
- 1842 Nov. 4 / 12:30 p.m. / Shock around mouth of Ohio. Two hours later [Reverse side] another, with sound like thunder. / *Niles Nat. Register*, Nov. 26.
- 1842 Nov. 8 or 9 / No fall of black matter in Canada recorded, but see 9th in Italy.
- 1842 Nov. 8 or 9 / Montreal, etc. / "Terrible shocks and explosions like salvos of artillery. [Reverse side] In *Rept. BA*, 1845 (Trans) p. 29, date given as 9th.
- 1842 Nov. 8 / evening / Montreal, Canada, etc. / q "accompanied by explosions like salvos of artillery. [Reverse side] Ac to another account, was on the 9th. / BA '54/324.
- 1842 Nov. 9 / (t) (X) / 10:15 a.m. / Distinct shock on southern side of Etna. "The next day [Reverse side] a kind of volcanic dust covered the roofs, plants, etc., in Naples, Pozzuoli, Ischia and all the southwestern part of the Kingdom." / [Front side] BA 1854.
- 1842 Nov. 9 / q / Canada / Montreal, etc. / BA 45/21.
- 1842 Nov. 9 / q Canada, this day / Etna / Nothing said in *Le Moniteur Univ*, which is *Gaz* [Reverse side] *de France Nun Nat and Cour. France*, of fall of dust before Nov. 27.
- 1842 Nov. 9 — / See Nov. 17.
- 1842 Nov. 10 / 18 / Dec. 1, about / Dec. 8 / 9 // Myst fires / Montierender and Boulancourt / *An. de Chim* 3/7/254 /// [Reverse side] A 57 [stamped].
- 1842 Nov. 10, etc. / See 1840. / Myst fires of Montierender — Letter from the Justice of Peace of M to M. Arago / Myst fires inexplicable after investigations by the authorities — Nov. 18 the first — young girl saw a strong light pass and strike the window glass — the next day this house on fire. [Reverse side] On 10th a great flame from the roof of a barn — on the 12th this barn on fire. Dec. 5, bet. 5

and 6 a.m., a luminous globe in the sky. On 8th of Feb. (?) 1843, globe of fire seeming go out from a chimney — on 9th a barn on fire. Also early in Dec. globe of fire. / C.R. 16/206.

1842 Nov. 11 / q / Calcutta / A writer says he felt electrified 15 minutes after. / (N.M.) / LT 1843, Jan. 12-3-f.

1842 Nov. 13 / (Fr) / Nantes q and 2 explosions / BA '54.

1842 Nov. 18, etc. / Flames / Series / [typescript] / *Annales de Chimie*, 3-7-254 /

[Reverse side] /

In the *Annales de Chimie*, 3-7-254, is published a letter from the Magistrate of Montierender, to M. Arago — fires that had broken out, in Montierender and Boulancourt, towns about six miles apart. The Magistrate writes that, upon November 18, 1842, a young girl had entered her room, and had seen a bright light strike the window pane. The next day, the lofts of this house and four neighboring houses were found burning. At Boulancourt, November 10th, a great flame was seen near the roof of a barn. Two days later this barn was burned. At Montierender, early in December, luminous things were seen in the sky: they are described as if they were meteors. Upon the 8th of December, another luminosity was seen. It was thought to have issued from a chimney. The thing went to a cemetery, or it passed over a cemetery, where it divided into three parts, one of which fell into the cemetery, or seemed to, nothing of it [Second page] / [p.] 184 / having been found there. Upon the 9th of December, about a mile west of Montierender, a fire broke out in a barn. The Magistrate writes that the utmost endeavors of the police had been fruitless, and he appeals to M. Arago for the help of Science.

1842 Nov. 17 / (+) / Etna / L.T., Dec. 26-2-f / Writing on Dec. 11th, cor says that as long before as the 17th of Nov., Etna exhibited extraordinary symptoms. The [Reverse side] smoke became denser and projected farther. No eruption noted till 27th.

