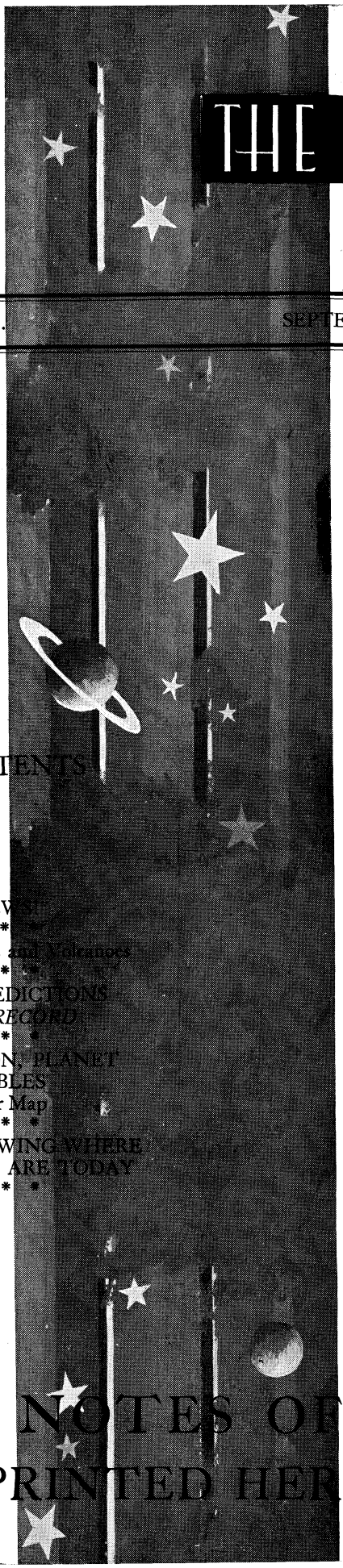
THE FORTEAN SOCIETY MAGAZINE

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WHO KILLED EARHART AND NOONAN?

by TIFFANY THAYER
Secretary of the Fortean Society

I WON'T be quiet—if this is the last collection of words I set down on paper—not if this is the last breath I draw. Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan were murdered by Dogmatic Science. Unless by some miracle they found land and food and fresh water and are now marking the passage of equatorial days by making notches in a stick, they were sent to their death by the smug complacency of Authority, of the schoolmen and the physicists and the astronomers who strut before us in the sacred vestments of a priesthood more obnoxious than any other history records.

This is *not* an enlightened age, you blithering idiots! And you *don't* know it all.

Writing in *Popular Astronomy,* Mr. William Bowie says:

"The primary function of the geodesist is to determine the shape and size of the earth but, without the accumulated results obtained by astronomers, this problem of the geodesists

THE NOTES OF CHARLES FORT ARE PRINTED HERE *for the* FIRST TIME

could not be solved. The positions of stars are determined by the astronomers and published in star catalogues. The stars are then used by the geodesists in locating points over the earth's surface. By connecting the points at which astronomical observations for latitude and longitude are made by a series of direct measurements over the ground or by means of triangulation, the curvature of the earth for different latitudes is obtained and from these data the shape and size of the earth are derived. . . . By the use of these corrected azimuths, called Laplace azimuths, it is possible to measure distances across country with an incredible degree of accuracy."

It is possible to measure the shape and the size of the earth with such an *incredible* degree of accuracy that Earhart and Noonan can't be found! When will you wake up? Neither Laplace's azimuths nor any other system you have so far devised can measure the earth with even an approximate degree of accuracy. All the observations all the astronomers of the whole world were able to make in more than 1200 years were insufficient to accurately time the eclipse of the sun which almost paralleled the path of Earhart's flight. Totality lasted ten seconds longer than it "should"—and an error of ten seconds in a solar eclipse means an error of a good many miles in the width of an ocean. But this is neither the time nor the place to tell all I know. Revealing the abysmal depths of the systematized delusion to which the human race has been subjected by the new God—Science—would probably be "against Public Policy", that great new censor of thought and jailor of liberty and muzzler of free speech.

The truth—so far as I care to reveal it—is that the latest and most detailed charts of the South Pacific Ocean, prepared by the Hydrographic office of the U. S. Navy are a crazy-quilt of guess work which bear the same relationship to the surfaces they purport to represent as a passport photograph bears to the original. No matter how good a navigator is, he cannot find a spot on the Southern Pacific railroad if he is steering his course by a map of the Santa Fe.

As for the value of Laplace azimuths in navigation, I quote Mr. R. T. Gould, retired Lieutenant-Commander of the British Royal Navy: *Until we know considerably more about the geography of our planet than we do now, there will always be "doubtful islands," distinguished on the Admiralty charts by the sceptical affix "E. D." ("existence doubtful") or "P. D." ("position doubtful").*

It may seem curious, in these days of over-civilization, that we should still be in this state of uncertainty. But, in sober fact, we still know less about the "round world" than is generally supposed, and a small departure from the beaten track may still, in certain parts of the great oceans, and even nearer home, transform the ordinary mariner into a discoverer. . . . It should be remembered that while seamen in all ages have been able, when out of sight of land, to find their latitude more or less accurately by means of astronomical observations, the finding of longitude at sea remained an unsolved and apparently insoluble problem until the eighteenth century was more than half gone by. It was no academic problem: it overshadowed the life of every man at sea and the safety of every ship and cargo. Scientific men and practical navigators alike found themselves baffled by it, even with the stimulus provided by various large Government rewards, of which the most famous is the £20,000 offered by the British Government in 1713, *and won, after a long struggle, by John Harrison, the Yorkshire carpenter.*

(How that "carpenter" would have delighted Charles Fort! The new stars are always found by amateurs.)

On the afternoon of July 7, 1937, when the Earhart-Noonan plane and been missing only five days, I was struck by a detail of a map in the *World-Telegram*. I do not wish to appear mystical, but the detail that took my notice is not revealed here. A caption said: *This map, taken from detailed hydrographic charts of U. S. Navy brings home vividly the difficulties of the search.*

On his redrawing of the hydrographic chart, the staff artist of the paper had added a ruled line crossing the International Date Line (Equinoctial Colure), 180° longitude, at 10° north latitude—and extending S.S-E past Howland Island and into the Phoenix Group. Another caption said: *The line through Howland and Baker Islands bearing from left to right shows the direction of the radio waves received by the cutter Itasca. Somewhere along this line the searchers hope to find the missing plane.*

Everyone will recall that the first radio waves were thought to have come from the northwest. To the N.N-W one on either side of the *World Telegram* line, their map showed two "reefs".

The next morning, July 8, the *Times* printed a map of the district with circles by a staff artist revealing that the *Itasca* and the *Swan* had left off looking N.N-W without including those two reefs in the scope of their search. It was incomprehensible to the Navy navigators and commanders that a man of Noonan's ability could have got that far off his course.

I think that R. T. Gould, late of the Royal Navy, would not have found that so hard to believe.

The ships, the paper said, were now going southeast—and I went straight up in the air. I telephoned J. David Stern, publisher of the New York *Evening Post* (and the man who suggested to me in 1930 that we found the Fortean Society). He was in Washington. I got his paper to call him. I telegraphed the Navy Department. When nothing had happened by six that evening I went in person to the *Times* with my suggestions. When nothing had happened on the ninth of June, I telegraphed L. B. Dilbeck, a good Fortean in Los Angeles, employed by the Associated Press there. "*Do* something," I pleaded. "Those people are dying and it is *hot* on the equator. Get one ship, one plane, one rowboat, *anything*—to go to those two reefs." For, by the calculations I am not yet revealing, they should have landed on or near that spot.

I wrote to Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. I listened to every news broadcast of every station for more than a week while announcers with awe in their voices tried to thrill listeners with anecdotes of the *Lexington's* "mighty flying armada manned by 300 crack-pilots" poised for flight.

Oh, that was cruel. To sit and know that all their searching was being done a thousand to two thousand miles away from those reefs!

Then everyone gave up and went home. My efforts impressed Authority about as much as that carpenter's efforts to find longitude had impressed the British Admiralty. What the hell did a novelist know about navigating the South Seas?

What—indeed—

They all went away and something so low in human form that it calls itself a Congressman began criticising the Government for searching. But I went to the Hydrographic office and bought charts of the district. I got the "detailed" charts from which the newspapers had drawn their maps. I found my reefs—easily—and beside each of them (although the papers had not copied that) I found "E.D."—"E.D."—"existence doubtful."

The Congressional critics called this a publicity-stunt flight and Miss Earhart was quoted as saying that it was a flight without definite purpose. You can give me that kind of effort every time for really worth-while results. And mark my words—this flight which has ended in disaster is the most important single ascension ever made. It will be longer in human annals than Lindbergh's, *for the very reason that it failed.*

If Earhart and Noonan had reached Howland Island the flight *would* have been pointless and forgotten. Now it has made a point that should be taught to every school child in the world, and will be. That point is simply that we are as ignorant of the true nature and dimensions of Earth today as was Columbus. No man *can* fly from Lae to Howland by chart, compass and celestial bearings only. With better *radio* guidance than Earhart had, it may be done, but until those ten extra seconds of eclipse are accounted for by the geodesists and hydrographers it cannot be done without radio.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN FAIRIES?

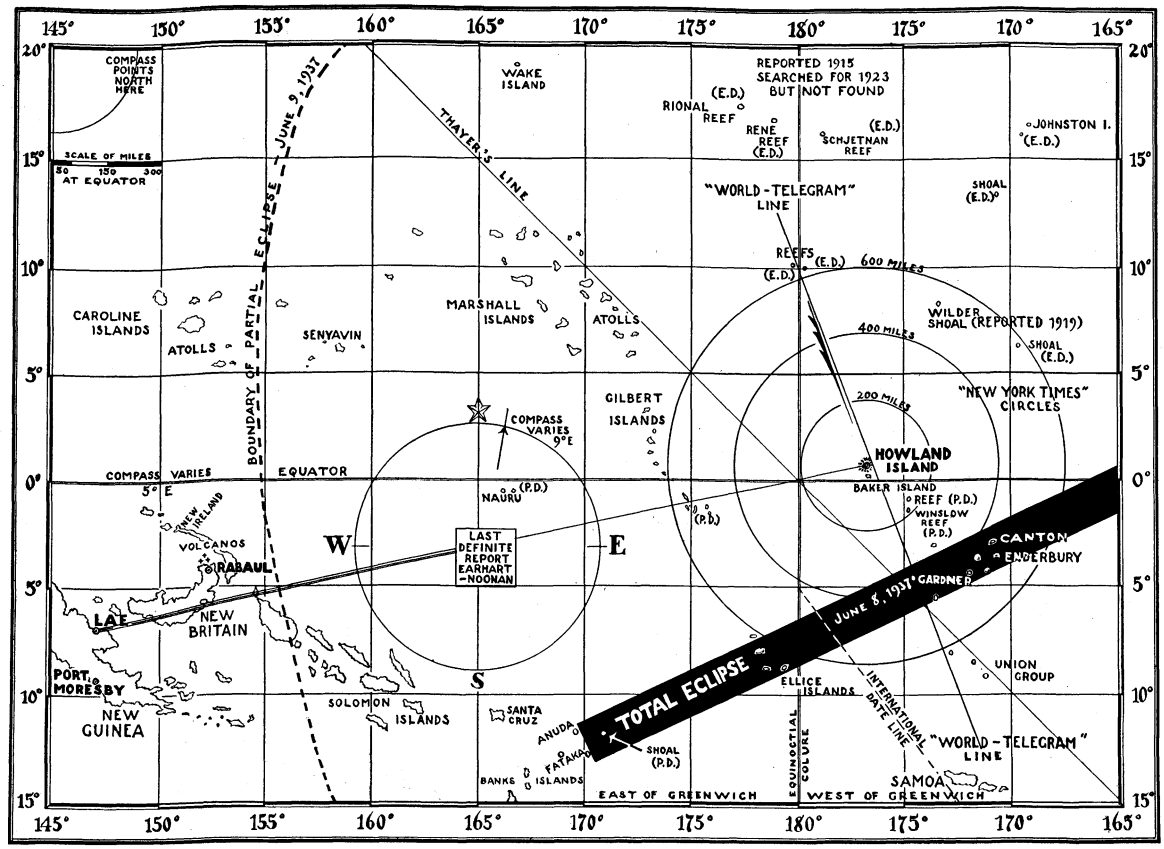
The Navy blimp ZMC-2 was landing at Lakehurst, N. J., (7-31-35) when *something* put a hole in the port horizontal fin. It was called a "bullet" hole and Lieut. Comndr. Charles E. Rosendahl did not relish being "fired upon". Lieut. Ben May, on the ship, said he had heard two more "bullets" strike the metal shell of the craft. How much investigating was done, the Secretary does not know. No arrests were reported.

