



PURSUIT[®]

"SCIENCE IS THE PURSUIT OF THE UNEXPLAINED"

VOL. 6, NO. 1

JANUARY, 1973

SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

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ORGANIZATION

The legal and financial affairs of the Society are managed by a Board of Trustees, in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey. These Officers are five in number: a President, elected for five years; two Vice-Presidents; a Treasurer; and a Secretary. General policy is supervised by a Governing Board, consisting of the five Trustees, and four other members elected for one year terms. General administration and management is handled by an Executive Board, listed on the inside back cover of this publication. The Editorial Board is listed on the masthead of this journal. Finally, our Society is counselled by a number of prominent scientists, as also listed on the inside back cover of this journal. These are designated as our Scientific Advisory Board.

PARTICIPATION

Participation in the activities of the Society is solicited. Memberships run from the 1st of January to the 31st of December; but those joining after the 1st of October are granted the final quarter of that year gratis. The annual subscription is U.S. \$10, which includes four issues of the Journal PURSUIT for the year, as well as access to the Society's library and files, through correspondence or on visitation. The annual subscription rate for the journal PURSUIT (alone, and without membership benefits) is \$5, including postage. (PURSUIT is also distributed, on a reciprocal basis, to other societies and institutions.) The Society contracts-- with individuals, and institutional and official organizations for specific projects -- as a consultative body. Terms are negotiated in each case in advance. Fellowship in the Society is bestowed (only by unanimous vote of the Trustees) on those who are adjudged to have made an outstanding contribution to the aims of the Society.

NOTICES

In view of the increase in resident staff and the non-completion, as yet, of additional living quarters, there is no longer over-night accomodation for visitors. Members are welcome to visit to consult our files, but we ask that they make application at least a week in advance to prevent 'pile-ups' of members who, as a result of the simple lack of facilities, as of now, cannot be properly accomodated.

The Society is unable to offer or render any services whatsoever to non-members. Further, the Society does not hold or express any corporate views, and any opinions expressed by any members in its publications are those of the authors alone. No opinions expressed or statements made by any members by word of mouth or in print may be construed as those of the Society.

There have been a number of articles recently on the problem of junk mail and the way in which one's name gets on such a mailing list. We should like to assure our members and subscribers that our mailing list is available only to resident staff at our headquarters.

PUBLICATIONS

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

RECORD: From its establishment in July, 1965, until the end of March 1968, the Society issued only a newsletter, on an irregular basis. The last two publications of that were, however, entitled PURSUIT-- Vol. 1, No. 3 and No. 4, dated June and September, 1968. Beginning with Vol. 2, No. 1, PURSUIT has been issued on a regular quarterly basis: dated January, April, July, and October. Back issues, some available only as Xerox copies, are available; those wishing to acquire any or all of these should request an order form.

Vol. 6, No. 1
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THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE
INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

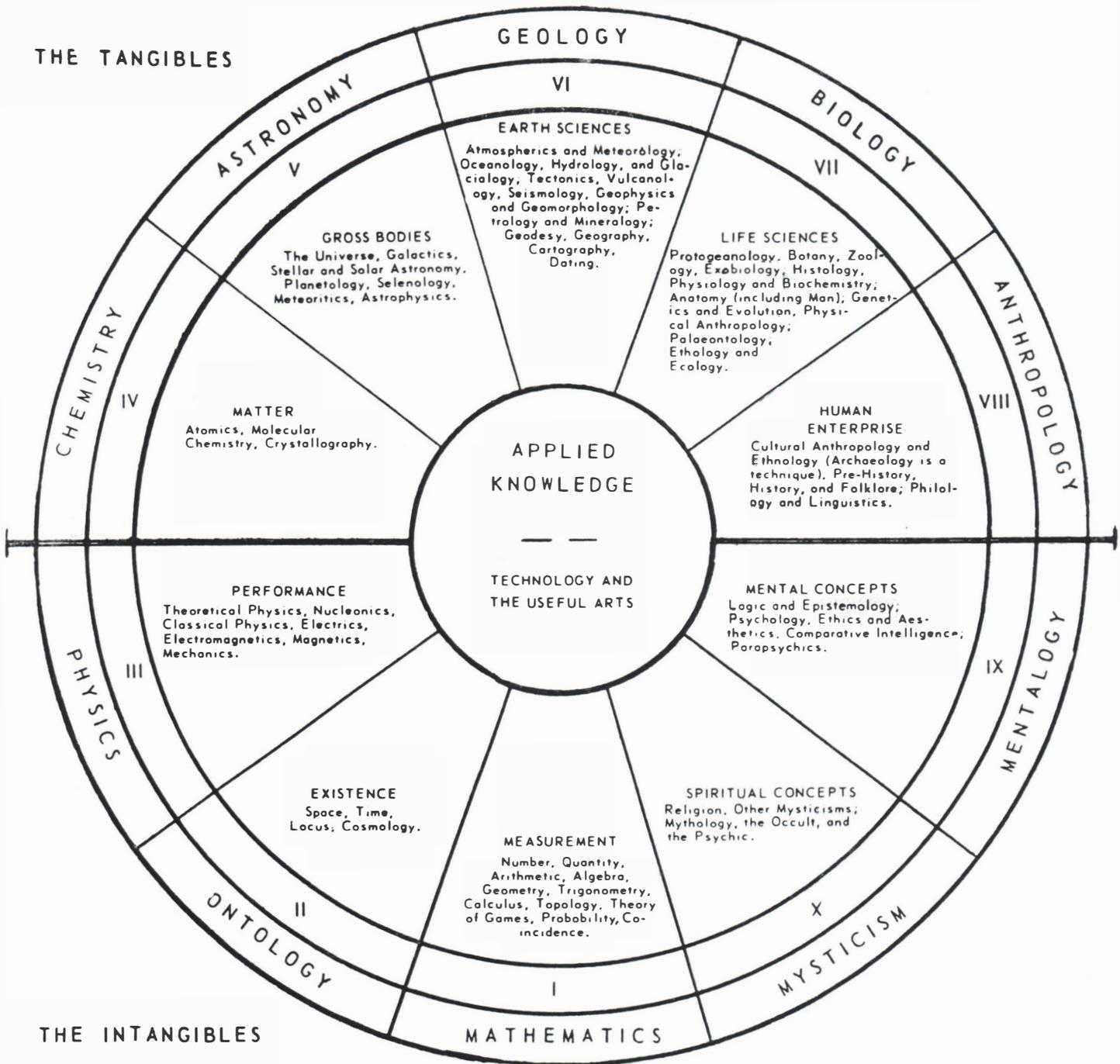
DEVOTED TO THE INVESTIGATION OF "THINGS"
THAT ARE CUSTOMARILY DISCOUNTED

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THE TAXONOMY OF KNOWLEDGE



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

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

EDITORIAL

THE GREAT SEMANTIC MESS

An acronym that has now become a household word in modern popular usage is one of the most confusing and misleading that has ever been coined. This is "ESP"; and especially as we now often see it equated with such great groups of studies as psychology or comparative religion, just as if it constituted a science.

The term "extra-sensory perception" was coined by Professor J. B. Rhine in the early days of his studies at Durham, to cover a set of factors that he observed in certain special human behaviour that apparently fell extra (i.e. outside or without) the normal perception by those people using only their known, or rather most popularly known and recognized senses. These senses, of course, were those of touch, smell, taste, hearing, and vision. Note that the term was carefully chosen and restrictive in that it was a record of what his subjects apparently perceived that they could not have done using just their ordinary and recognized senses.

Before going any further it must be realized that even then —the 1940s— we were known to have at least 20 more "senses", though no organs, with the possible exception of our sense of balance, to which their perception could be assigned. There is no reason, however, to suppose that any of these other senses —such as those of pain, thirst, hunger, rectal-peristalsis, radiant heat, electrical flux, orientation, and the rest— have or had anything to do with the results that Professor Rhine was obtaining; any more than did the standard five seem to be able to explain the results. No: there was apparently another "force" at work here.

Nonetheless, the phrase "extra-sensory perception" immediately became popular and stuck. It has as of now, gone "hog wild", both in popular and even scientific usage.

This ability to perceive answers to questions or other matters beyond the recognized scope of our senses means just this, and only this. Rhine now seems undeniably to have proved his initial point as expressed in this term, but unfortunately said term (i.e. ESP) has become a sort of catch-all for the most amazing gamut of not only just human abilities but other things of all manner of natures, that have nothing to do with the senses or perception.

It is now, of course, far too late to try to rectify this semantic muddle though, sooner or later, it is going to have to be done now that established seats of higher learning have started advertising courses with this given title. Having examined some of the curricula of these we are not just disturbed but appalled. Poor little Extra-Sensory Perception has got completely lost in the shuffle and in some cases is not even entered, per se, in the studies being offered.

ESP is a rather specialized and in some respects minor aspect of an enormous new science, which admittedly lacks a professional or popular name. This concerns the working and demonstrable behaviour of minds —and bodies in response to them — in a wide range of fields. These are to the non-specialist para (or like) or non- or un-normal. The science as a whole cannot be called the Paranormal as that is already pre-empted and covers many other things in the biological or life sciences and much in the physical sciences. Thus, to arrive at a proper understanding we must go back to appreciate the following.

All animals and (it would now appear from the work of Cleve Baxter and others) even plants are born with a whole set of proclivities that we have only very recently come to recognize. Some animals, for instance, have literally dozens of recognizable physical organs with some of which they would appear to achieve these "extra" (to us) accomplishments. Simple examples are the "homing instincts" of so many animals, and the projection and reception of infrared rays by, for instance, some moths.

Two essential words have cropped up here —projection and reception. ESP as originally conceived by Rhine meant literally a special (to us as of then) aspect of what should be called ESR, or extrasensory reception. ESP manifestly stands for extrasensory projection. Further, even these two proclivities are but a very minor aspect of a much greater field of natural bionomic activities and proclivities that are, it is now being rapidly demonstrated, run on this fifth basic force-field —namely, the said Bionic. They are without the purlieus of the physical sciences though we can to some extent study their workings with electromagnetic technologies. ESP is actually but one aspect of ESR or Extra-Sensory Reception but today it has to embrace all of that, plus true ESP, meaning extra-sensory projection; and many other matters that are not necessarily even in the Bionic field, like much of the two PKs or pyro- (fire) kinesis (movement) and psycho- (by the mind) kinesis (movement). We find also that it has come to cover also mental telepathy, and seemingly clairvoyance. You can often hear people saying "My ESP's working fine today; I was just going to phone you".

It has thus encroached upon that vast ontological field of Coincidence and, if some of these curricula are to be believed, it already embraces just about all the mysticisms other than orthodox religion; and all manner of other things that are today (and again quite erroneously from a semantic point of view) lumped together as the Occult.

In fact, just what do people now mean by "ESP"?

Ivan T. Sanderson.

UFOLOGY

CAN WE TICK OFF ANOTHER ONE ?

Before launching into this tirade, we would just like to thank the National Enquirer for permission to reproduce this photograph because it shows in one shot half of those scientists who really know anything about UFOs. The rest are in France, being Drs. Aimé Michel and Jacques Vallee; in Austria, Dr. Schoenherr, or in quite a list of other countries. Four of the gentlemen shown here are members of our society — Messrs. Salisbury, Hynek, Sprinkle, and Lorenzen — and two of them are on our Scientific Advisory Board, but neither in any way connected with UFOs; Dr. Salisbury for Phytochemistry, and Dr. Hynek for Astronomy.

The subject of ufology was pronounced “dead” a couple of years ago after Dr. Condon published his mad report — at a cost of over a quarter million dollars to us taxpayers, one should perhaps add — on the subject. That gentleman stated in print that any further pursuit of this matter was not worthwhile from a scientific point of view. As he was more or less official the Press tended to believe him, and the public went along with that. The matter of UFOs just dropped out of the news. However, it most certainly did not do so anywhere else — the foreign press

without exception, the lesser press in this country, literally hundreds of private citizens groups formed to follow up reports of these things and, frankly, just about everybody else. And the reports on these things grew by leaps and bounds to a point almost of insanity; anyhow to a point where we (meaning this Society) simply could no longer cope. We have tried to be helpful by passing the material we get on to APRO and NICAP just in case they might not have encountered it otherwise; but, I fear me, an awful lot of this material has been original and we doubt very much that either of these organizations has been able to make use of said material, although they are devoted to this subject only. (Please note that we are not; and a couple of scientists who visited our HQ recently estimated that we had about 10,000 different items in our files!) Now comes this.

