

"Science is the pursuit of the unknown"

# **PURSUIT**

Incorporating

**NEWSLETTER No. 3**

June 1968

OF

**The Society For The Investigation  
Of The Unexplained**

... For the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of  
information on new discoveries in the natural sciences

# THE SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

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New Jersey. Reg. No. 169571. Also registered in the Office of the Secretary  
of State of New Jersey

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*All contributions to the Society are tax exempt,  
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## MEMBERSHIP

The Charter period was self-terminating on the 31st of January of this year. No increase in the annual subscription to Corresponding Members is envisaged at this time. All subscriptions are renewable on or before the 31st of December, 1968.

|                                                                        |                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Corresponding (Services and privileges outlined in Brochure) . . . . . | \$ 10.00             |
| Visiting (The Committee of One Hundred) . . . . .                      | 100.00               |
| Sponsors (Individual, Corporate, or Institutional) . . . . .           | 1000.00<br>(or more) |
| Honorary (For specialist or meritorious services) . . . . .            | (Life)               |

No application form required, but a Biographical sketch would be appreciated.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Foundation is authorized to contract with individuals, and industrial, scientific, and other institutions to undertake specific projects. If requested by Sponsors, special provisions may be made for representation on the Scientific Advisory Board for the duration of the contract. Certain facilities and services are available to all members through correspondence, or by pre-arranged visit to the research center. Nominal charges are made to cover the costs of retrieval, copying, and dispatch of material. Non-members may obtain such services only under specific contracts, negotiated on an individual basis. All communications with the Foundation must be made in writing. Purely business correspondence should be addressed to the Business office. All requests and applications should be as specific as possible.

## EDITORIAL

Now that the organizational phase of our establishment seems to be tailing off, if not over, we are able to relieve the policy makers of the chores they have handled so manfully. In future, only major policy decisions that affect the Society as a whole will be reported in the Newsletter; details will be left to the Board to wrangle over at their quarterly meetings. So, it is now time for some editorializing:

One salient point currently protrudes from the heap of effort that has gone into the building of our organization. This is that not only the potential members, but not a few of our charter members appear to be under a complete misapprehension as to our primary objectives. This is probably a matter of mere semantics, although these objectives were very carefully spelled out in our initial Brochure. The core of the trouble is, we feel, a misinterpretation and misuse of the word "research" (in the current world), and notably in the Anglo-Saxon-speaking world.

This word means just what it says; to wit, re-searching through what is already known. It is a process of collation and analysis, and has nothing whatsoever to do with science which, as our motto proclaims and all dictionaries define, is the pursuit of, or SEARCH for, the Unknown. Research is a technological exercise and has no more identity with search or collection than it does with the publication or dissemination of information. Hence the very clear statement of our objectives as being "The Collection (search), Evaluation (re-search), and Dissemination (publication) of INFORMATION".

The word "research" has today become synonymous with all aspects of investigation and not by any means only in the fields of science; and it conjures up visions of teams of people in white coats inhabiting vast, sterile buildings filled with bottles and buttons; for so many hours, so many days a week. And this is a very fair appraisal of the bottle-washers and button-pushers at that! The misconception referred to above is undoubtedly due to this purely semantic muddle. Let it be reiterated, therefore, that we are not a 'research' organization either in its true sense exclusively, or in this mistaken sense generally. We are a data collection outfit that analyses and evaluates ITEMS, and then endeavours to publish its finding.

The other side of our corporate coin is logically the obverse of "services rendered"; i.e. "requests made". Since we are a corporate body, our very existence is predicated on a quid pro quo. What the Society needs is as constant and voluminous a flow of information as possible on all the subjects that we deal in, and any others that you think we ought to become interested in.

And so; just what are we interested in?

The answer is really very simple — to wit, Everything! However, we specialize in the natural sciences, and notably the geological, biological, and anthropological fields (see Chart p.8. of NEWSLETTER No.2. March, 1968). Everything and anything of an informational nature is welcome within this wide range of knowledge; even established facts being of great value to our library, and thus to our evaluation work. However, it is the as yet non-established facts (see p.5. of NEWSLETTER No.1.) that interest us most and which, in the world of pragmatism, have come to be known as Fortean: and, if you want an exposition of what this means, I must even at the risk of being accused of self-advertisement refer you to the last chapter of a paperback book entitled "THINGS", published by Pyramid Books of New York in November, 1967.

We should also stress (again) that we do not file, attempt to assess, or publish an category E. (on page 5 of Newsletter No.1.), which is to say the aesthetic, ethical, religious, mystical, accult, and related subjects. Nevertheless, day by day, it is becoming increasingly difficult to draw the line between these and both the established (accepted) and the non-established (fortean), and notably in such fields as the mechanics of thought, EMI-effects on living entities, hypnosis, and so forth, so that selected material in these borderline departments are welcome. But, let us decide on which side of this hazy line they fall, as of now; and then, if they still seem to us, to be "beyond the pale", we will pass them on to our associate, Walter J. McGraw who has specialized in such matters for many years and built up a remarkable, selected and selective library in these fields.

Finally let us stress the fact that what we offer and try to provide are, primarily, individual services as described above, rather than massive impersonal publications which aspire to cover everything and yet cannot find space to discuss any one properly.

Ivan T. Sanderson  
Director

## ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Despite the perhaps seemingly haphazard procedure at the center, as seen by non-visiting members from outside, we are working to a longterm master plan which was laid down when we originally incorporated, two years ago. This is twofold; first a (physical) building program, which is supervised and reported upon by the Deputy Director; and, second, what is essentially a bibliographic procedure. A third category – namely Special Projects – was initially allotted some permanent place in the time-budget because this most essential feature of our whole effort could not just be declined during the organizational period.

The theme of the office work, as opposed to the building plan, was and is to sort, classify, weed out (dross), and catalogue all the material we have on hand. This meant tackling some 5000 books; a large number of periodicals; some fifty feet of shelving, holding pamphlets, booklets, and 'separates'; seven filing cabinets of informational material; four of correspondence; and two of pictures; and over a thousand maps. So far, the books are completed, and very considerable inroads into the informational files have been made, while the correspondence files have been finished except for some secondary gleaning.

At the same time, we have managed to keep up with the routine work and current operations. This means mostly correspondence and the filing of reports, clips, tearsheets and other information that we receive. This is our life-blood but it is a much greater chore than most of you may realize. For instance, we ran over 6000 letters on the "Patterson Affair" (described below). Further, material comes in from all over the world in all languages and even "scripts". This has to be translated, and our translation service, while very good, is extremely expensive, especially when it comes to non-European languages. Sometimes we hit real problems such as some very valuable material printed in the Cyrillic (Russian, primarily) script but which defied our translators. It turned out to be in Georgian!

