

"Science is the pursuit of the unknown"

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Of The Unexplained**

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EDITORIAL

Two splendid young men — John Byram and his brother — somehow managed to get lost on our back road, noticed the sign at the gate of our New Jersey Research Center, and turned in to make enquiries. John is studying forestry at Juniata College, and his brother is in high school. John was delightfully frank as, we find, is the way with the up-coming generation. He told us that he had always been interested in "Unexplaineds" but that he never had hoped to find an organization devoted to their pursuit. This was, as you may well imagine, more than just gratifying to us labourers in this vineyard. But then this most excellent young man also came up with what just might be the answer to the most troublesome of all questions asked of forteans — and asked constantly, and by everybody.

The number of people who have heard of Charles Fort, even in the Anglosaxon-speaking world, must probably be figured at something like ten to the power of minus nine, and of those who have heard of this late, great pixie, the percentage who are interested enough to get with his "philosophy" surely do not exceed ten percent. The main trouble is, of course, that Fort didn't really have a philosophy, and he abhorred cultism of all kinds. If there is life after physical death — which Fort more than doubted — the poor boy will be turning in his grave as a result of the increasing number of thinking people who call themselves forteans. Which brings me back to the knotty problem. Simply stated, this is: What is a fortean?

We've struggled for 25 years with this one, and we've tried all sorts of approaches, but there has always been a certain something missing. In trying to answer this simple question, simply, one invariably found oneself launched into a semantic morass. For instance, one might say that there is pragmatic knowledge (i.e. scientific) on the one side, and mystical or purely mental exercises on the other, but that forteans stand squarely in between and are interested only in facts, doubt everything, and try to pursue said facts through logic. This at first sounds perfectly splendid, but one immediately finds oneself in a veritable jungle of further semantic and ontological obfuscation. What, for instance, is a "fact"? What constitutes "proof" of anything? And by what Logic? By this time, the whole point has been missed and the basic question forgotten. This is where John Byram came in. When we were trying to explain all this to him, he said very simply "Oh, I see what you mean; you deal only with TANGIBLE things". And so help me, that's the word we've all been looking for.

Starting from this "earth-shaking discovery", we reviewed the old standard classification of knowledge and ticked off thereon the tangibles and the intangibles; and something very interesting emerged. In this field, we've been running for half a century on what can only be called a library basis, as typified by the Dewey Decimal System. But then about twenty years ago knowledge suddenly exploded, and it became necessary to simplify the horrendous resultant mess. This resulted in the eight-part classification that we have always used in this Society. This is still, however, strictly a librarian's approach to the problem, and it never really worked because it had no places for either what we call "cross-overs" or for some of the most important fields of pursuit, such as UFOs and OINTs. Only one look at the old 8-point wheel, in the light of what John Byram had inadvertently brought up was sufficient to demonstrate, and simply and pragmatically, what the trouble had been.

The new approach is, of course, just as empirical, but it does at least give us a working basis; and this basis is the division of knowledge — i.e. pursuit, search, research, thought, and imagination — into ten rather than eight, general departments; and these may then be graphically displayed as shown on page 42.

By this purely diagrammatic means, we perceive that half of these major categories are concerned with tangible items, while the other half are intangibles. Forteans are concerned with the former only, and would be well advised to stay within their bounds. This is going to have a profound effect upon our Society, as will now be explained.