The newspaper with the largest circulation in this country is named the National Enquirer, a weekly. A year ago it offered \$50,000 to anybody who could produce concrete evidence that UFOs are real and that they come from off this planet — “are not natural phenomena” as they rather naively put it. Well, the year is up and they have received thousands of reports and other statements. They state in an article



National Enquirer UFO Panel (from left): Dr. R. F. Creegan, Dr. F. B. Salisbury, Dr. J. Harder, Dr. J. A. Hynek, Dr. R. L. Sprinkle, and Jim Lorenzen. (Photo copyright by and courtesy of the National Enquirer, Lantana, Florida)

in their 28th January 1973 issue of this year that they are now going into the procedure of careful, complete, and scientific appraisal of this mass of material...BUT...this went on to state: —

“There are reports that clearly cannot be explained in conventional terms,” said Dr. J. Allen Hynek, former advisor on UFOs to the U. S. Air Force,... And many of the reports meet the scientific requirement that more than one witness describe the UFO,...

This is as near as anybody of sane mind and scientific training can come as of now to saying that

amongst the mass of material the National Enquirer has turned up, there would appear to be some that must be satisfactory to established and orthodox science as proof of the fact

(a) that UFOs exist

and

(b) that they do not come from this planet.

That’s all we want, brethren! As to where they do come from, we will be so bold as to say that we have the answer waiting if we are asked, and we don’t want any 50,000 bucks for it either.

CHAOS AND CONFUSION

THE MARY CELESTE

As noted in the book review on page 23, Eric Frank Russell has presented the only really plausible explanation for the desertion of the Mary Celeste by its crew in such haste that they did not even lower a boat. He points out that many of the bits of “evidence” that have been made so much of, would not even have been noticed had it not been for the unusual circumstances and what can only be called over-officiousness on the part of the singularly ambitious presiding judge at the inquiry. For those who cannot find a copy of Russell’s book, we here report his conclusions. They can, in fact, be summed up in one word: ergot.

Ergot is a fungus which effects grains of various kinds, but particularly rye; its “active principle, ergotine, is highly poisonous, creating fearful delusions, suicidal tendencies and death”. An ‘epidemic’ of ergotism broke out in Pont St. Esprit in France in August 1951. Again quoting Russell, “Help rushed from outside; gendarmes, troops and ambulances poured in. Delirium in Pont St. Esprit was general, attempts at suicide numerous. Four people died, many were injured. Thirty were overpowered, strapped down and taken to hospital still raving about demons, monsters, murderers and flames from the depths.” All the victims had eaten bread made from ergot-contaminated flour.

It hardly needs repeating that the food served on sailing ships in the 19th century was often literally rotten —maggoty meat, weevils in the biscuits, etc. In 1904 one Harry Franck noted that the food on a cattle boat steaming from Canada to England was “unfit to eat”; and Alan Villiers lists “menus” for crew members on various vessels in his book The War with Cape Horn. The quantities sound grossly insufficient, and the quality (particularly at the end of a long voyage) is probably best left undescribed. Those who investigated the Mary Celeste when she was brought into port pronounced that her supplies of

food and water were “adequate” but did not analyze either. Thus, Russell’s conclusion that “The mystery of the Mary Celeste could well have been born at her port of departure, in a warehouse full of food not fit for pigs”, her entire crew having leaped overboard either singly or en masse to escape the hallucinatory horrors that besieged them. There was evidence of a recent (and not quite finished) meal in the cabin, and ergotism apparently strikes almost without warning.

It is possible that this same disease may account for some other cases of ships found abandoned for no apparent cause and with no signs of damage but it would seem imprudent to dump them all in this category, particularly those of recent ‘vintage’ and those which occurred so close to shore that at least some bodies should have been washed in by the tide (e.g. the Seabird and others which have most peculiar histories).

ONE OF THE PKs TO THE FORE

It seems that to whatever of the multitudinous aspects of *fortean* —down even to the wildest cases of “chaos and confusion”— that one turns today, we will find orthodox and respected scientists and specialist technicians applying their expertise to possible (at least) explanations of these oddities. We believe that this would have pleased old Charles Fort himself, as he was in one way basically a debunker. Many people seem to feel that he just tossed these items at both the scientists and the public in his impish way as sort of teasers, and then turned his back on them and let those whom he called the “experts” do what they could with them. Not so; he loved something explained just as much as he did something that defied even his agile brain.

There is one great slice of a mystery that has languished in a sort of limbo for a century and which interested Fort immensely. This is what we call

"Poltergeist Manifestations", which is to say certain aspects of what the modern parapsychologists called Psychokinesis or the ability to move solid objects at a distance without touching them. The other PK is, of course, pyro (fire) kinesis, "movement" or "creation of" fire, but also at a distance.

Now, although there are a great number of "holes" in the work he has been doing, one Prof. Dr. Hans Bender, an MD and also holding a PhD. in psychology, the founder and now the director of "The Institute for Border Areas of Psychology and Mental Health", at the University of Freiburg, Fed. Rep. of Germany, has for several years been investigating one aspect of this matter, and with the most advanced electromagnetic equipment known. Doubtless all of you who are interested in PK will know all about this, but, in the overall, the number of those who are so interested must be infinitesimal. That of which we speak is those "manifestations" that appear to be associated with mentally disturbed—or just normally suppressed—teenagers.

Even Charles Fort was, for once, not the first to note that many of these manifestations appear to be linked to teenagers, mostly girls reaching puberty, and particularly to moronic girls.

When pots and pans start flying about apparently of their own accord in broad daylight and in the presence of plenty of witnesses, the average person still murmurs something like "nuts", or some such, and blames it all on the press. Throughout the years, however, many families, harassed by these affairs—and even more so by the crowds who gather initially to jeer—have appealed to their priests beseeching exorcism; and in not a few cases this seems to have been successful. However, the parapsychologists have also been called in, but they do not seem to have done any better than the poor police who are always the first to be appealed to.

Now, Dr. Hans Bender goes immediately to any case that he hears of involving a young person, armed with film cameras, tape recorders, loyal assistants, and all the rest that makes it impossible for the orthodox, stuffed-shirt, disbelievers any longer to so disbelieve. Here are the pots and pans flying about with nobody anywhere near them; here is the "flying about" being transferred by Dr. Bender from one location to another simply by moving the young man or woman thereunto; here are recorded measurements of changes in temperature when these events occur; and dozens of the other "manifestations" that have been reported by tens of thousands of sincere and sane citizens for hundreds of years

but scoffed at by all classical "scientists". If you want to know more about what this man has turned up, write to the Washington Post (News) Service, Washington, D. C., and ask them for a copy of an article on the subject by one Nino Lo Bello, dated the 15th of October 1972.

Now that this aspect of "poltergeistism" has at least been pinned down, maybe we can proceed to some of its other manifestations which, frankly, are of much greater interest to us. These are the occurrences of PK when no people are anywhere near.

A CAT CONCLAVE

We are not certain where this belongs and include it primarily in the hope of gathering additional information from members who may have read of or seen similar occurrences.

The writer (MLF) formerly lived in Philadelphia and owned a house in center-city. This had a back porch and a garden measuring about 15 by 40 feet. The neighbours on one side did not 'own' any cats but fed all the strays in the neighbourhood, most of whom spent much of their time in my back yard, much to the fury of one of my two Abyssinian cats. Taki hated cats (how I had managed to introduce Mali to the household is beside the point here) and I often had to put cushions up against the very large rear window in the living room to keep Taki from seeing the strays in the yard; her reactions were so violent that I feared damage to either Taki or the window, a fact which is pertinent to the account that follows.

I was down with a mild case of "flu" or some such and was resting on the couch, facing the window, when I saw "Pappy" (top cat among the strays) come slowly into my garden and lie down on a sawhorse toward the back of the yard, but facing the center of the yard. In the next five to ten minutes, five other cats arrived, each taking up a position facing the center of the garden; one lay at the corner of the porch. This was at approximately 2 p.m., the day overcast, and, I believe (I have not yet tracked down the diary entry), during early winter. For approximately the next three hours those cats lay there, almost without moving; they did not sleep; they made not a single sound. On rare occasions one would turn its head to look at one of the other cats, but otherwise they were motionless. After about three hours they all rose as if at a signal and simply ambled off. During this period I watched with complete fascination; and Taki lay on top of the radio-phonograph by the window and paid no attention to them whatso-

As Charles Fort said, "Don't ever ask for anything..."

A lady in Westerville, Ohio, received 218 catalogues through the mail on the same day from an area store. When she halted the deliveries after several bundles of the 50-page catalogue arrived, the mailman said that several hundred more bundles were awaiting delivery at the post office substation. And they were not even the right catalogues. "I wanted one copy of the annual catalogue", said she; "The ones I got were the smaller, sales catalogues". Modern technology—in this case addressing machines—bah.

ever. This fascinated me almost as much as the 'performance' outside, which was patently some kind of convocation.

I have talked with several people who have heard of such assemblies or whatever one calls them, but all have been somewhat startled to learn that this one took place in daylight — those they remember reading or hearing of have been on moonlit nights, and none seems to have lasted so long. I have lived with a variety of cats, and this is certainly not typical cat behaviour. Cats do display quite extraordinary abilities, and Taki definitely saw things which were not visible to me. On the occasion described above Taki apparently decided to respect a "religious service," as it were. Subsequently she went back to snarling at any cat that appeared in the garden.

LIGHT "WHEELS" UNDER THE SEA

This is a profoundly fortean matter that was, in a manner of speaking, started by Fort himself. We have had several articles on this (e.g. Vol. 5, No. 1), and notably from Bob Durant who has been pursuing the matter relentlessly since I (Ivan T. Sanderson) published on it in a couple of magazine articles and my book Invisible Residents. It concerns revolving and moving rays of light of several forms — one like a catherine wheel — that have been reported from all around the periphery of the Indian Ocean, in the Persian Gulf, in the Straits of Malacca, the Gulf of Siam and the South China Sea (and nowhere else).

Several apparently logical explanations of these have been published but all, on careful analysis, fall down on either one or more counts. Now Bob Durant has turned up an incredible 32-page paper published in Deutsche Hydrographische Zeitschrift of the Deutsche Hydrographische Institut of Hamburg, Vol. 13, No. 2, of 1960, by one Kurt Kalle. This is a complete survey of all the records from 1897 to 1957. It is a virtual monograph and apart from listing 70 cases, all from ships' logs, naval or commercial, it is a must for all forteans interested in this matter.

We do not, however, agree with Dr. Kalle's explanation any more than we do with any of the others. Of this item Bob Durant writes as follows: —

Charles Fort hypothesized that the submarine lightwheels might be "super-constructions" from outer space that were taking a quick cooling dip in the ocean. Dozens of writers on ufology and related subjects have taken Fort quite seriously on this matter, and thus the lightwheels have become a staple in the fortean literature and most particularly in those books that argue in favor of the existence on this planet of Other Intelligencies (OINTS). The late Richard Turner, writing in the British periodical Flying Saucer Review (Vol. 13, No. 5) took exception to this view of the lightwheels and concluded that they fall into the category of "psuedo-UFO's", that

is, a class of bizarre but nevertheless perfectly natural phenomena.

Turner based his contention on the work of a German hydrographer Kurt Kalle [see reference above]. In sum, Kalle states that the lightwheels must result from underwater seismic disturbances. For reasons which will be made clear later, this theory is not, in my opinion, satisfactory. However, Kalle's study of underwater luminescent phenomena is in every other respect a thoroughly admirable piece of scholarship and stands at this writing as the definitive work on the subject.

The Kalle study is based on an examination of 70 selected reports of luminescent phenomena reported over the past century by mariners. The reports were made by ship captains to the British and German Government hydrographic offices and then published in the Marine Observer and on occasion in other scientific periodicals. When one considers the extraordinary nature of these reports, it is surprising — and most gratifying that they have been taken so seriously by the official agencies responsible for providing practical information for the furtherance of marine operations.