After an international investigation into the possible causes of the Hindenburg explosion (5-6-37) it was officially decided by the Bureau of Standards that *St. Elmo's fire* had ignited the gas!

These honored dead

were Forteans

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES
LINCOLN STEFFENS



A SEA OF DOUBT

On May 29, Rabaul, New Britain, was destroyed by the eruption of two volcanoes. Between 250 and 500 natives were killed. On June 9 and 8 (because of the International Date-line), there was a total solar eclipsewhich lasted 10 seconds longer than it "should". On July 2, Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan left Lae, New Guinea, and the last exact position of their plane reported by them is indicated on the map. August 9, a gold strike and consequent "rush" were reported near Port Moresby, New Guinea.

The chart above shows the relative position of all those places. It also shows the "line" drawn by a *World-Telegram* artist—referred to in the text—and the circles drawn by the *Times*—also mentioned. Furthermore, there are thirteen landmarks on the above chart, the position or the existence of which is doubtful. The magnetic compass is erratic in this district, its variation increasing 2 minutes annually. It is a sort of fairy hell where anything may happen. It is a map of the Santa Fe line recommended by the U. S. Navy for flying the Southern Pacific route. It is a diagram of official stupidity and authoritative ignorance.

Although the *Times*' circles are marked in miles by their originator, the factual distances are probably at variance with those figures. It is somewhat difficult to check mileage across a sea of doubt, the water slides around so, but, by my calculations, the angle formed by the Equinoctial Colure and the tenth degree of north latitude is easily within 600 miles of Howland Island.

Not to be outdone by any local newspaper—nor the doubtful Navy neither—I have added a "line" of my own to this map. See "Thayer's Line"—? Well, that line indicates the source of the gold, the volcanoes, the extra seconds of totality and Noonan's navigational error.

OCCULTATION OF VENUS

The sharpest contrast existed between the general hurrah before the Solar eclipse (6-8-37) and the almost complete silence before the occultation of Venus (8-3-37). The astronomers don't trust Luna. She's capricious. In some, but not in all, almanacs, the phenomenon was predicted. *Popular Astronomy* listed it among forthcoming events, but, David Dietz, Scripps-Howard Science Editor, wrote a column headed *Sky Fireworks for August* which appeared in the *World-Telegram,* August 3, without mentioning it. In the N. Y. *Times,* Monday, August 2, there were two prominent stories about the sky—nothing about Venus. In the *Evening Sky Map,* published for amateur astronomers, August issue, it is announced that at 8:51 A.M. Greenwich Civil Time, "Venus (will be) in conjunction with Moon. Venus 0 degrees 44 min. south. Not a word to indicate that an opportunity to check astronomy's famed accuracy would be provided early in the morning on August 3.

The Secretary draws the nastiest possible inferences. In this case, he thinks that Harvard and Hayden and Mt. Wilson can't predict an occultation of Venus with anything approaching accuracy and so the usual ballyhoo about every breath drawn by a High Priest is eliminated until *after* the event. Professor J. Schilt at Columbia University perfectly well tossed the matter off when reporters got to him next day. "Very spectacular and exceedingly beautiful," he said, but he "pointed out that the spectacle, aside from its beauty, had no scientific importance."

The Secretary suggests that anything "exceedingly beautiful" is rare enough in this world and that an occultation of Venus has just as much scientific importance as the temperature of an ice berg within the arctic circle and as much as the Pollen Count published daily in the *World-Telegram.* He accuses Professor Schilt and every other astronomer who observed the occultation of hush-hushing its true importance because too many amateurs could check up on them regularly. Total eclipses—especially when they occur in the middle of the Pacific Ocean are not liable to so much disrespectful scrutiny and are therefore safer publicity bets.

Elsewhere in this issue the predicted occultations by Luna in the month of September are noted for Fortean attention. (See the Calendar.) Be sure your watches and your mathematics are accurate before you report irregularities.

PARADE of PALLID DATA
from the Day's News

THE really important news of the day seldom appears on the front page of your paper. Most of the following would never have been printed at all if it were not that strike, war and murder stories sometimes run short of filling their columns by a few inches.

FARM SINKS IN IDAHO

Buhl, Idaho, is 114:48 W., 42:37 N., about 19 miles W.N-W from Twin Falls. Eight miles N-W of town an area of more than 20 acres has sunk (8-15-37) 300 feet and at last accounts the fissure is growing deeper, spreading and other cracks are appearing nearby. Geologists regard it as a local phenomenon and are fearful of losing a river underground. There are other subterranean rivers in Idaho. Much of the state is on old lava beds and incompleted volcanic action some millions of years ago is advanced as the cause.

There are underground rumblings and spouts of dust from the holes as the land subsides.

The district is close enough to Helena, Montana, to give the suggestion that the long series of quakes which occurred there in the winter of 35-36 may be connected with these crevices but no one has mentioned that yet.

SOMETHING IN THE SKY

The Chatham, Mass., station of the Radiomarine Corp., said (7-22-37) it picked up a message from the American freighter *Scanmail* which said it had picked up a message signed G S V P, the radio call letters of the British freighter Ranee, to the effect that a "plane" had been sighted at 9:04 P.M., E.D.T., 500 miles off Cape Race, N. F., 47:10 N., 44:10 W.

A check by "aviation authorities" of the United States and Canada could not identify plane or flier and did not reveal any planes missing.

The message said that "navigation lights" were visible but that identification numbers were not. Whether colored lights are really all that was observed and if the Ranee assumed lights in the air to be a plane is not stated in the newspapers. Attempts to check with the crew of the Ranee established that that ship was in the West Indies!

The Secretary has appointed a member to investigate. (See the *British Correspondence* column elsewhere in this issue for *something* in the air over Hendon, Aerdrome.)

CLOWN CONTEST

Since Einstein has cooled off, the cap and bells which is the crown of the Worlds Champion Scientific Clown has not been awarded to his successor. The chief contenders for the jingling headpiece are Sir Hubert Wilkins and Professor, Dr. Jean Piccard. Honors were about even when the stratospherist went up in his multiple-ballooned ship, Pleiades, from Rochester, Minn., (7-18-37), and began shooting himself down with TNT pellets aimed at the balloons one at a time. He landed six hours later in a tree near Lansing, Ia. All his "equipment" was burned up but the Doc got some fine publicity.

Not to be outdone, Sir Hubert changed his mind again. Known far and wide as the most famous explorer who never goes anywhere except back and forth between London and New York, the Wilkins (no relation to the whisky family—it is hoped) attended the opening of *Emile Zola,* a motion picture, and posed beside his Lady while a battery of one cameras recorded that event for posterity.

Sir Hubert's best trick is changing his mind, although going *toward* the North Pole in a ramshackle submarine wasn't bad.

The record:

Oslo, Norway, July 6: Sir Hubert Wilkins informed the press today that he would charter the Norwegian ship Wyatt Earp for his expedition to Enderby Land.

London, July 15: Sir Hubert Wilkins announced that the weather camp of the Soviet was a folly.

Aboard the *Hansa,* Hamburg-American liner, en route to New York: Sir H. W. is proud to father six weather stations at the *South* Pole. Now, if someone will just erect them for him—(Apparently only North Polar weather stations are folly.)

New York, July 30: Sir H. W. arrived here today saying he had a second submarine for polar exploration under construction in England and that he might leave for the Antarctic next May.

(If he does you may be sure Piccard will paddle to Mars in a canoe!)

It was suggested by Lady Wilkins over a year ago when she announced her candidacy for a job in a night club that a *backer* might help get Sir Hubert out of his trans-Atlantic rut the sooner.

Your Secretary suggests that he try going to Howland Island by bicycle.

IS THE MAJOR A FASCIST?

Major Al Williams, U. S. Marine Corps, Reserve, has said that the Soviet North Pole camp is impractical save as a publicity stunt.

A careful check by your Secretary of the "scientific observations" published from that North Pole camp establish that the temperature at this season hovers about 32° F.—that if it gets any warmer they worry—and that most days you can't see your hand in front of your nose.

SIR HUBERT WILKINS EXTRA!!!

SIR HUBERT WILKINS

Sir Hubert Wilkins left by plane for Canada at the expense of the Soviet Government the day this paper went to press. Sir Hubert Wilkins is ostensibly going to search for some missing fliers. With luck, Sir Hubert Wilkins will return with some motion pictures of Sir Hubert Wilkins tromping around in the snow with Sir Hubert Wilkins.

SEA MONSTERS

There is no such animal as a sea "serpent" until (8-13-37) one is lashed to the side of a boat after a forty-eight hour battle —involving guns and harpoons—and *offered for sale.* Described as 34 feet long, finless, but possessed of "several" pairs of 4-foot long "clippers," tail 9 feet in extreme width, mouth 3 feet 8 inches across—extends 9 feet from tip of snout. Not a whale and "does not fit the description of any known fish." Address Earl Noble, Captain, Motor-ship *Golda,* Fortune Harbor, Newfoundland.

George Weeks wrote to the New York *Sun* (8-5-37) describing a sea monster he recalls from his youth: " . . . eighty feet in length, five feet in diameter, a cow-shaped head, jet black body, with a bright orange colored stripe full length about the center of the body and a vivid green strip directly under it, orange colored fins on the back, green underneath and a large coarse tuft of orange colored hair drooping down over the mouth and chin." (Sounds like a C.I.O. organizer as seen in a nightmare by Girdler.) Observed from the Coast Guard station in Tully, County Galway, Ireland.

LOCH NESS LITTERS

Although D. B. Wedge teaches "science" to the boys of the Benedictine Abbey of Fort Augustus, at Loch Ness, he believes underwater caverns in his neighborhood are "fed by warm springs" where "the last survivors of prehistoric monsters still contrive to exist." (N. Y. *Times,* 6-27-37.) An unstated number of baby monsters "three feet long" have been reported to him by his pupils.

REAL SEA SERPENT

Otis Barton has given (8-12-37) the Aquarium (N. Y.) a water cobra captured by William Beebe in the Bay of Panama. It is

2 feet long, jet black back, orange yellow underneath which works into black and yellow diamond-shaped spots toward the tail. "Dr. Christopher W. Coates, curator of tropical fishes, said that it was the first example of its species the Aquarium had had in twelve years."

FRESH-WATER MONSTER DROPPED

Whatever was in the White River off Newport, Arkansas, through the latter part of July has disappeared—from the newspapers (like the Perseids which didn't shower). "Naval Diver" C. B. Brown, of Mamphis, submerged three times but found nothing. (7-23-37.)

Christopher W. Coates at the Battery Aquarium says maybe that was an "alligator gar" they saw. Mr. Coates' alibi for not having an alligator gar at the aquarium is that "they do not survive travel well." (Also said of some race horses and certain "small" but fine wines. T.T.)

NUTS NEXT

Mr. and Mrs. William H. De Frehn of Saratoga Springs, N. Y. report (7-24-37) that what was a pear tree last year is bearing cherries this year.

GEESE MISTAKEN

While New York City sweltered (7-28-37), Knapp Creek, N. Y., reported a light snowfall and *a flight of Canadian geese headed South!*

THOSE ECLIPSE PHOTOGRAPHS

If the astronomers will now sit quietly in their seats and stop that shuffling, the Secretary will deliver a short lecture on the subject of the photographs of the "corona" said to have been taken from an airplane by Major Albert W. Stevens (6-8-37). The Secretary's attitude will lack the reverence of an acolyte as well as the unction of an astronomy professor. It will be concise and to the point, dispensing with argument until the statements are sensibly confuted.

The photographs purporting to be pictures of something called a "corona" are really pictures of Sol, a minor star, with its central, direct emanations blotted out by an intervening object, Luna. There is no difference whatever between the emanations photographed and those observable daily save their direction. The disk-like appearance given Sol by day is due to the directness of the central emanations—usually called "rays"—which reach Earth's atmosphere in such quantities and at such speeds that both heat and light result, the light being so brilliant that the same kind of Solar emanations (rays) leaving Sol at any and all other angles (corona) are not visible.

At Sol there is no such thing as "light" nor "heat" nor "pressure"; there is only the phenomenon of ray emanation. All is quite dark—with the darkness of infinity—and at the center of Sol, within the roughly spherical and expanding area of ray emanations, there is a perfect and absolute vacuum which grows in extent as Sol *eats* its way radioactively outward into finity in every direction.

"Light" and "heat" are strictly atmospheric phenomena, "acquired characteristics" —in a sense—of the Solar rays which are of a mathematically ascertainable number of varieties. A few varieties of Solar rays have been discovered by use of the prism, and spectrum analysis should be employed to check the mathematical equations, but the obvious and long-ignored *simple* approach to all the problems of physics lies in the digits 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

Not all Solar rays reach Earth's atmosphere, perhaps. Some may pass through it and through Earth itself and out the other side *of the atmosphere* and away on missions to be taken up in a later lesson.