1842 Nov. 27, etc. / Etna / BA 54 / noted for Dec. 9.

1842 Nov. 27 / 11 p.m. / eruption of Etna, ac to *Le Moniteur Universel*, Dec. 17.

1842 Nov. 27 / 11 p.m. / Etna / *Athenaeum* 1842-1116.

1842 Nov. 30 / *Edin N.P.J.* — 47-55 / near Ahmedabad / stone like Feb. 15, 1848 / "This fragment presented so exactly the appearance of the foregoing aerolite from

[Reverse side] Dharwar that it might have been taken for a portion of it; presenting the same dark vitrified surface, the grayish-white siliceous interior, with the brilliant metallic particles diffused through it.

1842 Dec. 2 - 11 / Etna active / C.R. 16-93.

1842 Dec. 4 / Algiers / q. / I [Light] / BA '11.

1842 Dec. 5 / 5:30 p.m. / Epinal, Vosges, Langres / Large fireball and great detonations. In July, 1851, small meteoric iron found near Epinal, the fragments perhaps of this fireball. / BA 60-80 / [Reverse side] CR 15-1119.

1842 Dec. 5 / 6:30 a.m. / Metite of Langres / C.R., 15-118 / Sky clear at Epinal.

1842 Dec. 5 / 5:30 a.m. / Det met like gunfire at Epinal / Mass of meteoric iron found there, July 7, 1851, / C.R. 35-289 /

[Reverse side] Said that cinders had been found at time of the fall.

1842 (Dec.? / See) // Basilico, Switzerland / Fireball / BA '60.

1842 Dec. 12 / Dorch lame girl / London.

1842 Dec. 18 / — 15 h / Venus Inf Conjunction Sun / (A 1).

1842 Dec. 20 / Wirtemberg / Fireball / BA '60.

1842 Dec. 27 to Feb. 13, 1843 / 4 qs in Calabria / L.T., April 4, 1843 — 4-e.

1842 Dec. (last) / Stones / Clavaux / fell on children "without injuring them to the slightest degree".

1842 Dec. / Stones / [typescript] / London Times,

1843

Jan. 13, 1843 /

[Reverse side] /

London Times, Jan. 13, 1843:

That, according to the *Courier de l'isere*, in the last of December, [Second page]

1842, two young girls were picking up leaves, near Clavaux (Livet) France, when they saw stones falling around them. Their extraordinary observation was that the stones struck them without injuring them. They ran home, and returned with their parents. The stones fell again, and it is said that the children were a field of attraction. According to the story, the children then had an experience that I liken to that of Cumpston's: they were pulled into something that was like a vortex, but their parents, unaffected, like Mrs. Cumpston, dragged them back. It looks as if there were a flow both ways, or an alternating current, here. The story was told broadcast, and many persons from neighboring towns went to the place, and, recognizing what seemed to be a necessary condition, or factor, took children with them. "All were witnesses of the same extraordinary phenomenon." We are told that one of the witnesses, "when holding the hand of one of the children," was struck upon the cheek by a stone the size of an egg, but from which he felt no pain, so slowly had it fallen. The

appearing-point is said to have been only a few feet overhead.

1842 end of Dec. / (Stones) / Livet, near Clavaux — two girls picking up leaves — stones fell on them. Not injure them. Parents when joining hands with children felt selves drawn in field of attraction. Other one injured slightly from a falling

[Reverse side] stone. About 60 picked up. Nothing particular — of different colors — phe continued several days. At first in morning — then in afternoon — then toward night — then no more. / LT, Jan. 13-3-c-1843.

[BCF, p. 559:

London Times, Jan. 13, 1843 — that, according to the *Courier de l'isere*, two little girls, last of December, 1842, were picking leaves from the ground, near Clavaux (Livet), France, when they saw stones falling around them. The stones fell with uncanny slowness. The children ran to their homes and told of the phenomenon, and returned with their parents. Again stones fell, and with the same uncanny slowness. It is said that relatively to these falls the children were attractive agents. There was another phenomenon, an upward current, into which the children were dragged, as if into a vortex. We might have had data of mysterious disappearances of children, but the parents, who were unaffected by the current, pulled them back.]