Kalle divides the reports into five major categories:

- A. General and superficial description (equivalent to SITU's "chaos and confusion" category)
- B. "Balls" of light, spreading like an explosion from one central point on the sea surface
- C. Parallel light waves spreading extremely quickly at the surface of the sea.
- D. Light waves spreading extremely quickly at the surface of the sea and apparently rotating around a common center.
- E. Light waves rotating on the surface of the sea like spokes around a common center (these are the classic "lightwheels")

If my analysis of the lightwheels (Pursuit, Vol. 5, No. 2) is valid, categories C, D, and E can be lumped together as the same basic phenomenon seen from different positions or under different conditions. Categories A and B, however, deserve a closer look because they represent a sort of appearance that has not heretofore been mentioned in fortean writings. The quotes that follow are representative Kalle "B" cases, taken from the original reports as printed in the Marine Observer. Category "A" will be left for dessert.

S.S. Somersetshire, 1 October 1926: "...Balls of brilliant light seemed to shoot from a depth, burst on nearing the surface, irradiate and cover an area, seemingly of a couple of hundred square yards..."

M.V. Bellerophon, 18 February 1956: "...patches, these formed very suddenly, starting at about 3 feet in diameter, and rapidly growing to between 100 and 150 feet in diameter, ...the closest patches illuminat-

ed the decks of the ship with the intensity of a full moon..."

S.S. Otaki, 5 November 1928: "...numerous remarkable patches of phosphorescence. These appeared suddenly radiating outwards from the point of their first appearance with great rapidity, until they covered an area of approximately one to two hundred feet in diameter. Subsequently they faded so that within a minute from the time that the first glimpse was seen, no trace of them remained. Duration: about 12 minutes ..."

S.S. City of Benares, 3 February 1930: "...huge phosphorescent 'balls' which rose and appeared to burst..."

These reports suggest bubbles of gas rising from the sea bed and expanding as they ascend through the steadily decreasing pressure of the water. The gas is probably of volcanic origin and perhaps is of a chemical composition that is particularly obnoxious to the protozoan, *Noctiluca* (the cause of marine so-called phosphorescence), thus causing them to glow brilliantly. The pattern formed on the flat surface of the sea by an ascending bubble is indeed a circular area, and given even a moderate rate of ascent for the bubble the radius of the circular area would appear to grow almost explosively. So this particular set of observations seems, for the time being, adequately explained by underwater volcanic activity. Unfortunately, Kalle has extended this line of reasoning to include the rest of the reports.

Because of the large number of reports of the lightwheels and parts thereof that have been printed in these pages and elsewhere, I will omit also written descriptions of those cases which comprise Kalle's categories B and C. However the Kalle paper contains several excellent illustrations of the lightwheels that have not been published elsewhere. These are shown as Figures 1 through 4. In Kalle's Figure 10 are shown the number of observations of phosphorescent phenomena reported to the British Meteorological Office during the period 1920 to 1930, as compiled by a Mr. H. T. Smith. The chart is very interesting but really ought to be redrawn with the data weighted to indicate the areas where shipping is especially light or heavy. The heavily travelled sea lanes should yield a correspondingly high number of reports, and vice-versa. Allowing for such factors would make the chart a much better tool for determining the focus of the lightwheel phenomenon than a simple long-term statistical tabulation.

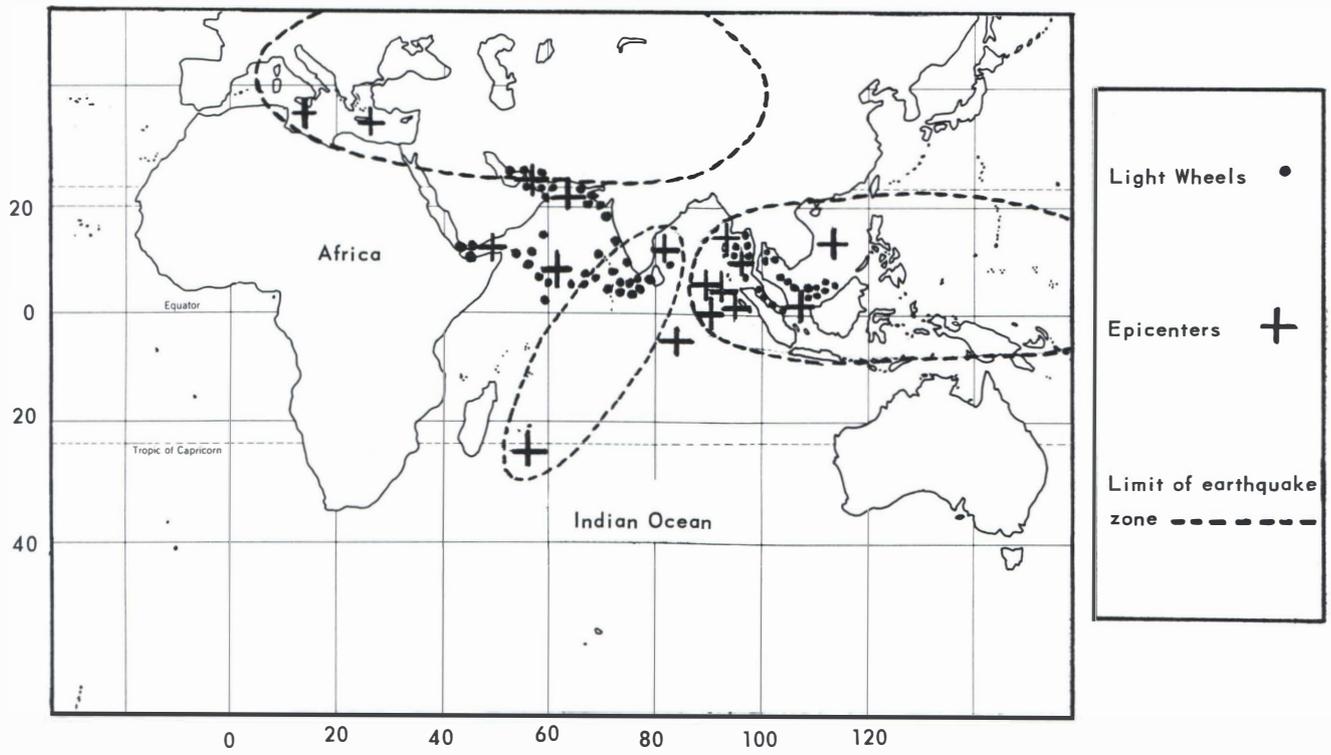
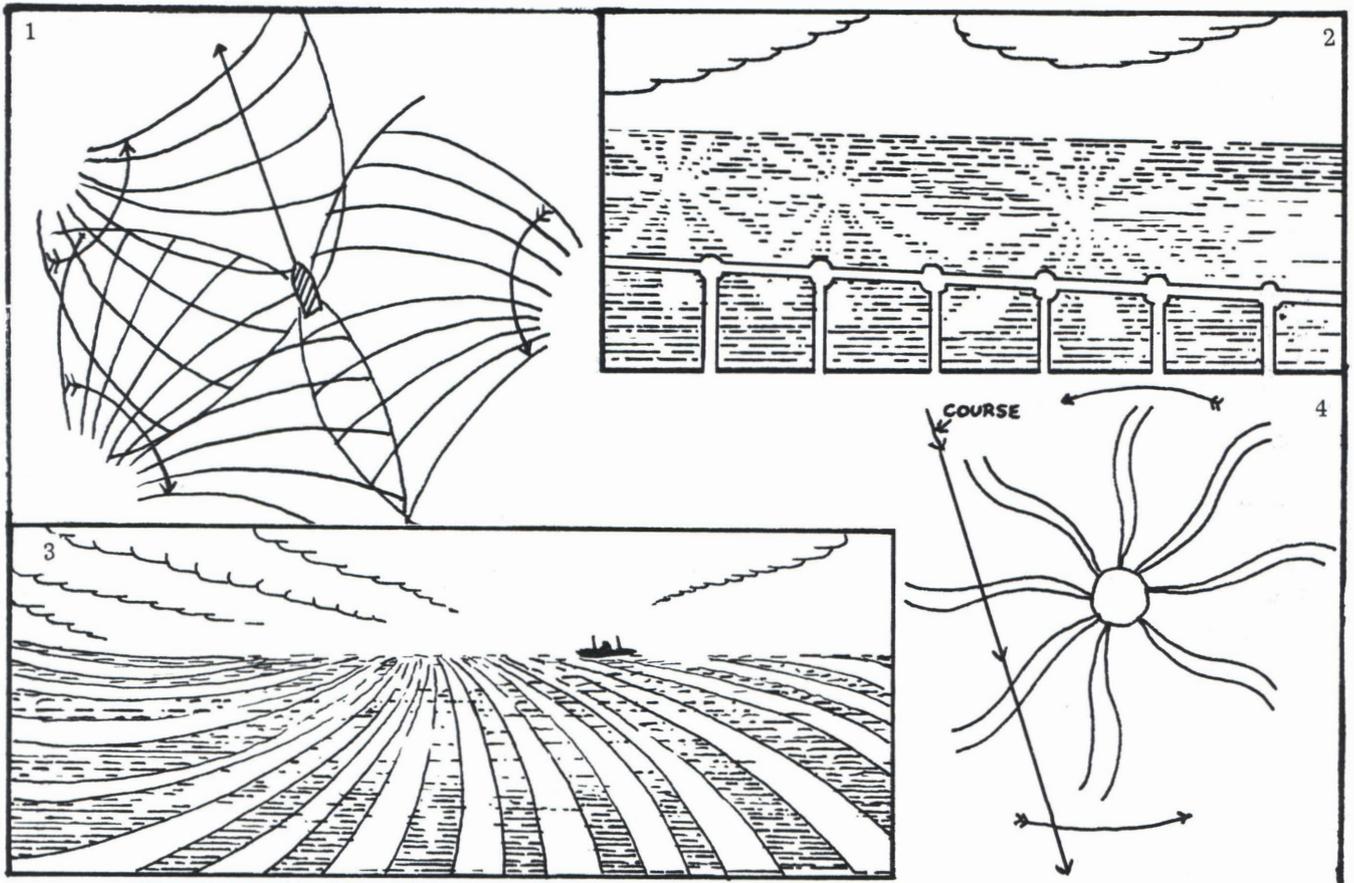
Kalle's Figure 11 is a map of earthquake activity for the years 1931 and 1935, in the Indian Ocean, showing the epicenters and general areas of seismic disturbance caused by the convulsions at the epicenters, and then in effect superimposes this map on his Figure 8, which is the distribution of wheels and other special phenomena, his categories A to E, around that ocean, to support his theory of the seismic origin of the lightwheels. At first glance there seems

to be a clear connection between the two phenomena, but a close inspection of all the data precludes such a quick and easy solution. For example, the area at 005 deg. north lat. and 090 deg. east long. should generate a great number of lightwheels, but clearly it does not. However, it is fair to say that the areas of intensive seismic activity do correspond roughly with the areas in which light wheels have been seen with above-average frequency.

My discussion (see *Pursuit*, Vol. 5, No. 1) of the propagation of the sound beams that excite the *Noctiluca* and thus form the rotating lightwheels assumed that the source of sound is something akin to a highly directional loudspeaker, or a number of such speakers arranged symmetrically around a circular platform. This conception makes for ease in understanding the curious curving shape of some of the resulting light beams, but is certainly not necessarily the true picture, even if we are to suppose the source to be a 'natural' one. Both Kalle and Dr. Wallace Minto opt for a physical process known as interference to explain the generation of the symmetrical shafts of light. This method has several advantages from an engineering standpoint, particularly in that it eliminates the need for the moving parts in the rotating speakers scheme. But it by no means obviates the argument for the man-made or "OINT"-made nature of the process.

Kalle's Figure 7 shows shafts of light formed by the interference of two expanding light wavefronts. The light sources are separated by distance "D" in the figure. As the waves radiate from each source they tend to alternately cancel and reinforce each other in such a way that a pattern of light and dark beams is formed. This effect can be produced with sound waves as well as with light waves. But here's the rub: The production of such interference patterns is strictly a trick for the well equipped laboratory. One must have two wave sources of exactly the same frequency and the sources must be placed very precisely with respect to each other. Given these two conditions, a set of symmetrical shafts of light or sound will be formed. But if either condition is disturbed even minutely, the pattern breaks down at once.

Now the submarine lightwheels rotate while maintaining an exact symmetry. Therefore we must introduce still another factor that further complicates the matter. In order to generate symmetrical shafts that rotate, the two sources must rotate about one another, i.e. around a common center. Once again, the rate of rotation about the common center, the frequency of each source, and the distance maintained between the two sources must all be kept within very close tolerances. All of this is feasible in the modern laboratory, but is it reasonable to say that earthquakes in the ocean bed give rise to a similar set of circumstances? I submit that an occasional 'burp' from a volcano at the bottom of the Indian Ocean just won't do the trick.