The above is a brief description of the character of all stars. It was a glimmering of this which caused Sir Arthur Eddington to write *The Expanding Universe,* but Sir Arthur, like all "trained observers" was trained to see only what he "should". The "universe"—that is to say, *finity* is expanding and all that is within it is also expanding, down to the meanest Neutrino. The rates of expansion vary a good deal from the smallest to the largest thing, but a working ratio exists which serves fairly well as a sort of broken-rhythm cosmic-constant (see Planck for some notes on the jazz music of the spheres), serves fairly well with only an average of four earthquakes a day in Japan—and how many volcanoes?—to mark this planet's expansion. (See the Utah farm disappear!)

Perhaps that is enough Aristotelian reasoning for a first lesson. Perhaps that much should be verified by Baconian principles before the Secretary proceeds. However, there being a great dread in me that once Baconians grasp my import and begin to work upon it, my small suggestions will disappear in the star dust Orthodoxy will kick up by its "enormous strides". I list a few of the necessarily consequent phenomena:

1. Earth and every planet in Sol's "system" began as a single unit of ray and developed by accretion and expansion.

2. Luna is a baby planet and if humans live so long they will watch the history of Earth repeat itself in the night sky as "ice" (really crystal) "melts" (precipitates elements to its center—induced by Solar rays) and bursts its shell, scratching the surfaces of the agglomerate elements (are there any geologists in the house?) and so on. (Truly, in such a short lecture I should not go so far.) Earth's seas contain every element, it is said, so, too, that crystal ball in the sky—but, as yet, unmelted. The recurrence of glaciation is saved for a later paper.

3. Comets do not have orbits but each recurrence of a similar or nearly identical object on a beaten path is another unit of ray from the same star as the others observed on that path grown to similar or nearly identical size by accretion and expansion. (So that Earth and its fellow planets may not be bits of Sol —in fact, probably are not.)

4. Six stars are expanding toward Sol from as many different directions all at right angles. Five of the six are likely to be found to be Arcturus, Regulus, Aldebaran, Capella and Sirius; the sixth, Alpha Crucis.

5. There will be a continental cleavage from Hudson Bay to the Gulf of Mexico, known to posterity as the Mississippi Cleavage because that river bed will split wide open admitting the sea from both ends.

Gentlemen, that is only the beginning. Will you forgive me if I sign this little lecture with your patron's cypher? I too am a Baconian, in a sense. (signed) 33°.

MAN FUSSES WITH HIS ENVIRONMENT

A belt of trees—Russian olive, American and Chinese elms, cottonwood, hackberry, wild plum and red cedar—is being planted (8-1-37) from the Canadian border south, roughly on the 99° meridian, through the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas—as far as Amarillo. The effort is to retard soil erosion. For details read Lauren D. Lyman, N. Y. *Times,* p. 7-E.

GROWS EYES

Associated Press quotes the *Collecting Net* from an article by Dr. E. O. Schotte of Amherst College, to the effect that newt tail tissue transplanted under certain conditions in the Woods Hole (Mass.) laboratory "developed into a well-formed crystalline lens." The same result has been accomplished with tadpoles. The story finishes: "Human beings, it is assumed, develop with the aid of these same chemicals before birth."

"The Axolotl is a gill type amphibian living regularly in the water. In Mexico, it is considered a food delicacy. It is an example of the larval creatures with deficient thyroid gland development. Experiment has shown that if extract of the thyroid gland of sheep is given to the Axolotl at any age in its life, it changes into a land animal similar to the Salamander. Of course, the same experiment has been tried on other aquatic amphibians; but it doesn't always work. Thyroid extract works no change on the Olm and Necturus, for example." *Why We See Like Human Beings,* a book published by Better Vision Institute, 30 Rockefeller Plaza.

FIT TO PRINT

Roy E. Litchfield, Hingham, Mass., revealed (8-4-37) that his pet canary had hatched three baby birds from a single egg. *N. Y. Times.*

Where Explorers and Scientific Expeditions are at Work Today

The chart will be corrected as often as news is received from the various expeditions. The Secretary is in touch with most of the sponsors, and the Explorers Club has been asked for bulletins of activity in its membership.

(See numerals on the map opposite.)

1. Donald B. MacMillan and party left Gloucester, Mass., 6-24-37, for Baffin Land with a full complement of experts in diverse fields; sound films of bird life is the special quest; by schooner *Gertrude L. Thebaud.* May return by September 1. Sponsor not stated, may be United States Coast and Geodetic Survey.

2. Bradford Washburn, exploring by foot and plane, climbing mountains and photographing glaciers near Valdez, Alaska. No sponsor named—but he is from Cambridge, Mass.

3. George G. Goodwin and party scheduled (5-28-37) to go by power boat and plane from Edmonton, Canada, to Snyder Mountain, looking for mammals. American Museum of Natural History.

4. James G. Dillon and party were scheduled (5-28-37) to look for mammals in British Columbia. No conveyance named. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.

5. T. Donald Carter and party are scheduled to safari for animals, etc., in November —Northern Rhodesia, South Africa. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. (Arthur S. Vernay, sponsor.)

6. Dr. Harold E. Anthony and Arthur S. Vernay are scheduled (5-28-37) to go on an unnamed date for an indefinite purpose—to Burma. Dr. Anthony is the Curator of Mammals at 81st Street and Central Park West.

7. A trailer party was (5-28-37) supposed to scour the United States for vanishing mammals. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. (News of its departure arrives too late for this issue.)

8. Dr. George W. Crile, Cleveland Clinic, Biology Department, Western Reserve University, was scheduled (6-30-37) to leave by ship (8-1-37) for Chesterfield Inlet, Hudson Bay, and other points in the Canadian Arctic to study the energy-releasing mechanisms of Arctic animals. Probably be there six weeks. Just a nice vacation.

9. Delbar P. Keily, Douglas S. MacKiernan, Jr., and party left 7-5-37 to study hurricanes and other meteorological phenomena in Cuba. More exact location of their land base—which they occupied last year as well —next issue. Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

10. Charles W. Brown of Brown University and U. S. Coast and Geodetic Surveyors are (7-12-37) studying gravity and geology—especially "Cumberlandite" in, on and around Iron Mine Hill, Cumberland, Rhode Island. This is a very interesting expedition and we shall have more on the subject. Cumberlandite is exciting in the best Fortean sense.

11. W. A. O. Gross of Bowdoin College and party—Cornell?—are making (8-1-37) records and film sound tracks of bird calls on Kent's Island and Great Manan Island in the Bay of Fundy.

12. The Clark-Kissel Alaskan Expedition with a personnel as long as your arm and including many women booked passage out of Seattle, Wash., (8-8-37) on the S.S. *Westward.* They too are after mammals and they will look about six weeks out of Kitchikan, Alaska. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.—and Mr. Kissel.

13. C. J. McGregor, on leave from his Federal Geodetic post, and fifteen assorted scientists departed Port Newark in the schooner, *General A. W. Greely,* 7-1-37. They intended to stay from eighteen months to three years, using Fort Conger, Lady Franklin Bay, for a base. Mission—meteorological. A storm hit them (7-30-37) and hurt them so badly they put into a Greenland port for repairs.

14. Dr. William Beebe is working (8-14-37) out of Hamilton, Bermuda, New Nonsuch Island and off his mother ship, after new fish—as usual. Indefinite stay. Private enterprise. A recent dispatch told of a stroll he took—about half a mile—from island to island under water.

15. Harold Jefferson Coolidge, Jr., and at least six others from Harvard, Johns Hopkins and Bard College, make up the Asiatic Primate Expedition with offices in Camp Angka, Siam. The study is chiefly anthropological with special attention to Gibbon apes. They have been there nearly three months and will stay on. Mr. Coolidge's first article about the work appeared in the magazine section of the *Times,* 8-1-37.

16. Dr. Richard Flint, geology, Yale; Dr. Henry Oosting, botany, Duke; hydrographer James M. Leroy and others should be arriving in the United States any day now. They have been in Greenland, according to a dispatch (6-28-37) from Helsingfors, Finland. "Led and financed" by Miss Louise A. Boyd, San Francisco.

17. Soviet Weather Camp last reported here.

And so it goes. It's nice work if you can get it. More fun than being a Congressman and—like politics and high finance—a jealously guarded and esoteric field. Only the most gullible citizens and the youngest school children believe that the search after truth which Science in all its branches pretends to pursue is really on the level. It isn't. Science is a lucrative and honorable field walled all about with a mystic nomenclature intended to obscure. The Latin of the piscatologist and the cosines and square roots abstrused by Einstein and the rest are merely NO TRESPASSING placards to keep mortals out.

The Fifth International Congress of Radiology meets in Chicago, September 13-17.

Lincoln Ellsworth arrived in New York from his home in Switzerland recently. He plans to fly over the North Pole in October or November, 1938.

HARVARD

Two Special Dispensations were awarded recently in the field of astronomy. A Baltimore amateur was granted permission to see *two* tails on Finsler's comet and Dr. Edwin T. Hubble of Mt. Wilson was permitted to find the third comet of the year. He would ike to have this one low in California's southern sky, in Aquarius. Since it is only of the 13th magnitude, the Holy See had nothing to lose, Pope Shapley read the benediction—to the press!

On July 9, His Holiness was kept up late enough to see a cloud of "cosmic dust" reddening the area about Polaris. It's too bad Fort couldn't have lived to read that Pronouncement!

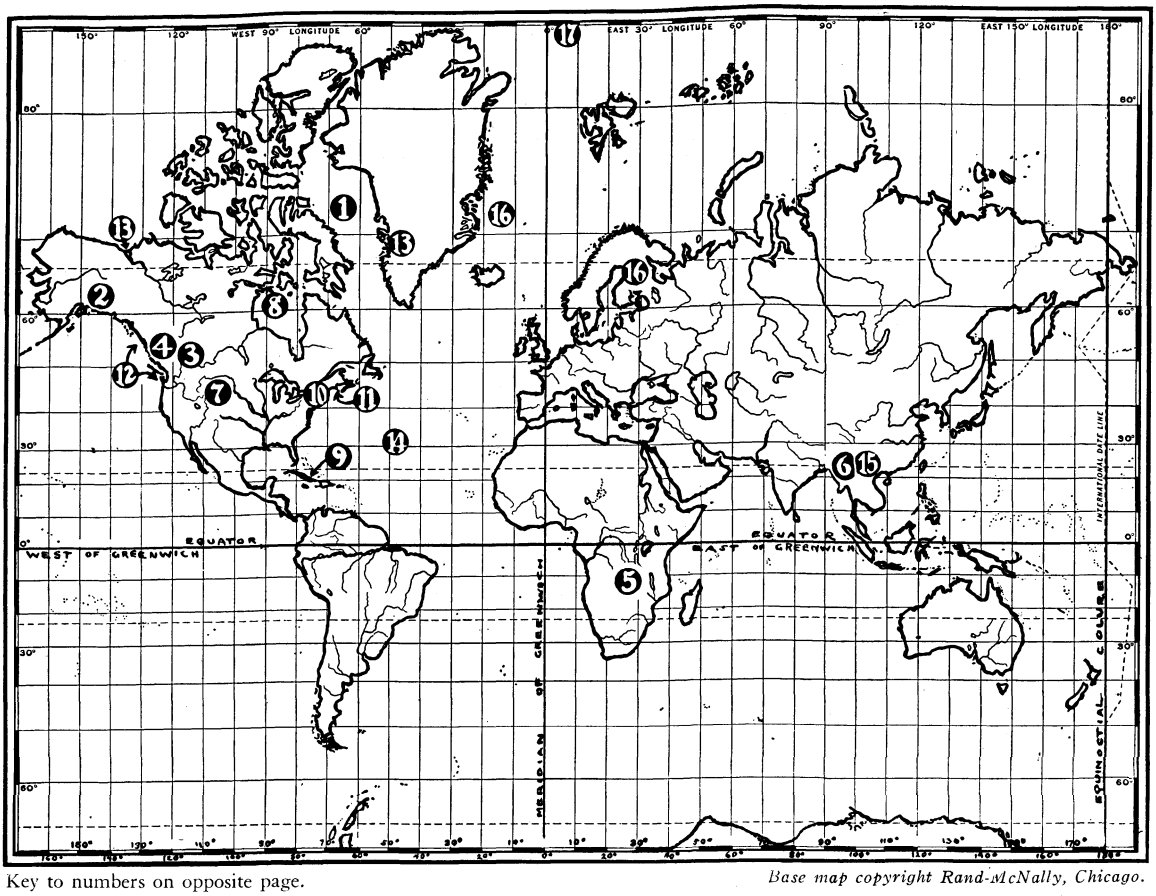
The Secretary suggests that Dr. William A. Calder be a little more obscure in discussing "the seven who are now six" in the Pleiades. If he isn't more careful some humble layman —say a carpenter or a novelist, just for instance, is going to point to the sky and say: *"Everywhere* that there once were seven there are now six!"