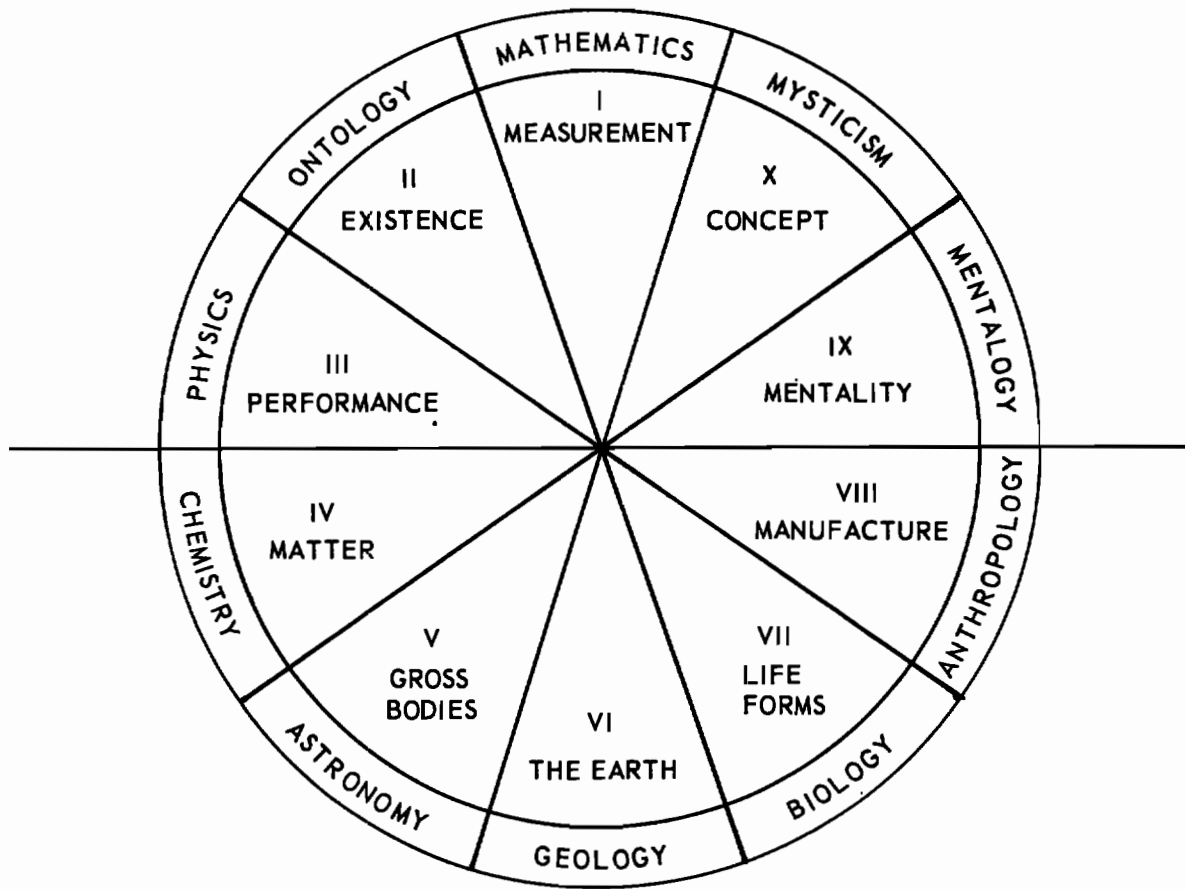
Let us take these ten major, and admittedly arbitrary, divisions of knowledge, one at a time. Mathematics has been described as the only exercise that is really real but which does not actually exist in the absence of an intellect. In other words, though the most precise of disciplines, it is totally intangible. Ontology is altogether less precise, but is just as intangible and, like mathematics, its exercises are purely intellectual. Just consider them—Cosmology, which means simply the construction of existence; space (whatever that is); time; locus (i.e. position); and so forth. When we come to what we call physics, we run into a curious paradox. If anything is practical, and what we call "down to earth", this is it; but, on analysis, it transpires that, as a science — and we are not referring to its handmaiden, Engineering, which is actually an adjunct to Biology and Anthropology — it deals wholly with intangibles. And this goes for both classical and nuclear physics. Subatomic particles are there all right, as is proved by their effects, but their behaviour is, frankly, altogether intangible. And this is precisely the difference between these three departments of intellectual activity and the two at the other end of the spectrum; or, alternatively, at the opposite side

of the wheel, and which we will come to in a moment. Meantime, as we pass on below the horizontal line that bisects the wheel, we enter the world of the tangible. No comment is called for here, except to point out, once again, that this is where our (forfean) interests lie, and the bailiwick in which we should stay. Proceeding then from the works of man, we re-enter the upper half of the wheel again and find that we have to advance through the world of what is called the "mind" and its behaviour and finally to its concepts. These pursuits are totally intangible, though psychology stands in much the same relationship to biology and anthropology as does physics to chemistry and astronomy. The marvel is that we end up just where we started — namely, with a purely mental exercise. Trying to prove the existence of God, or of any other universal power, is just about on a par with trying to square a circle.

There remains, however, a fascinating problem. Just where does the greatest bugbear of all go? This is what has come to be called Ufology.

THE TAXONOMY OF KNOWLEDGE

INTANGIBLES



TANGIBLES

A NOTE ON THE INTANGIBLES

(Sections I, II, III, IX, and X)

This is frankly a continuation of our editorial. In accordance with our new expressed policy, nothing relevant to the five departments listed above the horizontal line on the diagram on the opposite page is going to be written up for this journal by anyone except those who have spent their time over the years studying these matters, either professionally or as what may be called "professional amateurs" — and if that doesn't satisfy the pros nothing will!

During the past quarter we have received a number of most fascinating items in all these five fields, but our grim determination to follow our new policy — as a result of the "great discovery" — precludes the possibility of such expressions being finalized in time for this issue. However, take heart, as they will be along in due course.

Under the head of Mathematics we have an hilarious analysis by Prof. Martin Kruskal of a member's suggestion as to how to "trisect the angle". His suggested solution appears to be valid but is — according to Dr. Kruskal — not "according to Hoyle" or, otherwise, "the rules". Funny people, mathematicians! There is worse to come in departments III and IX; but again, more of this anon. We have more than enough to try and cope with in the five departments of the TANGIBLES; as follows: —

IV. CHEMISTRY

The Structure and Behaviour of Matter

"IT JUST BURST INTO FLAMES."