(2) Special Projects: Our second most time-consuming administrative job is the reception at HQ of members planning expeditions, trips, or research projects. These stay at HQ until they have read all we have on their speciality, made a list of contacts they wish to visit to fill out their needed information, and to discuss their whole procedure. The assistance we can give is really in three parts, which are in precise accord with our major objectives; namely, to aid them in planning the physical equipment for their forthcoming work, to study maps, and then to obtain from us letters of introduction; second, to actually research the facts as known; and, third, to plan subsequent dissemination of information on their project. This last has led us to an innovation in our organization, namely: –

(3) Promotion: together with Publicity and straight Public Relations. No less than ten of our Charter Members, Board Members, and/or Officers happen to be lifelong experts in these fields, and all of them have, during the past two years, put an enormous amount of time and energy into the promotion of our organization. However, it has transpired that such professional approach is of no avail to us, and in our case defeats itself. Our objectives are just not amenable to the normal professional procedure.

Having discovered this from actual, practical experience, we came to the conclusion that we would, primarily, have to undertake the initiation of all these three essential aspects of our work, and then employ a professional to carry through each project on an individual basis. We now, therefore, plan all of this (simultaneously with the other planning with visiting members); make the initial contacts and arrangements – for radio and tv appearances, publication and so forth – and then turn the "leg-work" over to our man in New York who has the facilities, the "in", and the time to follow up our leads, make final arrangements, and "see the thing through". To this end we have been able to acquire the voluntary services of Mr. Terence A. Roberts, a free-lance public relations man with long professional experience. (We pay only his out of pocket expenses).

As a result of this arrangement, there is no necessity to issue separate reports on the activities of this department. All that is done in these fields will appear in the general reports of "Current Events" that, from now on, will comprise the major part of the Newsletters.

(4) Another administrative responsibility is, in point of fact, maintenance of the physical properties of the Society, since the Deputy Director is not resident at HQ. This occupies a very considerable percentage of the staff's time in that there is an unending routine of work, which must be kept up with the year round. This work has been maintained.

Marion S. Fawcett  
Assistant to Director

## MEMBERSHIP

Perhaps naturally, I am constantly being asked how many members we now have. Unfortunately, this question cannot be answered precisely at any one instant as the number changes daily, and we have even begun to receive the sad news that there have been deaths among our charter members. Nonetheless, I am prepared to say that, as of the time of writing (16th April, 1968) we have about 400 members of all categories. Membership as a whole has had to be taken over by my department for purely mechanical reasons, since the Membership Secretary has to be physically resident where the finances are handled, and this is impossible for any of our other Officers because, this being a voluntary outfit, all are fully employed elsewhere.

The categories and terms of membership are listed on page 2 of this Newsletter, with a note as to expiry dates. A few words of explanation of this are called for. There are four main categories of membership: - (1) Corresponding, which means just that; namely, that they have access to information and help by correspondence and/or by prior written request to visit HQ but at their own expense vis-a-vis living (in nearby motels or such). (2) Visiting Members, otherwise called the Committee of One Hundred, who wish to stay at HQ for longer periods to avail themselves of facilities other than mere information (see above, under Administration). (3) Sponsors, either individuals, or corporation and institutional. These are of course offered all facilities at all times and, in the case of the latter, they may as stated in our terms of incorporation, request a seat on the Scientific Advisory Board for the duration of any contract they sign with the Society. (4) Honorary Members. This last category is confined to those who have actually rendered the Society professional aid and assistance and who express their willingness to continue to do so in some specialized field.

Finally, while renewal date for subscriptions is now set for the end of 1968, the Cards of those joining from June of this year will not expire until the end of 1969. Will you please check your Membership Cards and see that the date, either printed or written in, conforms to this new ruling.

Alma V. Sanderson  
Treasurer

## ESTABLISHMENT

This is to be partly a Report and partly an Exposition. Let me dispose of the first as quickly as possible. It involves three separate issues: -

(1) General Maintenance. This has been outlined in the report from the Assistant to the Director. I may add only that some more very essential tree-trimming has been done, and the culverts between the two ponds cleared (of muskrat enterprises) and re-set.

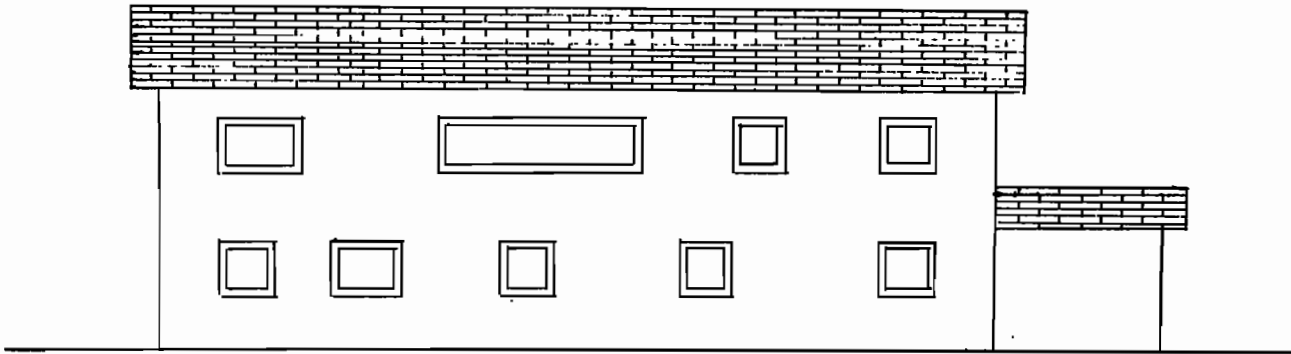
(2) The Old House. All floors have been sanded, the joints filled, and repainted. All passageways have been repainted, and the office has been renovated with all bookshelves rebuilt. Two-thirds of the outside has been repainted, the roof repaired, and the dogpens repaired. Since the entire house is now filled, including the basement, and the new "concrete" still not completed, it was decided to line the attic. This work will have to be undertaken very shortly.

(3) The 'Concrete': As previously reported, this could not be finished last year due to early frosts. It is two-thirds completed and it has been decided to line only the 20' x 20' room, and make it into a bed-sitting-room-office, with a library extension, heat, light, sink-water, drainage, and all other living facilities. The other part - 40' x 20' - being already half full of stored items, will merely be weatherproofed but not sealed.