[BCF, p. 535:

If anyone would like to read an account of stones that fell intermittently for several days, clearly enough as if in a current, or in a field of special force, of some kind, at Livet, near Clavaux, France, December, 1842, see the London Times, Jan. 13, 1843. There have been other such occurrences. Absurdly, when they were noticed at all, they were supposed to be psychic phenomena. I conceive that there is no more of the psychic to these occurrences than there is to the arrival of seeds from the West Indies upon the coast of England. Stones that fell upon a house, near the Pantheon, Paris, for three weeks, January, 1849 — see Dr. Wallace's *Miracles and Modern Spiritualism*, p. 284. Several times, in the course of this book, I have tried to be reasonable. I have asked what such repeating phenomena in one local sky do indicate, if they do not indicate fixed origins in the sky. And if such occurrences, supported by many data in other fields, do not indicate the stationariness of this earth, with new lands not far away — tell me what it is all about. The falling stones of Chico — new lands in the sky — or what?]

1843 / q's / Europe, etc. / Supplement, C.R. 20-1444.

1843 / All qs of Europe and adjacent parts of Africa and Asia / C.R.

18-393.

[BCF, p. 149:

In the *American Pioneer*, 2-169, are shown two faces of a copper coin, with characters very much like those upon the Grave Creek stone — which, with translations, we'll take up soon. This coin is said to have been found in Connecticut, in 1843.]

1843, early in / At sea off mouth of River Plate, crew of a vessel sickened by

[Reverse side] a fetid, oppressive atmosphere. / L.T., March 30-9-a.

1843 Jan. 2 / Bruges / Fireball / BA 60.

1843 Jan. 4 / Volc / Goentoes, Java / N.M. / C.R. 70-878.

1843 Jan. 4 / Cairo (Ill.) / q / BA '11.

1843 Jan. 4 / 8:40 p.m. / New Madrid / q. / severest since 1811 / [Reverse side] Also damage in St. Louis / N.Y. Herald, Jan. 20-4-1.

1843 Jan. 5, 18, Feb. 17, Feb. 18, March 15, Ap. 14 / q's / Java / C.R. 70-878.

1843 Jan. 6 -(11) / q — deluge / 11:30 a.m. / Singapore / q followed by a little rain / then torrents till 11th /

[Reverse side] CR 52-881.

1843 Jan. 7 / [LT], 5-d / Feb. 2-5-b // Etna.

1843 Jan. 10-Feb. 1, ab / Mauna Loa / *Athenaeum* 1844-68 / A.J. Sci 2/27/411.

1843 Jan. 13 / One of the greatest gales in England.

1843 Jan. 16-17 / Myst bell ringing / as if pulled. / servant ill / L.T., 1843, Jan. 20/7-d.

1843 Feb. 1 / Riegersdorf / Fireball / BA 60.

1843 Feb. 5 / 8 p.m. / Nottinghamshire / met like a "large mass of fire of a blood-red color" / BA 50/90.

1843 Feb. 7 / Charleston, S.C. / ab 10 a.m. / 2 slight q's and sound / *Bull Seis A* 4-117.

1843 Feb. 8 / 10:30 a.m. / q. / St. Thomas's / (L.T. Index) / also St. Kitts and Nevis, etc. / Martinique.

1843 Feb. 8 / For the q, see Fielding Reid.

1843 Feb. 8 / (q and Comet) / Great q / West Indies / A.J.S. 44/419.

1843 Feb. 8 / Off Guadeloupe, column of black water rose from sea. [Reverse side] Supposed submarine volc. / L.T., May 24-8-b.

