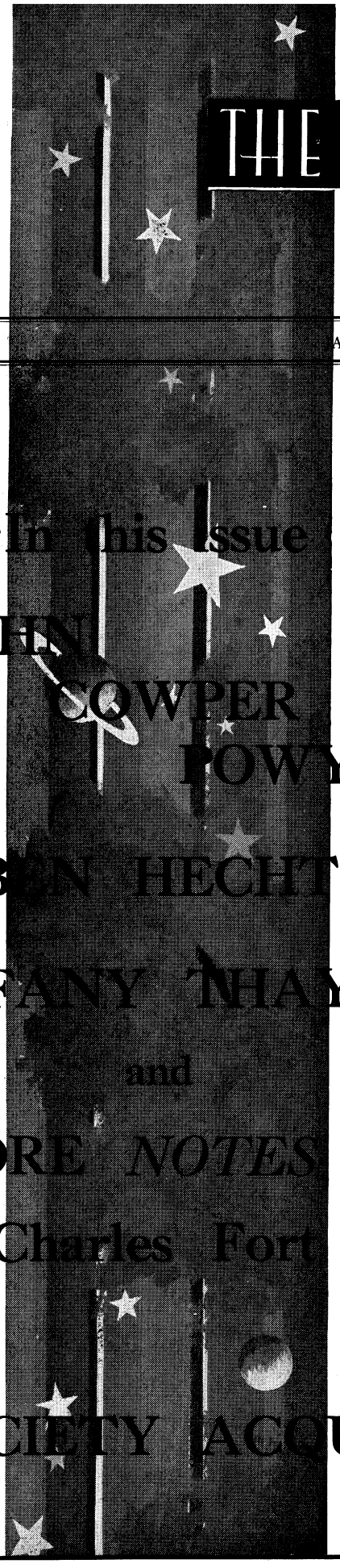
THE FORTEAN SOCIETY MAGAZINE

No. 6 JANUARY, 1942 25c



In this Issue

JOHN COWPER POWYS

BEN HECHT

TIFFANY THAYER

and

MORE *NOTES* of Charles Fort

SOCIETY ACQUIRES DRAYSONIA

CIRCUS DAY IS OVER

By Tiffany Thayer

Your Secretary and a few of his esteemed colleagues brought the Fortean Messiah to town with bass-drum and red-fire in the tradition of P. T. Barnum and Billy Sunday—a tradition honored by time if by none other. Now, however, since all the world has taken up the bass-drum and pitched its voice so stridently, it is more Fortean to eschew those methods and to insure ourselves an auditory by whispering. We'll be heard the better by contrast.

This does not mean that the Fortean Society will shirk its duty of calling attention to the crimes of Our Betters, far from it, and, accordingly, we quietly charge that the present international hostility is the most ghastly fraud ever perpetrated in history with the possible exception of the Holy Inquisition. By that is meant that the headlines you consume each day as "news" are not really news at all but are only the latest releases to us dupes of our daily capsule of dope. Every time you listen to a "news" broadcast on the radio you are taking poison through the ears. The dosage is administered at half-hourly intervals by Imperial Request from Washington, D. C.,—two minutes of unadulterated poison on the hour and one minute of the same on the half-hour, twenty-four hours of the day, not counting the various five-minute regular "news" broadcasts by established agencies. Thus it is impossible for you to escape a dose if you leave your radio on for longer than 28 minutes in succession.

Our Shepherds—the politicians and bankers of the world—chiefly those of the United States, Germany, England and Japan — planned this gigantic hoax upon their peoples in all personal friendliness years ago. They decided then what should happen now—and it is happening and will continue to happen very much according to schedule until every possible dollar has

been squeezed out of the emprise and every last vestige of our already farcical "freedom" has been taken from us.

Probably the above is so obvious to Forteans that it did not need stating, but awareness of our condition does not give us the means to change it. Of what use is the Right of Petition against the opposition of unlimited free time on the air? That is to say that the President can chat over the radio as long and as frequently as he wishes, without paying one red cent for the privilege, but if I think the man should be impeached for making foreign alliances in defiance of the Constitution, I can finance my own expedition across the country seeking signers of my petition, with more than a fifty-one per cent chance of having my signatures thrown out of court as fraudulent after I get them. Our franchise is a fake and only the taxes we must pay are real. We do what the politicians tell us—or jump off high buildings—that is the only alternative left to common people today, be they British, German, Japanese or American: goose-step or suicide.

The reason for this condition is, clearly, to preserve tottering, rotten institutions which mankind—partially enlightened by the events of 1914 to 1918—was undermining diligently, intent—as the commonality has ever been—upon self-betterment. It is this determination for self-betterment which puts the fear of God into Our Betters perennially and demands military regimen for the rest of us on an average of at least once every twenty-five years. For present-day "civilization" operates on the working premise that the overwhelming majority of mankind is stupid, cannot be enlightened, and is happy to remain swinish or doltish; and the only way that lie can be maintained, sustained and perpetuated is by the use of such bludgeons as this one they call "War" and another, called "Authority". These great hammers are dropped on our heads every time we raise them because Our Betters do not sit securely in their superior seats by any virtue of theirs but only by beating us back from around their legs.

The second crime of Our Shepherds which Your Secretary will mention in this quiet session is one in which "Authority" has been the bludgeon, but before we take it up, a word in praise of a man who might have played one of the largest parts in this, the most ghastly fraud since the Inquisition, but who refused.

He was a King—the King of England—and had been better loved as Prince of Wales. He is now known as Duke of Windsor, presently "employed" as Governor of the Bahamas. . . This man renounced a throne, and it was given out by the lie-mongering press that he renounced his birthright for the love of a woman. The statement was made that this man could not marry this woman and keep his crown because the woman was an American.

Here take time out to smile. For—it was to aid the same Britain which was alleged to have raised that objection that Our Shepherds led the despised Americans to "War".

Of course, nobody with an IQ of more than 6 and 7/8 believed the story at the time, but how many suspected the truth?

How many knew what the politicians of the world were planning? Who was present in Windsor Castle to hear the leaders of the world's greatest nations—the United States, Germany, his own England, Italy and Japan—tell Edward of Windsor that a repetition of 1914—1918 was going to be necessary to prevent *the people* of the world from claiming *their* birthright? How many heard Edward VIII, the uncrowned King of England. say to the other members of that most select of all clubs—The War-Makers: "No, gentlemen, I will not do it. . . I will not be party to your murderous scheme for the enslavement of millions. I am not even grateful for the opportunity. . . You forget that I was still a lad when your Club found this necessary the time before. You forget that I was duped along with the rest at that time. I was taken in by your flag-waving and your drum-beating—but I lived to learn that you and your class and myself and my class aren't worth fighting for.

"I visited trenches in 1914 and breadlines in 1930. You gentlemen dug those trenches on paper years before common men dug them in the mud—and you and I created those bread-lines. Now you are asking me to go on playing that same unspeakable game—perpetuating trenches and breadlines to infinity—or—worse: you are asking me to help you deprive the peoples of the earth of their last shred of self-respect, the last glimmer of hope for human integrity.

"No, gentlemen. . . You may take the crown of England and stick it—on the head of one of my brothers: there are plenty of them—and one, at least, will be ready to do this for you. I refuse."

Edward of Windsor couldn't stop the plans the War-Makers had in hand but he could refuse to further them or to participate in them. Now, we cannot all be Governors of the Bahamas, but we can follow the honorable and upright example of Edward VIII part of the way. We can shut off the radio, stop reading newspapers and stay away from the movies. Their "war" stops automatically as soon as you do those three things. And the "outcome of the struggle" will not be varied one way or the other by any actions of yours, because the "outcome" was decided years ago—before the first shot was fired—and each "contender" in this criminal farce knows now exactly what part of the earth and its inhabitants is to be his to tax when it's all over. All that passes between now and then is no more than Poo Bah's "corroborative detail intended to give artistic verisimilitude to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative." Your Secretary's objection to the "detail" is that some of the wrong men might get killed.

The second crime of Our Betters as mentioned above has been less publicized than the Grand Hoax, but its purpose is identical—that is—to maintain the reputations and incomes of a class of persons which has strutted for countless centuries before the world in garments of that mystic fabric of legend—woven of nothing. In fact, the men who wear this material weave it themselves, and through the ages their yarn has differed fancifully. Of late, "light-years" form the *warp* and "spectrum—analysis" the *woof*. . . That is to say, the Astronomers, of course, and it is further to say, that they "haven't got anything on!"

Like the leaders of every other "recognized science", these intellectual prostitutes have all but entirely relaxed from any search after truth they ever did prosecute, and have become sycophants, courtiers, jesters and murderers to the monopolists and the politicians, the modern Khans, Princes and Barons of the air, the waters and the earth.

They hold before youth the great ideal of selfless devotion to the finding out of all the truths of nature in order to make life more worth living for all who are forced to live it, yet they are, almost without exception, willing to betray youth by making capital of their discovery of *half*-truth, however lethal, and by commercializing half-comprehended clues to cosmic revelations in the name of sainted Progress, under the patronage of public utilities and the lords of a civilization which is based upon fraud and chicane.

As examples of half-truth operating murderously, I give you the airplane and sulphanilimide. . . As examples of a clue to the operation of the so-called "cosmos" which has been perverted to the ends of man's lowest tastes and prostituted for the profit of the few, to the mental emasculation of the many—I give you the radio—the motion picture—and next, whenever it is needed by Our Betters (probably for their *next* "War"), the blend of those two in television.

And queening it over all her brother and sister sciences is the great Bell-dame—Astronomy. Out on the West Coast some men are polishing what might be called "the White Elephant of Mount Palomar" or "Corning's Triumph"—for there is a 200 inch piece of glass for which even the Astronomers themselves have no use. They will tell you—if you can catch them in an honest mood, which is quite a trick, but possible—that they would *much* rather have two 100 inch glasses: that they are not going to see one damned bit more in this thing the Corning people have sold them than they have been seeing right along: that the whole gargantuan episode from conception to the expected failure was a double-barrelled gag——one, publicity for "Authority"—two, a rather staggering transfer of funds.

By such methods Astronomy holds her place, the mysterious, inexplicable, untouchable science; the cornerstone of Authority, parent of all hocus-pocus. This is not to say that studying the stars is bootless or that making gigantic mirrors is a crime: not at all. In fact, Your Secretary recommends that a similar mirror be made for every hamlet in the world and that the acquisition of knowledge be substituted

for the acquisition of money (One writes "gold" and crosses it out.) as an universal ideal. As our youths turn 18, let us hand them telescopes or microscopes or tables of logarithms instead of rifles: set them to the business of measuring Earth in platoons, to shattering atoms in brigades. Send them by ship-loads to *find out* where those islands are in the South Pacific: nobody knows now. Doubtless the proprietors of Big Steel would relish their caviar no less if it were bought with profits from the sale of planetariums and cyclotrons and exploring vessels instead of from the sale of battle ships made for the express purpose of being sunk and blown up. One can hardly suppose that their food tastes better to them because it comes dripping in human blood.

What sort of a civilization might we not build out of an universal brotherhood dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge? Something rather fine perhaps: but the present incumbents of the superior seats would oppose any such innovation: the incumbents of those superior seats of any "present" oppose innovation to the last ditch. (Innovation is to Authority as Peace is to a duPont.)

In its opposition to all innovation lies Authority's greatest crime. Our example is the Drayson Problem.

THE DRAYSON PROBLEM

If you read your Magazine for October, 1941, you will recall that Alfred H. Barley was quoted there on the subject of an astronomical problem: a *problem,* mind you, not a "theory"—which might be established or refuted—but a problem which may only be studied.

Mr. Barley was the author of a booklet of 48 pages, plus a 24-page "Prologue", plus covers bearing diagrams, published in England in 1922. The title is *The Drayson Problem,* and the contents reveals that Orthodox Astronomy has been faced since 1859 with the discovery of an anomaly in the very foundation upon which all its mathematics has been based since Newton if not since the building of the pyramids.