Our member, Herr Horst Freidrich (39) of Bavaria, F.R.G., wrote us regarding a matter that has puzzled us for a long time. The pith of his letter reads: "When walking around here in our country-side I have been wondering for some time about just who makes so many little fires all around on fields and meadows at every season, for in my opinion the number of apparently quite recent (max. several days) places where little fires must have burnt and now only ashes etc. remain is astonishingly large."

This is one of those puzzlers with which our ordinary, everyday life is filled but which we ignore. We are conditioned almost from birth to handle such enigmas in an entirely pragmatic manner and, in this case, by such consoling expressions as: Oh some idiot threw a lighted cigarette out of the car; or, Must have been struck by lightning; or, A pile of leaf mould got damp and started smouldering. All perfectly splendid and quite possible, but are they the true answers? Frankly, there are just too many of these little fires, month after month, year in and year out, and apparently all over the world, and even in areas of very high precipitation. What is more, the vast majority of them are nowhere near a road from which an idiot could throw a lighted cigarette, none ever seems to cause enough rumpus to prompt a call to the local fire department, none is seen burning, and there is very seldom any record of lightning at the time. But there they are, just small burned-out patches of ashes.

This brings up a whole series of extremely nasty questions. First, we have to ask just what is "fire", and just where does it start and end? Smouldering on the one hand, and flames on the other, are related questions. Nobody seems to be able to provide a straightforward answer to these questions. Take flames, for instance. Do they constitute another form of matter in the same general way as do plasmas? And what of "smoke without fire" — i.e. smouldering? So, OK; certain substances in certain conditions promote certain bacterial action that raises the temperature to a point where the mass starts to what we call smoulder, and smoke (without flame, please note) starts seeping out. Then — at least it is alleged — if the mass gets too dry, it bursts into flames. Wet straw and hay are said to be prime candidates for such performances; but then why don't all hay-ricks, baled hay in damp barns, and all other mulch heaps go off? In fact, what's to prevent a sort of continuous *Götterdammerung*?

But this isn't even a tithe of the problem. First, why do some substances or even composite things "burn" while others don't? True, by raising the temperature sufficiently all substances will.....but wait a minute! We almost said "burn", but most of them don't. They may start to glow, and right up to blue-white, but then they either liquify, and so won't burn, or they dash through that estate and vaporize; and in the latter case they sometimes won't "burn" even then. Then take what pure potassium or calcium does when tossed into water. It darned near explodes; and this brings us to another set of enigmas. Just what are explosions and detonations? Why should a combination of carbon, sulphur, and saltpetre go bang when properly annoyed? And please don't dredge up the question of oxygenation.

Little spontaneous fires that duly put themselves out all over the countryside are, one would have thought, bad enough, but what of all the people who appear to just burst into flames spontaneously?

The historical record is littered with these. The most famous was, one must suppose, that of the almost total consumption of the famous author Temple Thurston in his favourite armchair at his home in England in 1933. The most famous modern case is that of a Mrs. Mary H. Reeser of St. Petersburg, Florida, who was discovered shortly after 8:00 a.m. on the 2nd of July, 1951, almost totally consumed by fire, in a room that was otherwise untouched but for the ashes of her armchair and the melting of candles and light fixtures due to excessive heat. Mrs. Reeser did not smoke; there had been no thunderstorm or other meteorological electrical discharge; the main wiring of the house was in perfect order due to the fuse having been blown, presumably by the "fire" in Mrs. Reeser's room; and no noise or smell of smoke had been recorded by the other occupants of the house or by neighbours. All that was left of Mrs. Reeser were a left foot, an incredibly shrunken skull, and a few charred vertebrae. Dr. Wilton Krogman, senior pathologist of the University of Pennsylvania, who was called in by baffled police, firemen, and the coroner's office stated for the record: "Never have I seen a skull so shrunken or a body so completely consumed by heat. This is contrary to normal experience and I regard it as the most amazing thing I have ever seen." It was estimated that a heat of at least 2500 degrees F. would have been needed to consume the 170-lb Mrs. Reeser.

What is needed is a little more research, and original investigation in laboratories, on what may be called combustion — spontaneous and otherwise. It might also be nice to hear from the physicists just what electrical potentials do get around in natural conditions, let alone in our new man-contrived environment. If you can detonate a pile of dynamite by instructing said detonator to go to work via an electrical impulse, why not a dung heap by an escape of static? Some practical information, please.

Perhaps a start has been made in this, at least from the chemical point of view. In No. 12, of Volume 1, of the Journal of APPLIED TROPHOLOGY, dated December, 1957, and published by Standard Process Laboratories of Milwaukee, Wisconsin — and, incidentally, marked "Restricted to Professional Use" — there is a five-column article entitled "INOSITOL (Vitamin B-10), Potassium, and Phosphoric Acid". This is not signed. After going into the part played by this and other vitamins in mammalian metabolism, it states of the natural biochemical Phosphogen as follows: —

"Phosphogen is a compound like nitroglycerine, of endothermic formation. It is no doubt so highly developed in certain sedentary persons as to make their body actually combustible, subject to ignition, burning like wet gunpowder under some circumstances. (See Jack Moffitt's article in Los Angeles Herald-Express, March 14, 1956 reviewing a number of such cases)."