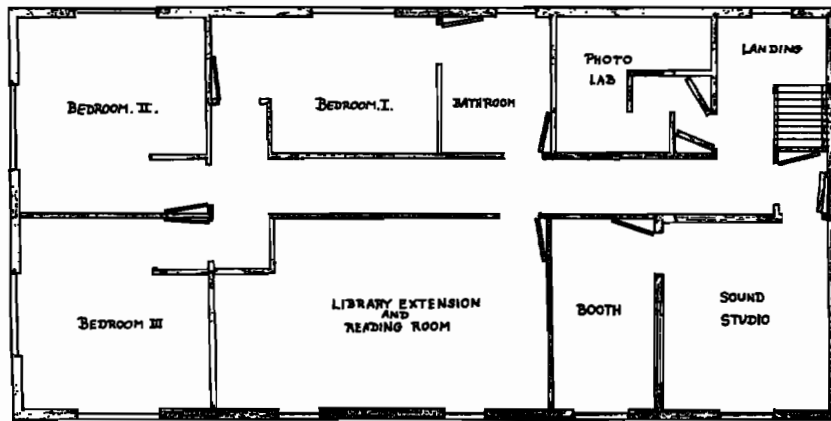
The major matter upon which I wish to report is the so-called 'New Library Building'. This has been mentioned repeatedly before, and it is now time that we lay before you our plans. These will be seen, in the rough, on the next page. Proper architects' plans are being drawn, and detailed cost estimates prepared. This, however, is a long drawn out and somewhat costly process as this building is fairly large and somewhat complicated. These simple diagrams on the next page should speak for themselves, especially with the accompanying 'Explanation'.

There are good reasons for each of the contained units shown - such as offices, stockroom, library-conference-room, fireproof storage, photographic darkroom, sound-studio, and living quarters, etc. The general appearance of the proposed building (see Fig. 1., top of next page - elevation, east face) is designed to conform with the Old Building (see Photograph, top page 7.) and thus with the average appearance of local country dwellings. The rather tall peaked roof will provide very desirable storage space for the future. Construction is conceived as being of sprung steel and prefab concrete; windows and doors of aluminum; concrete floors; and as little flammable material as possible.

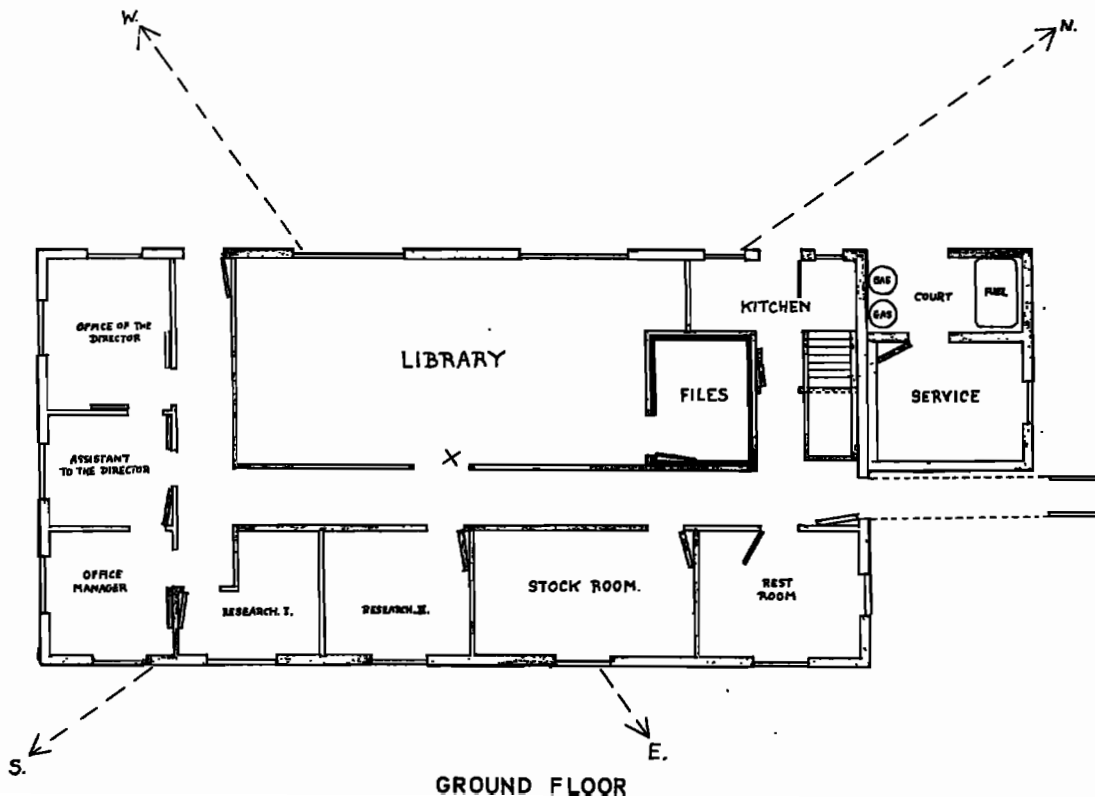
Edgar O. Schoenenberger  
Deputy Director



ELEVATION - EAST FROM



UPPER FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR

## EXPLANATION



THE OLD HOUSE -- EAST-FACING ELEVATION  
(to scale)

## EXPLANATION

|          |                                  |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| B.R.     | - Bathroom                       |
| B.S.R.   | - Bed-Sitting-Rooms              |
| C.       | - Closet                         |
| C.B.     | - Control Booth                  |
| E.K.     | - Experimental Kitchen           |
| E.O.     | - Executive Offices              |
| F.F.R.   | - Fireproof Filing Room          |
| L.C.R.   | - Library Conference Room        |
| L.E.R.R. | - Library Extension Reading Room |
| P.L.     | - Photographic Laboratory        |
| R.O.     | - Research Offices               |
| R.R.     | - Rest Room                      |
| S.R.     | - Stock Room                     |
| R.S.R.   | - Roofed Service Room            |
| S.S.     | - Sound Studio                   |

The Bed-Sitting-Rooms are designed to accomodate a workdesk so that visitors may retire from the daily office racket. The executive offices will contain the private reference libraries of the operatives and have space for other books in use; the Research Offices will be similarly equipped. The Experimental Kitchen will be fully equipped for both testing the exotic herbs grown on the land, and also for the general purposes of residents. All first editions, and unique material in files, will be stored in a locked, fully fire-proof room, as shown; specifications will be to insurance requirements. The main Library is sufficiently large to accomodate the twenty who attend Baard Meetings. The upstairs Library Extension will be carpeted and furnished as a comfortable reading room, with full sound insulation. The Photographic Laboratory will be fully equipped for both still and motion-picture processing. The Stock Room will also house all reproducing machinery, copying, binding, etc. The Sound Studio and Control Booth (audio) will also house the Tape Collection, in fireproof, hermetically sealed racks. The Rest Room, downstairs, will have a full-sized bath and shower; toilet, basins and dressing table, and a couch. This will be a "Ladies Room only". The Service room will have an entrance into the main building under the stairs -- not shown in diagram.

## CURRENT EVENTS

Our principal reason for incorporating was the establishment of a medium for the exchange of information and ideas, and to assist those of like interests. The first necessity is therefore the creation of such a medium. Until now, during the organizational phases of our establishment, there has been no time or place for this, as every hour devoted, and every scrap of space available to us has had to be given over to wrestling with interminable legalities and formalities. Now, at long last, we are able, tentatively, to initiate a proper informational outlet.