(See back some pages to the *six* expanding toward Sol.)

Another Cardinal of Cambridge who is going to give away the whole show if he isn't spoken to, is Fletcher Watson. He's too honest to be allowed near a telescope. He comes away and actually tells what he saw! Steady, Fletcher! It would de-frock your hierarchy if some of *your* observations were logically interpreted.

EARLIEST MAN

Some of the bones and flints brought back from the "Bone Beds of Bethlehem" by two ladies for the Wellcome Marston Archaeological Research Expedition to the Near East, may be the earliest traces of man so far discovered. They are now (7-26-37) on display at the Wellcome Research institution in London. The ladies are Miss D. Bate, paleontology, British Museum of Natural History, and Miss E. Gardiner, geology, London University.



Key to numbers on opposite page.

Base map copyright Rand-McNally, Chicago.

SMITHSONIAN

8-17-37. Dr. Earl S. Johnston has been studying the effect of moonlight on plants, under laboratory conditions. He finds that if it has any effect at all it is from some quality other than polarization.

PURITY SEAL AWARDED

That meteorite which hit Siberia in 1908 has been given the official O.K. of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (6-23-37). It's all right to believe in it now. After 29 years Science says it's there!

MILLIKAN

Dr. Robert Millikan of the California Institute of Technology—as if you didn't know!—has been playing with toy balloons in Saskatoon. "Cosmic rays" in the "higher atmosphere" have engaged his medal-winning attention.

OIL IN ALASKA

United Press reports oil discovered in Alaska—at Haines—only 13 feet below the surface.

FUNGUS SPORES ALOFT

A. G. Newhall, Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology in Cornell University flew about (8-7-37) looking for the cause of onion blight. He found it at 1500 feet.

GOLD IN BRAZIL

Perhaps the richest gold deposit in Brazil was announced (8-6-37) by Anton Nery. Many started for the Matto Grosso jungle where the mine and the ruins of an ancient city are said to be located.

AND THE CHILDREN WENT BACK TO SLEEP

When maple trees started to grow (6-30-37) out of the walls of the Chestnut Street School in Jeffersonville, Ind., it was found expedient to announce that the plaster had been mixed under a maple tree.

LOBSTERS GOING

Because fishermen take the immature lobsters to supply the demands of the market, Elmer Higgins, chief of the division of scientific inquiry, Bureau of Fisheries, Washington, D. C., says the scarcity is becoming acute. (*Times* 8-1-37.)

OYSTERS EARLY

Bureau of Fisheries reports the warm wave (6-23-37) has caused oysters to spawn earlier than usual.

BLUE SPARKS EXPLAINED

According to "Special Correspondence" from London, the *N. Y. Times* reports (8-1-37) that "Scientists now believe" the blue sparks of Khartum—in the Sudan—and similar electric phenomena at Kano—in Northern Nigeria—are caused by "discharging static electricity—generated by the friction of sand particles against one another when they are driven by the wind."

BRITISH CORRESPONDENCE

by ERIC F. RUSSELL

News Review (the British equivalent of *Time*) reports (7-15-37) that two months ago an "amazing" volcanic outburst occurred in Iceland under a glacier. Heat melted the ice from below and a river five miles broad rushed down the valley into the sea. Then flames broke through the icecap and a ten-mile high column of fire shot into the air. (*News Review* does not say who measured it.) When the river had emptied into the sea the glacier collapsed into the cavity beneath and left a crater more than a mile across.

* * *

The following notes are all from the British Daily Telegraph 7-20-37 to 7-31-37.

The Air ministry continues its inquiries into the mysterious "stunt flight" over Hendon aerodrome in the middle of the night. Some say the visitor has been there before. There is no record of any plane leaving the ground near the time or the place of the incident.

(This item is typical of much that Fort records. *Something* in the air—Orthodoxy explains without evidence—"a stunt flight."

Also — see elsewhere in this paper — a "plane" reported over the Atlantic Ocean, starting point and destination both unknown. T.T.)

* * *

Melbourne (Australia), Thursday (7-29-37?): The skipper of a Japanese vessel was lost today while diving to salvage shell from a sunken pearling vessel. This adds one more to a series of mysterious disappearances which are terrifying divers off the Australian coast.

When the crew of his ship, the Yamata Maru, received the signal, they hauled up, but only the helmet and the life-line came up. Other divers went down, but could find no trace of the skipper.

(The Australian Correspondent of the Fortean Society has been asked to investigate and keep us posted.)

* * *

While sitting near the open window of a train, Miss Hilda Constance Hunt, 40, a private secretary, of Nevern-square, Kensington, saw a large blue insect fly into the carriage. It touched her cheek and she brushed it away.

Shortly afterwards she felt a bite. When she got home her face became swollen. Blood poisoning set in and she died a few days later.

At the inquest at Paddington yesterday Dr. Gordon Wilson, of Queen's Gate, Kensington, said that when he saw Miss Hunt her cheek was inflamed and she had a temperature.

Fomentations were applied, and as her temperature continued to rise he consulted a surgeon, and the view was that nothing surgical could be done. Another doctor was consulted and injections were given.

Mr. Ingleby Oddie, the coroner, recorded a verdict of death by misadventure.

* * *

James Handley, 27, a grocer's assistant, of Westbourne Park-villas, Paddington, was sunbathing at Richmond on July 18. When he arrived home he complained of shivering, but he went to work on Monday and Tuesday, when he was taken ill and sent to hospital.

He was extremely maniacal and was transferred to a ward at Marylebone for observation. Then he was sent back, but lived for only five hours.

Sir Bernard Spilsbury described the cause of death as syncope due to toxic jaundice and acute mania. "It is one of those cases of toxic jaundice, the origin of which we do not know," he said.

Sir Bernard said he did not think that sunbathing had anything to do with the condition.

The Coroner, Mr. Ingleby Oddie, recorded a verdict of death from syncope and toxic jaundice of unknown origin.

* * *

Mr. Russell will continue to forward Fortean data from England for this column every month.

REGIONAL CORRESPONDENTS

The Fortean Society is in constant correspondence with active members in many parts of the world.

IN THE U. S. A.—

IRVING KADEN, Boston, Mass.
ROY PETRAN LINGLE, Swarthmore University, Pennsylvania.
CHARLES W. WARD, City Electrical Engineer, Bradentown, Fla.
WALLACE A. CLEMMONS, Radio Engineer, New Orleans, La.
ED HAND, City Clerk, Oglesby, Ill.
BEN ABRAMSON, Chicago.
L. C. BOTSFORD, Cleveland, Ohio.
ED MEEHAN, H.O.B., Washington, D. C.
MAXIMILLIAN RUDWIN, Wyoming University.
L. B. DILBECK, Associated Press, Los Angeles, Calif.
B. J. S. CAHILL, F. R. G. S., Cartography and Geodesy, San Francisco.

ENGLAND:

ERIC F. RUSSELL, Liverpool.

AUSTRALIA:

ROBERTSON MCKAY, Sydney.

Forteans will find some interest in the Duke University publication, Journal of Parapsychology.

BUGS

Grasshopper infestation called "worst in the history" of the state by A. M. Eberle, South Dakota State College. Reported from Brookings, 6-22-37.

Invasion of locusts (6-26-37) in Argetina fought with "flame-throwers."

A swarm of locusts twenty miles wide and twelve miles deep descended on corn and cotton fields (7-17-37) near Managua, Nicaragua.

Northeastern Wyoming has been fighting "Mormon" crickets for years but never before in such numbers. About one million acres of land near Sundance are (7-19-37) infested.

Invasion of crickets (7-22-37) fought by city firemen and others in Camden, N. J. They were eating clothing and furniture.

Japanese beetles ruin plants and attack wooden buildings (7-23-37) in Westchester, Long Island, and New Jersey.

The sting of a bee is said to have killed Roy Gray, Sr., 45, Louisville, Ky. (8-2-37)

Dr. B. B. Pepper of Rutgers has called (8-7-37) for aid in fighting the "army worm" in Sussex and Cape May, N. J., where it has attacked corn, millet, oats, and alfalfa.

Dr. J. R. Tuckwiller of Fairmont, W. Va., said that Mrs. Ada Foley, 50, of Arnettsville, died twenty minutes after she had been stung on her hand by a wasp.

COINCIDENCE?

Norville Douglas, 17, somnambulist, 785 Hewitt Place, the Bronx, died of a fractured skull after apparently falling out of a window on the night of August first. Same day, Thomas Morgan, 43, 62 Bartholdi Avenue, Jersey City, N. J., was roused by his alarm clock but apparently not wakened. He toppled out of a window and fractured his skull.

As Fort would have said: Maybe somebody is collecting sleepwalkers—and uncles?

Paramus, N. J., Aug. 2: A policeman of Harrison (N. J.), one John Madden, attended the funeral of his uncle Thomas. Before leaving the town he looked at the unidentified body of a man killed by an auto. It was his uncle John.

Samuel G. Murphy, known somnambulist, fell to his death (8-17-37) from the third floor of the Y. M. C. A. in Passaic, N. J.

Read *Raiders of the Absolute*, by Benjamin De Casseres. Of the five men so designated by the author, Fort is first. Your bookseller won't have it but the Society will supply it postpaid for fifty-five cents or you can get it from Blackstone Publishers, 118 West 27th, New York City.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE NOW IN COLLEGES

THE Fortean Society is conducting an advertising campaign in the serious publications of many prominent universities. It seeks members with fresh, young, alert minds and our colleges are filled with fine timber if it can be seized before the warping process of systematized delusion twists it into the established curves and arcs of nauseus, noxious normality.

Readers of *The Fortean* Magazine are urged to become members of the Society, urged to let their enthusiasm for the New Protestantism carry them to a mental level never before possible among men. H. L. Mencken used to say that man was "congenitally opposed to enlightenment" but the Fortean Society will not acknowledge that, in spite of the preponderance of evidence, until man has been shown an opportunity to escape the prejudices of the centuries. The Society thinks it offers that opportunity.

If the material in this issue interests you, if you too have doubted that Science is entirely above criticism, join us! The annual membership fee is $2.00 and that includes a subscription to the Magazine. Observe everything that occurs about you, search your local papers for the *inexplicable* and send your clippings and comments to the Society for filing and for publication. No payment is made for material and no matter will be returned. On the other hand, you may be serving true science immeasurably by your contributions and no data will be thrown away. Every item gathered becomes part of a permanent collection of notes and references supplementing the collection on which Charles Fort spent twenty-six years of his life.

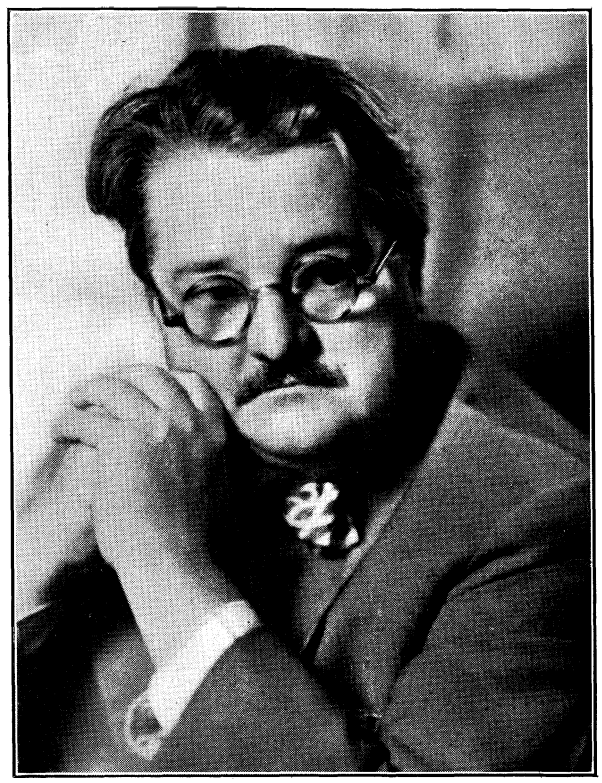
Earthquakes, volcanoes, tidal waves, strange falls from the sky, meteorites and poltergeists are of special interest. In reporting anything, no matter how trivial, note names and addresses of witnesses; hour, minute and second; date; exact location; explanation offered by local "authority"—and in the matter of clippings, be sure the name of the publication and its date are *accurately* stated.

Literature and further information regarding the activities of the Society will be forwarded to any address without cost or obligation. Write to the Secretary, Tiffany Thayer, 444 Madison Avenue, New York City.