Only after great trouble and several denials was this article traced but it did not contain nearly as much information as one by Allan W. Eckert in TRUE Magazine of May, 1964. This latter is definitely preferred reading for all fortune-tellers. It produced the most violent response from certain segments of the medical profession and notably those involved in forensic pathology, one of whom denied in a letter to the magazine that any such cases had ever happened! One might as well say no airplane ever exploded in the air. But then, of course, until comparatively recently there were no such things as meteorites.

V. ASTRONOMY

The Structure and Behaviour of Gross Bodies

MORE GREEN CHEESE

Apart from the uproar over pulsars, the Music of the Spheres seems to have deteriorated into a dreary, monotonous, one-theme, one-chord, one-phrase dirge, just as jazz has petered out into the current monotony of current pop stuff. Apparently, it's the Moon or nothing. And just as apparently, there seems to be nothing we can do about it until some enlightened people come along to rescue us from it; as the so-called "Blacks" or Negroid peoples from Africa have now rescued our popular music half a dozen times in this century.

Frankly, what with the outpourings on the truly marvellous achievement of Apollo 10, which were more than just legitimate, and the endless scientific papers on our sister planet, and the small mountain of clippings and reports that accumulate on our desks relative to same, we have become almost as "bored" with it as we have with the interminable UFOs. But, as with those items, ploughing through all this material has brought to light one most astonishing disclosure. This is that the profoundest and most respected professional astronomers have, in the past, made almost as great assess of themselves — and in print — as have the mystics and pseudoscientists. One can hardly believe one's eyes when one reads some of the things they published only a few years ago.

In our last issue we remarked upon the really extraordinary amount of material that has been published in certain quarters about observation of the moon that is frankly fortune-telling and at complete variance with the line that has been fed the public by astronomers for a hundred years. These were

catalogues of oddities observed on the moon, such as were reported in the almost monumental Chronological Catalog of Reported Lunar Events published by no less than NASA; but this is not specifically what we are discussing here. That of which we do speak are positive statements as to the nature and composition of the surface of the moon, derived from the most refined and precise instrumentation and analyses by the best machines and other devices at the disposal of the most respected astronomers and other scientists. What we cannot understand is how said real experts would risk making such bold statements when even the worst pessimist would hardly declare that we would never actually get to the moon. What is more, some of these pontifications and assertions have even been published after we did get there - by controlled machines, that is.

You may recollect our two favourite pontificators; one, who asserted that the moon was covered all over with a four-hundred foot forest of vegetation; the other who said it was not vegetation but dust? Well, believe it or not, but in an erudite work entitled ATLAS OF THE MOON, by one Vincent de Callatay (Macmillan & Co. Ltd., 1964), with a preface by no less than Sir Bernard Lovell of Jodrell Bank, it was categorically stated that: "Professor Bernard Lyot initiated a large number of laboratory analyses (of the polarization of the light reflected by the moon) and was thus able to conclude that the lunar surface must be composed of a powdery material bearing a strong resemblance to volcanic ash." Need it be pointed out that no down-to-moon photographs have so far detected any dust of any kind but rather sand, gravel, stones, boulders, and bare rock. The same paper goes on to say that the French astronomer Dr. Audouin Dollfus continued Prof. Lyot's work and set out specifically to study the polarization of light reflected from lunar surface areas that showed, visually, marked declivity. It then states: "Since there is a critical angle for every slope beyond which a powder must of necessity slide off and thus lay bare the underlying rock, it would be right to suppose that the steep parts of the Moon are not covered with the same material as the flat surfaces. Now this is not so; experiments which have been made on the cliff forming the 'Straight Wall'* and on the slopes of a valley, have shown that there is no difference in polarization between sloping regions and the neighbouring areas. Dollfus was therefore able to conclude that this powder not only adheres to the surface, but that it fills the wrinkled cavities under the action of forces which appear greater than gravity." - - - Unfortunately for the good doctor, this is not so either!

The pay-off is the concluding paragraph of that section of this book which states: "Lyot's conclusions were in this way confirmed and improved: the lunar surface is very probably covered with a substance composed of granules of volcanic ash, irregular, opaque, and of small dimensions. The overlying layer is very likely powdery, and perhaps very shallow, but covering the surface everywhere." At least the good fellow did say "probably"; but still, it's still a damned-fool statement for any scientist to make. What we would like to know is: first, is it their instruments that don't do what they are supposed to do; or have they got the basic principles upon which such instruments work wrong in the first place; or don't they know how to interpret what said instruments seem to tell them; or is it just that their whole concept of possibility and thus of reality is all awry? The really terrifying thing is that they can be this far off on a simple thing like this. Just how far off may they not be on more difficult matters such as, for instance, the Doppler Effect. This is one of which we have always been suspicious in any case. So let's hand it to the technologists. At least they got out there and found out just what is what by the good old and tried method of "going look-see".