The discoverer of the anomaly was an anonymous student in one of the astronomy classes of Major-General Alfred Wilks Drayson, Fellow Royal Astronomical Society, late Royal Artillery, then Professor of Astronomy at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, England. The boy asked his teacher a question which the teacher could not answer. Not being the average teacher, Drayson admitted his ignorance and set out to inform himself—with the result that—today—simply to mention the name of Drayson or of Barley within the hearing of an astronomy professor is likely to produce seismic phenomena.

You may read a good deal more about the Drayson Problem in these columns as the years go by because, by the terms of the will of the late Alfred H. Barley, and at the direction of his executor and heir, his wife, Mrs. Annie Barley, the Fortean Society became the proud custodian of all Mr. Barley's literary, documentary and Draysonian remains . . More: the Fortean Society inherited the obligation and the privilege of carrying the work forward. The work—in the case of the Drayson Problem—consists of bringing this *fault* in their figures to the attention of the younger generation of astronomers in such a way that the importance of the matter can no longer be ignored. Correspondence to that end is already in progress and the results will be duly recorded here.

To familiarize yourself with this problem and to help the work along—order one or more of the following books from the Fortean Society today.

(1911) DRAYSONIA, by Admiral Sir Algernon F. R. de Horsey, K.C.B, (cloth) $5,00 (contains folding plates and diagrams)
The above is out of print and extremely rare.
We have only a few copies.

(1921) WARMER WINTERS *and the Earth's Tilt Fully Explained,* by Major R. A. Marriott, D.S.O., (illustrated wrappers) $3.00
Very few copies available. Orders from public libraries will be honored first.

(1922) THE DRAYSON PROBLEM, by Alfred H. Barley (diagrams on wrappers and throughout) $1.50.

(1927) THE ICE AGE: ITS DATE, DURATION, AND ASTRONOMICAL CAUSE, by Major R. A. Marriott, Lieutenant Colonel T. C. Skinner, R. E. (Retired), Fellow Royal Meteorological Society, and others, including D. W. Horner, F.R.A.S., Sir Wm. Salmond, Alfred H. Barley and Lord Sydenham of Combe; with diagrams and maps (wrappers) $1.50.

These books were written by the foremost exponents of Drayson's cause. Admiral de Horsey was Drayson's first disciple.

This is the *Preface* to his book DRAYSONIA:

In the following treatise I have adopted the title 'Draysonia' in honour of a man whose scientific attainments have been but little known or recognized, whose death in September 1901 was a great loss to astronomical science, and who in future days will, I think, be acknowedged as having been a remarkable discoverer. I refer to the late Major-General Alfred Wilks Drayson, F.R.A.S., late Royal Artillery, who, in addition to distinguishing himself in his profession, was for fifteen years Professor, Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and for two years attached to the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, author of *Practical Military Surveying, The Common Sights in the Heavens, The Last Glacial Epoch, Experiences of a Woolwich Professor, Thirty Thousand Years of the Earth's Past History,* read by the aid of the second rotation of the earth, *Untrodden Ground, Imporant Facts and Calculations for the Consideration of Astronomers and Geologists, Proper Motion of the Fixed Stars,* etc.

I am fully aware of the difficulty of my task and of how imperfectly I can do justice to Drayson in attempting to describe his system; indeed, I should not venture the attempt were it not that General Drayson, shortly before his death, repeatedly urged me to write upon the subject. Writing to me very shortly before his death, he said: 'The reason why I thought that you ought to write something is that it would be a loss to astronomical science if the accurate calculations which you have made were allowed to be buried in your workbook and among my papers. I refer especially to your investigations to obtain the annual motion of the pole 20″ .0529, the annual angle of C. 40″ .8114, the zero year A.D. 2294.75, the cycle 31,756 years, the annual precession of the equinox in 1900, the annual diminution of the obliquity and the variable rate of this decrease.

'All these calculations are based on sound geometry.' In again urging me in his last touching letter before his death when complaining bitterly of the unreasoning opposition he had encountered, he said, 'I have spent between two and three hundred pounds in getting my books, pamphlets, etc. published, and have received less than ten pounds in return. Money-making has not been my object, but that truths in nature should be made known. I can only claim to have done my best, though whether good results will follow I cannot say.' I also can only claim to have done my best.

My work in assisting Drason began after reading his *Untrodden Ground,* and has been carried on almost entirely by letter. Drayson's letters to me amounted to three or four hundred, and were continued until his death. From this correspondence and from Drayson's works I learned a great deal, and found the occupation enthralling —too much so, for in working with Shortrede's admirable logarithms, which admit of accuracy to the 1/10 of a second of arc and to 1/100 of a second of time, up and into the small hours of the night, I considerably impaired my eyesight. I was induced to look into Drayson's system by my old and distinguished friend, the late Sir John Cowell, who, when on duty at Osborne, had lent Drayson's *Untrodden Ground* to H.R.H. the then Crown Princess of Germany, afterwards the Empress Frederick, and told me how great an interest H.R.H. had taken in the matter. The subject also has engaged the attention of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, who, when at Woolwich Academy as a cadet, had studied under Drayson, and was thus aware of his great ability. I mention this as another instance of the great interest taken by members of our Royal Family in scientific matters.

I believe I have been a good scholar of Drayson's, judging from his kind appreciation of my efforts, for in an article of his some years ago in the *Yorkshire Post,* the following commendation appears: 'It is quite unnecessary for me to refer to the scientific attainments, especially in practical

astronomy, possessed by Admiral de Horsey. In the Royal Navy these are well known. I may say, however, that during the fifteen years that I was Professor of Woolwich, I looked over several thousand examination papers on various questions in practical astronomy which had been worked out by officers and cadets, who were excellent mathematicians, and to whom the practical working of spherical trigonometry was mere child's play, but in no single instance have I seen anything equal in accuracy and neatness to the work accomplished by Admiral de Horsey.'

The above flattering opinion of my attainments far exceed such abilities as I may possess, but I here insert it as a record of General Drayson's appreciation of the assistance I rendered him in astronomical computations from 1893 until that distinguished astronomer's death in 1901. Drayson's lamented death occurred without his receiving that public recognition of his scientific attainments and discoveries which he merited, and which I trust posterity will accord him.

Cowes, March 1911.
A.F.R. DE HORSEY

After Admiral de Horsey, came Major Marriott, who applied Drayson's work to the problem of dating "the" Ice Age:

THE GLACIAL EPOCH

The Date and Duration of the Last Ice Period

(This inset is brought to the notice of the readers of this issue of the "Proceedings," not with the intention of endorsing the views therein stated, but out of respect to one of the chief founders of this Society, the late Dr. W. Allen Sturge, whose immense activities in prehistory are well known, and whose critical acumen led him to favour the acceptance of Drayson's contention as a WORKING HYPOTHESIS for the elucidation of the various ages to be assigned to flint cultures in East Anglia. Several discoveries since his death have done much to favour an unexpected extension of the stages of man's progress, and of the enormous antiquity to be assigned to primitive man, while certain facts on the astronomical side have so strengthened the position of Drayson's supporters as to make their claims a matter inviting serious attention.)

Readers of the Proceedings will recall the paper read by Dr. W. Allen Sturge in Vol. L, part iii, 1913, containing arguments based on the recurrence of glacial periods, such as may be postulated from an acceptance of Drayson's discovery of the true motion of the Pole, and especially as to the chronology of the last one with reference to the Neolithic culture; and many subscribers are further acquainted with the numerous corroborative evidences bearing on this question of glaciation furnished by geology and other sciences, as set forth in a recent pamphlet by Major Marriott.

This strong chain of evidence, however, laboured under the disadvantage that the connecting astronomical links had not received the hall mark of official astronomy, and therefore were considered unsound; and it is only quite recently that the orthodox school have deigned to give their reasons for rejecting the astronomical evidence without investigation.

The objections brought against Drayson's conclusions have thus been displayed in all their weakness, and have given Mr. A. H. Barley an opportunity to combat them, phrase by phrase, by the production of mathematical proofs from several sources, which place the matter on an impregnable footing, such as no unprejudiced astronomer can fail to see establishes a claim for minute investigation.

Apart from these concise proofs, researches into archaelogy and the orientation of ancient monuments mirror the same deductions from terrestrial sources, being corroborated by recent pronouncements on prehistoric climatology, while providing a basis for many myths, especially in connection with Vedic and Avedic traditions, and enhancing the grandeur and utility of the Great Pyramid by giving it a new astronomical significance.

Until the exhumation of this discovery, which was first put forward in 1859, geologists have failed to get any nearer to the solution of the Ice Age question, since the days of Agassiz a century ago; but it has now been revivified by independent research, giving a new impetus to geology and providing us with a clue of great importance to serve as a guide in prehistory.

From a letter of Admiral Sir Algernon de Horsey, K.C.B. to Drayson, dated 23rd April, 1894.

"It is inconceivable to me that the Royal Astronomical Society has not enthusiastically taken up a subject which gives such strong evidence of its truth. To sift such a matter—a matter affecting the basis of all astronomical calculations—to the bottom is surely the first duty of a learned society which has the privilege of the prefix 'Royal'. I should have imagined—as I believe you did—that you had only to whisper '29° 25′ 47″'—in order to put astronomers on the *quivive* to elucidate a discovery of enthralling interest, which for a chaos of supposed proper motions of millions of stars substitutes a simple movement of the instrument (the earth), by which and from which all astronomical observations are made."

From "The Change in the Climate":

"Something more is required from astronomers than the invocation of the great name of Newton in support of a circle with a phantom centre. This philosopher, when he made his great discovery of the mechanism of the Universe in the laws of motion, naturally applied them to the finding of a cause of Precession, but Newton was not confronted with geological research, and knew nothing of the decrease in the obliquity, nor the true conformation of the earth. Are his conclusions, then, never to be questioned?

"We are not more capable certainly than the great minds of the past, only better equipped. Not to use these advantages will be to incur the reproach of the age of Galileo. Let the facts here outlined be faced and admission made that much remains to be investigated, and Drayson, ere long will be assigned his place among the Immortals."

And after Marriott came Colonel Skinner —who is still very active on behalf of Drayson in England—and Alfred H. Barley.

Correspondence with England is irregular now, but we hope to be able to report upon Colonel Skinner's progress in our next issue.

ALFRED HENRY BARLEY

Certainly the most active and acute—and probably the most effective—of Drayson's adherents since de Horsey was A. H. Barley, elder son of Hildyard Barley and his wife Emma; born Stoke Newington, London, England, February 7, 1872. When Alfred was six years old, his parents removed to Ramsgate, Kent, where the boy attended a small "dame school" until he was ten. His father was a Wesleyan "local preacher", and as such sent the boy to a school for the sons of Wesleyan clergymen at Woodhouse Grove, Yorkshire, until he was fifteen. He spent a year, then, in Stuttgart, Germany, where he mastered the language and studied music. Later he studied chemistry and took a degree in Pharmacy but music called him back and he became an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music, as well as Bachelor of Music, London University. Several of his original compositions were well received.

Like many young thinkers, Alfred Barley was Agnostic, then Spiritualist, then Theosophist—but he appears to have been associated with the Theosophical Society at a time of schism and—unable to reconcile preaching and practice—resigned from the Society in 1917.

In 1910 he had married Annie Lewton, of Wells, Norfolk, England, and they pursued their Theosophical studies together, suffered the same revulsion at conditions in the Society, and resigned together.

Mr. Barley was for many years an associate of Alan Leo, a well known astrologer and author of astrological works who died in 1917: he was an editor of *Modern Astrology Magazine,* and editor of many of Alan Leo's books. Both Leo and Barley aimed at "restoring Astrology to its early purity" and looked forward to its establishment on a basis similar to that of Astronomy.