Redrawn from maps in Kalle's original article, Figures 8 and 11 being superimposed, showing geographical distribution of light wheels and earthquake zones and epicenters.

Now we come to Kalle category "A". Here are contained a couple of "whoppers":

M.VL British Premier, Capt. F. G. Baker, 26 02'N, 56 53'E, 30 November 1951: "...The ship's radar apparatus had been switched on with a view to checking her position, when in the same instant that this gear became operative, most brilliant boomerang-shaped arcs of phosphorescent light appeared in the sea, gyrating in a clockwise direction to starboard and clockwise to port, but all sweeping inwards towards the ship from points situated from five to six points on either bow and some two miles distant, and conveying the impression that they ricocheted from each other on meeting at the ship's bows and then turned and travelled away astern to similar points which were equidistant on either side and about four points on each quarter. Duration: 15 minutes."

S.S. Strathmore, Captain M. J. Paice, 10 sm West of Mt. Delby, Malabar Coast, 9 February 1953: "Between 0130 and 0200 white patches of light were observed on the sea surface. Milky white patches were first noticed on the starboard beam about 2 cables away and appeared to 'flash' about once every second. Later they moved closer to the ship, being as bright as a phosphorous patch, although there was no indication of phosphorescence in the water even when the ship's wake broke into the patches [Interesting — Editor]. The patches had made different movements, each one continuing for a minute or so — rotary, clockwise and anticlockwise — towards the ship in waves and away from it in waves parallel to the ship's course. During the entire time of observation the period of reaching maximum brilliance and fading

was about 1 second, giving a regular flashing appearance. At 0152 the waves reached their maximum brilliance, appearing to travel from the starboard quarter to the port bow. On switching off the radar, the phenomenon ceased abruptly close to the ship, but it was still faintly discernible on the port beam about 2 cables away. At 0157 the radar was switched on again, the phenomenon did reappear close to the ship but only faintly, and then disappeared altogether. Nothing was observed on the radar screen during this time that was out of the ordinary."

Now this is absolutely amazing. The lightwheels were apparently turned on and off by the ship's radar. Leaving all other considerations aside, these two cases alone destroy the earthquake theory. But beyond that, they open a whole new dimension to the light-wheel phenomenon, and I must admit to being, for the moment, simply flabbergasted by the implications of this data. [I think that whatever was causing the Noctiluca to action was an electronic beam of a very specific frequency— Editor.]

It appears that the lightwheels can be triggered by electromagnetic radiation. That suggests, once again, exploratory or sensing devices. The observation of several lightwheels rather than a single one is actually the general rule. Previously we had assumed that passing ships came upon the lightwheels by accident. Now we must ponder the possibility that the passage of a ship itself triggers the lightwheels, and the presence of strong electromagnetic impulses will also set them into operation. [But, again, why in such a 'localized' area? —Editor]

Robert J. Durant

IV. CHEMISTRY

ALLEGED FALLOUT-FREE WATER

We hope that all of you with the necessary experience and expertise in this field of atomic and nucleonic chemistry will put your minds together and either tell the rest of us what is wrong with this, or suggest what these people mentioned below think they are talking about.

Radioactive fallout is composed of several very different kinds of 'particles', some of which are so 'mild' that ordinary clothing provides adequate protection. Others, particularly gamma radiations, are extremely penetrating and require considerable 'shielding' for safety. Presumably the "relics" described below were not subjected to local fallout from an atomic or hydrogen explosion, but worldwide fallout follows any surface testing of such bombs. It is true that most fallout is carried to earth by rain or snow, so the desert areas receive far less fallout than other regions; and the report here does say "possibly the only radiation-free water", but ...

"Geologists find pre-atomic 'relic' in Egypt desert: by William Dullforce; special to the Star-Ledger [11 July 1972]. Cairo — An Egyptian geological team has just made a major scientific discovery deep in the Western Desert some 1,000 miles from the nearest habitation. But the objects are only 30 years old. They are four galvanized iron drums made in Milan, Italy, in 1942 and containing possibly the only radiation-free water in the world. The geologists stumbled over an abandoned wartime British airfield at Bir Tarfawi far south near the Sudanese border. Among the wrecked buildings, vehicles, and thousands of gasoline drums were ten Italian water drums, four of them intact.

The water in these drums has been encapsulated for 30 years and should thus be free of the atomic radiation which has progressively polluted the earth since the first explosion.

Doctor Rushdi Said, American-trained head of the Egyptian geological authority, claimed in an interview Monday with Al Ahram that the find will enable

scientists to assess the characteristics of radiation-free water and will serve as a touchstone for subsequent water pollution throughout the world.

One drum is being sent to the United States and one to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, he said. They will be opened under conditions of complete sterilization. Speculating on how Italian water drums came to be on a British airfield, Said

suggested the Italians may have tried to capture the airbase. Tests on the water should show whether it comes from Libyan oases occupied by the Italian army in 1942 or from Milan, where the drums were made."

This is obviously not a case of bad reporting, nor can an editor be claimed for doing the usual hatchet job; we would like some clarification in any case.

V. ASTRONOMY

THE MOONS OF MARS

by Robert J. Durant

The April 1972 issue of Pursuit contains what I believe to be a much too casual acceptance of a statement made elsewhere concerning Jonathan Swift and his moons of Mars, and the assertion that Johannes Kepler predicted the existence of the moons in 1610, a full 117 years before Swift wrote Gulliver's Travels and the famous description of the Martian moons.

To begin with, Kepler had no reason to suppose that Mars might have two satellites. His astronomical calculations were based almost entirely on the measurements made by Tycho Brahe (1546-1601) with octants, i.e., purely angular measurements as opposed to telescopic observations. The telescope was not invented [re-invented? See Editor's Note below] until 1608, well after the bulk of Kepler's work was done. The telescopes in existence at that time were very crude instruments indeed, with approximately 9x magnification and very poor optical qualities. A pair of binoculars with plastic lenses that one might buy for a child today is a viewing device superior to that available during Kepler's lifetime. Galileo (and Kepler) was able to observe only four of Jupiter's moons and had so poor a view of Saturn that he mistook the rings for two moons. Not until fifty years later did Huygens, using a vastly improved instrument, distinguish the rings of Saturn; yet the rings can be clearly made out with a good pair of modern binoculars. Apparently the source for the "wipe" failed to understand that in ascribing Swift's uncanny description of the moons of Mars to Kepler he was merely shifting the miracle from one author to another and, by pushing the event back in time more than a century, making it even more paradoxical and anomalous.

In sum, this is what Swift had to say (Gulliver's Travels, Laputa, Ch. 3) concerning the discovery

made by the astronomers living on the airborne island of Laputa: "...discerned 2 lesser stars, or satellites, which revolve about Mars, whereof the innermost is distant from the center of the primary planet exactly 3 of his diameters, and the outermost, 5, the former revolves in the space of 10 hours, the latter in 21½..." The currently accepted figures are, respectively, Phobos — 7 hours, 39 minutes, 1.4 diameters; Deimos — 30 hours, 18 minutes, 3.5 diameters.

Obviously, Swift's accuracy leaves something to be desired, but his figures are nevertheless "in the ballpark". One familiar with the history of the observation of the periods of the moons of Jupiter, for example, will be slow to fault Swift. But the crux of the matter is this: How did Swift learn of the existence of the moons of Mars in the first place?

Swift wrote Gulliver's Travels in 1725, approximately 150 years prior to the first telescopic observation of the moons of Mars. The discovery of the moons was made in 1877 by the American astronomer Asaph Hall, using the newly built 40-inch refracting telescope at the U. S. Naval Observatory. Hall spent two years searching for a Martian satellite before his success —and he was using the finest telescope the world had ever seen. But the fact is that Swift described the existence of these two moons, together with acceptable approximations of their periods and distances from the planet, 150 years before Asaph Hall and the 40-inch telescope. It is only natural that this extraordinary fact has given rise to equally extraordinary speculations regarding Swift's sources of information.

The contention that Kepler predicted the moons of Mars is apparently a misinterpretation of a curious incident that occurred while Kepler and Galileo were carrying on a correspondence relating to Galileo's first telescopic observations. Galileo, following the custom of the scientific community of his day, took

Levitation

Reprinted (in Twin Circle) from Dick Van Dyke's "Faith, Hope and Hilarity": "A preacher advised a new boy in the congregation that it would be a good idea to kneel beside his bed and pray every night. The boy said, 'If I tried that, it would be a real miracle. I sleep in the top bunk'."

great pains to safeguard his discoveries lest they be pirated by rivals. Accordingly, when Galileo observed Saturn and what he took to be Saturn's two moons, he sent the news to Kepler in the form of an anagram. Kepler improperly decoded this as "Hail, burning twin, offspring of Mars", and concluded that Galileo had discovered two moons of Mars. A short time later Galileo revealed the correct translation of his anagram: "I have observed the highest planet [Saturn] in triplet form" —the "triplet form" being the planet and its two pseudo-moons. Thus, Kepler did believe, for a period of several months, that Mars had two moons; and presumably he died believing Saturn has two moons. But the temporary belief in the moons of Mars was clearly due to a cryptographic error and Kepler freely acknowledged it as such. This is a great deal less than the supposed "prediction" of the moons ascribed to Kepler.

It was implied in Pursuit that Swift learned of Kepler's "prediction" while studying at Trinity College Dublin. For this to be so, the faculty at Trinity must also have completely misunderstood the anagram incident. It seems unlikely that so minor (and embarrassing) a matter would have been discussed in undergraduate lectures. Beyond that, there is a serious question as to whether or not the incident of the anagram was known even to scholars before the recent exhaustive investigations of the lives and works of the outstanding scientists of history. In any event, no modern text supports the claim that Kepler discovered or predicted the moons of Mars. I first read of Swift's description of the moons in a magazine written for professional and serious amateur astronomers. Though the Swift story was covered in considerable detail, no mention was made of Kepler.

Galileo sent another anagram to Kepler, this one concerning his discovery of the phases of Venus. The correct decryption was: "The mother of Love [Venus] emulates the shape of Cynthia [the Moon]". Kepler rendered this as "There is a red spot in Jupiter which rotates mathematically." Now this adds a new and quite exciting twist to this whole business, for Kepler once again stumbled upon an astronomical fact that was not to be discovered until long after his death. Of course he discarded this one just as he had discarded the incorrect translation of the first anagram, and there is certainly nothing to suggest that Kepler predicted the Red Spot on Jupiter. Nevertheless, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that Kepler unconsciously knew of both the moons of Mars and of the great Red Spot on Jupiter.

The entire history of Kepler's astronomical discoveries (his famous Three Laws) is replete with instances of lucky guesses, and errors in computation cancelling other errors in a most fortuitous manner. He was quite consistent throughout his career in

getting the correct answers with incorrect calculations and assumptions. Arthur Koestler treated this subject at length in his book The Sleepwalkers. But this "divination by anagram analysis" practised by Kepler seems to have escaped even Koestler's probing mind.

It would seem then that the so-called prediction of the moons of Mars by Swift was independent of the equally mislabelled prediction by Kepler, but both men produced valid data on subjects that were simply not within their ability to produce using normal cognitive processes. Thus we must not only reconfirm the oft-told Swift story, but we must add a new and even more striking tale to the annals of clairvoyance, precognition, OINT tutelage, or whatever this is.

References: "How Did Kepler Discover His First Two Laws?" by Curtis Wilson, Scientific American, March 1972, vol. 226, No. 3, p. 92; The Sleepwalkers by Arthur Koestler, New York, The Macmillan Company, 1959 (also available in paperback).

Editor's Note: Apart from the fact that, on the surface at least, Kepler would seem to have been singularly inept at solving anagrams, there may be worse things in store —and it is not at all certain that ancient peoples did not have such 'modern' items as telescopes. Frederick B. Jueneman (director/research, INCA — whatever that is), writing in Industrial Research for November 1972, remarks that "...Chaldean tablets almost casually mention the phases of Venus and, unless they had telescopic eyeballs to see these phases, the planet was somewhere nearby". Ah yes, but what of the lens found at Ur (of the Chaldees, please note)? Many ancient civilizations, e.g. Egyptian, seem to have known a heck of a lot more about astronomy and related subjects than they ought to have done. And it is also true that other 'primitive' peoples (Amerinds and South Sea Islanders) appear to have had considerable knowledge of astronomy, some of it not 'available' by ordinary record-keeping and/or unassisted vision (they did use hollow reeds as an aid, but presumably this simply cuts out distractions).