*A recognized name for a specific feature on the Moon's surface.

WATER IN THE MOON

In view of the above item, we trust that the next lot of experts know more of that of which they speak. This is anent the recent outburst over what have been called Mascons, which all began as a result of tracking and monitoring the paths of Lunar Orbiters 3, 4, and 5. A team of scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., discovered six mass concentrations of dense material beneath the surface of the moon. Since then six more have been discovered.

"Dr. Paul M. Muller of the JPL, and his colleague and codiscoverer of mascons, Dr. William L. Sjogren, found from the radio signals from the Lunar Orbiters that the spacecraft speeded up slightly as they passed over these areas, or 'ringed seas' of the moon. He and Dr. Sjogren have since constructed a gravimetric map of the moon's near side that clearly locates mascons, or gravity highs, in the depressed lunar basins. The excitement caused by this discovery was stirred partly by the possibility that these were real seas billions of years ago. Dr. Muller suggests that underneath these

huge cratered areas (some are 600 miles across) there may be residues of water or ice. If this speculation is correct, it would revolutionize lunar exploration plans, for it raises the awesome prospect of finding some form of primitive life on or below the moon's surface. If there is water, or ice, or frost trapped below the moon's surface — now an attractive theory among scientists — then the prospect of finding some primitive life form somewhere below the moon's surface also becomes a real possibility." (ex: The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, 10 May, 1969).

This is all perfectly splendid, but then come Messrs. Richard E. Lingenfelter, Stanton J. Peale, and Gerald Schubert, of the Institute of Geophysics and the Department of Planetary and Space Science, of the University of California, Los Angeles, with a long paper in SCIENCE, of May, 1968 (Vol. 161, pp. 226-269), that boldly tackles the problem of what appear to be dry river-beds on the moon. This paper starts out by saying: "Photographs obtained by the Lunar Orbiters show sinuous rills resembling the meandrous channels of terrestrial streams; about 30 are visible from Earth and were first described in 1788. The sinuous rills appear to originate in craters on relatively higher ground and to terminate on lower plains, their widths often decrease with distance from the crater, and they tend to occur in groups. Significant new features revealed by the Lunar Orbiter photographs are a much smaller meandrous channel in the bottom of Rima Prinz I, and mature meanders in the smaller channel on the floor of Schroeter's Valley, which require reexamination of our theories of the origin of the rills. The obvious similarities in appearance between the rills and terrestrial river channels early led to the suggestion that the rills were produced by erosion by water."

The rest of this article should be read in full as it is a very clear presentation of the theory of these scientists. It is not easy to put it simply, however, because the reader is expected — and in this case quite rightly — to know of, understand, and accept a number of assumptions both of planetary structure, surface geologic mechanics, meteoritics, and hydrology. Let us say then that the idea is that there could be a layer of vast, curved, lenticles of fossil ice not too far down under the surface of the moon which were produced by certain expansive pressures from below. This would initially be what we call "water", sort of squeezed out of the lower layers of the moon's mass but which, on reaching near to the surface, congealed into ice and remained there ever since, and in lieu of other "rock". (Please note that ice is a form of "rock".) The next stage of the process, as envisioned by these scientists, is that a meteorite of more than a certain critical mass hit the surface above one of these buried masses of palaeocrystic ice; and that, as a result, the covering layer of ordinary rock was punctured. The result of this would be that, for various reasons, the ice would "boil" and well up into the crater caused by the meteorite and, in certain circumstances, top the rim of this and pour down onto lower ground in the form of rivers or rills as they call them.

The flow would diminish as it went — unlike our rivers that mostly increase in volume from tributaries — and finally peter out in the super-desert conditions of the moon. Such "rivers" might well be under a serpentine cap of ice but they would still do their cutting into the surface just as ours do, following slopes, getting around more resistant points, and generally "meandering". Eventually the supply of water topping the rim of the crater would run out and the heat that melted the buried ice would dissipate, and everything would return to normal. Any water vapour diffused upwards would be lost due to the lack of atmosphere; which in turn is due to the low gravity of this planetary body. The last sentence of the summary or Abstract of this fascinating paper reads: "A sinuous rill could be eroded in about 100 years". We would just like to steer all of you to a science-fiction work by that true master of science fiction, Robert Heinlein, entitled THE MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS (1966), G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.

EXIT-HATCHES, SILOS, OR WHAT?

Our Member No. 292 sent us a funny one regarding this confounded moon of ours. It read as follows: "On page 30 of this issue (Vol. 2, No. 2 of this journal), in the discussion of life below the lunar surface, not one word is mentioned in re those 'silos' shown in a Surveyor photograph. These 5 silos appear to show the entrance-exit openings for sub-surface vehicles which do not need to 'land' before entering. Consequently, the lunar surface in their immediate vicinity shows nothing. I have no idea if the NASA-R-277 report has a copy of this photograph or not; and the engineer who showed me this picture didn't say if it was classified or not — we were discussing other things."