Barley discovered the Drayson Problem in connection with his Astrological work, and took it up rather nose-in-air, as he put

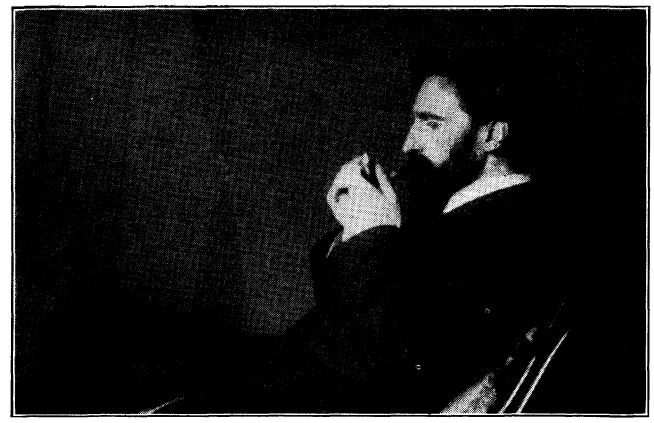
it, with the avowed intention of refuting Drayson.

These details have been furnished, at the Society's request, by Mrs. Barley who writes: "That beginning never had an ending, for he was still working hard on it the day before he died."

The Barleys were residents of Canada from April 1927 to November 1934 when they located in the State of Washington. Mr. Barley died very suddenly at Everett, Washington, May 14, 1940.

He had been a member of the Fortean Society since 1937 and his correspondence with Your Secretary reveals a keen, brilliant, incisive mentality and—as Fort would have said—a man of "cordial acceptances".

Space limitations prevent a proper exegesis of Alfred Barley's work on the Drayson Problem, but it will be touched on again and again in these columns as the Society takes up the live brand he dropped and carries it on into the mental darkness which established, Orthodox Astronomy—as vested "Authority"—seeks to force upon the human race.



ALFRED HENRY BARLEY

FORT ON THE AIR

When *The Books of Charles Fort* was published last May, Mr. Joseph T. Shipley gave it this send-off over Station WEVD, New York:

Among the dreams of living are a good many things commonly accepted as fact. For instance, do you really believe the earth revolves around the sun? Do you think that the earth is round, or, shall I say more technically, that our planet is an oblate spheriod, and what by the way, makes you call it a planet? And what do you imagine is the speed of light? And how about that floating ocean of ice which moves above the stratosphere. Have you ever had trouble with the laws of physics, found it hard to understand that when Eve ate the apple, Adam fell, but when the apple fell Newton was struck with the law of gravitation? Just what is this idea of gravitation that the earth and sun are having a tug of war with the moon and that is what keeps it revolving around us? Do you remember Halley's comet and the eclipse that proved Einstein's relativity? Except that the next eclipse refused to work the same way. Some persons think that science has become a new religion and that no one, especially no lavman, may question its laws. To them science is the latest superstition. Chief among these rebellious figures of our time was Charles Fort whose followers have established the Fortean Society of which the otherwise less serious novelist, Tiffany Thayer, is Secretary. This Society and Henry Holt have just issued, in one overwhelming volume, the four big books of Fort's lifetime, *Wild Talents, Lo!, New Lands* and *Book of the Damned*. The "damned", as Fort uses the term, are the facts of experience for which Science has no explanation. In revenge, science bars them from polite society. They are printed only in the magazine pages of the lesser newspapers along with the tales of the hack-saw suicide and the dog-faced baby. Charles Fort has gathered them—has set them in a devastating column, and with dive-bombs of wit and poison gas of sarcasm, advanced against the entrenched ranks of the scientists. Most of his pages list actually recorded happenings. Fort's favorites are showers of strange objects from the sky—stones—stones that seemed aimed at a special person as though a demon were looking down and following the victim, taking pot shots at him. Fish—by the thousands—frogs, out of the sky like one of the old plagues of Egypt. Icicles falling—not hailstones—but thousands of icicles. What were they hanging on in the sky? And rain—rain of blood recorded countless times from ancient Rome to modern Ireland. Each of these science has tried to explain away but Fort explains away the explanations. He's deliciously sarcastic about the methods of the men who have to fit these strange occurences into the known laws of nature. These men are quite careful. He compliments them. When they say that a certain soft matter looks like marsh paper the wind has lifted and dropped, they make their identification depend upon several points of likeness. They would never be satisfied with saying, for example, that a camel is a peanut because both have humps. They would demand further agreement-that both can live a long time without water, for instance. Mixed with a vast accumulation of strange happenings and the swamping ridicule are some other observations that have to be taken seriously. One of the powers, some mediums claim, is teleporting—the carrying off of things in far away places. If this is true, says Fort, why have so many banks their money still in them. And if scientists for many years have beeen attacking claims of magic, Fort aims his shots at what he calls witch-craft in science. The new ideas of the Nobel Prize winner, Dr. Born for example—the quantum theory—the idea of electrons and protons playing leap frog without having to leap over the other frog and the notion that the sun derives its energy from nowhere. According to the old law, says Charles Fort, these ideas are much more nonsensical than his own protests. And indeed he hammers hard to break down every one of the so-called proofs of such items as the shape of the earth and the speed of light. Try one. We can tell the shape of the earth, scientists say, from its shadow on the moon but if the moon is a sphere as most scientists claim, it is convex. And on a convex body a straight edge makes a curved shadow. So far as this proof goes the earth may be flat. Or look at the discovery of the planet Neptune. Hailed as a great triumph of astronomers—did not Leverrier predict it? But while Leverrier said there would be one planet beyond, Hansen said there would be two. And Airy said most likely none at all. Somebody had to guess right and at once the good guesser is hailed as the genius. And around many such heavenly discoveries Charles Fort finds the large number of men that guessed wrong and who therefore are left out of the books. It seems that the astronomers have beeen playing the old gossip game. Whenever someone is late, all the women in the family begin to say something has happened but they forget all the times we came home safely and remember the one occasion when they foretold the accident. Can't you hear them saying: "I knew it."? Behind all Fort's scoffing at science rests the positive belief which he fortifies with brilliant images and impressive phrasing. He believes in a

sort of compensation that gives intelligence its grain of stupidity whether in man or in nature. Somewhere in the beauty of a theorem or a peacock lurks the grotesque. Nature presents us with so graceful a stroke as a swimming seal and fumbles her seal on the shore. Baudelaire has a poem about the albatross, the most majestic of birds in the upper air, but the clumsiest of creatures when on land. Mete, also, is Fort's suggestion that every age has what he calls a dominant—a body of beliefs accepted as science and that into this dominant it squeezes willy-nilly every event that comes along—everything must be explained in terms of the dominant, like the bed of a Procrustes—stretch your bones if you're too short, lop off your legs if they're oversize. A tremendous sense of the fitness of things. Thus every age manages to maintain its own sense of importance and of wisdom. But actually, says Charles Fort, all things merge so that we can not tell where one ends and the other begins. . . . present and past, right and wrong, truth and falsity, youth and age. Where are you now? Each of us has an existence like a bridge, he declares, say like the Brooklyn Bridge, upon which multitudes of bugs are seeking a fundamental, coming to a girder that seems firm and final. But the girder is built upon supports. The support then seems final but it is built upon underlying structures Nothing final can be found in all the bridge because the bridge itself is not a final thing in itself but is a relationship between Manhattan and Brooklyn. And each of us is a relationship between our ancestors and our descendants, and today science is only a stage between a dream and awakening. And THE BOOKS OF CHARLES FORT are a stage in your awakening from the school-day of acceptance of what the teacher says are the laws of science to an exciting watching of a challenging and mysterious world.

HOW LONG IS A DEGREE?

Here we have an account of what purports to be the "first Attempt of this Kind" to determine the true figure and dimensions of the earth. The following quotation is from *A New and Comprehensive System of Philology; or a Treatise of the Literary Arts and Sciences, According to their present States Containing*—"Science VIII"—*Physico-Geology: or, Philosophical Geography, etc., by Benjamin Martin, London, Printed and sold by W. Owen, near Temple-Bar, and by the Author, at his House in Fleet-street.* 1764 (The volume was contributed to the Fortean Society Library by Tom Elsonder, Gateshead, Tyne, England):

The Figure of the Earth has been long well known to be globular, or spherical. It was originally supposed to be flat, or a Plane; but this was too gross an Error for any Person to continue in long; because, if a Person walks directly North or South, it will cause the Stars to have a greater or lesser Elevation above his Horizon; but no Alteration in that Respect would happen to him in walking on a Plane, though the Distance be ever so great. This, therefore, afforded an evident Proof, that the Surface of the Earth was of a curvilineal Form. And because walking over equal Spaces occasioned an equal Difference in the meridian Altitude of the Stars, it was a Proof that the curve Surface was of the spherical Kind; and that therefore, the Body of the Earth was in Form of a GLOBE, or SPHERE.

And this was the general Opinion till the Beginning of the last Century. When Experiments on Pendulums, the Nature of Gravity, a centrifugal Force in revolving Bodies, and some other physical Principles came to be understood, there was great Reason to suspect, that the Figure of the Earth could not possibly be that of a *Globe*, but that of a *Spheroid* as above mentioned.

These Discoveries excited a great Desire among the Learned to be satisfied (experimentally) of the true Figure of the Earth, which they easily knew could not be done, without actually measuring a Degree on the Surface of the Earth in several different Parts of it, and the more remote from each other, the better. At length, by the Munificence of Kings, and great Propensity of Philosophers and Mathematicians, the arduous Undertaking was attempted, prosecuted, and finished with Success, beyond Expectation.

To be more particular on this important Head, we shall give the following Instances of their Industry in this Respect. The first Attempt of this Kind was by *Snell*, a *Dutch* Mathematician, who measured a Space between *Alcmaer* and *Bergen-Op-zoon*, and between *Alcmaer* and *Leyden*, and from the Mean of both, he found a Degree to consist of 55021 *French* Toises, or Fathoms of six Feet each: The next was our Countryman *Norwood*, who, in the Year 1635, measured the Distance between *London* and *York*, and found a Degree to consist of 69½ Miles, *English* Measure.———After this *Ricciolus*, from different Measurements, found a Degree to contain 61650 Toises, but these Measures were all unsatisfactory, as there was so little Agreement between them. (sic-sic-sic!) That of *Norwood*, however, was most generally received, which gave 57300 Toises to a Degree. After this, by Order of the *French* King *Louis* XIV, Mr. *Picard* measured an Arch of the Meridian between *Malvoysin* and *Amiens*, by which he found a Degree to contain 57060 Toises. The King, to be further satisfied, ordered the whole Arch of the Meridian of *France* to be measured in the same Manner, which was finished by Mr. *Cassini*, in 1718. The Result of which gave 57060 Toises, the same with *Picard's*. The present Professor *Muschenbroek*, measured over the Arch of *Snellius* a second Time very exactly, and found it to give 57033 Toises to a Degree.

These last Measures, all agreeing so well, prove the Measure of a Degree, in the Middle Latitudes of the Meridian, exactly enough; but it still remained to determine the same at each End of the Meridian, in order to know if the Earth were of a globular Figure; and if not, how much varied from it. To this End, it was ordered by the King of *France*, that a degree should be measured at the Equator, and another under the Arctic Circle, and accordingly, two Parties of the Royal Academicians were appointed, and dispatched for that Purpose. Those who went to *Lapland* finished their Work in *December*, 1736, and their Measures produced 57437 9/10 Toises to a Degree.

The Department, destined for the South Expedition, set out in *May*, 1735, and having finished their Work, they found the first Degree of the Meridian to contain 56767 4/5 Toises. But as this Number was so considerably different from what the Theory would give from the Measures of a Degree in *Lapland* and *France*, it occasioned the King to give an Order for the Meridian of *France* to be measured over again, which was performed by the Messrs. *Cassini De Thury*, and the Abbe *De la Caille;* and this new Measurement gave 57050 Toises for the Measure of a Degree in the Parallel of 45; so that upon the Whole, the Measure of a Degree in the Middle of the Meridian, at the Equator, and the Arctic Circle, are as below.