Mr. Jueneman also notes that "Homer's Iliad relates that during the Trojan War Venus and Mars had an altercation and a few centuries later, about —700 [presumably 700 B.C.?], Mars was close enough to observe the two steeds pulling the chariot of the war god. Phobos and Deimos." If one can take Homer literally, it poses an even greater problem than Kepler's 'divination by anagram' —and it is true that the one chap who did take him literally discovered the city of Troy, although he went beyond it by several layers. Just what does one make of all this??

LIFE ON THE MOON?

The following is a quite preliminary report on an item which has just been brought to our attention though it appeared in the Dallas Times Herald on the 7th June 1972. We will be making further enquiries and will report back when and if we obtain more information.

Donald K. Slayton, NASA director of flight crew operations for the Apollo program, spoke at the annual awards dinner of the United Press International Illinois newspaper editors and said that he is "not so sure" now that the moon is a dead planet. The reason: "...a camera brought back to earth by Apollo 11 astronauts was found to have a micro-organism living on it. That camera, he said, had been on the

moon's surface three years. The organism, 'in the condition of being freeze-dried', was not on the camera when it was rocketed to the moon,... Slayton said moon soil seems to stimulate certain types of plant growth." He did not specify which plants, though he noted that some grow "three to four times faster in moon soil than in earth soil" and added that moon soil (certain types, at least) have "killed three types of earth bacteria" (again unspecified).

It is probable that most if not all our readers know of the very stringent precautions taken to prevent contamination of the Moon by terrestrial bacteria of any kind, and the implications inherent in the discovery of even a single micro-organism on equipment brought back from the Moon (under totally sterile 'wraps') are or should be enough to 'shake up' even the most complacent. We will report further if possible.

VI. GEOLOGY

THE MEDITERRANEAN

Just for the record, and in case anyone else has noticed it: While we were first working on the so-called Bermuda Triangle and other "Vile Vortices", we attempted to find any factor common to all these anomalous areas and the only one we could find was ocean currents. These flow in a clockwise direction in the Northern Hemisphere and in a counterclockwise direction in the Southern. However, in several atlases containing maps of ocean currents, we discovered that the arrows indicating such currents in the Mediterranean point to the left, i.e. counterclockwise. We therefore —and finally— sought the advice of Professor George Kennedy of UCLA, and received the following reply.

"I didn't know much about the surface waters and their motions in the Mediterranean; consequently I picked up the telephone and called Henry Menard at La Jolla who is Professor of Oceanography down there. He tells me that the Mediterranean circulation is broken up into a large number of small cells, some of which revolve clock-wise, others of which revolve counter clock-wise, so there is no general sense to the motion in the Mediterranean. In short, it is like currents in the bends of rivers which have all senses of motion, owing to the highly irregular topography and the fact that the Mediterranean is broken up by many islands and long reaches of shallow ridges which break up the circulation pattern."

Ergo, we —and you— may now stop worrying about the apparent anomalous circulation of water in the Mediterranean.

ON THE SUBJECT OF "COLD"

Some time back a lady wrote to us asking how the Emperor Penguin manages to stand the sub-zero temperatures of its Antarctic home during its prolonged dark winter. As this opened up such an enormous subject we merely mentioned it in this journal but started up a private correspondence into which several of our members have now joined. Trouble is, all of this has become so extensive that it warrants a book but, while there is a whole library on the subject already among both biologists and the frozen foods people, most curiously we cannot get a straight answer on the essential point at issue upon which all of them will agree. This is simply: does a wind (and not necessarily a very cold one) actually lower the actual temperature of something like a dead frozen mammoth or half a steer, or a living penguin or doesn't it?

Until last month the party we call the "subjective" lot —who assert that blast only makes things feel colder— seemed to be way out ahead, but then the "objective" lot in the form of the frozen foods people have again asserted that their "chill" or "blast" technique actually reduces the real or actual (thermometer) temperature; and now comes the following from the column headed the "Compleat Consumer" in the National Observer.

"Cool weather can kill a careless or luckless outdoorsman as readily as freezing weather. Cool-weather death can occur when the body begins losing heat faster than it produces it, a condition called hypothermia. Wind and rain can speed the onset of

hypothermia. The Evergreen Safety Council of Seattle, a National Safety Council chapter, notes that clothing loses about 90 per cent of its insulation power when wet, less if woolen and more if cotton or synthetic. Wind adds to the problem by evaporating moisture from wet clothing, producing a refrigerating effect. The safety group says a 15 m.p.h. wind at 55 degrees creates a wind-chill effect on bare skin that is the equivalent of still air at 11 degrees below zero. [Emphasis ours]

Further, the 1973 World Almanac, on page 244, includes a "Wind Chill Table", and notes that "Temperature and wind both affect the heat loss from the surface of the body. The effect of these two factors is expressed as an 'equivalent temperature,' which approximates the still-air temperature which

would have the same cooling effect as the wind and temperature combination. For example, from the table above, with a temperature of 20°F. and a wind of 20 mph., the effect on exposed flesh is the same as -9°F. with no wind."

Also, in a booklet published by the Pacific Bamboo Gardens in San Diego, California, it is stated that "A plant grown in a sheltered location will probably fare better at a lower temperature than one grown in the open. The wind will effectively lower the actual temperature [emphasis ours], as far as the plant is concerned, many degrees."

Inasmuch as no one seems to agree on anything concerning this subject, we will drop the matter unless we get a categorical statement from an authority who is acceptable to everyone.

VII. BIOLOGY

THE PARAGUAYAN "BARKING SNAKE"

Spanish is basically a very simple language, but it comes in as many 'varieties' as there are Spanish-speaking countries. The person who "translated" the original report from Paraguay for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer obviously did not know Paraguayan Spanish.

We have received a charming letter from Sr. Junio Milciades Frutos, Vice Director of the Jardín Botánico, Museo y Zoológico in Asunción, telling us about their most famous acquisition and enclosing a newspaper clipping recounting a press conference called to combat the wild rumours which were then circulating; the clipping is dated the 25th February 1972 and gives full details.

The "Mboi-Yagua" or "Barking Snake (with hooks on its tail!)" is an Anaconda, specifically Eunectes murinus. The bulge in its midsection was explained on the 20th May 1972 when the snake gave birth to 61 live young, all but 4 of which died during the next week or so. The mother snake is approximately 5 meters in length (a bit over 16 feet) and caused the Zoo considerable concern through her refusal to eat. However, she devoured a duck on the 4th of October, and six days later consumed another duck, and they are now fairly confident that she has adapted to her new environment.

The scientists who attended the press conference pointed out that the name "mboi-yagua" was better translated as "tiger-snake" than as "snake-dog" (or dog-snake) since it is based primarily on the fact that the snake is spotted like the tiger —this is confusing until one recollects that Central and South Americans insist on calling the jaguar el tigre. As for the hooks on the tail, the Boidae generally have vestigial hind limbs in the form of spines near the anus, but in this case the "hook" would seem to be a ghastly mistranslation of the simple fact that E. murinus anchors itself to a tree by hooking its tail around it (or some other solid object) when attacking its prey, particularly if the latter is large. E. murinus is much larger and much less well known in Paraguay than its smaller relative E. notaeus.

THAT NEW VERY HUMAN-LOOKING SKULL

Even if you are not in any way interested in the subject of fossil man and the age of our ancestors, you will almost surely have read about the new one found in Kenya by the son of the famous Dr. Leakey, who is carrying on his father's work. There is going to be a lot of discussion over this find and it has, in fact, already begun. The fact that it has been dated as having lived more than twice as long ago as the

A Further Request for Help

In our April 1972 issue we noted a request by Mr. T. R. Birkhead, an ornithologist, for skulls of the Crow family. We have managed to acquire for him specimens of both the common Crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos) and the Blue Jay (Cyanocitta cristata). He has asked us to 'advertise' further for the following: the Canada Jay (Perisoreus canadensis), the Magpie (Pica p. hudsonia), the Florida or Scrub Jay (Aphelocoma coerulescens), the Fish Crow (Corvus ossifragus), and the Raven (Corvus corax). Any members who come across any of these are asked to seal them in plastic bags and send them —sturdily packaged— to us; we will forward them to Mr. Birkhead.

beetle-browed Homo erectus, which had until then been thought to be the earliest hominid on our direct line of ancestry, was enough to "shake up" everybody.

However, the fact that the skull was found in a large number of small pieces has already caused some to criticize the way in which Dr. Maeve Leakey has reconstructed it. There are also hints that the dating of the particular strata, from which over 200 other pieces of hominid skeletons were extracted last year, may be off. Anyhow, that a creature with a brain capacity of 800 cc. (modern man averages 1500 cc.) that was contemporary with the very ape-like Australopithecus with a brain capacity of less than 500 cc. more than 2½ million years ago is very thought-provoking. But then, as more than one anthropologist has pointed out, about 80% of the contributions to this very early history of Man has come from one area in the past two decades and almost entirely as the result of the efforts of one man. Way back in 1890 Eugene Dubois discovered what was then called Pithecanthropus in Java; then creatures of much the same type came from Pekin and were at first called Sinanthropus. Drs. Dart and Broom brought to light the first Australopithecus in South Africa—some five stages in their evolution have now been tabbed.

Walter Sullivan pointed out in his report of this latest discovery that Dr. William Howells, Professor of Anthropology at Harvard, had more than succinctly remarked that our knowledge of man's history is still fragmentary and "There are blank parts, but they will be filled. We have hundreds of years of exploration ahead of us". Actually, we have only just started looking, and even the rare deposits of volcanic ejecta such as are found in the Rift Valleys are not that rare, so there are still many places to look. The mere hugeness of the "project" (worldwide) nonetheless causes us to marvel when a specimen such as this is found.

PEARLS IN HENS' EGGS

The attached photo, with the story that went with it, was sent to us by one of our Swedish members. These items were on the front page of the newspaper Norrlandska Socialdemokraten, of Noorland. It is under banner headlines.

Now, we have certainly found some amazing things in eggs ourselves and some of these were concretions of CaCO_3 . Pearls are essentially made of this stuff too but their luster is applied in the form of a complex organic substance derived from the mantel of the oysters.

In this case the article accompanying this photograph states that scientists who went to examine these eggs found some pearls still in situ, and they suggested that the hens that laid them had been getting some new chemical in their food, or from some other sources.

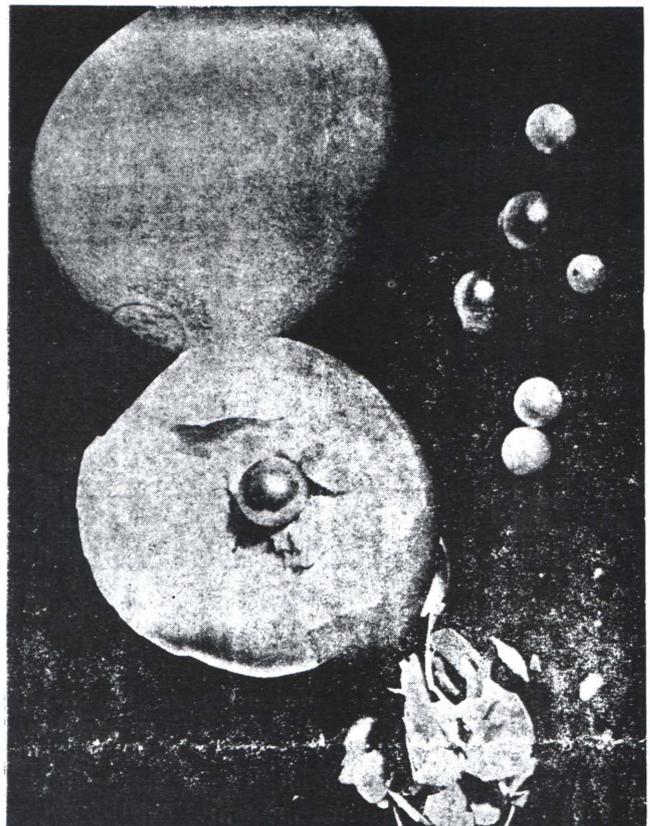
We are, however, highly suspicious of this case, for, be it noted, the newspaper is dated the First of April! [1972]

GIANT HERBS

Botanists and gardeners have for long known that a substance to which the name gibberellin has been given and which occurs naturally in plants, when purified, concentrated, and applied in specific ways, can produce healthy gigantism in many kinds of herbaceous plants. Most reputable seed and plant catalogues advertise this along with instruction books. A standard solution is .1% Potassium Gibberellate; and it is quite true that such things as 10-ft cabbages can be grown with this treatment. What is more, some at least temporary mutations that breed true have thus been developed.