FORGET HOW TO READ!

Professor Algernon De V. Tassin of Columbia University is quoted in a N. Y. *Sun* editorial (8-4-37) on the inadequate methods for teaching reading in schools and on the inability of most humans to understand the printed word. That's all too true—but this is a fine time to discover it—*now* when the most advanced human beings are about to discard reading and writing as an obsolete means of communication *and record.*

THE FOUNDERS



ALEXANDER WOOLLCOTT

The substance of Charles Fort is exemplified by the calibre of the men who most appreciate his work. One of the best known Founders of the Society is the urbane Town-Crier, radio star, dramatic critic, story teller supreme, author of *While Rome Burns, Woollcott Reader* and many other books. He has lent and given away dozens of copies of Fort's books. He never misses an opportunity to expound the Society's doctrine of temporary acceptance. He holds Charles Fort to have been one of the most magnificent mentalities of modern times. (Next month read Booth Tarkington on Charles Fort.)

WOMAN BURNED IN BED

Frank Mullen, 3,905 Ave. K, Brooklyn, was awakened this morning (8-11-37) by a scream from the bedroom of his daughter, Charlotte, 29, a telephone operator. He rushed in and found her trying to stamp out a blaze in her bed. He wrapped her in blankets and sent her to the Kings County Hospital where she was treated for severe burns. (Verbatim quote, *World-Telegram.*)

MYSTERIOUS FIRES

Strangely coincident with the fire just above, five blazes broke out *in the seats of parked automobiles,* all within a radius of a few blocks, all early in the morning. Police suggested the fires could have been set by a garage owner to drum up business. Did someone wish to park Miss Mullen too?

IT IS ALWAYS THE HEART

When Ed Hamilton, 57, of Pueblo, Colo., died (8-14-37) after witnessing the execution by lethal gas of Frank Aguilar in the state penitentiary at Canon City, the examining physician attributed death to "a heart attack"—as usual.

DOROTHY ARNOLD'S BROTHER

Dan Hinckley Arnold, 49, the brother of the girl who went shopping December 12, 1910, died (8-16-37) in Washington. It was Charles Fort who noted that a new and unfamiliar swan appeared in Central Park the day after the girl's inexplicable disappearance.

The FORTEAN MAGAZINE

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The Fortean Society

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J. David Stern
Tiffany Thayer
Ben Hecht
Booth Tarkington
Aaron Sussman
Burton Rascoe
Alexander Woollcott
John Cowper Powys
Harry Leon Wilson

Application for membership — which includes subscription to the Magazine—should be addressed to the Secretary, Tiffany Thayer, 444 Madison Avenue, New York.

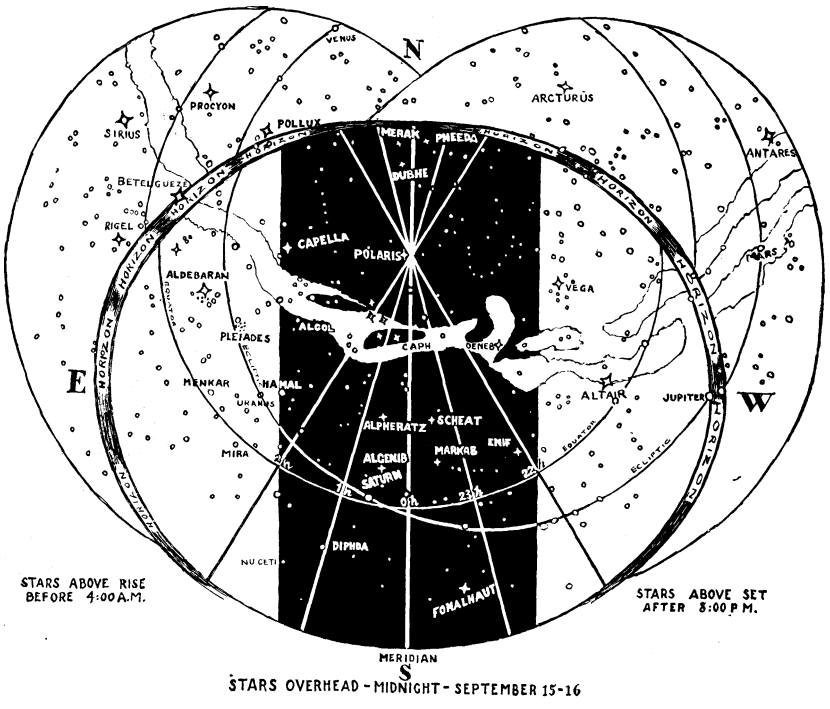
$2.00 a year, 25 cents a copy

Edited by Tiffany Thayer

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Vol. 1. No. 1. September 1937
NEW YORK

THE SKY THIS MONTH



CALENDAR

THE effort in preparing this data has been to provide observers with a means of checking prediction critically. *Eastern Standard Time* for New York City is noted. but it is not entirely accurate. When visible in other localities, local time is given. The first entry under each date is Sol — rise, minutes fast, set, zodiacal sign. "Souths" is the term for Luna's meridian. This Calendar will be amplified as readers request it. All observed deviations from this data should be communicated to the Secretary.

No special notice is taken of the weather and unseasonable phenomena are seldom worth reporting unless of the most extraordinary character. *Sol* is used instead of "the sun" and *Luna* instead of "the moon" to correct the habit of thinking of these objects as unique. In predictions of occultations only the time of *immersion* is given.

Tidal predictions are for New York Harbor. For more astronomical detail, see *Monthly Evening Sky Map*, a publication. It gives the positions of Jupiter's four major satellites for every day of the month and other data. It is a fairly reliable paper.

September

1. 5:26 (4 m.f.) 6:34. ☉ in Virgo.
Luna—1:44 *a.* (souths 9:07 *a.*) ☾ in Cancer.
Tide—4:59 *a.* (4.4 ft.) 11:08 *a.* (0.1 ft.)
Wed. 5:27 *p.* (5.2) 11:50 *p.* (-0.2)

Planets—Conjunction Venus-Luna 10:06 *p.* N 3° 42′. Morning stars—Venus rises 2:19 *a.* Saturn rises 7:33 *p.* Mercury not visible. Evening stars—Mars sets 10:28 *p.* Jupiter sets 1:16 *p.* (Uranus is between Pisces and Taurus all year; Neptune between Leo and Virgo.) Occultation: Gem 5.2 mag., 2:9.5 *a.* New York and Boston.

2. 5:27 (4 m.f.) 6:32. ☉ in Virgo.
Luna—2:53 *a.* (10:00 *a.*) ☾ in Leo.
Tide—5:58 a. (4.7)
Thur. 6:22 *p.* (5.4) 12:02 *p.* (-0.1)

Morning and evening stars remain as above until change is noted.

3. 5:28 (5 m.f.) 6:30. ☉ in Virgo until change is noted.
Luna—4:03 *a.* (10:51 *a.*) ☾ in Leo.
Tide—6:52 *a.* (5.0) 0:40 *a.* (-0.4)
Fri. 7:09 *p.* (5.4) 12:55 *p.* (-0.3)

4. 5:29 (5 m.f.) 6:28
Luna—New ● in Virgo at 5:54 *p.* (souths 11:39 *a.*)
Tide—7:36 *a.* (5.3) 1:27 *a.* (-0.5)
Sat. 7:53 *p.* (5.4) 1:45 *p.* (-0.4)

5. 5:30 (5 m.f.) 6:27
Luna—(on Eq. souths 12:26 *p.*) sets 6:28 *p.* ● in Virgo.
Tide—8:19 *a.* (5.4) 2:12 *a.* (-0.6)
Sun. 8:35 *p.* (5.2) 2:33 *p.* (-0.4)

Planets—Conjunction Neptune—Luna 12 *h.* approx.

6. 5:31 (6 m.f.) 6:25
Luna—Souths 1:11 *p.* Sets 6:55 *p.* ● in Libra.
Tide—9:01 *a.* (5.3) 2:54 *a.* (-0.5)
Mon. 9:16 *p.* (4.9) 3:16 *p.* (-0.3)

Planets—Conjunction Mercury—Luna. 12:02 (noon). Mercury N. 0° 29′.

7. 5:32 (6 m.f.) 6:24
Luna—Souths 1:57 *p.* Sets 7:25 *p.* ● in Libra.
Tide—9:43 *a.* (5.2) 3:34 *a.* (-0.3)
Tues. 9:57 *p.* (4.6) 3:58 *p.* (-0.1)

8. 5:33 (6 m.f.) 6:22
Luna—Souths 2:42 *p.* Sets 7:56 *p.* ● in Libra.
Tide—10:26 *a.* (5.0) 4:12 *a.* (-0.1)
Wed. 10:39 *p.* (4.3) 4:39 *p.* (0.2)

Planets—Venus in ascending node.

9. 5:43 (7 m.f.) 6:20
Luna—Souths 3:29 *p.* Sets 8:31 *p.* ● in Scorpio.
Tide—11:08 *a.* (4.8) 4:50 *a.* (0.3)
Thur. 11:25 *p.* (4.0) 5:21 *p.* (0.5)

10. 5:35 (7 m.f.) 6:19
Luna—Souths 4:16 *p.* Sets 9:09 *p.* ● in Scorpio.
Tide—11:50 *a.* (4.6) 5:28 *a.* (0.6)
Fri. 6:10 *p.* (0.8)

Planets—Quadrature Mars—Sol.

11. 5:36 (7 m.f.) 6:17
Luna—Souths 5:04 *p.* Sets 9:53 *p.* ☽ in Sagitarius, Apogee 5:00 *p.*
Tide—0:09 *a.* (3.8) 6:12 *a.* (1.0)
Sat. 12:35 *p.* (4.4) 7:08 *p.* (1.0)

Planets—Conjunction Neptune—Sol. Morning stars—Venus rises 2:39 *a.* Saturn rises 6:53 *p.* Mercury not visible. Evening stars—Mars sets 10:11 *p.* Jupiter sets 0:35 *a.*

12. 5:36 (8 m.f.) 6:16
Luna—Souths (runs low) 5:53 p. Sets 10:41 *p.* ☽ 3:57 *p.* in Sagitarius.
Tide—0:57 *a.* (3.6) 7:14 *a.* (1.3)
Sun. 1:23 *p.* (4.3) 8:16 *p.* (1.1)

Planets—Conjunction Mars—Luna 1:26 *p.* Mars S 3° 20′.

13. 5:37 (8 m.f.) 6:14
Luna—Souths 6:42 *p.* Sets 11:24 *p.* ☽ in Sag.
Tide—1:50 *a.* (3.4) 8:26 *a.* (1.4)
Mon. 2:14 *p.* (4.2) 9:18 *p.* (1.1)

Planets—Jupiter stationary 6:00 *p.* Right ascension.

14. 5:38 (8 m.f.) 6:12
Luna—Souths 7:31 *p.*
Tide—2:51 *a.* (3.4) 9:28 *a.* (1.3)
Tues. 3:14 *p.* (4.3) 10.11 *p.* (0.8)

Planets—Inferior conjunction Mercury—Sol. 5:00 *a.* Conjunction Mercury—Neptune. Morning star—Mercury may be visible but not likely, rises about 4:38 *a.* Occultation, Sagit-

tarii, 3.6 mag., 6:37.5 *p.* Greenwich. (and 36 Sag., at 6:50.)

15. 5:39 (9 m.f.) 6:10
Luna—Sets 12:30 *a.* (8:19 *p.*) ☽ in Capricorn.
Tide—3:58 *a.* (3:5) 10:22 *a.* (1.1)
WED. 4:17 *p.* (4.4) 10:58 *p.* (0.6)

Planets—Conjunction Jupiter—Luna 12:32 *a.* Jupiter S 7°35′. Morning Star—Visibility of Mercury improves until September 30. Rises about 45 min. before Sun. Occultation 226 B. Sag., 6.4 mag., 11:28.4 *p.* California.

16. 5:40 (9 m.f.) 6:08
Luna—Sets 1:31 *a.* (9:07 *p.*) ☽ in Aquarius.
Tide—4:57 *a.* (3.8) 11:10 *a.* (0.8)
THURS. 5:11 *p.* (4.6) 11:42 *p.* (0.3)

17. 5:42 (9 m.f.) 6:06
Luna—Sets 2:34 *a.* (9:55 *p.*) in Aquarius.
Tide—5:46 *a.* (4.1) 11:56 *a.* (0.5)
FRI. 5:58 *p.* (4.9)

18. 5:43 (10 m.f.) 6:05
Luna—Sets 3:39 *a.* (10:43 *p.*) ☽ in Pisces.
Tide—6:27 *a.* (4.5) 0:24 *a.* (0.1)
SAT. 6:39 *p.* (5:1) 12:42 *p.* (0.2)

Occultations: C′ Cap., 5.3 mag., 9:23.7 *p.* New York and Boston. Same, 7:52.9 *p.* Chicago and 5:14.9 *p.* California. (Both local *Standard* time.) Also—C^2 Cap., 6.2 mag., 8:33.8 *p.* Chicago and 5:42.8 *p.* California. (Local *Standard* time.)