At the Equator ——— 56767 4/5
In the Parallel of 45°, —— 57050
Under the Arctic Circle, — 57438

From these Measures of a Degree by the Mathematical Theory, as we shall show in its proper Place, we can find the Proportion of the Diameter of the Equator to that of the Earth's Axis. Thus for Example, the Measures of a Degree at *Lapland* and in *France* give the Proportion, as 266 to 264 3/10; but by taking the Measure of a Degree of *France* and at the Equator, we shall have the Diameter of the Equator to that of the Earth's Axis, as 266 to 265, but, if we take the two extreme Measures at the Equator and at *Lapland*, we shall from thence find the aforesaid Ratio will be expressed by 266 to 265 73/100; and as this is a Mean between the other two, we may conclude it to be very near the Truth; nor can we, perhaps, ever hope for anything more exact.

Notwithstanding the Difference between the two Diameters of the Earth through the Equator and the Poles is so considerably great, and so plainly proves the spheroidical Figure of the Earth; yet it can by no Means be represented, or made sensible in Globes, or Maps, of a small Size; I mean in any less than about 10 Feet Diameter; but in particular Maps it may, as we have said before.

In order to express the True Dimensions of the Surface of the Earth, we first determine that of a great Circle; and therefore, supposing that 69½ Miles were equal to one Degree, then, if the Earth was truly spherical, a great Circle would contain 25020 *English* Miles.

But as it is customary with Geographers to reckon 60 Miles to a Degree, upon the Surface of the Earth, because there are 60 Minutes in one Degree of a Circle, and therfore, to each Minute of a Degree, there will correspond one such geographical Mile, and consequently, in a Quadrant, or Quarter of a Circle, which contains 90

The FORTEAN MAGAZINE

is the Official Organ of
The Fortean Society

Founded 1931

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 the Magazine—should be addressed to the Secretary, TIFFANY THAYER, Box 192, Grand Central Annex, New York.

Edited by TIFFANY THAYER

January, 1942

Degrees, there will be 90 times 60, or 5400 geographical Miles; and this will be the Case, with regard to a Quadrant of the Equator, which therefore will contain, in the Whole, 21600 geographical Miles.

But since a Meridian is of an elliptic Form, as we have shown, whose longest Diameter is that of the Equator, a Quadrant, or fourth Part of such an Elipsis, will be less than that of a Circle; and by the Measures of a Degree at *Lapland,* the Quadrant of such an Elipsis will contain but 5370 geographical Miles; and therefore a Meridian of the Earth will be to its Equator as 5400 to 5370; but, according to the Measure of a Degree at the Equator, the Quadrant of such an elliptic Meridian will contain 5390 such geographical Miles.

If then we take a Mean between the two elliptic Quadrants above mentioned, it will contain 5,380 geographical Miles, and so the whole Meridian may be estimated at 21,520 such Miles; therefore the Length of an ellptic Meridian of the Earth, is to that of the Equator, as 21,520 to 21,600, which is nearly the Proportion of 215 to 216. From these Measures and Proportions, every Thing, relating to the Dimensions of the Earth, may be known very near the Truth, by such as have Curiosity or Skill to manage the *Calculus,* by which, the whole Dimensions, in regard to the square Miles on the Surface, and cubic Miles of Solidity, may be expressed in *English* Measure.

But for common Use, it mav suffice to have a general Idea of these Things, and therefore we may, without much Error, look upon the Earth as a Globe, or Sphere.

THE FOUNDERS



JOHN COWPER POWYS

JOHN COWPER POWYS on Charles Fort

Mr. Powys, author of *Wolf Solent, In Defense of Sensuality, The Meaning of Culture, The Enjoyment of Literature,* and many, many other books, is now living in his native Wales. Correspondence with Wales is not at its best during Great Hoax II, but from the archives we produce a copy of what Mr. Powys wrote when he read Chares Fort's *Book of the Damned* the first time.

I am indeed struck sharply and starkly by the curious genius of Mr. Charles Fort; and here in the "Times" of yesterday or today comes on the front page an allusion to one of those "red rains" with its automatic explanation of "African sandstorm" blamed exactly as Mr. Fort points out, with his exquisitely humorous "up in one place, down in another place" of the conventional rendering (The Determinant: The Dominant) by hide-bound, excluding and damning scientists!

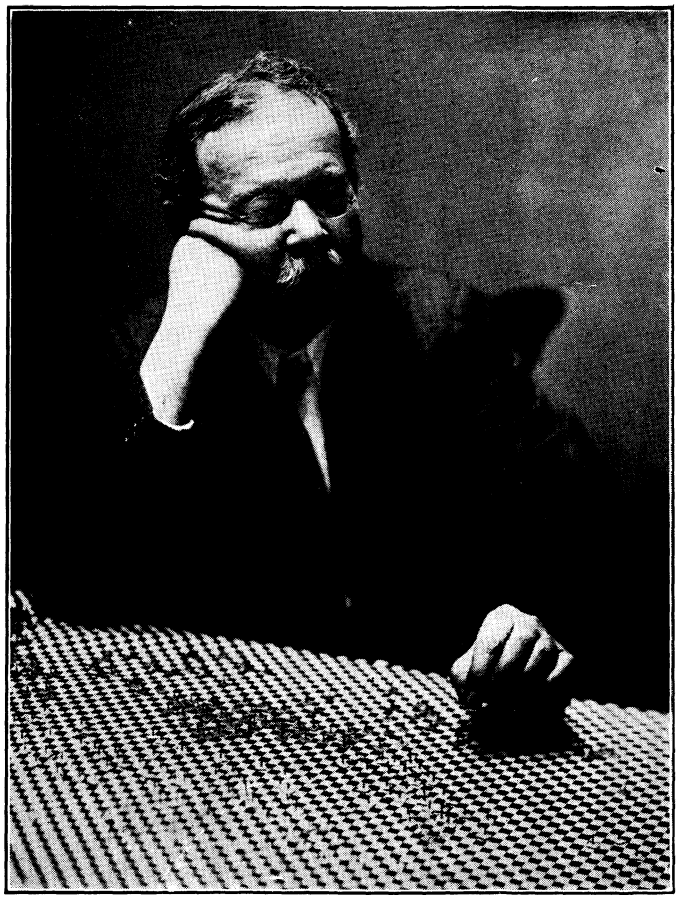
Mr. Charles Fort's book does not only liberate the mind from those sublimated herd-dogmas of science along the particular lines he deals with in his enormous pilings-up of evidence to the contrary, but it also liberates the mind from all sorts of other prepossessions and idolatries of the market place. In fact, his "Book of the Damned" is a book that sets a person's intellect with a wholesome jerk upon its own feet. From this book, with its drastic mental "keel-hauling", a person learns to think for himself and to look at the whole of life with that direct physionomic eye which Spengler so significantly praises Goethe for using. One is left after reading "Book of the Damned" with that open mind towards the mystery of life which allows for all manner of strange and even "improper" occurences. Such occurences, suggesting that there are super-human if not supernatural, agencies at work, seem to me most powerfully suggested if not proved by this extraordinary book, and this their proof, so shocking to the mind enslaved by the "Dominant" or the pseudo-scientific code, seems to afford a wonderful liberation to my mind, such as few books bring.

The style of the book, too, with its laconic humor and sardonic implications, seems exactly the right one to give the reader the sort of disconcerting shudder (or pleasing shock) that creates that curious awe in the mind, in the presence of this inexplicable universe, which Goethe in "Faust" declares to be one of man's noblest attributes. In fine, I haven't read for a long while any book that has given me more of mental and imaginative "shaking up", and that's the kind of thing. like butting your head into ice-cold water, that is wonderfully good for the human intelligence, so apt to fall into dull, flat, planed-out grooves and to take the smooth, casual, conventionally explained procession of events for granted.

I hope that the author will receive encouragement enough to make him go on and go still further.

John Cowper Powys

Charles Fort did go on after that . . . . He wrote *New Lands, Lo!* and *Wild Talents*—and all four volumes are included in *The Books of Charles Fort,* 1125 pages, indexed. Get it from your bookseller or from the Fortean Society.



CHARLES FORT

Playing a solitare game of super-checkers—his own invention.

WOOLLCOTT

Ever since I first heard the startling and ominous trumpet blast— *The Book of the Damned*—twenty-three years ago, I have been full of enthusiasm for the works of this singular man.

TARKINGTON

I read this vigorous and astonishing book straight through, and then re-read it for the pleasure it gave me in the way of its writing and in the substance of what it told. . . Retort must be left to the outraged astronomer—lay brethren must content themselves with gratitude to a man who writes such books.

HECHT

He has made a terrible onslaught upon the accumulated lunacy of fifty centuries . . . He has delighted me beyond all men who have written books in this world. . . He has shot the scientific basis of modern wisdom full of large, ugly holes.

POWYS

Fort's books not only liberate the mind from those sublimated herd-dogmas of science along the particular lines he deals with in his enormous pilings-up of evidence to the contrary, but they also liberate the mind from *all sorts* of other prepossessions and idolatries of the market place.

RASCOE

You can read the Books of Charles Fort in almost any way you like or in any mood your temperament dictates and whatever way you read it, it is my expression that it is a great book.

THAYER

This is one of the very few books in the world which make their readers think without ever telling them *what* to think; in fact, I can recall no other. It encourages the curious to question, the prying to pry, the inquisitive to inquire. If there is any higher mission on earth I don't know what it is.

Here is MENTAL ANTITOXIN for the POISONED WORLD

Read what other famous writers say about

← THE BOOKS OF CHARLES FORT

1151 PAGES, *INDEXED, INCLUDING*
THE COMPLETE TEXTS OF:
THE BOOK OF THE DAMNED

WILD TALENTS

NEW LANDS

and *LO!*

Introduction by *Tiffany Thayer*

1151 PAGES, $4. post paid

Send check or money order to
The Fortean Society
Satisfaction guaranteed

ORDER A COPY *NOW!*

DAVID G. MARKHAM REPORTS

(Mr. Markham has been working for several years on Fortean data of "maritime vanishments" and has arrived at some quasi-conclusions which he asks the Secretary to withhold temporarily as possibly too dangerous to make public. He asks specifically for details of the "loss" of a Japanese submarine, the I-63, which "sank" 2-6-39. It may have gone down in Bungo Channel. Can anyone help Mr. Markham? . . . . . The following notes are released by him.

* * * * *

NEW YORK TIMES 1-1-34 (21:4)
STOCKHOLM, DEC 31 1933
SWEDISH ARMY AVIATORS HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO CHASE A MYSTERIOUS AIRPLANE WHICH HAS BEEN SIGHTED FOR MANY WEEKS OVER LAPLAND. IT IS BELIEVED TO LAND AMONG THE MOUNTAINS, MAKING FLIGHTS AT NIGHT.

THE PILOT WAS RECENTLY HEARD FLYING TOWARD NORWAY IN A HEAVY SNOWSTORM. IT IS THOUGHT HE IS A SMUGGLER . . . .

* * * * *

TIMES 1-10 (11:1)
STOCKHOLM JAN 9 1934
A MYSTERIOUS AIRPLANE VARIOUSLY SAID TO BELONG TO NARCOTIC SMUGGLERS, JAPANESE SPIES AND RUSSIAN SPIES WAS REPORTED TODAY OVER WESTERBOTTEN IN NORTHERN SWEDEN.