The NEWSLETTER — and evermore of it from now on -- will be devoted to what may be called "news and views". To these columns we welcome all manner of communications: — questions, original reports, worthwhile bibliographical and other references, comment, replies to queries, and inside stories of events. Also, we propose to introduce and evaluate other organizations and their publications; and we will appraise and review books, informally, as news items. Both communications from and appraisals of non-affiliated organizations are also welcome

### THE PATTERSON AFFAIR

The most outstanding event in the fortean field during the past six months, and potentially one of the most important ever to have occurred, was the obtaining of 30-feet of 16mm, standard, non-professional, color film of a very large hairy Hominid, by Roger L. Patterson (92) \* and a friend Bob Gimlin, in Del Norte County of northern California, in October last. This story has been published in ARGOSY Magazine in two articles — the February and April issues of this year — and aired on innumerable television and radio shows, both network and local, and including several of the biggest shows, like Alan Burke, Joe Pyne, et alii. The best summation of the whole story was, however, written by Bob Kirkpatrick, the Executive Editor of NATIONAL WILDLIFE and published in his own magazine, Volume 6. No. 3, April-May, 1968 issue. This is already almost a collector's item and we urge all of you who are interested in this business of ABSMs to write for a back copy — to National Wildlife Membership Services, 381 West Center Street, Marion, Ohio (43302).

But none of this airing has told the real story behind the story; a story that will be all too familiar to old-time forteans but which still should be disseminated. All the old "blocks" arose and many of the old "gimmicks" were unleashed, and by the whole gamut of orthodoxies. The treatment of Roger Patterson personally only missed that normally meted out to 'pioneers' by a hair's breadth. Frankly, we — the working members of our society — were, as Roger has very generously stated, solely responsible for the fact that the wipe (see Charles Fort for definition) although started and well under way was halted before it gathered too much momentum, so that he did finally get a proper hearing. All he was "robbed of" was reimbursement for the time and money he had spent during the past eight years on this enterprise, which has virtually bankrupted him; since the "value" of any one such picture as he obtained had been priced at a positively enormous sum ten years ago. And this story should be placed on the record.

I personally (I.T.S.) was present in a suite at the Ambassador Hotel in New York occupied by my late friend Tom Slick, the Texas multimillionaire oil and cattle man, owner of Slick Airlines and the founder of the largest privately backed Scientific Institute in the world and who had spent many years pursuing ABSMs, all the way from the original Abominable Snowmen of the Himalayas to the pigmy Orang Pendek of Sumatra, the Sasquatches of Canada and these Ohmahs or Bigfeet of California; when two senior executives of one of our leading news magazines offered him (officially and in the presence of five witnesses; one of them C. V. Wood who built Disneyland for Walt) \$500,000 for the first photograph of any ABSM, dead or alive, that could not be proved a fake.

What actually happened in the Patterson Case was that a mutual friend — Jim McClarin (81) — rang me (ITS) late one night from California to say that word had come out that Roger had obtained some film of a Bigfoot and was on his way to have it processed. He requested help in handling matters which we immediately promised, and we then started laying on all possible scientific, commercial, and publicity outlets. However, we heard nothing further for over three weeks, when HQ got a phone call from Roger from New York. We were down there in two hours, having alerted LOOK Magazine, and met Charlie Crandall, their Picture Editor, in the hotel, and then got together with Roger Patterson, his brother-in-law, Al DeAtley, and a Hollywood agent who had come east with them.

LIFE had viewed the film at a private showing for scientists in Canada — since no Americans would look

\* Members mentioned in these Newsletters will be indicated and identified by their card numbers, so that their addresses may be obtained from us.

at it — and had paid the party's passages to New York and made a dozen 'out-takes' of the best frames from the film. We wanted LOOK to see these and the film in case LIFE decided to relinquish their option, which is just what they did. We also went to our old friend Milt Machlin, Editor of ARGOSY, an ex-newsman, a live wire, and seriousminded. (We did not go to TRUE because they had 'muffed' the last story we offered them — i. e. the first copy of the Royal Airforce's analysis of the Tim Dinsdale film of a Loch Ness Monster, which they had proved to be genuine — by sitting on it for three weeks when it was the hottest topical news item on the docket). LOOK were very impressed but could not do anything on ethical grounds until LIFE had come to a decision.

Next day, LIFE took Roger and Al with the film to the American Museum of Natural History where a showing was put on for some of the scientific staff, notably Dr. van Gelder Head of the Department of Mammals and Dr. Shapiro of Anthropology. The wire services were permitted to view but the owners were excluded and within fifteen minutes the "scientists" announced that "It is not kosher (a funny word to use for a spokesman of a scientific organization) because it is impossible". Upon this, LIFE washed their hands of the whole thing and LOOK followed suit on the grounds that if the AMNH said it was a phoney, it was. At this point we pounced; and contract was signed between the owners and Mr. Hal Steeger, publisher of ARGOSY, late that night. We then went to work to round up some other scientists and notably physical anthropologists.

The results are fully recorded in the first ARGOSY piece. The film was flown down to Prof. W. C. Osman Hill (62) at the Yerkes Primate Center, Emory University, in Atlanta, Georgia, and then Drs. John Napier (170), Vladimir Markotic (78) and others viewed it at a closed showing in Washington at which Dr. A. Joseph Wraight (128) Chief Geographer to the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, and Mr. N. O. Wood Jr., Director of Operations for the Secretary of the Interior were present. A copy of the film was then handed to Dr. Napier of the Primate Biology Division of the Smithsonian for detailed analysis, a work that is of the time of writing still in the process of being executed. Meanwhile Roger Patterson and Al DeAtley had returned to the Coast, and then the next phase of this saga began.

They were invited to Hollywood — at their own expense, I might add — and kept there for no less than seven weeks 'negotiating' with all manner of high-falootin' outfits, all of whom were talking in six figures about making an hour-and-a-half documentary, incorporating Roger's 'strip', of the whole Bigfoot story. They asked a year to make it, with a camera crew and director on Patterson's expedition for which he was trying to raise money. As is usual with Hollywood, not one g-d thing happened and not one single penny was even put into escrow by way of an option.

Finally, Roger rang me and asked what we might be able to do. I asked him whether he might be prepared to make over foreign rights to us, and he did so. We made one phone call to David Attenborough the head of the Second Program — Science and Natural History — of the B.B.C. in London and within 24 hours their Senior Producer, Ronald Webster was with me in New York. It took two weeks only to negotiate and sign contract for first-run rights in the U.K. and Commonwealth, and a generous participation in foreign sales to be handled by the BBC. Roger retained and still retains all North American rights. Two weeks later Ron Webster went to work with an extraordinary crew — Chicago Films Inc. (Gavin McFadyen and Charter Weeks) — and within two weeks, despite the "city revolution", finished the film and flew home over the North Pole with several tens of thousands of feet of film in the can.