19. 5:44 (10 m.f.) 6:03
Luna—Sets 4:46 *a.* (11:32 *p.*) ☽ in Pisces, on Equator.
Tide—7:03 *a.* (4.9) 1:06 *a.* (–0.2)
SUN. 7:17 *p.* (5.2) 1:27 *p.* (–0.1)

Occultations: 207 B. Aquarius, 6.4 mag., 12:49.6 *a.* New York and Boston. Same, 11:17.2 *p.* Chicago and 8:27.8 *p.* California. Also—Kappa Aquarii, 5.3 mag., 9:02.6 *p.* Chicago and 6:16.4 *p.* California.

20. 5:45 (11 m.f.) 6:01
Luna—Full 6:32 *a.* Rises 5:51 *p.* ○ in Aries.
Tide—7:39 *a.* (5.3) 1:46 *a.* (–0.4)
MON. 7:55 *p.* (5.2) 2:12 *p.* (–0.3)

Planets—Conjunction Saturn—Luna 8:10 *p.* Saturn S 7° 45′.

21. 5:46 (11 m.f.) 6:00
Luna—Souths 0:18 *a.* Rises 6:23 *p.* ○ in Aries.
Tide—8:18 *a.* (5.5) 2:27 *a.* (–0.5)
TUES. 8:37 *p.* (5.1) 2:57 *p.* (–0.5)

Planets—Morning stars—Venus rises 3:00 *a.* Saturn rises 6:12 *p.* Mercury rises about 4:46 —most likely to be visible from this date until October 8. Evening stars—Mars sets 9:58 *p.* Jupiter sets 11:52 *p.*

22. 5:47 (11 m.f.) 5:58
Luna—Souths 1:14 *a.* Rises 7:00 *p.* ○ in Aries.
Tide—8:58 *a.* (5.6) 3:06 *a.* (–0.5)
WED. 9:21 *p.* (5.0) 3:41 *p.* (–0.5)

Planets—Mercury stationary in right ascension 3:00 *p.*

23. 5:48 (12 m.f.) 5:57 ☉ enters cusp of Libra. Autumn begins 6:13 *a.*
Luna—Souths 2:10 *a.* In Perigee 4:00 *p.* Rises 7:43 *p.* ○ in Taurus.
Tide—9:45 *a.* (5.6) 3:46 *a.* (–0.5)
THUR. 10:14 *p.* (4.7) 4:26 *p.* (–0.3)

Planets—Conjunction Uranus—Luna. Uranus rises about 7:43 *p.* Occultation Rho Arietis, 5.6 mag., 9:18.6 *p.* Greenwich. Also—19 Arietis, 6.) mag., 8:33.5 *p.* Chicago.

24. 5:49 (12 m.f.) 5:55 ☉ in Libra.
Luna—Souths 3:07 *a.* Rises 8:32 *p.* ○ in Taurus.
Tide—10:41 *a.* (5.5) 4:28 *a.* (–0.3)
FRI. 11:14 *p.* (4.5) 5:17 *p.* (–0.1)

Planets—Mercury in ascending node 9:00 *p.* Occultations: 54 Arietis, 6.5 mag., 3:10.2 *a.* Greenwich. Same, 8:16.8 *p.* New York and Boston.

25. 5:50 (12 m.f.) 5:53 ☉ in Libra until change is noted.
Luna—Souths (runs high) 4:07 *a.* Rises 5:33 *p.* ○ in Gemini.
Tide—11:44 *a.* (5.3) 5:17 *a.* (–0.1)
SAT. 6:18 *p.* (0.2)

Planets—Opposition Saturn—Sol. 0 *h.* (Midnight.) Occultations: Iota Tauri, 4.7 mag., 10:54.7 *p.* Greenwich. (I do not know if "Iota" and "53" are the same star.) *Also*—53 Tauri, 5.4 mag., 12:08.8 *a.* New York and Boston. Same, 10:56.7 *p.* Chicago and 8:59 *p.* California. Also—21° 755, 6.3 mag., 11:26.3 *p.* Greenwich. Also—246 B. Tauri, 5.7 mag., 4:53.3 *a.* New York and Boston. Same, 3:16.1 *a.* Chicago and 12:38.1 *a.* California. Also—227 B. Tauri, 5.9 mag., 12:30.6 *a.* Chicago only.

26. 5:51 (13 m.f.) 5:51
Luna—Souths 5:07 *a.* Rises 10:31 *p.* ○ in Gemini.
Tide—0:18 *a.* (4.3) 6:22 *a.* (0.3)
SUN. 12:47 *p.* (5.1) 7:29 *p.* (0.4)

Planets—Saturn becomes an evening star. Occultations: 105 Tauri, 6 mag., 12:58.2 *a.* Greenwich. Also—Omicron Tauri, 4.8 mag., 3:28.5 *a.* New York and Boston. (Old Farmer's Almanac gives time for Boston 3:30. Difference may be as 72° 30′ Long., and 42° 30′ Lat., is to Boston. *Check carefully.*) Same 2:04.1 *a.* Chicago. Also—BD 21° 918, 6.3 mag., 5:25.4 *a.* California only.

27. 5:52 (13 m.f.) 5:50
Luna—Last quarter 12:43 *a.* Souths 6:05 *a.* Rises 11:37 *p.* ☾ in Cancer.
Tide—1:24 *a.* (4.2) 7:39 *a.* (0.5)
MON. 1:53 *p.* (4.9) 8:40 *p.* (0.4)

Occultations: 16 Gemini, 6.1 mag., 2:45.6 *a.* New York and Boston. Same, 1:25.7 Chicago and 11:17.2 *p.* California.

28. 5:53 (13 m.f.) 5:48
Luna—Souths 7:02 *a.* ☾ in Cancer.
Tide—2:34 *a.* (4.2) 8:54 *a.* (0.5)
TUES. 3:01 *p.* (4.8) 9:43 *p.* (0.2)

Occultation: *f* Gemini, 5.2 mag., 5:36.4 *a.* California only.

29. 5:54 (14 m.f.) 5:47
Luna—Rises 12:44 *a.* (7:55 *a.*) ☾ in Leo.
Tide—3:41 *a.* (4.3) 9:59 *a.* (0.3)
WED. 4:09 *p.* (4.8) 10:38 (0.0)

Planets—Mercury in perihelion 12 *h.* (noon). Occultations: 29 Cancer, 5.9 mag., 4:40.2 *a.* Chicago. Same—2:18.2 *a.* California.

30. 5:55 (14 m.f.) 5:45 ☉ in Libra.
Luna—Rises 1:52 *a.* (souths 8:45 *a.*) ☾ in Leo.
Tide—4:47 *a.* (4.5) 10:56 *a.* (0.1)
THUR. 5:11 *p.* (4.9) 11:28 *p.* (–0.2)

Planets—Greatest elongation of Mercury W 17° 53′ at 0 *h.* Morning stars—Mercury rises 4:55 *a.* Venus rises 3:17 *a.* Evening stars—Mars sets 9:43 *p.* Jupiter sets 11:09 *p.* Saturn sets 5:10 *a.* Conjunction Mercury—Neptune. Neptune rises about 4:55 *a.*

NEXT MONTH

Compare the *record* of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Tide Meter with the predictions above! The hourly height of water will be printed in this department to permit Forteans to check fact against prognostics.

SUNSPOTS

Carnegie reports that the recent chain of sunspots has been exceeded in size only twice before, in February, 1917, and in January, 1926.

PERSEIDS FLOP

For at least the third consecutive year the awesome display of a meteor shower in Perseus, August 11, 12 and 13, was a complete bust.

EARTHQUAKES

An effort is being made to obtain daily reports of all quakes the world around.

MAY 30-JUNE 1. The Rabaul, New Britain, volcano noted elsewhere was accompanied by a quake.

JUNE 18: Alturas, California. Severe shock "early today"—no damage.

JULY 19: New York City and Long Island —not Manhattan—slight tremor, 11:52 P.M. 7-18-37. The *New York Times* called it result of a fireworks celebration but eventually changed its mind.

JULY 17: Naples, Italy. A few were injured and some buildings fell in a seven-second quake at San Paolo Civitate in Puglia Province.

JULY 22: Fairbanks, Alaska. Strong shock about 7:09 A.M., local time lasted a minute and continued all day—felt for 300 miles. A second severe shock at 7:55 A.M.—and a third at 8:01 so strong it threw the University of Alaska seismograph out of commission. No injuries but considerable property damage. Glaciers reported accelerated previous to the quake.

JULY 25: Mexico City. A slight tremor lasting several seconds frightened theatre patrons, did no damage.

JULY 27: Mexico City. Forty deaths occurred in Maltrata and vicinity, State of Vera Cruz, in the quake which demolished towns Sunday, July 25. 114 miles S. E. of Mexico City.

AUG. 1: Tientsin, China. An earthquake of "considerable duration and intensity shook the city."

AUG. 9: Shanghai, China. "Heavy" damage and "countless casualties" in Hotse district, southwestern Shantung province (8-1-37). Three-mile-long stream of lava.

AUG. 16: Long Beach, Calif. Sharp shock, no damage, 9:02 P.M.

AUG. 17: Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe, Nagoya and a large sector of Western Japan was shaken at 11:00 A.M.

VOLCANOES

Kluchev, an old performer in Kamchatka, in violent eruption 6-26-37.

Two new islands appeared (6-28-37) between Paramoshiri and Onnekotan, near the northern end of the Kurile Island chain, south of Kamchatka. Said to be result of submarine volcano.

JULY 10: Naples, Italy. Vesuvius opened a new mouth. "Experts" believed there was no danger of a serious eruption.

"For many years the steam which pours up from the cracks in the ground at Larderello, near the site of the ancient Etruscan city of Volterra, has been caught and condensed for the extraction of boracic acid, in which it is rich." *New York Times.*

Tacora, an "extinct" volcano, was reported spouting rocks, smoke and lava (8-6-37) when mountaineers reached Arica, Chile, near Santiago. "Most violent eruption in 30 years." The cone is near Bolivian border.

THE NOTES OF CHARLES FORT

SPECIAL!

IN this place, in every issue of the Magazine, there will appear, verbatim, the translation of the notes assembled by the late Charles Fort, *Book of the Damned* (1919), *New Lands* (1923), *Lo!* (1931), *Wild Talents* (1932).

The notes present many difficult problems of translation. They were written in pencil —over a period of twenty-six years—in a code known only to the author—a sort of personal shorthand. The letters, numbers and symbols are wretchedly formed and many of the tiny scraps of paper are misfiled and disarranged. There are thirty-two boxes of memoranda. The following pieces are "loose" at the beginning of what I shall call Box 1:

1800

18— / Case at Leeds. Fir bog bursts in Ireland. Irish Naturalist, June, 1897.

184– / Cupar sounds like thunder and red dust. See Sept. 9, 1923.

18— / The Leeds case. Bursting bogs and streaming muddy water. Science, April 1, 1892, p. 187.

At Seringapatam about 180–, about the size of an elephant—"No reason whatever for our doubting fact." Dr. Bu? BA 1855-34. (Reverse side) May 28, 1802, BA 1855-34.

(Aside: The above was used by Fort in his *Book of the Damned*. I have looked up the reference myself and find:

There are four occasions on which remarkable masses of ice, of many hundred pounds in weight, are believed to have fallen in India. One near Seringapatam, in the end of last century, said to be the size of an elephant. It took three days to melt. We have no further particulars, but there is no reason whatever for our doubting the fact. T.T.)

N/W. An early one of plants, etc., at sea. 1 with March, 1905.

(Aside: After those five entries there begins to be some order and the following are the notes of celestial and terrestrial events for the balance of the year 1800:)

Feb. 4 / Great earthquakes in Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela. BA '11. ("B. A." means Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.)

26 Earthquake and heavy rain at Lisbon, 9 p.m. BA '54.

27 Etna began recurring at intervals until middle of 1802. BA '54.

Mar. 8 Great earthquake in Mexico. BA '11.

20 Vulcan / Fritsch of Magdeburg. Obs. 3-136.

20-21 Small earthquake in China. BA '11.

April 1 / Essex / Steeple-Bumstead / det met. BA '60.

Aug. / Perseids. American Journal of Science, 37-335.

Aug. 5 / N. American fireball. BA '60

Oct. 17 Small earthquake, Valley of Ossau in the Pyrenees, France. BA 1911.

Nov. 8 Op. Mars (A 1).