THE SWEDISH AIRFORCE HAS ALREADY LOST TWO AIRPLANES, WITHOUT LOSS OF LIFE, IN EFFORTS TO LOCATE THE BASE OF THE STRANGE PLANE. CONCERN IS NOW FELT FOR LT WANBERG WHO DISAPPEARED ON A SCOUTING EXPEDITION ON FOOT ON CHRISTMAS, AND FOR A PARTY OF THREE SKIERS FORMING A RESCUE PARTY. MILITARY HEADQUARTERS REPORTED TODAY THAT SEARCH FOR THE FOUR ALONG THE NORWEGIAN BORDER HAD BEEN FRUITLESS.
TIMES 1-13-34 (3:3)
HELSINGFORS 1-12-34
FINNISH EXPORT: NOT "GHOST" FLYERS SMUGGLING, BUT RUSSIANS WHO ARE USING A MOTHER SHIP IN THE ARCTIC.

"AVIATORS—WHO HAVE BEEN—EXPLORING A NEW AND IMPORTANT AIR ROUTE BETWEEN RUSSIA AND THE ATLANTIC . . . "

THE CZARIST GOVERNMENT WAS, DURING THE WORLD WAR, ANXIOUS TO ESTABLISH SUCH A ROUTE BUT FAILED. THE EXPERT SUGGESTED THE PROPOSED RUSSIAN ROUTE LIES BETWEEN LENINGRAD, ARCHANGEL, MURMANSK AND THE ATLANTIC.
TIMES 1-29-34 (6:1)
STOCKHOLM:

SWEDISH AIRFORCE STILL TRYING TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE "PHANTOM" PLANES. NATIONALITY OF THE MYSTERIOUS FLIERS NOT YET KNOWN, BUT IT IS BELIEVED THEY ARE BOUND ON SOVIET TEST-FLIGHTS TO ARCTIC ICEBREAKERS.
TIMES 2-4-34 (9:2)
HELSINGFORS 2-3
CONTINUED NIGHT FLIGHTS OVER NORTHERN FINLAND SWEDEN AND NORWAY BY SOCALLED "GHOST" AVIATORS, WHICH HAVE CAUSED SUCH APPREHENSION HERE AS TO PROMPT THE GENERAL STAFF TO ORGANIZE RECONNOITERING ON A WIDE SCALE BY ARMY PLANES ALL OVER NORTHERN FINLAND, STILL REMAIN A DEEP MYSTERY. *MANY EYEWITNESSES HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO* IDENTIFY THE PLANES.

MYSTERIOUS LIGHTS OVER HELSINGFORS AND VIBORG HAVE CAUSED ALARM. LAST NIGHT AT LEAST ONE LARGE, UNIDENTIFIED AIRPLANE WAS SIGHTED OVER EASTERN FINLAND, CLOSE TO THE RUSSIAN BORDER, EVIDENTLY SCOUTING THE DISTRICT.

AS THE AUTHORITIES ARE EXTREMELY RETICENT, THE NEWSPAPERS HAVE INTERVIEWED AVIATION EXPERTS, WHO STATE *THE MYSTERY FLIERS SHOW EXCEPTIONAL SKILL, UNDOUBTEDLY SUPERIOR TO THAT OF THE NORTHERN EUROPEAN AVIATORS* ACCORDING TO ONE EXPERT'S THEORY, THE FIRST OF THE "GHOST" AVIATORS WAS A JAPANESE SCOUTING THE ARCTIC REGIONS WHOSE ACTIVITIES CAUSED THE SOVIET DISPATCH AIRPLANES TO WATCH THE JAPANESE. THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES, HOWEVER, REFUTE THIS THEORY.

THE APPEARANCE OF A MYSTERIOUS AIRPLANE OVER LONDON HAS STRENGTHENED THE BELIEF THAT THE FLIGHTS CONSTITUTE AN EXTENSIVE SCHEME TO EXPLORE THE AVIATION POSSIBILITIES FOR A FUTURE WAR.

(REPORTS ON THESE "GHOST FLIERS" APPEAR TO STOP SHORT AT ABOUT THE TIME OF INFERIOR CONJUNCTION OF VENUS (FEB 5, '34) - - ALSO NOTE THAT IN THIS SAME PERIOD, THE FOLLOWING INCIDENT IS REPORTED FROM NEW YORK CITY.): TIMES 12-27-33
WITH NEW YORK BLOTTED OUT FROM ABOVE BY THE SNOWSTORM YESTERDAY AN AIRPLANE WAS REPORTED WANDERING BLINDLY ABOVE THE TOWERS OF PARK AVENUE AND HARLEM'S TENEMENTS. ALTHOUGH MANY HEARD, OR THOUGHT THEY HEARD, AN AIRPLANE ENGINE, NO ONE REPORTED SEEING THE PLANE

THE FIRST CALL CAME FROM C N GEDROYCE, OWNER OF A RADIO STORE AT 1755 PARK AVENUE AT 122ND STREET. HE SAID HE HEARD THE ENGINE FIRST ABOUT 9:30 AM AND AT INTERVALS FOR THE NEXT HOUR. IMPRESSED WITH THE PLIGHT OF THE PILOT HE TELEPHONED TO THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY. AN ANNOUNCEMENT OVER THE RADIO BROUGHT OTHER CALLS FROM PARK AVENUE FURTHER SOUTH, AND FROM RIVERSIDE DRIVE AND HARLEM. EVIDENTLY THE PILOT WAS CIRCLING IN AN ATTEMPT TO FIND OUT WHERE HE WAS. USING SHORT WAVE, THE BROADCAST COMPANY SENT OUT A MESSAGE, ON THE CHANCE THE FLIER HAD A RECEIVING SET, INFORMING HIM OF HIS APPROXIMATE POSITION AND GIVING HIM THE WIND DIRECTON.

ALL AIRPORTS WERE NOTIFIED, AND AT NEWARK AIRPORT THE RADIO OPERATORS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND AIRLINES JOINED IN OFFERING WHAT HELP THEY COULD. BEACONS ON THE FIELD WERE LIGHTED AND SEARCHLIGHTS FLASHED THROUGH THE WHITE SMOTHER OF SNOW.

AN HOUR AFTER THE FIRST MANHATTAN REPORTS, DWELLERS IN JERSEY CITY NOTIFIED THE NEWARK AIRPORT THAT THEY HAD HEARD THE PLANE. AT THAT TIME THE VISIBILITY OVER NEWARK AIRPORT HAD INCREASED SLIGHTLY WITH A CEILING OF PERHAPS 500 FEET. PILOTS GROUNDED THERE BY THE STORM WATCHED IN VAIN FOR THE MYSTERIOUS FLYER.

A CHECK OF THE VARIOUS CALLS INDICATED THE FLYER HAD GONE AS FAR AS 72ND STREET, CIRCLED ABOVE CENTRAL PARK, AND THEN PROCEEDED NORTH TO THE VICINITY OF 231-STREET AND SEDWICK AVENUE, THE BRONX.

FOR A TIME NO FURTHER REPORTS CAME IN, BUT ABOUT 2:25 PM THE SOUND OF A MOTOR WAS REPORTED OVER RIVERSIDE DRIVE AND 155TH STREET. AT THAT TIME SEVERAL AIRPORTS ANNOUNCED VISIBILITY OF A MILE AND PILOTS SAID THAT, IF HE HAD WISHED, THE UNKNOWN FLYER COULD HAVE FOUND A SAFE LANDING IN NEW JERSEY OR LONG ISLAND.

ALL FIELDS IN THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT REPORTED THERE HAD BEEN NO FLYING DURING THE DAY, AND NO STRAY PLANE HAD DROPPED DOWN FROM THE SNOWY SKIES.

BLIMP WRECK SEARCH VAIN

TIMES 10-12-31 (23:5)
POINT PLEASANT, W. VIRGINIA. 10-11
SEARCH FOR A BLIMP REPORTED TO HAVE CRASHED AND BURNED IN THE HILLS SOUTH OF THIS CITY WAS ABANDONED TONIGHT AFTER A FRUITLESS ALLDAY SEARCH AFOOT AND IN THE AIR.

SOME PERSONS WHO SAID THEY WITNESSED THE ACCIDENT DESCRIBED THE BLIMP AS *PLUNGING TO THE GROUND IN FLAMES,* MEN LEAPING FROM IT IN PARACHUTES AS IT FELL. (????) NO REPORTS ON A MISSING BLIMP WERE RECEIVED FROM ANY SOURCE, HOWEVER.

TIME 10-11-31 (26:7)

POINT PLEASANT, W. VA., 10-10-31 A SEARCHING PARTY ORGANISED BY PORT PLEASANT POLICE TONIGHT STARTED TOWARD HILLS BACK OF GALLIPOLIS FERRY, W. VA., BEHIND WHICH A BLIMP WAS REPORTED TO HAVE FALLEN IN FLAMES.

ROBERT P. HENKE, HIS WIFE, AND DR AND MRS CLAUDE CARTER OF GALLIPOLIS, SAID THEY SAW THE BLIMP CROSS THE OHIO RIVER AND THAT IT FELL WHILE HENKE WAS WATCHING IT THROUGH FIELD GLASSES. HENKE SAYS THE BLIMP WAS BETWEEN 100 AND 150 FEET LONG, AND FLYING AT AN ALTITUDE OF ABOUT 300 FEET WHEN IT BURST. A MOMENT BEFORE IT FELL HE SAW SOMETHING WHITE, WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN A PARACHUTE, FLOATING DOWNWARD.

DR CHAS E. HOLZER OF GALLIPOLIS, OHIO, WHO OWNS THE AIRPORT THERE, AT DAWN WILL SEND AIRPLANES . . . TO SEARCH FOR THE . . . DIRIGIBLE.

SAME PAPER:

AKRON OHIO, OCT 10: U.S. NAVY OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS OF THE GOODYEAR ZEPPELIN COMPANY, SAID TONIGHT THAT THE U.S. AKRON AND THREE BLIMPS BELONGING TO THE GOODYEAR ZEPPELIN COMPANY, WERE SAFE IN THEIR HANGERS. THE AKRON RETURNED THIS EVENING AFTER PASSING OVER SANDUSKY, TOLEDO AND OUT OVER LAKE ERIE.

TIMES 12-30-32 (18:21)

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., 12:29:

A REPORT THAT A TRIMOTORED AIRPLANE HAD BEEN FORCED DOWN IN THE WOODS EIGHT MILES WEST OF HERE CAUSED SQUADS OF STATE POLICE TO MAKE A SEARCH LATE TONIGHT, BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS, FOR TRACES OF THE SHIP. ALL PLANES AT THE NEWARK, HADLEY AND NEW BRUNSWICK AIRPORTS WERE ACCOUNTED FOR. PRACTICALLY ALL PLANE SCHEDULES HAD BEEN CANCELED BECAUSE OF FOG AND CLOUDY WEATHER.

THE REPORT WAS TELEPHONED TO THE STATE POLICE BARRACKS AT MILLTOWN ABOUT 11 30 PM BY TONY TRAFICANTE OF 29 REDMOND STREET, WHO SAID HE SAW THE PLANE, WITH ITS MOTORS SHUT OFF AND ITS LIGHTS BLINKING, DISAPPEAR BEHIND THE WOODS AS HE WAS DRIVING NEARBY.

TIMES 12-6-31 (31-A:3)

HAMMONTON, N.J. 12-5

STATE TROOPERS, LOCAL FIRE COMPANIES AND 200 VOLUNTEERS SEARCHED TONIGHT THROUGH THE FOLSOM SWAMP HERE, ONE OF THE DENSEST SECTIONS OF BOG, QUOGMIRE AND WOODLAND IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE STATE, FOR AN AVIATOR REPORTED BY RESIDENTS TO HAVE FALLEN INTO IT IN A PARACHUTE. THE SEARCH BEGAN SHORTLY AFTER FIVE O'CLOCK TONIGHT WHEN ELMER CRAIG, A RESIDENT OF THIS VILLAGE, AND RESIDENTS OF WEYMOUTH, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SWAMP, INFORMED TROOP A OF THE STATE POLICE HERE OF SEEING THE AVIATOR FLOAT INTO ITS DEPTHS FROM A HIGH ALTITUDE. *NONE SAW THE PLANE,* BUT IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT IT COULD HAVE DROPPED PREVIOUSLY.