We will not forget our surprise when some seeds a friend of ours in California sent us—he is a great gardener and especially of Amerindian herbs, and often sends us seeds and cuttings to experiment with—and which he asked us to plant as soon as the first skunk cabbage showed green, sprouted large crinkly, fleshy leaves before anything else in that special garden had even appeared, and then continued to grow, throwing up also a large mound all around its sturdy stem. After a heavy rain we perceived a tuber of some kind below this. On extraction it proved to be a white radish about four times the size of a grapefruit. This was many years ago now but was the first of these artificially provoked plants we had seen.

→ →



But now that remarkably "inquisitive" weekly newspaper the National Enquirer (29 Oct. 1972) reports (byline: William F. Michelfelder) that a Mrs. Rose Nickle of Corte Madera, about 20 miles from San Francisco in California, has been producing giant flowers, starting with Dahlias, by mixing human hair clippings into the mulch she trowels around her plants. There are some aspects of this story that, we must admit, more than stretch one's imagination, notably the speed with which this odd manure is reported to work, or at least worked on the first occasion that she noticed the results — a doubling of size in a matter of a few days.

Apparently Mrs. Nickle got her idea from her husband, a semi-retired barber, who told her that a lady had been coming into their shop regularly for years asking for the sweepings; when they finally asked her what she did with them, she said that she spaded them into her garden when planting. Mrs. Nickle decided to give it a try, and this, everybody swears, is the result. A local chemical laboratory could only say that hair is a good source of protein but as to its being a sort of super fertilizer, they discreetly remained mum.

Then, of course, there is the now famous case of the giant, poisonous form of the common Hogweed that suddenly cropped up in Britain a couple of years ago and appeared potentially so serious a pest that the government took exceptionally swift and direct measures. This large form is indigenous to the Caucasus and had escaped from the Kew Botanical Gardens. Some of the plant "monstrosities" — not whole strains or mutations — that have cropped up at the Brookhaven experimental station where they have been testing the effects of what may be called "overdoses" of hard rays, have been a bit startling, but all these four cases fall into different categories.

If this story about the human hair is true, what, pray, is the explanation? Our members seem to be getting very good at turning up explanations. Perhaps one of you can satisfy the rest of us on this one.

TROPICAL FISH IN SIBERIA

A curious little item headed "Russians Catch Tropical Fish", by UPI, date-lined Moscow, 9 June 1972 (Los Angeles Times), went as follows in toto:

"Fishermen braving Siberian cold to drop a line in one of the Angara River tributaries have been pulling out tropical fish — thousands of miles from the tropics. The Tass news agency said someone must have once dropped a tankful of pet tropical fish in the river near Lake Baikal. The fish swam upstream into a canal where a thermal power plant disgorges hot water; and began reproducing."

This may be so, but if they are catching them presumably by line or net, they must be of some size and therefore to have established themselves for some years, for nobody keeps even six-inch tropical fish

in tanks. Moreover, we'd like to know what fish, since those tropicals that collectors do keep are usually not species that grow above two inches at the most. We've written seeking further enlightenment but no reply so far, and in a case of this sort there probably won't be one. The Russians are funny in that they answer some enquiries almost by return mail; others they ignore.

However, there is something distinctly "fishy" about this. [Editor's Note: A report some time ago noted that the Russians claimed to have 'resurrected' lizard-like tritons (i.e. newts, a kind of amphibian) alleged to have been buried in the permafrost for 5000 years; but later admitted that the story was "pure fantasy".]

ANCIENT SEEDS

This business of 4000-year-old seeds sprouting has been going on for years. There was the controversial matter of Ancient Egyptian wheat of about that age, which was never positively resolved. Next, it was a series of lotus seeds found in a peat swamp in Manchuria. Western scientists seem not to have believed this either (see the ultimate and definitive work on the subject entitled Seed Preservation and Longevity by L. V. Barton, 1961, Leonard Hill Books), in which the oldest seed to germinate is said to be about 200 years — possibly 250. Now comes this from Japan.

"Akita, Japan (AP) — Several seeds found in an ancient tomb and believed to be 4,000 years old sprouted when they were exposed to sunlight a Japanese archaeologist reported yesterday. Yasutoki Togashi, the archaeologist, said the age of the seeds was based on the composition of soil and clay in which they were found."

The mystery here is that nobody has tried to explain why only certain seeds from any one site do so germinate — if they do. Barton strongly suggests that seeds alleged to come from 4000-year-old Egyptian tombs and such did not, in fact, do so, but were planted (no pun intended) by chaps with a perverted sense of humour. Some finely controlled experiments were carried out by botanists in the 18th and 19th centuries (and into the 20th), and the rate of germination varied widely among seeds of 'identical' plants and depended largely on the type of seed, i.e. "hard-shelled", "fuzzy", or whatever.

If any of our readers can come up with some really incontrovertible evidence on this subject we will be happy to hear of it. And meantime where's the radio-carbon dating on those associated seeds that did not germinate?

A SECOND LOBSTER MYSTERY

Lobsters are very funny creatures. As anyone knows who has looked at a whole lobster dead or

alive, their claws are quite different. One is long and slender with a lot of hooks on the inside for holding things, the other one is bigger and bulbous and has only a few rounded knobs inside. This one is for crushing. Thirty years ago, finding what was called a "left-handed" lobster (in which the order was reversed to the common run of that species) was an extreme rarity. In twenty years, however, nearly fifty percent—as seen in the lobster corrals of our northeast coast—were "left-handers" and since then the tendency has continued apace so that they have become the standard, and the "old-fashioned" type the rarity.

This oddity can be put down to some as yet unexplained mutation, but now comes this one which is not so simply explained. We take this in toto from the "This World" Sunday supplement of the San Francisco Examiner & Chronicle, of the 19th November 1972.

"Blind Lobsters Grow Bigger. For unknown reasons, lobsters born blind grow faster, bigger and more orange than those with sight. This curious discovery was made at the Boothbay Harbor, Me., laboratory of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. About one lobster out of every 5000 was born blind, they found, and that lobster would lack pigment (they would be the brilliant orange-red of a cooked lobster instead of the blue-green of the normal live lobster). It would also molt 12 times in the first four months instead of only 8; might weigh 40 times as much at that time as a normal lobster — yet eat no more."

We wrote to the N.O.A.A. for further information and received the following most interesting reply from Alden P. Stickney, Fishery Biologist.

"In answer to your letter, the blind lobsters to which you refer lose their eyes during one of their early molts, usually when changing from the first to second larval stage, or from the second to the third. They are about one half inch long at this time. The cause for this eye loss is not known, but the entire eye stalk is lost. Only one out of several thousand are victims of this deformity.

"The eye-stalk of a normal lobster contains some very important glandular tissue, somewhat analagous to the pituitary gland in higher animals. These glands regulate a number of physiological functions in the lobster, including pigmentation, metabolism, reproductive cycle and molting. Since the effect of the gland on molting is inhibitory, its loss permits more frequent molting and faster growth. Artificial removal of the eye stalks has the same effect, but generally kills the lobster after the ensuing molt. Naturally eyeless lobsters, on the other hand, seem to live vigorous and healthy lives for several additional molts.

"We have not yet had the opportunity to study these aberrant lobsters adequately because of their rarity. We do not know whether they will mature normally, or whether other defects also arising from their eyeless

condition will prevent complete development. We do not know the cause of the eye loss, nor whether it occurs in nature or only in artificially hatched lobsters. Obviously, if these unusually rapid growing lobsters could be created at will by manipulation of their environment and if no other detrimental effects are associated with the condition, the phenomenon might find a useful application in the artificial culture of lobsters.

"The loss of a single eye in lobsters is a much more frequent occurrence, but in one-eyed lobsters the glands in the remaining eyestalk appear to be sufficient to regulate molting normally. Although lobsters are able to regenerate lost limbs, they are not similarly able to regenerate lost eye stalks."

A SCALY BEAST

From The Hindu, Madras, India, dated the 8th January 1973 and bylined Tranquebar:

"Amphibious Creature Caught from Sea. A four-footed amphibious creature caught from the sea is attracting large crowds here. The orange-coloured creature measuring nearly a metre in length and 30 cm in height, has a sharp nose like an anteater and has scales all over the body. It walks and runs about on land. Fishermen who caught the creature, which has not been identified yet, said that it caused some damage to their net while struggling to escape.—PTL"

This is the kind of item that really causes us both trouble and enlightenment. The above clip was sent to us by one of our founding members and a very old personal friend of our Director — Mr. W. M. (Gerald) Russell [the "George" Russell of *Animal Treasure* by Ivan T. Sanderson]. Now the fun begins. While we are digging out the newspaper entitled The Hindu, all we can do is speculate. And as of now, we do so as follows:—

This sounds like an Indian Pholidota (i.e. a Scaly Anteater) that the fishermen had as a pet and which, with its powerful claws, could indeed completely wreck an inshore fishing net. The Indian Government, in its generosity, provides financial relief (i.e. hard cash) to fishermen for things such as torn nets. On the other hand, the damndest animals go swimming in the sea. What about the Proboscis Monkey found paddling happily along, way out of sight of land, somewhat northeast of Borneo; rescued by a British patrol launch, and presented to the world by the now defunct Life Magazine on its cover.

Of course, we're all still hoping for a scaly "sea-monster" but, I fear me, this will turn out to be just another item like the Paraguayan "barking snake-dog" (see p. 14). Nevertheless, one must keep trying; otherwise something for real will get missed, and just because someone is scared of ridicule. We are not.

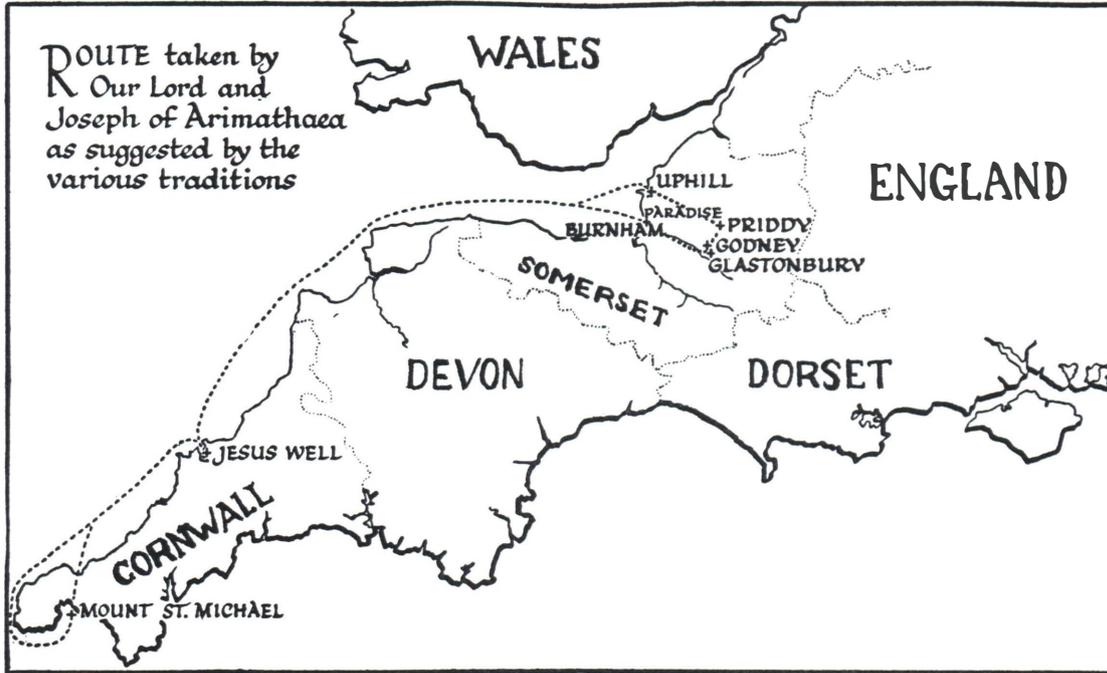
VIII. ANTHROPOLOGY

"YESU" OF THE DRUIDS

There has been a legend in the southwest peninsula (Somerset and Cornwall) of England; and southern Ireland throughout recorded history that the Palestinian Essene whom we call "Jesus Christ" visited and resided at a place, today called Glastonbury, in northern Somerset. This is a matter of enormous

historical interest; and not only to theologians. Just look it up in any encyclopedia.