Dec. 9 / Vallets (Latium) Italy—small earthquake. BA 1911.

(Aside: In the notes there are at least two series of boxes, the one above, Box 1, starts a numerical series containing notes on occurrences in man's environment—and the series which begins below with Box A and continues alphabetically containing notes relating to man himself. Some misfiling is apparent at the outset but I have chosen to translate what I have found in the notes to the best of my ability without imposing too much of my own judgment on the arrangement of the matter. Order is restored after the following:)

1800 (Box A)

1800 / Col. the wildmen of the "mixed" languages.

Note / Watch for 2 or more polts or other "spirits".

(Aside: "polts" is undoubtedly Fort's abbreviation for "poltergeists", phenomena generally attributed to activities of "disembodied spirits". T.T.)

N / Fulton letter / mysterious flames. See Oct. 15, 1907.

Watch for note / boa Long Island, Sept. 7, 1893. Cobra there (L.I.) long before.

1801 / June and before / Younghall, Mirages; Thomson, Introduction to Meteorology, p. 258. (Reverse side) Thomson (D. P.) Intro. to Meteorology, 8755. p. 23.

Oct. 14-3 London Times; also Oct. 15-3; extraordinary storm.

(This may indicate a notice of an earthquake as well as of a storm. T. T.)

(Aside: Readers possessing first-hand knowledge of any of the events noted by Charles Fort are urged to communicate with the Secretary. For instance, if any resident of Long Island recalls the strange and inexplicable appearance of a boa constrictor on or about September 7, 1893—please write. T. T.)

1801 Box 1 (Resumed)

At Rastadt, sulphur rain / rain so charged with sulphur that people made matches of the material. Phil. Mag. 44-254.

Jan. 1 Great earthquake in Chili. BA '11.

March 10 London Times, p. 3, earthquakes in New England.

May 26 Inferior conjunction Venus–Sun.

June 19 Halle fireball. BA '60.

Violent earthquake at Eskilstuna, Sweden. A mountain the sea covered dead fish. BA '54-44-4.

July 14 Montgaillard fireball. BA '60.

Aug. 25 London Times, p. 3 Planets / Aug 7 or 27, page 2, London Times, disc of Ceres.

26 France (Ain) fireball. BA '60.

Sept. 12 London Times, p. 2, and on the 16th, p. 3; earthquakes in Scotland.

14 London Times, p. 3, Sun spots.

Oct. 5 Great earthquake in Mexico. Look up see if right—BA 1911.

8 Small earthquake at Bologna, Italy. BA 1911.

8 London Times, p. 3, and Nov. 2, p. 3, meteors.

23 Colchester and Burg St. Edwards, stones fell? BA '60.

Nov. 3 London Times, p. 3; house on fire by a meteor.

12-13 Night Philadelphia shock. BA '54.

December (early in the month) Small earthquake in Austria. BA 1911.

Dec. 12 London Times, p. 2, extraordinary storm at Plymouth.

1802

Ulm / Thick viscuous liquid in abundance covering everything exposed to it. Phil. Mag. 44-254.

1806

Jan. 19-20, 12:15 a.m. Orgon (Bouches-du-Rhone) France, earthquakes and sounds like of cannon. BA 1854.

23-24, Poitiers, France, two earthquakes and sounds. BA 1854.

Feb. 11 Fireball, Stockholm. BA 1860.

12 Small earthquake at Emilia, Italy. BA 1911.

12 Milan, Italy; flashes, sulphurous odor, quake. See former references, 1805.

15 Alais, France: (metite) Clay *fell*. (See Sept. 1814.) (See Book of the Damned, p. 74.) (Over) and Valence (Drome) B.b. Univ. 18-82 / B.b. Brit. 37-284.

15 / 5:30 p.m. metite, Alais. The substance dissolved in water. (Over) Retrospect of Discoveries 1806-357.

24-25 midnight, Santa Barbara, Calif. Small earthquake. BA 1911.

25 and April 3, great earthquakes in Mexico. BA 1911.

30 Great earthquake in Peru. BA 1911-46.

April 9-10 Small quake at Calabria, Italy. BA 1911.

May / Volcano, Lemongang, Java. Comptes Rendus, 70-878

May 17 Metite? Basingstoke, Hauts. BA 1860.

17 Glastonbury, Somerset; stone *fell* weighing 2½ lbs. Edin, Phil. Mag. 4-8-459. See August 1806.

19 At meeting (Fort wrote "seance" first, then crossed it out and wrote "meeting". T. T.) of French Acad. April 16, 1838 (Comptes Rendus 6-514), M. Daussy gave data for thinking that there was a submarine volcano off Cape Verde about 0°.20′ S., and 22 W. (west of Paris?) is so about 20 west of Greenwich. Reported by a sea captain, a column of smoke 12 or 15 miles in N.W., he at 2.43′S. and 22°. 55′ W. Next see April 12, 1831. (Fort wrote "Dec. 18, 1816" first, then crossed it out. T. T.)

19 (Fort has "May or April". T. T.) Ship shocks. See Nov. 8-9, 1868. (Over) Feb. 5, 1842 / April 12, 1831 / Feb. 20, 1861 / Sept. 10, 1868 / Oct. 13, 1878.

29 About; Vesuvius. BA 1854.

June 19-21 Small earthquake in Italy. BA 1911.

July 17 8 p.m. / broad daylight; great meteor ¼ diameter of moon, over London. European Magazine, 50-74. BA 1860.

26 Ball lightning down chimney and out by door. An. Reg. 1806-43.

Aug. 8 Krasnoyarsk, Siberia; tremendous shock, violent storm. A mountain replaced by a lake. "The country was covered with volcanic ashes." BA 1854. Violent earthquake. BA '11.

26-30 Severest earthquake in Rome since 1703. BA 1854.

Sept. 23 Stonefall at Weimar, according to Baumhauer's Catalog but questioned in BA 1860.

Oct. 6 / Earthquake at Gerace, Calabria. BA 1854-64.

14 Swansea, etc. / Meteor, great light. BA 1860.

Nov. 1 Spain and San Salvador; great quakes. BA 1911.

Dec. 17 Earthquake at Ulm. BA 1854-65.

November-December / Small quakes in China. BA 1911.

Dec. 1 Small quake at Lima, Peru.

22 Fireball in England. BA 1860.

1807

Jan. 14-15 / Quake at Pau. BA 1854-65.

22 Small quake in China. BA 1911.

March 4 Op. Mars. (A 1)

6 9:45 p.m. Meteor "immense ball of fire". Glasgow. Scots' Magazine, 1807-235.

6 Geneva fireball. BA 1860.

13 Ichnow (Smolensko) Meteorite.

25 Meteorite / Timochin, Smolensk. Russia. F. (Fletcher? T. T.) (Over) See B.b. Brit. 35-362.

30 Small quake in France. BA 1911.

Aug. 9 / Nurnberg fireball. BA 1860.

Aug. ? / Shore at Brighton and all watering places on the south coast of England covered with lady birds. Sci. Gossip, 2-169.

Sept. 6 Volcano at Goentoes, Java. N.M. Comptes Rendus, 70-878.

30 / Comet, seen first near the sun; observed in London to be like a star of the first magnitude; set nearly due west about 8 p.m. Europ. Mag., 52-319. In France seen first on 26th. (p. 437.) See Venus, Oct. 15.

Oct. 27-29 London Times; object near the sun; comet; also, Nov. 2, 7, 14, 31; seen at Orkney—London Times, Dec. 28, p. 2.

15 Inferior conjunction Venus–Sun.

23 London Times, p. 3, meteor at Manchester.

Nov. 10 Small quake in Italy. BA 1911.

14 Great quake in Algiers. BA 1911.

18 or 22? (Fort's question. T. T.) Over Weston, Conn., three distinct, violent explosions and stones fell. Am. J. Sci., 2-28-303, (Over) See full details 2/47/1-8.

22 Weston, Conn. Listed in BA 1854 as a quake accompanied by meteors. (F)—this date? (Fort's question.)

22 Dusseldorf; a quake preceded by a rumbling sound. BA 1854.

1807 Box A

Silesia / Polt. Jour. Soc. 9/26.

Box 1 (Resumed)

1808 and 1802 / See Feb. 27, 1828.

1808 // All Year Pignerol etc.

At Carniola, Germany, red snow fell to a depth of over 5 feet. B Eagl / 1891 / Oct. 25-14-6.

Feb. Great earthquake in Mexico. BA 1911.

Feb. 8 Brioude (Haute-Loire) several shocks "the first shock was accompanied by a disturbance in the air like that caused by a cannon shot." BA 1854-66.

March 5-6 night / (Fort underlines "night". T. T.) Red snow Switzerland and Italy (vast) / Q. Jour. Roy. Inst. 7-189.

April 2 Violent quake, Torin, Italy. BA 1911.

2 Quakes in many places in France, centering around Pignerol—but it was preceded by a loud sound in the air. Ciel et Terre 16-463. BA 1911.

8 Forty shocks had been counted by the citizens at Pignerol. Sounds like explosions of cannon at Barga but no shocks felt. Rept. (BA?) 54/70.

12 In Piedmont, centering around Pignerol. At 5:30 p.m. luminous meteors were seen. In several of the communes of the Alps, shocks were preceded by aerial sounds as of innumerable stones colliding. BA 1854.

13 Small earthquake in Calcutta. BA 1911.

14 and 16 Quakes in France and Switzerland. BA 1911.

16 Quake. Again at Barga and at La Tour two detonations heard and a luminous meteor observed.

April 19 One p.m. a great number of meteorites fell in the commune of Pievedi Casignano, in the Dept., of Taro (formerly the duchies of Parma and Placentia). Archives of Universal Science, 3-26.

19 Meteorite *fell* at Borgo San Donino, Parma, Italy. (F) And Phil. Mag., 4-8-459. (Over) 40 miles east of Piedmont. BA 1860.

20 Quakes in the affected area / 22nd, 3 (or 8) p.m. a water spout passed over Marenyas; at Barga, called a thunder storm. BA 1854.

20 Etna. Scots' Magazine, 1807-789. Says that the day before people in Messina were much surprised to see the streets covered with ashes. Says the ashes had been driven by a strong south wind from the top of the mountain 60 miles away.

May 1–June 5 Volcano, Azores. BA 1854.

13 Shock, rumbling sounds reported almost every day before 13th / a red cloud was seen over the country lying along the river Pelice / other occasional shocks rest of the year.

17 Small quakes in Italy. BA 1911.
18 See April 2.

1808 Box A

May / Footprints and devour / An. Reg. 1808-37. That, in May, 1808, upon the estate of John Gurney, of Eastham, the steward had found a dead lamb—in the neck a perforation, size of a goose-quill. He found two living lambs similarly injured—one died later. A neighbor sent him a large male cat as the criminal. Some kittens had been killed by similar perforations, also were partly devoured. The steward remembered that in the snow by the lambs he had seen footprints of a cat / own (?)—something killed all—and tom cat may have devoured dead kittens.

Box 1 (Resumed)

May 16 Bodies in the sky of Skeninge, Sweden. See p. 270, Book of the Damned.
21 Ferentino fireball. BA 1860.
22 See June 8, 1901.
22 The Stanschy stones—a gluey substance abundant upon them. (F) Phil. Mag., 44-222. See Sept. 19, 1831 / See Nov. 25, 1833.
29 Cape Apartel fireball. BA 1860.
29 Troston (England?) fireball. BA 1860. (Fort's question. T. T.)
Aug. 1 Great earthquake San Francisco. BA 1911.
Aug. 1 Small quake at Leghorn, Italy. BA 1911.
15 Vienna, etc., fireball. BA 1860.
Sept. 3 Meteorite *fell* at Lissa, Bohemia near Prague, 3:30 p.m. BA 1860. (F), Bib. Brit., 39-369.
29 London Times, p. 3, Meteorite.
Oct. 5, 17, 20, 25, London Times—a comet.
24 Quake in Iceland, west of Hecla. Smithsonian Inst. Rep., 1885-509.
Nov. 11 Fireball in England. BA 1860.
Dec. 29 Berne fireball. BA 1860.
11 to Jan. 31, 1809 / D-fog ("dry"? T. T.) At New Granada, sun at rising was pale as moon, often bluish or greenish / unusual coldness, frequent frost near Bogota. A dry haze nights too. From 1st to 12th parallel of S. Lat. An. Reg., 1808-445.