We have not seen this particular photograph but we have got others released by NASA that show what indeed appear to be masses of perfectly circular dish-like depressions that reflect light, all of the same size, perfectly regular and dotted all over the place. Then there were the very clear photographs of that allegedly 75-ft obelisk that was released on the 20th November 1966 (the best of which was No. 66-H-758). Something looked wrong about this shot and so we had a photographer make a negative and, sure enough, all kinds of things came to light, including a lot of domes, as well as

saucerlike depressions. In fact, the photo issued by NASA was itself a negative! When one got a positive, the bloody obelisk was standing upright rather than lying down; and it turned out, in point of fact, to be what looked like "its" shadow in the NASA photo. We begin to wonder how many other officially released pixs are negatives. They can be awfully confusing to amateur photographers and astronomers, and just about everybody else. Maybe some of these so-called "silos" are actually domes.

The Team Spirit in Science.

From a speech given to the Council on Arteriosclerosis of the American Heart Association at Miami Beach by Dr. Irvine H. Page, as quoted by the NATIONAL OBSERVER: "(Do) you remember the footnote in a paper which said, 'Since this paper was written one of us has died' — anonymity in its most sophisticated form?" (What?)

VI. GEOLOGY

The Structure and Behaviour of the Earth

PETRIFIED ORANGES

Back in May, 1962, we received a letter from a Mr. J. S. F. Carter of Carter & Nansen Co., Inc., of New York, an engineering firm specializing in the installation of distillation and absorption plants. Mr. Carter, himself a chemical engineer, had spent many years in South America. His letter announced in most businesslike terms the following: — "A number of years ago I was in Uruguay and, together with three friends, took a trip in a Model-T to the north of the country, into Salto Province. Near the town of Constitucion there is a river called Arapey, a branch of which has the most amazing properties. The water of this river will petrify a fairly large tree, and I have seen some at least 18" in diameter completely petrified, within a period of a year. The small branches will petrify in three to four weeks. I saw, for instance, half an orange in which the pulp had been removed in some manner, but the rest of it, including the outside skin, the little center posts and the small veins which run from the post to the outer skin, completely petrified, and at the same time retaining their original color. The local people told me that this happens regularly within three to four weeks. I suppose that the answer is the river water is very high in calcium salts together with some others."

In August of 1962 he wrote: "It so happens that an Argentine friend of mine, Dr. Parodi, is leaving for Uruguay in the next few days. I have talked to him about the petrification of wood and oranges and he is going to get in touch with a friend of mine in Montevideo, the engineer Valetti, who is Chief Engineer of ANCAP, their local alcohol, sugar, and cement, government trust. ANCAP has a plant fairly close to the site of this river so that we should be able to get somebody to go up there and get some samples of wood, and also possibly some oranges which have been petrified. It so happens that Sr. Parodi is quite interested in this situation and he suggested that if there were no oranges evident in the water that the ANCAP people could 'plant' some therein and let them petrify. After this has happened he would, of course, send samples up to me. Or if some oranges happen to be in the river he will have them sent up as soon as possible."

On the 20th November Mr. Carter wrote that: "On last Friday Dr. Parodi suddenly dropped dead of a heart attack so I certainly will not be able to talk to him again! As a result of this, however, another friend of mine left for Uruguay on Saturday and he is going to follow the matter up. It may be, of course, that ANCAP has been going forward with the work anyway. At least we should know before too long." Unfortunately we had to leave very urgently on an extended trip abroad at that time and, to be perfectly frank, we just failed to follow the matter up. Now we cannot trace the company, or Mr. Carter, in the New York area. (Incidentally, there is not one single Nansen listed in the New York telephone directory. This we find to be completely incomprehensible.)

This is a rather sad little story; but then, almost all fortune ones seem to turn out this way. So often, in fact, do they just "evaporate" that it cannot be mere coincidence, even if you are prepared to accept a K^n — i.e. a coincidence to the power of infinity. The average person's first reaction to this is that they never existed in the first place and are therefore all phonies. This can not be the answer because a very high proportion of them are tangibles, and a by no means inconsiderable number of them exist, per se, in museums or in private collections; and an ever higher proportion have been photographed and examined by real experts in the presence of more than enough witnesses. Still, they just seem to fade away. Take our beloved "Bozo". It is highly doubtful that anybody will ever again see the specimen that Heuvelmans and your director saw, so that everybody may legitimately put the thing down as a hoax or a case of mistaken identity. Consider also the little steel cube with a machined groove around it that was found in a Miocene coal bed (circa 30-million years old) that was

examined by every type of scientist and machinist but which still lies in the Salzburg Museum in Austria. Here is absolutely irrefutable evidence that either somebody had invented steel and machinery some 28-million years before the first hominids even evolved on this planet, or some superior technicians came to this earth and dropped a spare, or worn-out, part into a swamp. But even the father of exobiology, Dr. Carl Sagan of Harvard, who first suggested that this planet might have been so visited by intelligences since ever, and even went so far, in his great book *INTELLIGENT LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE*, to suggest that archaeologists ought to start keeping their eyes open for evidence of such, has never mentioned the matter. (Of course, he ought to have added palaeontologists to archaeologists, but we don't feel that it would have done much good in view of the standard outcome.)