1843 Feb. 8 / q / Antigua / ab 10:45 a.m. / There was a deep purple haze. / A. Reg., '43-12.

1843 Feb. 8 / A q at Dominica, and soon after a "stupendous comet" visible at sunset and then above horizon several hours. Tail 25 or 30 degrees long. / L.T., Ap. 4-6-a. / See March.

1843 Feb. 8 / [newspaper clipping] / [Quake.] / Port of Spain Gazette, Sept. 21, 1925. [See *Doubt*, #18, pp. 277-278.]

- 1843 Feb. 8 / Destructive q. / St. Lucia, B.W.I. / *BA* 1911-55.
- 1843 Feb. 8 / Destructive q. / West Indies / *BA* 1911-53.
- 1843 Feb. 8 / 5,000 persons killed in West Indies in this q. / *BA* 1911-42.
- 1843 Feb. 8 / [LT], 7-a / Met / Nottingham.
- 1843 Feb. 10, ab / N. Missouri / dense clouds of a dark substance resembling
[Reverse side] steel dust / *N.Y. Herald*, March 2-4-1.
- 1843 Feb. 14 / Several shocks / N. Orleans / *N.Y. Herald*, Feb. 28-4-1.
- 1843 Feb. 16 / 11 p.m. / Shocks / Nashville, Tenn. / *N.Y. Herald*, Feb. 28-4-1.
- 1843 Feb. 17 / Many mets / Brussels / *BA* 47-15.
- 1843 Feb. 19 / See if this some other date. / This ver. / *C.R.* 22-709 / That in New Grenada (I think U.S. Columbia), down the valley of Lagunella, swept a flood of mud. / [Reverse side] (See if 1828.) / Supposed from the Ruiz Volcano. With it enormous blocks of ice from the mountains. Broke down and covered trees with mud. Many inhabitants perished. / See if 1845.
- 1843 Feb. 28 / Cor to *Cape Town Mail* of March 11, describes the comet as he saw it. Close to the sun, like 1st mag star — at 9 a.m. March 2, after sunset, it threw up a long train of light half way to the zenith. [Reverse side] On 3rd, it was much higher in the heavens when the sun had set and visible ab ½ hour afterward — very brilliant — after it disappeared, the tail shot up obliquely toward the north. On 4th, brilliant but reduced to ¼th first size — destitute of the long tail.
- 1843 [Feb. 28] / See Dec. 22, etc., 1880. / Also that Southern Comet that disappeared.
- 1843 Feb. 28 / Ac to the *New Bedford Mercury*, copied in *N.Y. Daily Tribune*, March 10 / Comet near the sun, visible all day 28th without glasses, brilliancy almost equal to that of Venus — tail about 3 degrees long,
[Reverse side] very near eastern limb of sun.
- 1843 Feb. 28 / Comet seen in broad daylight, numerous places in New England. / *Am J. Sci* 44/412.
- 1843 Feb. 28 / (Comet) / "size of Venus" / Brilliant body near the sun, by [m]any persons in New England. / *Am J. Sci* 44/412 / [Reverse side] And yet when, March 7, the beam seen, nucleus doubtful.
- 1843 March 1 / Comet first seen in Tasmania / [*Tas*]manian *Jour of Sci* 2-155 / disap on 7th of April.
- 1843 March 1 / Dust / At Valencia, Spain, heavy gale. "An immense red mass upon the horizon. It advanced slowly and
[Reverse side] cast a fine red-colored dust. / *Athenaeum* 1843-268.
- 1843 March 1 / [LT], 6-d / Ghst / Sunderland / See Jan. 20-7-d.
- 1843 March 2 / Tail of comet seen, Lat 6.33.N; 79.3E, from ship John Barry. At sunset
[Reverse side] on 4th, the nucleus seen. Then greater altitude next night. / *Bombay Monthly Times*, April, 1843.
- 1843 March 2 / Comet first seen in Sydney, N.S.W., 7 p.m. / *Sydney Morning Herald*, March 7.
- 1843 March 5-6 / Beam / ac. to a writer from Brown University / Tail of comet — as soon a[s] dark, a slender beam of light from the horizon, or near it) at a point 10 or 15 degrees south of west.