1809

Kikino, Smolensk, Russia / Meteroite. (F)
Perny, Russia, stones with hail. See 1844.
Jan. 18 Dunning, Perthshire, 2 a.m., sound and shock. Bell's Weekly Messenger, Jan. 29, p. 35.
Feb. 3 / at dawn / town in Hungary. Shock, houses on a mountain were observed to be lighted up by reflection from unknown fires. Supposed to be subterranean. BA 1854. See 1810.
March 10 Small quake in Russia. BA 1911.
27 Etna. BA 1854.
April 5 Great quake in Japan. BA 1911.
9 Tours, France, fireball. BA 1860.
18 Op. Mars. (A 1)
May 3 Small quake, Island of Corfu, Greece. BA 1911.
3 Barnstable, Devonshire / quake and rumbling sound. Trans. Devonshire Assoc., 16-651. (CO)
9 Volcano, Goentoes, Java. H.M. Comptes Rendus 70-878.
23 19 h / Venus, Inf. Con. (A 1).
June 9 5 p.m. / Cascade of water and hail poured in a torrent upon London upon a space not more than 200 acres. Symon's Met. 47-140.
17 St. Bart / fireball. BA 1860.
20 Stone weighing 6 ounces fell on shipboard, Lat., 30°, 58′ N., Long., 70°, 25′ W. Phil. Mag., 4-8–458. (Over) Scientific American, H.D. 1-383 Bib. Brit. 48/162.
23 Poitiers (?) rain of frogs. L'Institute 2/409. (The question mark is Fort's. T. T.)
Summer / Toads / France. L'Institut 2/409 / Rec. Sci. 3/333.
July 29 Neumark fireball. BA 1860.
Aug. 7-8 Violent earthquakes in China. BA 1911.
14 Small earthquake in Italy. BA 1911.
25 Greater quake in Italy. BA 1911.
28 Parma fireball. BA 1860.

1809 Box A

Sept. 3 Ann Moore, faster of Tutbury. Bell's Weekly Messenger p. 283.

Box 1 (Resumed)

Sept. 4 New crater of Vesuvius opened, great flow of lava night of 5th great eruption of ashes. Bell's Weekly Messenger 1809-321.

Box A

1809(?) Bathhurst / Disap and clothes with bullet holes. See Sluben case, Aug. 16, 1892.
Nov. 25 Bathurst / See S. Baring-Gould's Historic Oddities. (Over) 9009. d.3.
Cornhill Magazine, 55-279:

That, upon November 25, 1809, Benjamin Bathurst, who had been to Vienna, upon a secret embassy from the English Government to the Court of the Emperor Francis, arrived in the small town of Perleberg, Germany. With a valet and a secretary, he took lodgings at an inn. Considerable stress is placed upon his fears that emmissaries of Napoleon Boneparte might harm him, and it is said that he asked for protection from the local military authorities.

He was standing outside the inn — "and was never seen again."

But his trousers were found.

Several weeks later, at a considerable distance from the inn, Bathurst's trousers were found, in the woods. They were perforated, as if with bullets, but were not blood-stained. In a pocket was an unfinished letter from Bathurst to his wife, expressing fear of French influences, and fear that the writer would disappear, or that he would not be permitted to reach England. There was no evidence of "French influences", and it was in territory not occupied by the French, but the supposition was that Bathurst had been abducted by order of Napoleon Boneparte, even though, in the spring of 1811, Napoleon assured Mrs. Bathurst that he knew nothing of the matter. The English Government offered 1,000 pounds reward, and Bathurst's family offered 1,000 pounds reward, and Prince Frederick of Prussia offered a reward; but nothing further came out, except that Bathurst's fur overcoat was found in a peasant's cottage. The peasant's wife said that she had found it at the inn, and had taken it.

(79)

The circumstances of the vanishing are that, at seven o'clock in the evening—darkness having set in several hours before—Bathurst's carriage drew up at the inn. Bathurst went to the carriage, at the door of which stood the valet. An ostler's lantern was upon him. The landlord stood ready to bid him farewell. Bathurst stepped round the heads of the horses—"and suddenly, inexplicably, without a word, a cry, an alarm of any kind, he was gone."

Bloodhounds were brought to the place. From the vanishing point, they could find no scent to take up. (The above "note" is typewritten. It seems to be two fragments of pages from a

manuscript, as if Fort had deleted the incident from a book about to be published. It seems to me that I remember the story from one of his books, however. It would be interesting to find the printed version, if it was printed, and to compare it with this fragment to see how it differs. T. T.)

Nov. 25 / According to Sabine Baring-Gould, "Historic Oddities", p. 12—On Jan. 23, 1810, in a Hamburg newspaper, appeared a paragraph telling that Bathurst was well in mind and body, his friends having received a letter from him, dated Dec. 13. This is a secondary mystery. As Baring-Gould asked—Who? Why? Was it imperative to make the authorities abandon the mystery?

1810 / Jan. 22 Bathurst Mystery, London Times, p. 3. Nov. 16, p. 3.

1809 Disappearance of Bathurst. Lloyd's weekly News, Dec. 18, 1910—skeleton found buried near Perleberg.

1809 Box 1 (Resumed)

Nov. **29** Parma fireball. BA 1860.

Dec. 4 Cape Town; 3 shocks—10 minutes later another accompanied by noises like the firing of several pieces of heavy artillery in quick succession—or that *it was* not a quake though so listed—"The sky became clear and numerous meteors were observed." It is said that many persons said *they* felt the shock upon the bursting of the meteors. BA 1854-85.

5 Another shock and sound like thunder at Cape Town. 7 a.m. also 12:30 p.m. About 5 p.m. many very brilliant meteors burst at times of shocks. BA 1854.

1810

Jan. 2 or 3 Geneva fireball. BA 1860.

14 Great earthquake in Hungary. BA 1911.

17 Red rain in the mountains of Placentia; a liquid "almost as thick and heavy as snow". Phil. Mag., 44-225.

17 Dept., of Plaisance, thunder heard and red snow fell. Bell's Weekly Messenger, May 6., p. 142. (Over) In the mountains here

22 Pignersol / shock and explosion p. 86) and here and elsewhere noted that M. Perrey had remarked that there was a periodic-marked that there was a periodicity upon the 22nd of the month.

30 Stonefall, Caswell, N. C. / BA 1867-414. Gazeteer for—*Caswell*. (Over) Details Bib. Brit., 48-166.

Feb. 3 After shocks, houses on a mountain near Csaknar, Hungary, were for considerable time illuminated. Comptes Rendus, 17-622. See 1809.

4 Great earthquakes in Japan. BA 1911.

16 Candia on Island of Candia, ruined by quake; 2000 perished. BA 1854.

March 20 or 25 Canary Islands, violent earthquake. BA 1911.

25 Violent quake and great loss of life, Teneriffe. BA 1854.

April 8 Shocks at Calcutta from 7:20 to 7:25 p.m. Gentlemen's Mag. 80-373.

14 Violent quake in Hungary. BA 1911.

20-2 night; meteorite New Granada. (U. S. Colombia?) Whichever Bogota is. L'An. Sci., 1860/19.

20 Santa Rosa, New Granada. Meteoric iron but *it is* doubtful whether fell or found this day. BA 1860.

1810 Box A

May Wild dog of Eunerdale appeared suddenly and the destruction began; often killed seven or eight sheep a night, bit into the jugular vein and drank the blood. Chambers' Journal. 81-470. Hunters organized. If reported in the daytime plowmen unvoked their horses and rode bare-backed. Said that milking. cutting of hay, feeding of horses neglected for these fruitless hunts. In July a fund was raised to buy a good pack of hounds. There were two or three hunts a week but the animal always eluded. Once when a hunt went past a church the whole congregation ran out to join, the vicar threw off his surplice and joined. These were long hunts, ending 15 or 20 miles away and nothing run down. On 12th of September, it or a dog was seen to enter a cornfield. This animal was shot, wounded, chased by dogs (hounds? T. T.) and killed.

July 3 London Times, p. 3. Witchcraft at Burton.

1810 Box 1 (Resumed)

July 15 (About) Fulleh-Shur, Shahabad India, stone fell. BA 1860.

26 Destructive hurricane at Chatillon, France. Bell's Weekly Messenger, Aug. 12, p. 250.

30 Began violent quakes at Azores which continued into 1811. BA 1854.

1810 Box A

August etc. Poltergeist *in the* home of Mr. Chase, of Sampford, Peverell, near Taunton. S. Baring-Gould, Devonshire Characters, p. 286.

1810 Box 1 (Resumed)

Aug. 10 Stonefall at Tipperary, Ireland. (F.) 7¾ lbs., 11:30 a.m. BA 1860. (Over) Mooresfort, Tipperary.

Sept. 4 —at least to 13th. Vesuvius began eruption. Unusual, but was not preceded by drying up of wells. Bell's Weekly Messenger, Oct. 21, p. 330. (Not a mistake in year, see 1809.)

10 Night; Vesuvius. Great on 12th —night 13th greater. Gent's. Magazine, 80-374, 81-75.

23 A dried pond at Luton, Bedfordshire, suddenly filled *with water*. This phenomenon had recurred before at time of quake in Lison, in 1755. Gent's. Mag. 80-379.

Oct. 5 London Times, p. 3, Vesuvius. Same, Times, 18-3.

Box A

Oct. 18 London Times, p. 3, again 22-3, Sampford ghost. See Aug. 27.

Box 1 (Resumed)

Oct. 24, 25, 26 Fearful hurricane, Havana, and earthquake. Symons' Met. Mag., 3-5.

29 London Times, p. 3, meteor in Wales.

Nov. 9 New Hampshire, violent shock; violent wind sprang up suddenly a moment before it. BA 1854.

9 9:15 p.m. Exeter, New Hampshire. Account by Judge Samuel Tenney—sound under his feet and a tremendous report. (two words? T. T.)—did not shake the house. Mem's. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., 2-16.

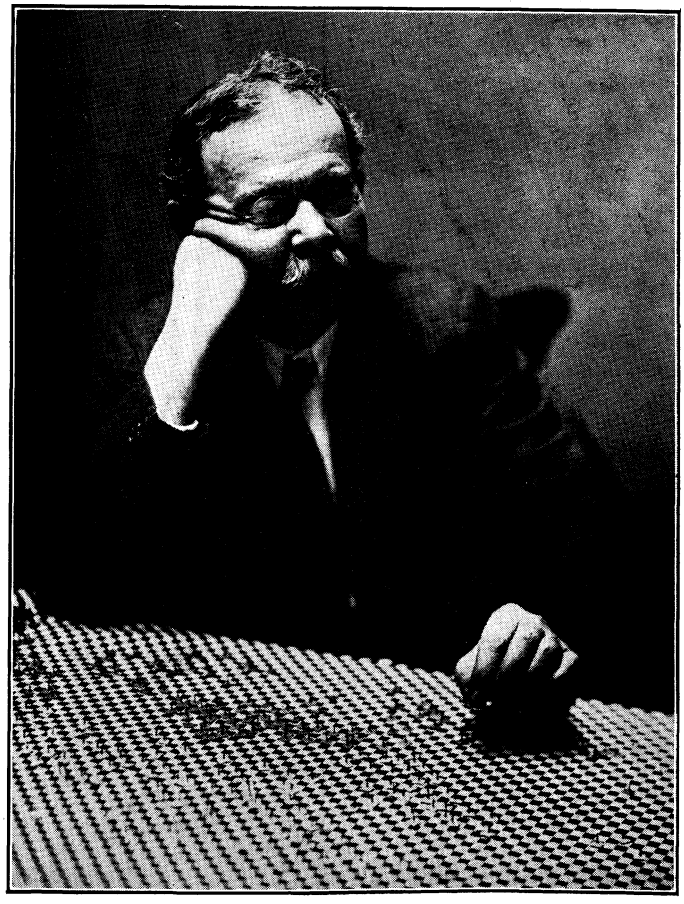
WONDER-MONGERS NOTE!

If you use any of the above material for your syndicated cartoons or columns you must *credit* Charles Fort or the Society will prosecute.

TIFFANY THAYER, *Secretary*.

MORE NEXT MONTH

THE NOTES OF CHARLES FORT ARE PRINTED HERE *for the* FIRST TIME



CHARLES FORT

THIS is the man who liberated minds. The Society founded to do him honor can express its appreciation in no more significant terms. At a time when the faith of Science in its own works was so absolute that it paralyzed the thought of the world and prevented any child from becoming aware of its own ignorance, this man wrote *The Book of the Damned* and set free a sufficient number of mentalities to prevent true intelligence from complete extinction. He is seated at a checkered board with hundreds of "men" before him. He used to say that his game, "Super-Checkers", was his chief claim to fame. In reality he was using the device as a means to investigate prognostics. In future issues of THE FORTEAN, the record of hundreds of "games", played solitaire, will be printed from his notes.

All Fort's books are out of print but the Society can supply them.

THE BOOK OF THE DAMNED (1919)

NEW LANDS (1923)

Lo! (1931)

WILD TALENTS (1932)

Charles Fort died May 3, 1932, at the age of 57 years. This picture was taken in 1931.