EVERY AVAILABLE TROOPER WAS PRESSED INTO SEARCH, TO BE JOINED BY CHIEF HENRY M. PHILLIPS AND 20 MEMBERS OF THE HAMMONTON FIRE DEPARTMENT WITH LIGHTING APPARATUS.

NEARBY RESIDENTS FAMILIAR WITH THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE MILES OF MORASS, ALSO JOINED THE HUNT, BUT WHEN DARKNESS FELL NO TRACE OF THE MAN HAD BEEN FOUND.

THE SEARCH WAS CENTERED BETWEEN SECOND AND THIRD ROADS, PATHS CUT THROUGH THE JUNGLE-LIKE SECTION ONE MILE APART, IN THE VICINITY OF 9TH STREET, A TWO-MILE AREA. BUT PROGRESS WAS SLOW, SINCE MEMBERS OF THE SEARCHING PARTY HAD TO PICK AND CUT THEIR WAY THROUGH THE UNDERBRUSH, SKIRITING NUMEROUS DANGEROUS AREAS. THE SEARCH WOULD CONTINUE ALL NIGHT, HOWEVER, UNLESS THE AVIATOR WAS FOUND OR ACCOUNTED FOR, OFFICIALS DECLARED.

. . . . THE SWAMP, SAID TO BE ONE OF THE MOST TREACHEROUS IN THE STATE, CONTAINS AREAS NEVER PENETRATED BEFORE EXCEPTING BY INDIANS, ACCORDING TO THE POLICE . . . .

TIMES 12 7-31 (4:6)

HAMMONTON, N.J. 12-6

AT DUSK TODAY NO TRACE OF MAN OR PARACHUTE HAD BEEN FOUND. THE SEARCH WAS DROPPED. A CHECKUP AT NEARBY AIRPORTS ACCOUNTED FOR ALL PLANES AND AVIATORS.

MINUTES OF THE FORTEAN SOCIETY

By Ben Hecht

(This was Ben Hecht's "review" of *The Books of Charles Fort,* in P. M. last May, It has since been reprinted in the book 1001 *Afternoons in New York.*)

This month our master, Charles Fort, sits up in his grave, sticks his head through a geranium pot, and favors his disciples with a large wink. The occasion will be the appearance of his complete writings all in one fat blue volume labeled *The Books of Charles Fort.* Our master will most certainly throw a basket of frogs in the air and hurl his tombstone over the fence.

But I wish he would come out altogether. He is needed.

When he was on earth not so long ago he went to a lot of work establishing the three great Fortean Laws. These are—that Man is a fool, that his soul is a swamp in a derby hat, and that his intellect is a foetus in a frock coat.

In promulgating these three great basic laws, our master had to do a lot of groin-kicking. Ask any astronomer who Charles Fort was, and see for yourself. If you can't find an astronomer, try a physicist or geologist, or a philosopher with initials after his name. They will all pretend to laugh, and they will all give the same answer. They will tell you that our master, Charles Fort, was an imbecile.

This is untrue. But it is understandable. The astronomers have to say that or give up their astronomy. The same with the physicists and philosophers. They would all have to resign if there was any truth in the visions of Charles Fort. As one of the founders of the Fortean Society I can assure you that they will all resign—some day.

During his lifetime, our master investigated some 100,000 phenomena. These included tiger children, leopard boys, poltergeist girls, red rains from the sky, meteors with writing on them, and mountains that moved themselves. All the strange facts of earth and sky, and the misfit data that scientists had always omitted from their text books because they couldn't explain them—were his laboratory.

Where the footprints of Man or Thing that had disappeared into thin air stopped—there our master began. Where fires of unknown origin had raged and destroyed nothing, where trees walked and rivers flowed up hill, there our master stood, note book in hand. In his office he had 20,000 pigeon holes full of miracles. These he had clipped out of the newspapers and magazines of the world. And most of them he ran down and proved.

Before his death he succeeded in demonstrating that the moon may be made of green cheese for all we know. He exposed the law of gravitation as a hoax.

(Continued on page 12)

He trampled the hell out of the Darwinian theory. And he made one large comical sieve out of all our dogmas.

I don't want to exaggerate the genius of Charles Fort. He was no philosophical comet. He was more a roller coaster that took everybody for a ride. And for us Forteans the sciences have never quite recovered from this frolic. For us, the lights in the skies, the strange things cast up by the sea, the things that vanish from earth without trace, and the presence of all sorts of gooty-dust rains everywhere will always take first place over Euclid, Eddington and even Einstein. No such tales of lightning haunted people, of hobgoblin footprints and interplanetary fandangos were ever taught us in school. The textbooks of science disdained what they couldn't explain. Our master preferred the inexplicable to science.

It is possible that our master was a little mad, and given to seeing chimeras where only crackpots existed. It is possible, too, that there is a touch of Flash Gordon in his vision of sky monsters, cloud demons and astral were-wolves bedevilling the earth. But the looney fringes that hang from his sacerdotal robes are a minor matter.

The major matter is that long before the headlines bore them out, our prophet had offered his Laws to the world. The folly of man, documented as never before in any books, is to be found spread out in his writings. They are writings that should be read today. They will relax you. They will throw the present troublesome idiocies of the race into soothing perspective. You will see that these political idiocies are mere nothings as compared to the pompous and unremitting imbecility that has been going on among professors with long whiskers and savants with high hats. You will see that man is no nearer the truth of life than are the sea shells. He only makes a little more, and a little less tuneful, noise.

There are quite a number of us Forteans. We have a letter-head with some moons and planets on it, a president, and an active secretary—Tiffany Thayer. Our roster includes J. David Stern, Booth Tarkington, Aaron Sussman, Burton Rascoe, Alexander Woollcott, John Cowper Powys, Theodore Dreiser and numerous other sane and notable gentry. We lack, however, evangels. In our Society at present there are only two, both of them a little footling. One is Dreiser, who squats in the Golden West and grunts away in behalf of the befuddled Communists. As for the other—Woollcott—that fearless champion of the obvious is lying fallow just now, waiting for some Tweedledum to defend.

There is room in the Fortean Society for some high and clacking tongues to cut loose in behalf of our master, and plenty of room for members to provide the proper niche in the world for this Apostle of the Exception, Keeper of Ghosts, Observer of Secret Rays, Avenger of Forgotten Theories, Lost Causes and Strayed Comets; Jocular Priest of the Improbable and Demonstrator of Idiocies.

ON CORONET FEATURES

Several members have enquired if certain feature columns in the Magazine *Coronet* are written by Your Secretary. It is pointed out that these draw heavily upon the books of Charles Fort for much of their material.

The answer is that Your Secretary does not write them but that their author, Mr. R. DeWitt Miller, is a sustaining member of the Fortean Society, and—in common with all other members—has access, through correspondence, to the Society's archives.

DON'T LAUGH

Our valued correspondent and Fortean to the last *gene,* Frederick S. Hammett, Scientific Director of the Lankenau Hospital Research Institute, formerly on Cape Cod and now at the Fiddlers Point Station, Sarasota, Florida—where he likes it (as who wouldn't?)—writes: "In SCIENCE for November 21st, 1941 under Science News, Science Supplement, page 8, read the following: *Astronomers were considerably shocked to find, according to their most recent measurements, that the sun is more than a hundred thousand miles farther from the earth than was previously supposed. Thank you."*

The same datum was reported by other members. . . .At first one cannot think of any other field in which such an admission of utter nonsense as the very basis, of its being could occur without seriously damaging the repute of the practitioners therein —until one recalls the Gallup Poll. Your Secretary considers it highly probable that the distance between Earth and Sol was measured, *before* the correction, by George Gallup while Russia was under "Dictator" Stalin, and the same distance was remeasured by Mr. Gallup after Russia became a "Democracy" and Mr. Stalin a Third Term President.

EARHART ECHO

Now that the United States Navy is so well represented in the South Pacific Ocean, Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan may turn up any day. Your Secretary has never lost hope for the lives of those two people nor lost his confidence that the U. S. Navy navigators would find the Island of Doubt if they kept looking long enough. They might find their way about more swiftly if they employed Andrew W. Comrie—I don't know.

Mr. Comrie wrote (10-11-39). . . . After reading your article regarding the present system of Navigation as applied to the last flight of Captain Noonan and Amelia Earhart, I have tried to find your address, and finally did through the courtesy of Mr. J. David stern, Publisher of Philadelphia, Pa. Your opinion of the present system of Navigation has been a great inspiration to me, as I am quite sure you are the onlv man in the world who has the courage to say what he thinks, and I am in a position to prove, and have proved before the best professional licensed deep sea and air transport Captains, Astronomers etc. Miami (Florida) can produce, that you were more than right, and I have gently told them that from now on they are deliberate murderers from choice.

For your information the writer has been granted through Victor J. Evans & Co., patent attorneys, Washington, D. C., U. S. Patent No. 2108042 issued the 15th day of February, 1938. My patent relates to Navigation and specifically to an unvarying declination of the Sun, which is the basic principle of the new method. Latitude and Longitude time and miles always svnchronize one with the other, as they have always done since the beginning of time anyway, the exact position of the Sun as relating to Latitude and Longitude or any part thereof is always known regardless of speeed or direction, or time of day or night without the use of an instrument, and of course a sextant can be used when desired.

No one has been able to deny that the new method would be practical for the Aviator, who could read his position at any instant in flight without the use of any mechanical aid whatever, and what is perhaps more important, could change his course at any time and proceed to any desired destination, the new course being automatically shown.

The present (Orthodox) system is based on a theory that in practise denies its own existence, it is obvious that if the 365 days in our present Calendar were actually used the Sun would arrive back on the Equator five days ahead of time. It is also true that our Magic City, Miami, Florida is, according (to) Sextant observations and the Official Nautical Almanac two or more degrees north of the North Pole at certain seasons of the year. This I have demonstrated before the highest rated here many times without denial. Have also demonstrated without denial that Captain Noonan and Amelia (Earhart) with my method aboard could have given their position at any instant. This demonstration was made by request and then the papers refused to publish it on the grounds that it would be criticising the Navy. Names, dates, witnesses are available.

If you are interested I will forward to you charts and data etc. as I would very much like to have your opinion.

(signed) Andrew Comrie

In February, 1940, Mr. Comrie was reported by the Miami (Florida) *Herald* to be sailing under private auspices on a "scientific" cruise to test his system of navigation.

On May 15, 1940, Mr. Comrie wrote to the Society:

"Replying to your letter of March the 3rd, the delay in answering is due to the fact I was in Spanish Honduras when your letter arrived, returned several days ago and since have been in the throes of organizing a proposed corporation to carry on my invention which appears at this writing to be going along O. K.

The result of the trip as far as I am concerned is enclosed, signed by Captain James Huggins, former Lieutenant Commander U. S. Navy, and for twenty years

Master of Ships any tonnage all parts of the World, and Captain Otis Hyde (Master for) 14 years.

I was more than delighted to hear from you and to know that you are intereested in my invention and experience in trving to put it over, which have been many and varied, and still continue. I have met the customary official stupidity, or according to my belief traitorism, also every kind of opposition from petty prejudice to real criminal attempts to beat me out of my invention, for which three men are now serving an apprenticeship in the art of breaking big rocks into little ones in a federal prison, and many more have earned that privilege. I have no scruples personally in sending you all the data in my possession which is considerable. However it must be in some sort of order and notarized which will be done as soon as I possibly can do it, and I sincerely hope you will tear em all apart as you know so well how to do. They like to dish it out but can't take it.

Will send you in a few days proof that your contention that Amelia Earhart and Captain Noonan were murdered was fully justified, as well as the basis of my invention, which will be followed by the full theory.

(signed) Andrew W. Comrie

Enclosed was what purported to be a copy of a witnessed document:

Miami Florida
May 1st 1940

To whom it may concern:

This will certify that the undersigned was engaged to sail on the Yacht *Venture* for the purpose of studying, the new and simplified method of Navigation for which Mr. Andrew W. Comrie has been granted U. S. Patents with other patents pending, relating to the subject matter, and to report on same under practical working conditions at sea.