Let us, however, leave the theological aspects of this out of the picture for the moment and concentrate on the historical, with some reference to botanical matters. It is our intention to find as much space as we can in future issues of this journal to present as



The southwest peninsula of England with places having legendary or historical relations to visits by Joseph of Arimathaea.

Believe it or not, you can eliminate most of the junk mail you receive; not all of it—and for pornographic mail, ask your local post office for form No.2201 ("the form for getting off sexually-oriented advertising lists"). As for ordinary junk mail, write to Miss Lynn Lee, Director of Consumer Relations, Direct Mail Advertising Association, Inc., 230 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017. She will send you information on their service, together with the necessary forms. There is no cost to you except for the postage required to request the form and return it to her.

Possibly Apocryphal

SITU is, of course, strictly apolitical but, though we naturally deplore the violence in Ireland, we pass on the following which was sent us by Sibley Morrill who got it from a chap named Henessy, who told of an interview with a citizen of Belfast who downgraded all the reports of violence there. Finally the interviewer asked him what kind of a job he had in Belfast since he knew so much about it. His response was "I'm a tail-gunner on a milkwagon".

From "Welcomat", a center-city Philadelphia weekly (August 1972): "Things can always be worse. Thirty years from now speeders will crash in the sky and fall on pedestrians."

many findings on this story as we can, and especially those suggested by our members. But for now let us try to dispose of two corollary matters: first the matter of the flowering thorn tree which is really the basis for this whole legend.

In Glastonbury, County of Somerset, England, and only there in all of western Europe, is there found a thorn bush which flowers twice a year, and almost exactly on Christmas and the Christian Easter. The story goes that these bushes in that area are all descended from a staff left outside a hut by one Joseph of Arimathaea, a prominent Hebraic and Roman official, who was also the uncle of Christ and his guardian, on one of his periodic visits to the tin mines of Britain.

The so-called "thorn trees" constitute the genus Crataegus (a member of the Rosaceae family) of which there are at least 150 full species and now over 900 sub-species, though most of the latter were developed in North America. The common species of Britain is Crataegus oxyacantha —of which there are also numerous very distinct natural sub-species. They are all shrubs or small trees with, occasionally, an old giant up to 45 feet. The original indigenous distribution of this species was apparently from northwestern Europe north to 62-½° north latitude in Sweden; and then east, via the sub-boreal belt, all the way to farthest Siberia; and then back west again, north of the mountains to Asia Minor and North Africa. However, there is another species known as C. praecox that flowers twice a year and which is indigenous to the eastern Mediterranean, and thence east, south of the distribution of the C. oxyacantha group.

So why is there only one tiny place in western Europe where this species has become implanted; and why should seeds taken from it there (cross-bred or otherwise) fail to perform?

Next, there can in no way be any doubt that the Phoenicians and other Palestinians obtained a major part of their supply of tin and other metals from this area in the islands that the Greeks called the Cassiterides. Therefore, who would wish to deny that a leading metal trader, such as this Joseph of Arimathaea, should have taken his adopted son, age 12, on a trip with him to the west? As to whether or nor this adopted son happened to be the man we know (historically) as Jesus Christ is of no concern to us at the moment; but, since that person appears to have been missing from Palestine from the age of 12 until 30 there is no reason to suppose that it was not he.

Finally, as you will see from this journal (Vol. 5, No. 1, p. 16), it has been suggested (by Colin Renfrew) that the most ancient monotheistic theologi-

cal influences spread not from the eastern Mediterranean to the north and west but from the north and west to the south and east. In other words, the late neolithic, and especially the Celtic ecclesiastics (often erroneously call the "Druids") were the first monotheists and they could probably teach a Palestinian Essene more than could any other people whom he could reach, a pure philosophy that he could develop to apply to what Christians call his "Ministry", when he went home. The fascinating thing is that the Celts had a Messiah belief, and this great philosopher and teacher-to-be, was called by them YESU. Coincidence?

For now, we would just like to revive this fascinating legend, and introduce it to this country.

How many of you "exported" Celts have observations to make on this. Try an encyclopedia first; then see if you have any "ancestors" still alive; re-read the Bible; and then bombard us. There's more to this legend than meets the eye.

A LINGUISTIC SURPRISE

The National Enquirer (19 Nov. 1972) pointed out that the editors of Webster's Third New International Dictionary, state that the word with the most usages in our language is SET. It can be used as a noun, a verb, or an adjective, and over 200 such usages are known for it.

METALLIC BALLS FROM HERE!

It has been truly said that people don't like their mysteries solved; hence Mr. Alfred Hitchcock's initial and enormous success. However, just wangle an invitation to a Mystery Writers' Guild bash, and ask around. As fortune favors, we run the risk of censorship on both scores and we are very happy to do so. We consider explaining the "unexplained" just as important as bringing them to your attention in the first place, when others refuse to do so for one reason or other. This is particularly the case when there has obviously been some deliberate malintent along the way.

In our July 1972 issue we gave quite a lot of space to the matter of hollow metal balls of various sizes that have been turning up on the surface of the land and, in one case, on the bottom of a shallow sea, for some years now in various parts of the world and which have got the average intelligent newspaper reader intrigued, while it has sent all assorted

No Possible Doubt Whatever!

Some years ago the Manchester Guardian Weekly (as it then was), reprinted the following extract from British Admiralty instructions: "It is necessary for technical reasons that these warheads should be stored with the top at the bottom and the bottom at the top. In order that there may be no doubt which is the bottom for storage purposes, it will be seen that the bottom of each head has been labelled with the word TOP."

species of kooks, and even the serious-minded ufologists, into transports of speculation. Now, thank goodness, we have at least one very straightforward and simple, possible, explanation for some (most, if not all) of them. In our opinion, therefore, the onus falls squarely upon the Press for having either deliberately built this into a mystery or, alternatively, for just plain not knowing their job.

We received a letter from the brother of one of our members, who reads this journal regularly, and we quote the essential part, in toto, with his kind permission:—

“I recall an article in the local papers about such balls being discovered years ago —would guess about 5–15 years ago; there was also an article at about the same time in Aviation Week I believe. One of these articles, probably the A.W. one, included photos of a couple of such spheres. One of these spheres resembled the one in the photo in the Pursuit article very closely in the photographs as well as the description. These spheres are gas bottles that are used to hold helium (and maybe other gases) under very high pressure for use in controlling the direction of thrust of rocket engines. They are made of various alloys and are very strong so that they can contain tremendous pressures. They come in various sizes. They are carried on virtually all rockets which are used to launch satellites and re-entry experiments; they are part of the upper stages of launch vehicles which go into orbit with their payloads. They are part of the tremendous amount of ‘space junk’ in orbit about the earth. Many of these vehicles are parts of military reconnaissance satellites which are in low earth orbits which decay very rapidly. These spheres and some other parts of these vehicles are often not burned up when they re-enter the atmosphere at 17,000 m.p.h. due to their shape and high surface-area-to-weight ratio. Parts of fuel tanks up to 10 feet long have been found. In the case of the sphere in the photo in Pursuit the hole was melted by heat of re-entry because there was already a break in the surface of the sphere at that point; namely, the outlet valve for the pressurized gas it contained. When these spheres were first discovered, they were a three-day wonder, until someone recognized what they were.”

So, until such time as one is unlucky enough to be hit by a ten-foot tank re-entering at its own leisure

we may save space for other things in our still limited number of pages.

MORE ON MERCURY ENGINES

In our issue of July 1972 when discussing possible motive power sources for flying machines devised by the Ancients we once again touched upon this curious matter of the Pre-Aryan Indian so-called “Mercury Engines”. How they derived their motive power (if they ever existed) would probably never be discovered by us.

The following statement is taken directly from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Marine Fisheries Review, of the 5th October 1972, Vol. 34, No. 9–10, p. 70. It is credited to the Japan Economic Journal, for the 1st August 1972.

“A model undersea craft propelled by electromagnetically created jets of water will be tested in September. The 1-meter-long model test craft weighs 90 kilograms. It was built by the Electro-technical Laboratory of the Japan Agency of Industrial Science and Technology. If it works, the new craft should make undersea operations much safer and easier because it would eliminate the hazards of propeller-driven submarines. At great depths, heavy water pressure makes it difficult to maintain the air tightness of the propeller shaft’s bearing section. Also, steering is difficult due to heavy propeller vibrations.

“The laboratory has applied the principle of movements of any liquid in a magnetic field in a right angle to the field when an electric current is applied. It is using mercury [emphasis ours] as the basic moving liquid because it is far more conductive (earlier test with seawater failed) and will allow for miniaturization. The power system involves a “U-shaped” container of mercury surrounded by a magnet. It is connected to storage cells and a square-shaped input/output piping system extending from the motor’s core. Alternating currents will cause the mercury to move in different ways. This will cause seawater inside the motor to move. This movement will be regulated by a system of valves propelling the vessel in desired direction.”

We have written asking for whatever further technical information might be available and this (if any is forthcoming) will be passed on to you.

DEPARTMENT OF LOOSE ENDS

In our July 1972 issue we reported further on a mysterious bell that rang regularly at (we use this word advisedly) the home of the Bentley family in Stone, England, and stated that our correspondent in England had promised to try to find out from the Bentleys just what did happen. Repeated pleas for their side of the story have gone unanswered. Our

informant notes that they are presumably “fed up with the whole affair —or they may have moved, of course, though in such cases the Post Office usually returns mail marked ‘gone away’. So it looks as though we have come to the end of the line on the Stone bell case. I hate having to admit defeat!” So do we, but there would seem to be nothing further that can be done in this case.

Notice to Foreign (including Canadian and Mexican) Members and Subscribers

Please make all remittances to SITU by either personal cheque or, preferably, by money order payable in U.S. dollars. Do not send cash unless you can send U.S. dollars; foreign currency poses monumental problems for our local bank.

Once again, please remember that donations to SITU –but not dues– are deductible for income tax purposes.

MEMBERS' FORUM

Does anyone know the whereabouts, or in fact anything about the American Investigating Museum? We cannot find this listed in any of our directories and are most interested in locating it if it still exists, since it is reported that at least one, if not several, "giant skeletons" were sent there.

One of our members is interested in learning about the Coando Effect; we have searched encyclopaedias (technical and general), dictionaries, textbooks, and every other source we could think of, to no avail. Can one of our members give us a reference on this that we can send this gentleman?

As noted some time ago, member #52 has been working on an apparent relationship between magnetic storms and various fortean phenomena. He reports that he has consulted eleven specialists and has been given considerable encouragement and help, the latter in the form of letters of introduction to other specialists who should be able to assist him. He has also been asked to write an article on his preliminary findings for the Journal of the American Society for Psychological Research. An unhappy sign of the state of science in this country is the warning from six of the consultants that he should "suppress or soft-pedal the Poltergeist: it can only damage your credibility".

Work on Charles Fort's notes is progressing most satisfactorily and we have a letter from Mr. Paul R. Rugen, Keeper of Manuscripts at the New York Public Library stating that "you may count on our continued efforts to facilitate [the] work in any way possible within the limits of our organization." Many of Fort's notes were published in Doubt, the journal of the Fortean Society, and our member finds that he disagrees with Tiffany Thayer's interpretations in a significant number of cases. When the job is completed (last report, some 4000 of an estimated 66,000 3x5 file cards had been finished), at least a third party, if not a fourth, will be called in to act as "referee". The last stage in this truly monumental undertaking will be to check the original sources cited by Fort to make certain that he did not 'goof'. It is not possible even to estimate the time that will be required to finish transcribing the notes onto cards, but we will keep you informed on progress on this project.

On a more personal basis, does anyone know of a brand of table salt that is pure salt? (If you think yours is, you had better check the label; the only brand available to us locally also contains sodium silico aluminate and yellow prussiate of soda!) And you should be cautioned: do not use table salt to make up eyewash solution if it contains anything other than good old NaCl –get the bottled USP salt solution from your druggist.