[Reverse side] *N.Y. Daily Tribune* 14-4-1 — observed till 8 p.m. and had then passed below horizon. No nucleus had been seen, and writer's belief it was too near the sun — so he thinks reports of the comet nucleus in daytime just been unfounded.
- 1843 March 6 / at Serampore, India / ac to *Friend of India*, March 9 and 16 / Evening, after sunset, long beam, seemed auroral — nucleus in Eridanus on 7th — tail 36 degrees long. If produced, would meet Sirius.
[Reverse side] A line from Canopus to Sirius and another to nucleus of the comet made a right angle.
- 1843 March 6 / Evening, at Calcutta, comet tail at first like a streak of smoke from a steamer, illumined by the sun;
[Reverse side] and, after sunset, like a sun column, but then seen as a comet tail. / *Calcutta Jour. Nat. Hist.* 4-128.
- 1843 March 6-9 / Report by Lieut. Maury, of the Hydrographical Office / *N.Y. Daily Tribune* 13-4-1 / [Reverse side] In daytime, every point of space within 15 degrees of the sun was examined but no nucleus could be found. At sunset, the tail visible, pointing "toward the sun" (or self away).
[Front side] On evening of 8th, tail was a faint nebulous *arch* reaching away beyond Sirius in the East, resting on Epsilon of the great Dog. [Reverse side] Nothing in eastern sky in morning.
- 1843 March 6-9, and 11 / (A) / Maury thought that the comet was approaching the sun — so he explained invisibility of the nucleus; that
[Reverse side] lost to sight in rays of sun. / But ac to *Cape Town Observer*, the comet was leaving the sun. // [Second page] My idea that "nucleus" was a fixed star that waned but sent out a "train".
[Reverse side] But — does the sun move west of a fixed point in "shell" and so leave it behind? 4 minutes to the east every day?
- 1843 March / [newspaper clipping] / [Great Comet.] / *Port of Spain Gazette*, [7th March, 1843]. [See *Doubt*, #18, p. 279.]
- 1843 March 7 (?) / Near Guadeloupe, W.I., column of black water, and vapor from the sea / had been
[Reverse side] great q in Guad., Feb. 8 / *Athenaeum* 1843-574.
- 1843 March 8 / Banks of Essequibo river / 4°11' N. Lat. / Account in *Athenaeum* 1843-529, by the explorer Schomburgk, of the comet as he saw it — saw tail, but in forest could not see the horizon. On 9th, saw the nucleus 12° above horizon — tail to Eridanus.
- 1843 March 10 / ab 1 a.m. / q / Jersey and Guernsey / *LT* 18-5-2.
- 1843 March 10 / ab 12:30 a.m. / q / Manche / (Fr.) / *Timbs* 1844/277.
- 1843 March / Comet / See *The New World Extra Series*, No. 65, The Comet / (P.P. 6391†.) / On 13th, at Yale College, as reported in a letter in the *New Haven Palladium*, the nucleus near 55 Ceti / setting / [Reverse side] Setting ab 7:40 p.m., 55 Ceti or Batey / Cor, *U.S. Gazette*, says 25' of Zeta Ceti. / what date? / That in a powerful refractor no disc discernable / He says that moving eastwards ab 3½ degrees a day, and southward ab ½ degree per day.
- 1843 March 10 / ab 8:20 p.m. / Lancashire — N.E. of Manchester, especially Rochdale. / one before / Aug. 20, 1835 / June 11, '39 / *LT*, March 16-6-b.
- 1843 March 11 / Lieut. Maury's report up to [March 11] / *Trib* 15-1-1 / Search for the
[Reverse side] Comet and in vain — but each evening the magnificent "tail".
- 1843 March / More obs on the comet — Clerke, *Hist. Astro*/103.