We left Miami Fla., March the 1st and returned to Miami April the 27th sailing at times, under the most adverse conditions due to gales and heavy seas. We visited some 8 or 9 widely separated ports in British and Spanish Honduras as well as some of the Islands in the Caribbean, and the port of Key West, Fla.

Mr. Comrie had full charge and was responsible for. the Navigation of the ship at Sea, using his own charts and method. and proved that his method deserves the serious consideration of Mariners and all who are interested in Navigation.

Due to the fact the present method of Navigation is not practical for high speeds such as the modern Air Craft. I do not hesitate to say that Mr. Comrie's method of Navigation should prove of inestimable value to the Air Lines etc; enabling as it does the Pilot of a plane, at a glance. to determine his Latitude and Longitude Position. without the use of the customary calculations, and without any mechanical aid whatever.

Captain Otis Hyde James Huggins
Witness (Signed) Master Mariner
U. S. Naval Reserve

Then—September 11, 1940—Mr. Comrie wrote:

Am forwarding to you Chart covering the Earhart-Noonan last flight, a glance at the chart will show there are 43 red dots ¼ inch apart each ¼ inch representing 60 miles, conforming to the ¼ inch scale chart, multiplying 43 by 60 makes 2,580 miles which is 24 miles more than the officially estimated distance, however the exact point of departure was never given to my knowledge, and the difference would be negligible for the present purpose. It is apparent that it would be impossible to fly the course without sighting the Gilberts, not to mention the Tug boat that was supposed to be half way, and the smoke from the Coast Guard at Howland. It is also most unlikely that they could have been near the Phoenix even if they had enough gas to get there, according to the Official Coast Guard files only once during the entire flight did Amelia receive the Itascas signal and that on a frequency good only for 30 to 35 miles from the sender, Amelia's voice came in clearly at 8 that she was receiving the Itasca's signals. For an hour the signals came in at the same strength indicating she was circling, and the Itasca's smoke screen stretched for ten miles. The last message from the plane, "We are on line of position 157-337: We are running N and S." The visibility is given as clear with the exception of a cloud bank to the North West where it is supposed they were. Granting they were for the moment, it would obviously be most difficult to be circling in a plane without coming outside the cloud bank in an hour and even more difficult to be on the line of position given and in the cloud bank mentioned at the same time, as the said line of position with Howland as the destination would be N.N.W. instead of N.W. It would be also rather difficult at an altitude of 1,000 feet with or without glasses to not see the smoke from the Itasca from the estimated distance.

Professor Brownell of the University of Miami, graduate of the Commander Weem's school of Naviagation admitted that he could not go find them or even tell their approximate position from the line of position given, and when I asked him what good their system was in that case he did not know. Some of the old practical mariners are equally at a loss. Maybe you will have better luck as to date I have found no one who could explain anything.

Am also sending Chart showing an unvarying declination for each day of the year, considering the Sun to be vertical over the Equator March the 21st and arriving back there one year later on the same date. It is clear that to conform to 90 degrees of Latitude North & South the extra five days cannot be included without arriving back on the Equator 5 days ahead of time. No one can or will answer the question, that includes the Highest Navy Officials. I strolled in the Navy Offices one day when I was in Washington, Quite amusing.

No one has yet explained why it is necessary to have 93 degrees of Latitude in the Northern Hemisphere and 89 in the Southern with the exception of the so-called Leap Year as in the present system of Navigational Astronomy. My proposed 360 day Calendar would at least overcome that trouble. From all indications this stuff does not please certain persons who would no doubt cheerfully murder me, so—pardon me—but to hell with em.

(signed) A. W. Comrie

NOW YOU STROKE ME

Pope Pius gave Harlow Shapley (the Pope of Astronomy at Harvard) a prize of 50,000 lire—worth about $2500 in U. S. paper money—for his studies of nebulae, at the recent session of the Pontifical Academy of Science. . . . Dear Harlow: How far away do *you* think the sun is today?

BOOKS FOR FORTEANS

Your Secretary is often asked what to read for certain specific Fortean purposes. He is always glad to answer if he is able. Follows a short list of books every Fortean should own and read. If your bookseller can't supply you, address the Secretary.

The Books of Charles Fort $4.00
Henry IV (a play) Pirandello
Autobiography Lincoln Steffans
Man's Own Show: *Civilization,* George A. Dorsey

Although it isn't a "book", Forteans' attention is called to *The Pamphleteer Monthly,* "A Guide to Current and Worthwhile Pamphlets", address 313 West 35th Street, New York. They'll send you a sample copy. Very interesting.

(1911) DRAYSONIA, by Admiral Sir Algernon F. R. de Horsey, K.C.B., (cloth) **$5.00** (contains folding plates and diagrams). The above is out of print and extremely rare. We have only a few copies.

(1921) WARMER WINTERS *and the Earth's Tilt Fully Explained,* by Major R. A. Marriott, D.S.O., (illustrated wrappers) **$3.00.** Very few copies available. Orders from public libraries will be honored first.

(1922) THE DRAYSON PROBLEM, by Alfred H. Barley (diagrams on wrappers and throughout) **$1.50.**

(1927) THE ICE AGE: ITS DATE, DURATION, AND ASTRONOMICAL CAUSE, by Major R. A. Marriott, Lieutenant Colonel T. C. Skinner, R. E. (Retired), Fellow Royal Meteorological Society, and others, including D. W. Horner, F.R.A.S., Sir Wm. Salmond, Alfred H. Barley and Lord Sydenham of Combe; with diagrams and maps (wrappers) **$1.50.**

ADD NEW MADRID

Too late to insert in the October issue of the Magazine in connection with the strange phenomena attendant upon the New Madrid, Missouri, quakes contributed by Bart Reagan, came a clipping from *Time* sent in by Norman MacBeth. The Quotes are from a review of the book *The Steamboat*: "In 1811, 'the year of the comet'—a horde of squirrels, moved by some common impulse, pressed forward from Indiana over a wide front, poured into the river, swimming, clutching at driftwood . . . thousands of lifeless little bodies floated downstream' . . . in December a terrible earthquake tore the middle valley to pieces, sank dozens of flatboats and keelboats, smashed others on the banks. 'Shock followed shock, the ground rose and sank in sickening waves, the earth opened fissures a half-mile long, sulfurous gases poured out. . . .'"

STONE BARRAGE

A shower of stones fell (?) shortly after 8 p.m., in Philadelphia, according to the *Evening Ledger* (7-26-41). Houses were bombarded before and after dark. One person was struck, others escaped "narrowly". Police, men and boys searched vainly for clues. (Forty or more similar falls are noticed in *The Books of Charles Fort.*)

AIN'T NO SUCH ANIMAL

Standing (3-5-40) beside a partly decomposed creature on the beach near Vancouver—a creature ten feet long, "with a horse-like head. . . bulbous nostrils. . . cartilege instead of bone in skull . . . the body covered with bristly hair"—not a seal nor a shark nor a horse—Dr. W. A. Clemens, F. R. S. C. biology professor at the University of British Columbia and director of the Dominion Biological Station said: "I can't say what it is . . . But I don't *believe in* sea serpents."

"TIDE" COMES TO LAKE HURON

The account in the London, Ontario, *Free Press* is not specific as to time, but the story is that (probably) Sunday (7-27-41) morning the level of the water in Lake Huron dropped two and a half feet in a few minutes. It rose again, somewhat more slowly. The phenomenon is not so rare that Science cannot name it. The name is *seche*: a word not findable in Webster or in *Chambers' Technical Dictionary.* The cause of a *seche* is "barometric pressure".

CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS

When Forteans move, they sometimes neglect to inform the Secretary of their new address and so miss out on special notices, issues of the Magazine, etc. . . . PLEASE remember to inform us of every change so that we need not ask the Post Office Department for any favors.

MORE *NOTES* of CHARLES FORT

1819

Nov. 9 d (for "dense" likely—T.T.) fog and quake See Sept. 1, 1841

No date /In M.W.R. 1904/23 from the Columbian Centinel (St. L.) Nov. 24—that "the late smoky atmosphere was experienced at nearly the same time far at sea, in the Canadas, and in (reverse) the Eastern, Western, and Southern states, attended with colored rain." Said that many terrified inhabitants of Montreal had fled from the city." The Montreal papers contain whole columns of accounts of the 'astonishing appearances', and it (cont'd on second page note) was conjectured that they were occasioned by eruptions of some neighboring volcano. Issue of Dec. 8th that according to Bermuda papers, dated Nov 6—"They complained much of the (cont'd on third page of note) smoky appearance and scent of the atmosphere which some (reverse) conjectured to have been occasioned by a great fire on the American continent or to exhalations of the Gulph Stream. (reverse of note 2) And it was assured that during the darkness there were three shocks of earthquakes"/ Said that there was a great forest fire in Kentucky, in North Carolina and in Canada.

Nov (no date) Montreal, slight quake and noise like distant thunder at 3 PM, the flash and peal and shake at 3:20

7 See Dark Day and meteor, Madagascar, May 21, 1877.

(no date) See effects of Vesuvius Ap. to 27th 1906.

9 See Nov 8, 1842

9 right date/ In the Northern Sentinel (Burlington Vt) astonishing appearances in the heavens at Montreal—a series of awful events equally impressive to the mind of the (reverse) illiterate and the learned. Said that the first unusual appearance to attract attension was upon the 7th. A remarkably dark morning—about 8 AM appeared a thick cloud of (page 2 of note) haze of a dingy orange color. About three quarters of an hour later rain like ink fell impregnated with a fine substance like ink or ashes. "It was conjectured that a volcano had broken out in some distant quarter and (reverse) the ashes of the eruption floating in the cloud giving it its unusual color." The weather then cleared and the afternoon was pleasant. Nothing noted the next day. Upon the 9th darkened in the morning.
By noon (third page of note) candles lighted in all the public offices "and even in the butchers' stalls" The darkness increased and (indecipherable word) a general dread. About 3 o'clock in afternoon a slight shock of earthquake and sound like distant gun fire (reverse) 20 minutes later when darkness at its greatest intensity the whole city suddenly illuminated by "one of the most vivid flashes of lightning ever witnessed in Montreal and an awful peal of thunder so loud and near as to (fourth page of note) shake the strongest buildings to their foundations." Said that the concussion was so violent that it was supposed by many persons to be a second earthquake. There were other such detonations and (reverse) then fell rain darker than that of the 7th—"apparently more charged with sooty matter."

Nov 10 shock Lunroe, Norway, BA '54 where had been phenomena (reverse) quakes and sounds since Aug 31/ quakes in Sweden back to Aug. 18.

13 Fireball, St. Domingo BA 60

18 London Fireball BA '60

19 Fireball Rochelle BA.60

21 Detonating meteor, Baltimore, Direction S. BA '60

21 slight quake Lunroe BA 54 Series goes on.

21 Meteor—Chester Co. Pa. Amer. Journal Science 6/316 going E. N-E. (reverse) half size of full moon, well defined tail, detonation 3 minutes later.