Once again, please call us at least one week in advance if you wish to visit our HQ. We regret that our telephone has been erratic during the past few months –the telephone company has put in all new phones and jacks in the house and is currently working on the outside cable which has taken a terrible beating from ice storms during the past two winters (and again in late 1972). If our telephone rings and you get no answer, call the operator in Belvidere, N.J.; she will be able to tell you whether it is in service or not –when the cable breaks, you will hear our telephone ringing; we won't.

We long ago lost one of our "fun pieces" but have just now dug up a date on it. It appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer on or about the 12th October 1966 in a column entitled "The Philadelphia Lawyer". We will be eternally grateful if one of our Philadelphia members will dig this out for us (the Public Library has a file on microfilm) and send us a copy. This particular item was known as the "Dishrag caper".

PAPERS AVAILABLE IN XEROX FORM FROM SITU

SITU does not sell books, but we do have a small supply of the following papers and journals (aside from back issues of Pursuit). We regret that due to rapidly rising postal costs, we must charge separately for postage; the first and third class postage given applies to the U.S., Canada, and Mexico; the third figure is the third class rate to all other foreign countries.

"The Two Gravitational Fields and Gravitational Waves Propagation" by John Carstou, \$1.50 plus postage: 1st cl. 24¢; 3rd cl. 12¢; foreign 14¢.

"Gravitation and Electromagnetism—Tentative Synthesis and Applications" by John Carstou, \$1.50 plus 24¢; 12¢; 14¢.

"An Experiment in Dowsing" by Ivan T. Sanderson, \$1.50 plus 24¢; 12¢; 14¢.

"The Fitzgerald Report" by Robert J. Durant, \$2.00 plus 40¢; 20¢; 26¢.

"Ueber den Bau der Nester von *Atta cephalotes* L. und *Atta Sexdens* L. (Hym. formicidae)" by Gerold Stahel and D. C. Geijskes, \$4.50 plus 56¢; 28¢; 26¢.

"*Acarus Crossi*" —free in U.S. with stamped self-addressed envelope; foreign, send reply coupon.

"Journal of the Interplanetary Exploration Society, Vol. 1, No. 3 (December 1961). Contains articles on ancient space travel, plus Ivan T. Sanderson's "Non-Cuvierian Cataclysms". \$3.00 plus 48¢; 24¢; 26¢.

Anyone interested in miniaturized reproductions of Pursuit —i.e. microfiche or microfilm— should write to University Microfilms, 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

BOOK REVIEWS

by Marion L. Fawcett

James Robert Enterline. Viking America: The Norse Crossings and Their Legacy. With an Epilogue by Thor Heyerdahl. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company. 1972. \$6.95.

This is a splendid book and wholeheartedly recommended to all forteans, as it pulls the platform out from under still another bunch of disbelievers. It is subtitled "The Norse Crossings and Their Legacy". Would that the two titles could have been reversed because there never were any people called the "Vikings" — they were Norsemen, or better Nordmanni, but they did "go a-viking" which was roughly equivalent to those of our people who were once admonished to "Go West, Young Man". Another sad thing could not, of course, have been avoided due to all that all of us have been told —and also all wrong. That is the prettily designed Norse longship on the jacket. The Norse went raiding all around Europe in these shallow-draught, low-freeboard, sleek, clinker-built rowing boats, but they never went a-viking in them. For this they used the Roundboat, the deep-draught Nordskip; but then, of course, those aren't so pretty or so romantic.

The great value of this book is that it is, as far as I know, the first attempt to at least make a start on the history of the Norse from the end of the "viking" period (circa 1100 A.D.) to 1500 A.D. It unfortunately does not go nearly far enough into this; but the author, being a relatively young man, has to guard his reputation.

However, this concern is not a valid reason for his having lagged so far behind on another part of his historical research. This is the opening part, on the origin of the Norse. It is true enough that they constituted one lot of emigrating west-central Asiatics, but Mr. Enterline's assignment of them to the "Germanic hordes" is more than a little suspect. Indeed, Vautaan (Wotan, Wodin, Odin) led his tribes to the Baltic and on into Scandinavia, circa 400 A.D., whence they spilled outwards again 500 years later, and both east and west; but even this otherwise apparently careful scholar Mr. Enterline has, like almost all the others, overlooked the one basic fact about the whole Norse affair. This is the people who were there when the 'Norse' arrived.

Mr. Enterline's Norse (and everybody else's "Vikings") were a bunch of landlubbers and couldn't even get across the Skagerrack without the help of the dark-haired, narrow-headed, blue-eyed left-overs from what we call Neolithic times, and who were indigenous to the west European Atlantic fringe. Their "head god" was Thor —riding his reindeer (goat) with his stone axe (gavel); and doing the ship-building and piloting. When the Norse ran out of land in their Viks (bays) and wanted to go boating, these ancient Celts taught them how —and both Longships and Roundboats— and taught them how to sail and how to row. These were the people who brought the Norse a-viking. Hence all the trouble in this, and everybody else's books, about grapes, wine, Vinland, et al., and all the independent-minded non-Norse pilots who'd been coming here for centuries; and all of whose names, you will note, start off with Thor. An alert, and bow, to Mr. Thor Heyerdahl!

For all these queries, as I said at the outset of my review, this is a damned good book and well worth the \$6.95 charged for it if you are truly interested in the realities of history as a hobby. It at least starts to fill in another slot in said history.

And, just as a challenge: Do you think the Norse got to Oklahoma up the Mississippi — or south via the Great Lakes?

Ivan T. Sanderson

The Record: Found on the Elevator, 205 W. 57 (New York City), 11 February 1969.

This recording has been advertised in the Village Voice and may still be advertised therein. The “explanation” which accompanies it is as follows:

“The process by which this recording reached the place where it was found is not yet fully understood. Its authenticity as a so-called ‘artifact’ from a future time is also under serious question. Nevertheless it is currently being examined by a group of responsible investigators [un-named] to determine its validity, as well as to clarify the meaning of its contents and to suggest possible applications for the information contained therein.

“Preliminary estimates place the time and location of its origin as approximately 100 to 125 years from the present, recorded somewhere in the area of northern New Jersey.

“No attempt has been made to edit or clarify the recording. It is presented here exactly as found, complete in its original form.*

“[Their footnote] *The source disc itself is 8½ inches in diameter, made of a very thin, rigid plastic material (with no label or center hole), and with an optimal playing speed of approximately 20 revolutions per minute. This reproduction has been made on a ten-inch disc at 33 1/3 rpm so as to be playable on home phonographs.”

We obtained a copy and have played it for a number of persons, including professional radio engineers. Frankly, not one of us can figure out how anyone came to the conclusion that it takes place in the future, let alone at an even remotely specific date; and we found much of it virtually unintelligible. Apart from some jargon —which would be child’s play for any science fiction writer— there is really nothing about the recording that warrants spending any money on it at all. Someone is presumably giggling all the way to the bank, since it is the type of thing that sounds as if it ought to be investigated. We consider it to be a hoax and unless someone comes up with much more definite information on its origin propose to forget it altogether.

The Self-Publishing Writer (A Quarterly Journal for Writers), 547 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94105; subscription rate \$7.50 a year, \$2 a single copy.

A number of our members are authors or would-be authors, and this new journal (Vol. 1, No. 1 is dated October 1972) edited by Sibley S. Morrill may be of interest to them. It contains both general articles and specific and practical ‘instructions’ on the process of publishing books independently.

John Wallace Spencer. Limbo of the Lost. 1969. \$1.95 plus 25¢ postage and handling, from Phillips Publishing Co., P. O. Box 141, Westfield, MA 01085.

For those who are fanatics on the subject of the so-called Bermuda Triangle, this book is an excellent “seed-catalogue” of events in that specific area. The author does mention the “Devil’s Sea” off Japan and, rather oddly, adds a section on Blackbeard the Pirate (Edward Teach) and —heaven knows why!— in Chapter 8 (entitled “Possible Explanation and Latest Losses”) a feature “Do Sea Serpents Really Exist? (Loch Ness Monsters) — FEATURE”. What this has to do with the rest of the book I do not know, but it’s there. The copy we have is the fourth printing of the book and contains reports of disappearances as late as 1971.

Eric Frank Russell. Great World Mysteries. New York: Roy Publishers. 1957.

We do not know whether this book is still in print, and it has been our practice to review only new books dealing with forteana. However, we will from time to time bring to your attention books which should be read by all forteans. Eric Frank Russell is probably best known as a science-fiction writer (Wasp, etc.) and is also one of the few sci-fi writers who will have anything to do with forteana. Oddly enough, most sci-fi writers take a dim view of forteana and have been known to foam at the mouth at the very mention of things

which are much less "far out" than the stories they concoct. (Robert Heinlein is a definite exception to this 'rule'.) In Great World Mysteries Mr. Russell examines a number of famous cases in most pragmatic fashion and comes up with the only truly sensible suggestion concerning the Mary Celeste (not the Marie C.) that we have ever come across. This is reported on page 5 of this issue and will, we hope, stop the interminable ramblings about that (to us) much over-rated case. The rest of his book is worth reading too. It includes both a bibliography and an index.

Carl Sagan and Thornton Page, Editors. UFO's—A Scientific Debate. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press. (Scheduled for publication, 2 February 1973). \$12.50. (Also London: Cornell University Press. £5.65 net)

This is the printed transcription of the AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects, held in Boston, Massachusetts, on the 26th-27th December, 1969, until now available only on tape from the AAAS. The Editors state that it is a "slightly compressed version of the fifteen invited talks and the discussion that followed", and it is also indicated that some authors have "considerably revised" their papers. Without comparing the book word for word with the tapes (in some places difficult to hear because of 'static'), it is impossible to say how much or what kind of revision has taken place, but my impression is that most of it has been of the legitimate kind.

The Editors have added a comment here and there, and have provided both an Introduction and an Addendum which I shall deal with later. The Introduction details the history of the Symposium —there were those who vigorously opposed it (even to the extent of writing to the Vice-President of the United States to demand that he put a stop to it!)— and Drs. Sagan and Page make it quite clear why those who did favour it felt that the AAAS should present as unbiased a program as possible on a subject of such considerable interest to the public. They also single out Walter Orr Roberts, then President of the Association, for his "steadfast courage", in concert with others, in "beating down the opposition". They note that "We believe that organizations like the AAAS have a major obligation to arrange for confrontations [presentation of "observations and some of the speculations generated by a critical examination of the evidence—the traditional scientific method"] on precisely those science-related subjects that catch the public eye". Quite naturally, the papers presented here vary both in viewpoint and in 'literary' quality. Lester Grinspoon's paper (with Alan D. Persky) is probably the worst, though the "funniest" —he is a psychiatrist and apparently decided that UFOs are (whatever they really are) representations of the human breast (saucer-shaped) or phallic symbols ("cigar-shaped"); this elicited giggles from the audience and a later aside from Carl Sagan: "Drs. Grinspoon and Persky may be interested to hear that the vehicle's in the UFO literature described as 'mother ships' are the ones that are cigar-shaped, and I shudder to think what that means for their interpretation."

This book is refreshingly free of reports of "sightings", though a few are included as examples, and certainly deserves a place in any library, personal or public, that makes any pretense of containing a well-rounded selection of books on ufology.

As for the Addendum mentioned previously: This first reports briefly on some of the more pertinent questions asked the panel at the Symposium, and then prints a letter signed by Thornton Page on behalf of twelve of the participants and addressed to the Secretary of the Air Force. The letter was written because there were rumours that the Air Force would not preserve the files kept by Project Blue Book. The answer they received was an undated, unsigned form letter from the Secretary's office, which simply reported that Blue Book had been closed and its files transferred to the Air Force Archives. Thornton Page telephoned the Secretary's office and received a letter (signed this time, and dated the 13 Jan 1970) stating that "bona fide researchers and news media representatives will be granted access to the records upon application to HQ USAF (SAFOI), The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20330." Later in 1970, the late James McDonald, after some difficulty, was able to see some PBB files at Maxwell Air Force Base, but only those he specifically asked for in advance —and he had to wait for copies to be made in which all names were deleted; as noted, "scarcely convenient for any serious study."

There is an index, and it is quite good.

If your local bookstore does not have copies, you may order directly from the Cornell University Press, 124 Roberts Place, Ithaca, NY 14850; or 2/4 Brook St., London W1Y 1AA, England.

Dr. John R. Napier's book entitled Bigfoot, The Yeti and Sasquatch in Myth and Reality has been published by Jonathan Cape of London (£2.95) and is scheduled for publication by E. P. Dutton & Co. of New York in March 1973.

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