- 1843 March-April / The Comet / See Again. / Streak seen March 4 — in Jamaica / *LT*, Ap. 22-3-f / See "Beams". / not satisfactory nucleus ever seen.
- 1843 March 2 / Comet at Rio / *LT*, May 15-6-b / for Persia — see *Times*, June 10-5-b.
- 1843 March / Get prediction of "comet". / See if came back.
- 1843 March / The comet / They tried to say the comet of Sept., 1882, was this, but see periods they gave to it.
- 1843 March / Mr. Glaisher's denial that the beam was the comet's tail / thinks unusual zodiacal light / *Mag of Sci* 5-14.
- 1843 Feb., March / Comet element in *Am J. Sci* 44/415 / Perihelion passage / Feb. 27. 240348 / Phil time / See Eng. pubs.
- 1843 March / M.M. Laugier and Mauvais, of Paris, agreed: they determined that the comet would return in 35 years. Clausen — 6 or 7 years. Prof. Hubbard, of Washington — 553 year[s]. / Clerke, *Hist Astro*, 103 /
[Reverse side] Clerke — perihelion
- 9:47 p.m., Feb. 27, 1843.
- 1843 March 14 / Oporto / "Splendid comet appeared at sunset, in west, and disap[peared] in west. Venus? / *LT*, March 22-5-e.
- 1843 March 16 / Paris? / Galignanis Mess / light in sky supposed to be tail of enormous new comet / no nucleus seen / 7 p.m.
- 1843 March 17 / "Comet or supposed comet" / See *Timbs*, 1844. / [Second page] At 10:30 that evening / *LT* 25-7-c / Ireland bet. 12 and 1.
- 1843 March 23 / [LT], 6-c / Tail of a com. seen variously in Orion, Lepus, Cetus.
- 1843 March 31 / [LT], 5-c / Beam in sky — several nebulous bodies that might be a comet.
- 1843 March 14 / q and "rushing sound" in Vermont / 9:05 p.m. / *N.Y. Daily Tribune* 24-2-3.
- 1843 before March 15 / "A strange yellow liquid that adhered to the fingers when touched
[Reverse side] and dyed the ground where it fell." *Lit. Gazette* 1843-389 / India.
- 1843 March 16 / bet. 11 and 12 p.m. / q. / St. Louis / accompanied by a "rushing noise" / *N.Y. Trib.*, 20-3-1.
- 1843 Mar. 17 / 8:20 a.m. / q / Manchester and Rochdale / *Lloyd's* 19-2-5 // [Reverse side] Ab 1 a.m. / Liverpool / 19-8-2.
- 1843 Mar. 17 / q / Lancashire / Cumberland / Dumfries / Isle Man / Belfast and Jersey / Guernsey / *Trans Roy Irish Acad* 28-293 / [Reverse side] In *Manchester Morn. Post*, Oct. 9, 1863 / See 1816.
- 1843 March 17 / 1:20 a.m. / Sounds like explosions and qs / Westmoreland /
[Reverse side] *L.T.*, March 21, etc.
- 1843 March 17 / (q and sky) / Manchester, etc. / ab 1 a.m. / q / Liverpool / *LT* 18-5-b / 2 cols — *LT* 20-7-b /
[Reverse side] At Manchester, taken for report of distant cannon / at Liverpool — dimness of moon noted — at Manchester, "dim and filmy". Noise like of an explosion — sound and vibration — Isle of Man, ab 12:45. /
[Front side] March 21-5-d — in Westmoreland, ab 1:20, "a yellowish blaze in the elements". Supposed powder mills had blown up. Said ac to one witness had been slight shock.
- 1843 March 18 / Mr. Forster, astronomer of Bruges, is quoted in *The Magazine of Science*, 5-13 — that the light that had been appearing on horizon, an hour after sunset, [Reverse side] did not belong to a comet. "It is a zodiacal light." Said that from the Cambridge Observatory, Mr. Glaisher had written, expressing his opinion.

(to be continued)

The Society For The Investigation of The Unexplained

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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.