21 evening/brilliant meteor Phil-

adelphia 6 PM/ streets lighted by it—Then detonations (reverse) also Wilmington and Washington Quebec Mercury Dec. 28 Am. J. Sci. 6/315.
25 Vesuvius at time of great rainstorm In Philadelphia Register 3-190
28 1:30 AM severe shock, Comrie BA 54
29th to Dec 3 China, medium quakes BA 11
Dec 1 Vesuvius, one of greatest in 20 years London Magazine Feb. 1820

1820

1820 Nantes/shower of small fish/ Magasin Pittoresque 4-371 Coshot 3-5-79

1821 Box A (Resumed)

Jan 5 (Aside: This is a sheet of typed manuscript of Fort's composition, apparently a "cut" from one of his books. My guess is that it was originally written for THE BOOK OF THE DAMNED then held and used later in WILD TALENTS where the following appears almost verbatim. T.T.) Persecuting Flames/ see Dec. 1904/ November 14, 1870 (or 1890 T.T.) (reverse) (p.) 198/ That Elizabeth Barnes, a girl aged 10, had been brought to court, accused by John Wright, a linen draper, of Foley-place, Mary-le-bon, London, of having, upon divers occasions, and by "some extraordinary means", set fire to the clothing of Wright's mother, by which she had been burned so severely that she was not expected to live. The little girl had been a servant in the Wright household. Upon January 5th, an unexplained fire had broken out. Upon the 7th, Mrs. Wright and the girl were sitting by the hearth, in the kitchen. Mrs. Wright rose and moved toward the door. She found herself in flames. Upon January 12th, 1820, when, with the girl, she was in the kitchen, about eight feet from the hearth, where "a very small fire" was, again she found her clothes burning. On the 13th, Wright heard screams from the kitchen, where his mother was, and where the girl had been. He found his mother in flames. This time "part of her clothes were burned to a cinder, and her flesh was materially injured." Then Wright accused the girl, who had left the kitchen a moment before this occurrence. But it was Mrs. Wright's belief that "something supernatural" had assailed her. On the 14th, her daughter arrived, to keep guard, but, going to the kitchen, where the girl was, "again, by some unknown means, she caught fire." "She was so dreadfully injured by the fire that she was put to bed." When it seemed that she had gone to sleep, she was left there — and her screams brought back her son and daughter, who found her in bed, surrounded by flames. Then the girl was told to leave the house. She did so, and there were no more fires. The magistrate said that he had no doubt that the prisoner was quilty, but that he could not pronounce sentence until Mrs. Wright could testify.

1820 Box 1 (Resumed)

Jan 11 London Times, page 2/ page 3, January 15/ Vesuvius Table of Eruptions of Etna
16 Opposition Mars A-1
16 Vesuvius BA 54
Feb 12 Starks Vulcan about twice the size of Mercury—C.R.-83-314 B D., 193
15 21 etc. St. Maure (Ionian Islands) quakes and heavy rains London Mag 2/25
21 St. Maure, Gr. medium quake
23 Vesuvius violent/ had been active/ BA 54
March 3 New Aleutian volcano BA 54

1820 Box A (Resumed)

March 3 London Times, page 2, extraordinary activities of a wolf

1820 Box 1 (Resumed)

March 21 (volcanic) eruption Aleutian Islands An Reg 1822-683
April 5 about 20 N and 51W. aerolite fell with rain on a vessel. Mag. Nat. Hist. 6-297
1820 ?/ Apr 5/ In sea near Antiqua Fireball aerolite according to Baumheuer BA 60
1820
April 7/ B/ Irkutsk/ violent shock BA '54/128
11 2-3 AM/ Cork, Ireland, quake and sounds like cannon BA '54 (over) London Times, p. 2, April 14.
18 Fireball, Augsburg BA 60
27 Vulcan/Monthly Notices 1862 / D-193
May 1-2 Immense comet at St. John's, N. Brunswick for several nights in the (reverse) N.W. sky. 60 or 70 degrees between nucleus and end of tail. Philadelphia Register 3-324
About May 1 etc. Vesuvius An Reg. 1820/129 active on 20th.
May 2 Brest/ quake and "thunder" A. Reg. 1820/129
4 Great quake Mexico '11
10 Great Tidal wave, Acapulco BA 54
10 Andernoch Fireball BA 60
21 Gedenburg, Hungary, meteorite BA 60
June 11 volcano Api, Java N M C. R.70-878
July 12 Lixna, Dunaberg, Russia, meteorite BA '60 (F)
12 Meteoric stone fell at Listen (?) (Witebsk) Russia. A violent thunder storm. Niles Register Jan 6, 1821 (Thunder stone)
16 4.5 AM at St. Neots near the Ouze Mirage said be of Great Paxon An. Phil 16/149
17 people at Schwartz, Tyrol, in churches at annual day of thanksgiving for (reverse) having been spared quakes since July 17, 1670, when a violent quake and great damage. London Mag 2/329
20 Brunn/ Fireball BA 60
22 London Times, page 3, atmospheric phenomena, Huntingdonshire, not looked up
30 3 hours/Venus Inferior conjunction (A 1)
Aug 6 Ovelgonne, Finland aerolite according to Baumhauer (reverse) According to BA 60 substance from hayrick burned by lightning.
31 London/solid ice 18 inches by 6/(fell ? T.T.) English Mechanic 84/18
Sept 7 In Ouvres, XI/576, M. Arago's description suggest military formation but they were separated by equal distances all in a straight line/ An. de Chemie 30/417
27 Barmouth, Merionetshire (thunder stone or shower?) quake and sound like cannon BA 54
About Oct 1/Milky substance, Pernambuco, A. Reg 1821/681 D
Oct 1 Spiders Times of Oct. 9. That over area of miles from Liverpool and especially at Wigan, field and roads covered with a substance that was mistaken for cotton. Came down like a sheet on Wigan. Found to contain (reverse) flies so small as required a magnifying glass to make them perceptible/ Nov 12 that all summer for the first time, his garden clear of celery flies. After middle of September they appeared in vast numbers.
Oct 19 Honduras, medium quake
Nov 12 4 PM/ detonating meteor, globe of fire Kuzok, Russia Magazine of Popular Science 3-62
20 Cholimsch, Russia, detonating meteor BA 60
29 aerolite/Cosenza, great meteor, stones fell according to Arago
29 Cosenza, Italy / meteor train / An. Reg 1821/14
29 aerolite See Nov 29 '09
Dec 5 Naples Fireball BA 60
9 Tumca Fireball BA 60
13 London Times, page 2/ quake Leadhills and Wanlockhead
29, 30, 4:10 AM / quake ice meteor/ Zante "dreadful bellowing

ORDER *the* BOOKS *of* CHARLES FORT
TODAY!

noise" said been subterranean —but lumps of ice, and quake (reverse) or hailstones some weighing 10 ounces each fell —No—first a luminous meteor visible 5 or 6 minutes/ on 30th another meteor BA 54

29, 30, See An de Chimie 18/413 get series right—about 1820

29 Ionian Island a luminous object or meteor "apparently 4 to 6 feet in diameter" was seen over the sea. Three or four minutes later the quake—on 30th another meteor passed over Zante (Cut) objects and quake BA Sept 1854—131

29 Zante. The quake was preceded by a single flash of lightning. Edinburgh Philo. Jour. 36/267 (or 767?)

29 Zante / a meteor, 3 or 4 minutes later great quake—torrents of rain and masses of ice up to night of 300 grammes (reverse) C. R. 17-618

29 Celibes, great quake and sea rose to "a prodigious height." Quar. Jour. Roy Inst. 12-427

Dec 29 Zante/ quake and rain and hail/ quake and "unexampled deluge of rain" and lumps of ice ¼ pound each. A deluge from the hills in which 20 houses were washed away. London Times, Feb. 26, page 3, Feb 27, page 3, 1821. (reverse) shocks several a day in January (at least).

29 Chile, medium quake BA 11 Zante Fireball BA 60 See Jan 6

31 Nellore, India, several quakes N.Y.Eve Post Sept 12 page 2-3, 1821

1821

1821 Dept. of the Meuse (Fr.) frogs and toads after violent storm Magasin Pittoresque 4/371

1821 fish, ("fell" is probably understood—T.T.) Lorn, Argyleshire Journ of F. Inst. 4/43

1821 New Hampshire Tornado, B. (for "Brooksyn" ? T.T.) Eagle 1896 Oct 25—22—3

Jan 6 Shocks Zante in Gulf of Corinth, a tidal wave, carrying away houses BA 54

18 Valparaiso, Chile, medium quake

Feb 4-7 luminous spot on dark part of moon by Capt. Kater in Aristarchus like a small star, appeared and disappeared. (reverse) An Reg. 1821/689

5 By Dr. Olbers of Bremen—saw the luminosity that was seen by Capt. Kater in or near Aristarchus (reverse) equal to star of 6th magnitude on dark part Man R.A. 1/156

12 light quake China BA '11

12 Breslau Fireball BA 60

27 etc Isle of Bourbon A. Reg 1821-117 volc/March quake especial in April/ Reunion Island

End of Feb Volcano Kamtschatken BA 54

March 1 Comet seen first (by Mr. X) in Pegasus/ London Times, p. 3, March 7.

5 meteor quake ? / Pomerania/ according to several catalogues stones fell during a (reverse) quake in BA, 60. Said been a doubtful fall. Stones not found.

20 Italy Umbria Lomba luminosa and quake/ See 1805

20 St. Thomas Island Large meteor BA 60

21 Riett, Italy concussion column of fire passed over the village and fell into Lake Cantelin C.R., 17-621

1821 Box A (Resumed)

April 26 London Times, p. 3/ Poltergeist stones/ At Truro persons amused, astonished, or alarmed according to nerve and judgment, by bombardment of a house in Carlew Street. Missiles from no findable source (reverse) breaking the windows of a depot in which were the arms of a regiment and in an adjoining house. The Mayor was appealed to. He arrived. Soldiers arrived. All (second page of note) investigated, and nothing more learned. Said that the "lower classes who always have a taste for the marvellous", thought it was supernatural. Guards were (reverse) placed around the house, but still the stones arrived. London Times, May 1, p. 3 (Carclew Street) Stones still arriving. Nothing found out.

1821 Box 1 (Resumed)

April 28 Leipsic Fireball BA 60

May 4 Moon (dark part) the light in Aristarchus by Rev. M. Ward looked like a small comet on moon (reverse) Note appeared that Francis Baily had seen it. Mem R.A.S. 1/159

May Red organic/ ("fall of . . . matter" may be read—T.T.) Giessen, Germany D-287 (reverse) May Flammarrion Atmosphere p. 410

May 13 Mexico, light quake

16 Munich Fireball/ BA 60

17 German fireball in BA 60 question (reverse) asked "same as last (16th)?

1821 Box A (Resumed)

June early/ Near Blanford, England/ Will-o-the-wisp Paper read before Linnean Soc. by R. Chambers Mag. of Sci 3/323 (reverse) friend of his, T. Stothar, had seen luminous thing of irregular shape outside coach, rising falling for considerable distance

1821 Box 1 (Resumed)

June 7 5 PM/ over Willistown & Goshen/cloud of dragon flies that darkened sky mile wide and one hour in (reverse) passing N Y Evening Post Aug 17 p 2-3

12 County Mayo, Ireland, according to Prof. Pictet, Metallic nuclei in nail B. O. Univ. 18/78 (This may read "metallic nail in nuclei"—but neither reading is too satisfactory. Also there is some doubt about the "O" in the initials of the University. It might be a "U" or a "V". T.T.)

15 3 PM / meteor / Field near Crosde Libones, Commune of Julnas, France (reverse) A meteoric stone. Parts carried away. A remaining block weighed 108 pounds. N Y Eve. Post Sept 12 p 2-4

15 Aerolite weighing 220 pounds Juvines, France A. J. Sci. 5/175 (over) According to 2 analyses was entire absence of nickel 6/397 See Dec 13, 1813.

15 about noon/ Juvenas, Ardeche, France, meteorite BA 60 Bib. Univ. 18-80 (reverse) Gents Mag., March 1822, p. 265

21 Majo, Spain, hailstones with nuclei composed (reverse) of ferrocyanide of potassium/Galignani's Messenger, March 14, 1872

NEXT ISSUE:

After the publication of this issue, Your Secretary fully expects to go to jail. The charge will be passing a red light or taking pennies from a blind man's cup or some other railroading device such as imprisoned Fritz Kuhn and Earl Browder. . . . Accordingly, my affairs are in order and the cops may come at their convenience. . . . . The next issue of the Fortean Society Magazine will be published as soon as I am released. T. T.