We would very much like to have half a petrified orange that had clearly been halved by human agency. If it had "SUNKIST" stamped on it, and the purple ink had also gotten petrified, we would be positively elated, and for the following reason. We have become increasingly suspicious over the years of the established and still current beliefs on the time factor for the preservation of identifiable bodies — animal, plant, or artefact. The whole matter of such natural preservation is extraordinarily complex and will be briefly reviewed in a minute, but please consider a case that really jolted geologists. This was witnessed by the writer (ITS) in Mexico in 1940. The police at a place called Navajoa in the State of Sonora had a nasty crime on their hands involving several deaths. The allegation was that certain parties had driven inland towards the Sierras in a truck and butchered a whole family in a tiny settlement on a dry arroyo. We were living in the town and had become very friendly with the Jefe de Policia, a most splendid and enlightened man from the State of Nayarit who read Proust in French. We were collecting rare rats and chasing Nazis and the Jefe gave us enormous help in both endeavours, so he came to us with his problem since we were outsiders and therefore not involved in local affairs. What he wanted was help in getting casts of the truck tracks but there had been a flash flood about a week after the crime had been committed and now the arroyo was covered with concrete-hard silt. They had the tracks up to a certain point but then they just petered out, and there were no return tracks. Everybody put their heads together and decided to dig farther up near the settlement. This was done but it took pick-axes and crowbars, and we had to go down almost three feet; but, sure enough, there was the old road (a euphemistic term if I ever heard one) surface, and on it, tracks. Then we had to drive back to the town to round up cold chisels and light sledge-hammers because, in just a month, the silt deposited on the old road had hardened to a sort of argillaceous marl and was as hard as some limestones. What had happened was this. The night of the alleged slaughter it had rained and the road surface was soft; then for some days it was baked dry by the desert sun. Next came the flash flood and the silt. Then this too was dried out, and apparently calcium-carbonate, or some such dissolved in its water content, cemented its granules into solid rock. In other words, we had here fossilized truck tracks in just over a month.

Objects can be preserved in nature in many ways. You can have them preserved for millenia in frozen soil (muck) such as the mammoths in Siberia and Alaska; you can find them preserved in crude oil seepages such as the famous family of Woolly Rhinoceroses in Stirunia in Poland; you have the Pickled Danes in peat bogs of Mesolithic age. Then, you can have imprints like our truck tracks, and of dinosaurs, and what else, produced by the method described above. Next, you have casts, produced by things like shells being trapped in a mud deposit, then completely dissolved, and finally another substance deposited in the spaces left by them. Finally, you have petrification, which means the replacement, molecule by molecule, of the original materials by various minerals. The commonest of these are the famous petrified forests, found all over the world. The most usual mineral to so replace is opal, which is an amorphous form of SiO_2 and this has the curious ability to preserve the original colors of the objects in some cases. Mr. Carter's half oranges would seem to be of this order.

However, while fossil truck tracks only a month old were alarming enough, the idea of the petrification of things like oranges in a few weeks presents geologists — and palaeontologists — with some very awkward questions. If fruit, let alone wood, can be so rapidly petrified, why not animal bodies; and if so, why are not a high proportion of fossil animals 'complete bodies' instead of mere skeletons — and skeletons still in perfect order and properly articulated, rather than rent apart? Perhaps the chemistry of what we call animal, as opposed to plant, life-forms precludes the substitution of simple mineral depositions.

It is, however, the time factor that gives us considerable pause to think. Happily we do not employ mere petrification for dating the "fossils" we unearth. Rather, the type of animal and its stage of development on the evolutionary scale is considered; then the strata in which it was found, and finally the new physicochemical methods of dating those strata are brought into play. Nonetheless, it is a bit alarming to have to realize that things can be truly fossilized in a few weeks and that said fossils can then be buried under dozens or even hundreds of feet, and literally overnight by floods or by subaqueous disturbances. We intend to take up the pursuit of Mr. Carter's oranges.

The Basis of Reality

From a letter to our president: "I want to compliment you on your journal. Your life must be exciting investigating strange happenings. I guess some are of natural causes, but maybe some are for real."