While here the BBC filmed Roger Patterson at HQ, and then shot several hours of a discussion between Dr. John Napier and the writer (ITS), with visuals in the form of plaster casts of the footprints of Bigfeet. Later, they ran an hour on Dr. Joe Wraight in Washington, D. C., then flew to Denver to interview Prof. George A. Agogino (2); then on to Dr. Montagna, Head of the Oregon Primate Center; and ended up with interviews with several persons, of all ages and walks of life, on the Coast who had told Roger that they had encountered Bigfeet at close range. It will take two to three months to edit this film but it will then be aired in Europe, and LIFE INTERNATIONAL have opted to publish an article on the story simultaneously:

That there is very great interest in this throughout the rest of the world was exemplified by a half-hour telephone call we had from Moscow. This was from the Editor of AROUND THE WORLD, the Russian equivalent of LIFE, and Dr. Boris F. Porshnev, Professor of History at the Russian Academy of Sciences who has been actively investigating ABSMs for over a decade.

This is the status of the story as of now. A copy of the BBC Documentary, enclosing several runs of Patterson's 'strip' is being given to Roger for private showing in this country and for sale to TV or other out-

lets. It is rather amusing, but typical of such 'incidents', that all the networks here, several independents, some film companies, and a host of agents are now scrambling for an exclusive first showing here. Thus, we have avoided the 'wipe' and maybe saved the scientific discovery of the age, but there is a long way to go yet. A film is not conclusive proof of the existence of anything. Only a dead or stunned specimen, or a skull, will prove the matter and convince the scientists and other sceptics. Roger has to get back into the field to obtain such. Meantime, we know of no less than nine other seriousminded and in some cases fully financed outfits that are going into the field this spring.

The funny thing about this case is that the topnotch scientists most deeply concerned with the speciality are taking it very seriously. Further, most of these scientists are government employed, and both the Canadian and American Governments themselves are deeply interested. This is something quite new in fortean endeavour.

### GIANT "ARMADILLO"?

This is a classic example of another type of affair only too wellknown to forteans. When something crops up like Patterson's film which catches popular fancy and is shown and talked about on television shows that reach over a million people, orthodoxies can but apply the "wipe". If, on the other hand, the item does not get initial mass exposure, less onerous rules are applied. These may be summed up by the two cliches "Kill by Silence" and "Masterful Inactivity" but, if there is still a 'leak', straight ridicule or the other old maxim; "They could not interpret what they saw" is applied. But things get sticky for the "Status-Quo-Boys" when the thing was identified by persons they themselves regard as "scientists" and "experts"; and it becomes for them positively gooey if said item is actually obtained, physically. Their only remaining weapon then is deliberate suppression of any and all publication of the matter. Sometimes luck is on their side in doing this, since some of these discoveries are made by foreigners (and often by non-anglos) and "of course" nobody can trust a word any foreigner says, more especially Latin Americans, Indians, or any other "natives"! This is a very effective tool in the hands of the Establishment for, to give one example, even UNESCO can not get funds for the translation of publications of leading foreign scientists; vide the works of Ramos on Phoenician petroglyphs in the Amazon Basin. This item is thus a 'glorious' example of the "note but ignore" technique.

It was brought to our attention by a correspondent, Mr. Michael J. Shields of Muncie, Indiana, who gave us a reference to a most extraordinary little five-line squib in "Life Sciences Notes" of the 7th October, 1967 issue of SCIENCE NEWS. (Note: this letter was received on the 26th March of this year.) One of our Scientific Advisory Board, Dr. Bernard Heuvelmans (58) of Paris, had heard rumours of this about Xmas time and asked us to investigate, but the location and even the country of discovery that he had been given proved to be inaccurate. Frankly, we put the whole thing down to mere rumour because of its really bizarre aspects. Which only goes to show the effectiveness of the "kill by silence" routine. However, somebody (and very fortunately) goofed, and the thing leaked into a scientific journal. Then, the inexorable process so beloved of the orthodox (and often to their own detriment!) got under way, and it filtered through the censor's screen and got into this popular publication of the AAAS; though admittedly in a fully debased form, calculated to make even a potential believer scoff. It read as follows (in toto) : -

#### Mammalogy

"One ton Armadillo caught.

Argentinian naturalists clashed with 2,200 pounds of armadillo and won. A male giant armadillo, three feet tall and six and a half feet long, is the first of his species captured in 25 years. Until he was sighted recently, scientists thought the breed was extinct." (ends)

I have seen some grotesque rubbish spouted in print over the years but this comes as near being a classic of misrepresentation as I have ever encountered. Let us begin at the top.

First, as usual, no names, dates, or location. Second, nothing on what happened at the time of capture or subsequently. Where did the object go; was it dead or alive; who handled it and/or received it? Next, the Giant Armadilla (Priodontes giganteus) is a fairly common animal throughout an enormous range in South America and really very common in some areas. Therefore, any person calling himself a zoologist who "thought" the species to have been extinct is either a clown or an idiot.

Next, just what does "three feet tall" mean? Squatting, as most armadillos do most of the time, or standing

up on its rather long legs as the Giant does most of the time? If the latter, three feet is just about standard for a fullgrown specimen - I know, I have owned many and took the first pair to our National Zoo in Washington in 1953. Then, "six and half feet long": does this mean what we call 'H&B' which means "head and body", or does it include the tail? If the latter, once again, it is perfectly normal for Prionodontes. So, OK, it's a Giant Armadillo found far away from its natural environment, which is moist equatorial rain forest, in an area where such creatures were thought to have been extinct since the forests there were cleared. This is all perfectly fine but unfortunately such a creature weighs when full-grown only about 250-pounds, and the maximum that I know of weighed just under 300 lbs. Once again, I observe that "You can't have it both ways, boys."

Mike Shields went on to give us some very interesting facts, as follows, and I quote: -

"It also seems unlikely that there could be confusion as to the systems of measurement. The length measurements of the Latin countries are the metro, the vara, and the pied (pee-aid). The metro, of course, is roughly 39 inches, and the vara is likewise close to a yard in length. The pied is, unsurprisingly, one-third of a vara.

"If height and length were given in metros or varas, and not properly converted to feet, then the beast would have to be larger rather than smaller than indicated.

"If given in pienes, it would be almost exactly correct if translated 'feet' which is the literal translation. As far as I know, all weight measurements in Latin America today are in gramas and kilogramas.

"2200 gramas (grams) would be only about 4 pounds and would hardly refer to a giant armadillo, while 2200 kilograms would be 4840 pounds and would mean the beast was underrated."

The point is, if this animal was three feet tall standing up and six feet overall - i.e. H&B, plus tail - it would be a standard model, and the only interesting thing about it would be that it was caught in Cordoba Province where indeed it was thought to be extinct. What is more, you can't have just one animal cropping up after twenty-five years even if it individually can live that long: there must be parents and mates and youngsters, as with Lake Monsters, et al.

In view of all these doubts, contradictions, and lack of proper information, we went to work on the telephone, working by dint of some truly monumental effort in two languages (I fear me, my Mexican type Spanish is neither appreciated nor understood in Argentina:) down a long list of mammalogists at the Museo Nacional de La Plata, and the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Cientificas y Technicas, in Buenos Aires, as well as the Zoo there. As of the time of writing we have not got any definitive answers to our questions but we have certainly stirred up a veritable "hornets' nest" of activity and, if we do get anything concrete before going to press, we will pull some other item and report on this.

But why all the excitement? Well, as we all know there were armadillo-like creatures that must have weighed well over a ton, if not two tons, inhabiting the open country of southern South America until at least the arrival of the Amerindian peoples. These are collectively known as the Glyptodonts, which term covers several dozen species of half a dozen quite distinct types, the most popular of which is known as Doedicurus that had a regular "mace" at the end of its tail. Related forms had more simple tapering tails, with or without spikes and spines, and some had simple sheaths like ordinary armadillos. What we are asking is: If this creature that was captured did weigh a ton (or two) and had a simple tail, could it not still be a Glyptodont rather than just a Prionodontes a thousand miles out of place?

If it is a Glyptodont it brings up many other fascinating things, notably that Dr. Heuvelmans has for years been saying that such creatures may still exist. What is more, he and others believe that they were fossorial animals that tunneled through the loose pampas earth in search of their food; and there are more than a few stories of people seeing trees in a line swaying violently and even going up and down when there was no wind and all the other trees remained completely at rest!

We would welcome a living Glyptodont. The Coelocanth fish is running a bit dry since one of our leading ichthyologists issued the classic statement some time back that: "We expected it to turn up sooner or later, as it is a deepwater fish". The same guy had said exactly ten years before, and almost to the day anent the first specimen caught, that it must be a fake or a case of mistaken identity because: "All Coelocanths have been extinct for 70,000,000 years."

#### THE CONDON COMMITTEE

Ever since its inception, this enterprise has been the subject to all manner of misinterpretations, misgivings, and misconceptions. Some of the second category may have been legitimate, but not so much because

of the 'official' cloak this committee wears, which is always suspect to many, as to the specialist expertizes of the majority of its members. Initially, almost everybody seems to have agreed that both officialdom and the public were lucky in that Dr. Condon, per se, was willing to undertake this most rickety responsibility because of both his high standing and his reputation for a no-nonsense approach. It was the selection of his team that prompted the first misgivings.

At the time of its inception -- the 1st of November, 1966 -- just about everybody, 'believers' and 'disbelievers' alike, and of all persuasions, were firmly convinced that the problem was a purely physical one, be it plasma-balls, swamp-gas, or even "machines" from outer space as some contended. While Dr. Condon himself was manifestly more than capable of handling the purely (both classic and nuclear) physical aspects of the problem, almost everybody -- except the rocketry buffs -- confidently expected to see the Chairman coopt the most highly expert services of cosmologists and astronomers, chemists (spectroanalysis), astro- and geophysicists, geomorphologists including upper atmosphere specialists, and straight meteorologists, and even hydrologists and geologists. Very few if any, apart from some of our members, really hoped for or expected any of the life-sciences, even the most vital of all -- namely, Exobiology -- to be represented, but everybody was confident that E-M-technologists of the highest caliber, aeronautical design engineers, and at least one rocketry expert would be included. One may therefore perhaps understand the dismay and the doubts engendered when it was announced that, apart from one upper atmosphere specialist and an able administrator, the team consisted wholly of psychologists -- and specialists in human psychology at that!

What on earth, (or off it) the last have to do with a natural phenomenon that everybody -- except psychologists! -- were absolutely agreed was a 'physical' reality was, and still is, completely beyond comprehension. Maybe a team of psychiatrists to weed out the obvious hoaxes, crackpots, and other forms of "kookery" would have been of considerable advantage provided it had included, as well as the "couch"; those trained in police work and the study of just plain insanity. Since there was no such team either, it was immediately assumed by some parties that the committee was going to approach the problem on a dichotomous basis of very limited scope -- to wit; which of the cases could be genuine reports of physical objects, and which might be purely subjective creations of the human mind. This in turn was not calculated to allay the doubts of several groups of varying persuasion.

As a result of these preliminary announcements, not only the "saucerians" but the seriousminded "ufologists" -- and almost to a man, let alone Society -- started yelling "whitewash"; while even the Fortean, reserving judgement as is their wont and being, above all, sceptical of all sceptics, pointed out that the set-up was ideal for what they call "a wipe". Then, the Fourth Estate got into the act and with some hoots of glee. Having almost to a paper (though not a man - meaning individual reporters) ridiculed the whole business for twenty years, or rushed into print "explanations" put forward by anybody other than the ufologists, now began to predict a final, positive and official explanation. The press, however, is often incredibly naive and gullible as well as being more hidebound, obtuse, and uncritical of anything that is not fully "established" by and approved by orthodoxy of some kind than the most one-track-minded technologists. Yet, for some inexplicable reason, the press also has an almost universal reputation for sensationalism, lack of proper investigative ability, and just plain bad reporting. Anything published in any newspaper with the word "TIMES" on its masthead is taken as absolute gospel by everybody, and is looked upon with some awe even by mystics and such folk as the saucerians.

On this occasion, however, one began to note statements in columns and feature articles, mostly in smaller out of town papers and in foreign periodicals, reviewing the old battle cry of "suppression of evidence" (and notably by airforces), and hinting that the Committee was but a last-ditch attempt to maintain such a position on the part of authority. This in turn encouraged the more seriousminded ufological outfits to publish similar opinions. Hardly an issue of both saucerian mimeographed outpourings and the neatly printed and stapled periodicals of the ufological societies during the past few months has lacked some comment upon and criticism of Dr. Condon's Committee. Recently, some of these have become most outspoken and even virulent, and they have become ever more controversial and contradictory. Pure speculation as to just what is going on and what the future may hold has been, in some cases, accepted as fact, but manifestly without any reference either to the true facts of the case or to the committee's expressed opinions and published statements.

As a result our Board instructed me (ITS, as Director) to write to Dr. Condon directly and ask for an official statement of the current position and for whatever prognostications he might be prepared to make as to the future. This was prompted by the plethora of letters received from members, and notably from those

not specifically interested in ufology, asking for the facts. As a result, the letter reproduced (in part) below was despatched, and the explicit reply herewith also published (in full) was received. Before presenting these, however, we feel that an equally proper, lucid, and factual statement on the origin of the Committee should be made known to you.

This was published on the front page of N.I.C.A.P.'s \* THE UFO INVESTIGATOR, Vol. IV., No.3., Nov-Dec. 1967, but was probably not seen by a majority of our members as ufology is not their primary interest and only a small percentage may have gained sight of this publication. We herewith reproduce the head to this contract as from, and with the kind permission of, NICAP.

|                                                                         |  |                                           |  |                                           |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>COST</b>                                                             |  | <b>NEGOTIATED CONTRACT</b>                |  | <b>RKG/bc</b>                             |  |
| REQ NO OR OTHER PURCHASE AUTH                                           |  | NEGOTIATED PURSUANT TO                    |  | DISCOUNT TERMS                            |  |
| P.R. No: 66-E02                                                         |  | 10 U.S.C. 2304(a)(1)(5)                   |  | CONTRACT NO.                              |  |
| ISSUED BY Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Arlington, Va. 22209 |  | MAIL INVOICES TO: (Public Vouchers)       |  | COGNIZANT DEFENSE CONTRACT AUDIT ACTIVITY |  |
| INITIATOR: J. Thomas Ratchford, SRPS                                    |  | BUYER: R. K. Gillispie, SRKB              |  | PAYMENT WILL BE MADE BY                   |  |
| CONTRACTOR (Name and Address)                                           |  | THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO |  | The 1100th Support Group                  |  |
| BOULDER, COLORADO 80302                                                 |  |                                           |  | Accounting and Finance Office             |  |
|                                                                         |  |                                           |  | Bolling AFB, DC 20332                     |  |

From this it will be noted that the initiation of this enterprise was in the form of a contract between The Office of Scientific Research of the U.S. Air Force, and the Regents of the University of Colorado. This is at considerable variance with the understanding of many, notably foreigners including Canadians, who have gained the impression that it was initiated as an "act" of the Congress, then executed by the Department of Defense, per se, and designed primarily to take the business out of the hands of the U.S.A.F. specifically and military supervision generally, and hand it to a non-official, civilian, scientific outfit. In a way the basis of the transaction is just this, but the above contract demonstrates that the move was primarily designed to obtain outside scientific assistance in evaluating material that the military -- in this case, the Air Force -- had obtained over the years and was continuing to accumulate. The reply from Dr. Condon, published below, makes it quite clear that the report, although to be reviewed by the National Academy of Sciences, will be turned over to the Air Force, for public dissemination. In other words, this research is an effort to evaluate the work of the special branch of the Air Force (dubbed "Project Bluebook") by outside civilian sources. This is finally made quite clear in the following exchange of letters: -

"Dr. Edward U. Condon  
Dept. of Physics & Astrophysics  
University of Colorado  
Boulder, Colorado

12th April, 1968

Dear Dr. Condon:

Our executive board asked me to write you directly in the hope of obtaining some guidance.....  
We would like to inform our members, through the medium of our next Newsletter.....precisely what you might be prepared to issue at this time as to any results obtained by your investigations, the status of your work, and anything you might be prepared to prognosticate as to the future..... Please understand that we are not asking for any sort of "news-beat".....just that we would like to get the facts straight.....

\* The National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena. 1538 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036.

Any clear and up-to-date statement that you might be prepared to give us would be most appreciated.....etc.

Yours respectfully,

(signed) Ivan T. Sanderson  
Director."

"Dr. Ivan T. Sanderson (\*)  
Society for the Investigation of the Unexplained  
325 West 45th Street (\*\*)  
New York, N. Y. 10036

16th April, 1968

Dear Dr. Sanderson:

Thank you for your letter of April 12 enclosing the materials about the Foundation. Dr. Condon is away from the office until the 26th, and thus I am replying for him.

It has become the policy of the project not to issue any reports during the time of the investigations. We are now in the very early stages of preparing the final report, which will be presented to a committee at the National Academy of Sciences for review (by Sept. 30). Following the review the report will be turned over to the Air Force at which time it will become a public document. The final decision as to how the report will be published has not yet been made, but it is anticipated that the public will be able to buy it towards the end of this year. We will not handle the distribution, and thus we are not maintaining records of requests for the report, because, in all probability, our offices here will be closed as soon as the report is presented to the Air Force.

Sincerely,

(signed) (Mrs) Kathryn Shapley  
Secretary to Dr. Condon

We feel that this properly sums up the position of the Condon Committee and should obviate any further flat misstatements and, we hope, stop further speculations of the nature reported above. However, there does still remain another aspect to the whole matter of official investigations in the ufological field.

It has been hinted, and even stated flatly in all manner of quarters, that, while the whole investigation of unidentified aerial objects has been publicized merely as a minor project (solely) of the Air Force, it has always had a security angle, and that it comes under the aegis of the National Security Council. (The precise terms of reference of this organization are to be found in the current United States Government Organization Manual, page 208.) We do not know if this is the fact or whether such statements are merely irresponsible journalism; and, it is of no concern to us, as we are a scientific -- not a political -- data collection organization. We mention it only because of the apparent gross misconceptions of the whole set-up by so many, and notably abroad.

Shortly after the above was written, John G. Fuller's article, entitled "FLYING SAUCER FIASCO" -- The Extraordinary Story of the Half-Million-Dollar "Trick" to make Americans believe the Condon Committee was conducting an Objective Investigation -- appeared in the 14th May issue of LOOK magazine. Concurrently, the N. Y. TIMES ran a story entitled "Colorado U. ends Saucer Study but does not disclose Results", in their 1st May issue. We had known of the first story and most of the details contained therein for some time but, in view of the fact that a man of the stature of Fuller, in this field, was doing it for such an outlet as LOOK, we did not presume to intervene. Later still, in the May 19th issue of the weekly newspaper The NATIONAL ENQUIRER, (Vol.42, No.37), there appeared a lead article by William Dick, one of the Articles Editors of that publication, headlined: "U. S. Airforce Project Uses Doctor to... PROVE COP'S REPORT OF FLYING SAUCER BY HYPNOSIS". Said Project is the Condon Committee, and this headline summates the whole story: However, referring back to Mrs. Shapley's letter, we should note the opening sentence of her second paragraph; to wit, "It has become the policy of the project not to issue any reports during the time of the investigation." (Italics ours)

(\*) The Director does not have a full doctorate.  
(\*\*) The Society's business office.

The NATIONAL ENQUIRER, like John Fuller is/are extremely good reporters, operating on the very simple premise that if you want to get at the true facts of a story the best way to go about it is to ask simple straight-forward questions. Since both these stories are fully documented, with names, dates, and locations, one has no legitimate cause to doubt them. So where does this leave us? Frankly, we believe, in the words of a famous comedienne: "Just as befogged as before"; but there is something else.

We both abhor and most carefully avoid predictions of all kinds, but we do indulge speculation based on published facts; and just about every fact known about the behavior and activities of our own Air Force and that of other nations, and all manner of other government and official agencies, ending in that of the Condon Committee itself since its inception, points in a direction that everybody seems to have overlooked. This is simply that their primary interest -- and gravest concern -- is not with UFOs per se but with any and all allegations of their 'occupants'; and these ranging all the way from what appear to be the wildest claims of the contactees to the best documented statements on police blotters. In fact, the real "scare" is not that the public will panic if the existence of UFOs themselves is officially admitted, but that (and you should pardon the corny expression) "Our Leaders" will completely lose control if the thinking public cottons on to the fact that there are superior intelligencies around; that they do have superior methods of controlling us; and that there is just nothing we can do about controlling them.

Dr. Condon is a very wise and highly experienced man, and he would not waste his time, let alone public funds, to pursue what are commonly called the "kooks, krooks, and krakpots" and especially to the exclusion of the findings of the seriousminded "ufologists", unless he had a darned good reason for so doing. But he has done so and, I was informed very recently, proposes to continue to do so. More power to him and, in our opinion, to our poor "leaders" for having had the commonsense to so pinpoint the real problem facing us. And please be advised that, during the past twenty years at least, official activity has resulted invariably -- and, as far as we can ascertain, almost exclusively -- when a "landing" has been reported or some form of "occupant" has been reported in conjunction with such.

It is therefore our speculation that it is possible -- and please note this qualifying word -- that everybody except the better informed departments of officialdom have been viewing this whole business "backward" or "inside-out" as it were. The contactees obviously don't know what they are talking about, in the literal sense; the ufologists claim UFOs not only exist but that they are material objects of some kind yet at the same time they deny the possibility of intelligent creatures in them, or even having constructed them; the public has become -- and perhaps very appropriately -- completely confused; and scientists working in different and varied fields have been kept apart, lest they put two and two together and come to see that such things as brain-control and immobilized police officers might be suffering the same interference.

#### THE ORIGIN OF "FORTEANISM"

The history of what we, more than reluctantly, have to call "forteanism" -- and with apologies to the late Charles Fort who was above all against all "-ISMS" -- is fraught with interest to say the least. It has not yet been told cogently but, and we would stress this, one Mr. Damon Knight (160), of "The Anchorage", Milford, Penna. (18337) is currently well into a definitive history of Fort, the Fortean Society, and the activities anent that Society of the late Tiffany Thayer. Damon Knight appealed to us some months back for help in trying to track down some material. This we were able to do. Mr. Knight was put on to us by our old friends, the Willis brothers -- Paul J., and Ronald J. -- who founded the Society named above a year ago, and which we will report on in our next issue. Meantime, any help you can give Damon Knight would be greatly valued.

On Fort's death the author Tiffany Thayer organized a Fortean Society. It lasted from 1934 until the death of Tiffany Thayer in 1959, when Mr. Thayer's widow found it impossible to carry on its operations due to ill health. The Society published a total of 61 issues of their journal; the first ten under the title "The Fortean Society Magazine", the remaining 50 as "DOUBT".

Subsequent to the demise of DOUBT, there was an hiatus of several years, during which term some long-time members of the Society endeavoured to reorganize, and several others began seeking Charles Fort's files, the files of the Fortean Society, and those of Mr. Thayer's papers that were relative to Fort, his works, and the Society.

Mrs. Thayer deposited Fort's files with the N. Y. Public Library some years ago, and they are safely housed, but not in the main building. The Keeper of Manuscripts states that, if we submit a work-schedule and working proposition, this material would be brought to the central building for examination and cataloguing. The library will make microfilmed or photo copies of this material (at our expense) so that said copies may be taken back to our HQ for analysis.

## BOOK LISTING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(This is not a paid advertisement)

The initiation of this column in our last Newsletter brought such an enthusiastic response from both members and publishers, that we have decided to expand it to the limit that space permits. It will be divided into two categories: — Books in print, (which is to say that have been published); and, forthcoming titles. Titles will henceforth be listed in all categories of the sciences, not just Fortean; and those by Members will be indicated by an (\*).

\* \* \* \* \*

### BOOKS IN PRINT

- Burton, Maurice, (1961). *The Elusive Monster*. London: Rupert Hart-Davis.  
Carrington, Richard, (1957). *Mermaids and Mastodons*. New York: Rinehart & Company, Inc.  
Churchill, Allen, (1960). *They Never Came Back*. New York: Ace Books  
Colp, Harry D., (1953). *The Strangest Story Ever Told*. New York: Exposition Press  
Fort, Charles, (1941 and subsequently). *The Books of Charles Fort*. New York: Henry Holt & Co.  
Gould, Rupert T., (1965). *Enigmas*. New Hyde Park, N. Y.: University Books.  
(1945). *Oddities*. London: Geoffrey Bles.  
\*Heuvelmans, Bernard, (1958). *On the Track of Unknown Animals*. London: Rupert Hart-Davis.  
(Abridged edition, 1965, New York: Hill and Wang.)  
\*Keel, John A., (1958). *Jadoo*. London: W. H. Allen.  
Lawrence, Lincoln, (1967). *Were We Controlled?* New Hyde Park, N. Y.: University Books.  
Ley, Willy, (1951). *Dragons in Amber*. New York: Viking Press.  
(1955). *Salamanders & Other Wonders*. New York: Viking Press  
(1948). *The Lungfish, the Dodo & the Unicorn*. New York: Viking Press  
(1967). *On Earth and in the Sky*. New York: Ace Books  
(1968). *Dawn of Zoology*. Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc.  
Oudemans, A. C., (1892). *The Great Sea-Serpent*. Leiden: E. J. Brill; London: Luzac & Co.  
\*Rue, Leonard Lee, III, (1968). *Sportsman's Guide to Game Animals*. New York: Harper & Row.  
Shklovskii, I. S., and Sagan, Carl (1966). *Intelligent Life in the Universe*. San Francisco: Holden-Day, Inc.  
\*Steiger, Brad, (1966). *Strange Guests*. New York: Ace Books  
(1966). *Strangers from the Skies*. New York: Award Books.  
(1966). *The Unknown*. New York: Popular Library.  
(1967). *Beyond Unseen Boundaries*. New York: Popular Library.  
(1967). *The Enigma of Reincarnation*. New York: Ace Books.  
(1967). *Strange Men and Women*. New York: Popular Library.  
(1967). with Joan Whritenour *Flying Saucers are Hostile*. New York: Award-Tandem.  
Wavell, Stewart, (1958). *The Lost World of the East*. London: Souvenir Press.  
Whyte, Constance, (1957). *More Than a Legend: The Story of the Loch Ness Monster*. London: Hamish Hamilton.  
London: Hamish Hamilton.

### FORTHCOMING BOOKS

- \*Sanderson, Ivan T., and Ria Niccoli, (Fall of 1968). *Animal Allies: The Origin and History of Domestic Animals*. New York: Prentice-Hall  
(Early Fall, 1968). *"Interminable Woodsmen" — Folklore Come to Light*.  
New York: Pyramid Books.  
(Spring of 1969). *"More Things"*. New York: Pyramid Books.  
\*Steiger, Brad, with Joan Whritenour. (Late 1968?). *UFO Breakthrough? The Allende Letters*.  
New York: Award-Tandem Books.

As to whether the titles in the first category are actually "in print" (as is technically known in the trade), those interested should apply to their library for search in the two standard works *Books in Print* and *The Cumulative Book Index*.