VII. BIOLOGY

The Structure and Behaviour of Animate Entities

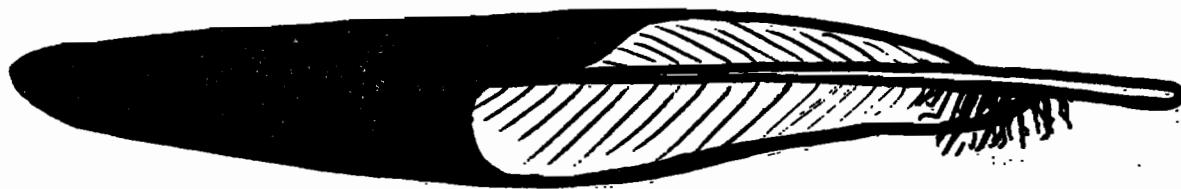
AN IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER

So what's so important about this, and what of it is unexplained? First, it is a magnificent bird of vivid black, white, and red coloration, and larger than a crow; second, most ornithologists have thought for some decades that it is totally extinct. That which is unexplained is why it is still constantly being reported. Now, our member Frank Shields, (155) the animal artist and sculptor does it again, and comes up with a feather (found near where he saw the great bird twice) which can not have come from any other known North American species. But first to a description of this bird, which we take verbatim from Roger Tory Peterson's now famous Field Guide to the Birds: - "Ivory-billed Woodpecker (Campephilus principalis). A very large Woodpecker, larger than a crow; male with a flaming red crest; female with a black crest. Known by its superior size, ivory-white bill, and large white wing-patches visible when the bird is at rest. Formerly (distributed through) the primeval river-bottom forests of the southern United States. Last reported from north Louisiana. To be looked for in Florida and South Carolina." (For full description and illustrations, see p. 145, 1947 edition, Houghton, Mifflin Company.) Frank Shields now lives in Interlachen, Florida, and owns a large tract of forested land around his studio.

The "trick" with this bird is that enthusiasts often mistake the smaller but closely related Pileated Woodpecker (Hylatomus pileatus) for it. This too has a flaming red crest but the bill is black. It also has white on its wings but this does not show when it is at rest or climbing. In the Ivory, the hind edge of the wing is white; in the Pileated, the lead edge. At this point we quote from Frank Shields' letter, since the positive identification of a single feather calls for specialized knowledge, and it just so happens that Frank has spent a lifetime specializing in the color patterns of animals and notably of birds. He writes: -

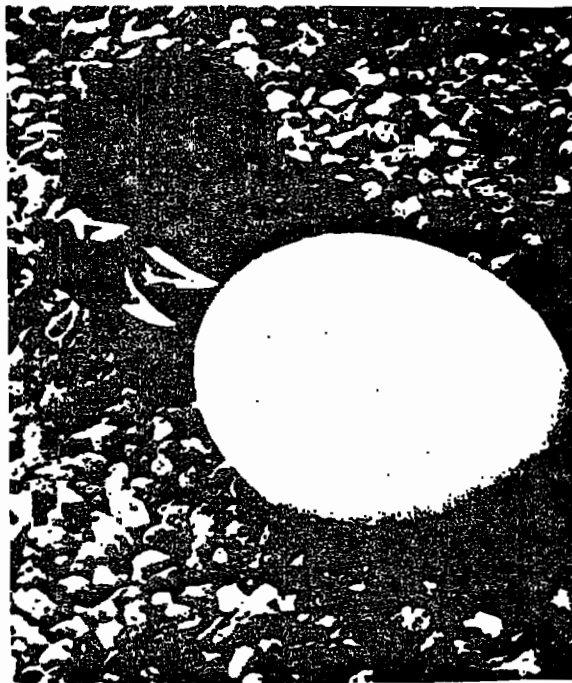
"On April 4th & 15th I saw an Ivory Billed Woodpecker on our place. It is so near extinction that some authorities say it is. Others say there may be a dozen alive in this country, mostly in Louisiana. The second sighting was better. Saw it on a tree only 80 feet away and the white on the back was clear and positive identification. Then on June 11 I went to turn on the garden hose and noted a strange black and white feather in the grass nearby. It rang a bell in my mind and I knew it was a feather from the wing of an Ivory Bill; there is no other bird that could have such a feather. It is one of the smaller 'inside' primaries adjoining the secondaries; it is 7 and 5/8 inches long, and black and white striped and marked like this. (See cut.) An ivory bill's wing feathers are all black on top except for the secondary feather (those near the body) and the white of the secondaries runs over partially into the next few primaries adjoining. This feather I have is one of these primaries. These marginal primaries have white slashes that carry the white of the secondaries on a bit farther but these have black tips just as my specimen has. Therefore I have positive contemporary evidence of the existence of one live Ivory-Billed Woodpecker in this part of Florida."

As we remarked in our last issue when speaking of New Zealand's Moa; what would be so all-fired exciting in getting a live one? You may ask the same question about this lesser bird but you will get the same answer: to wit, it would just be a lot of fun and upset a lot of people. Also, now that the National Audubon Society has been informed, we might get a proper survey and some action in conservation of the animal.



OOPHOLOGY - AS OPPOSED TO UFOLOGY

As you may have divined by now we have an all-consuming interest in anything to do with eggs, which we endearingly refer to as oeufs. If we can borrow all those other words from the French, why not this one? Besides, it gives us a much more mellifluous-sounding designation for the study of these splendid forms than the official Oology, which somehow always sounds to us like a pop song - "Oh! Ollogie" Two beautiful items in this department have come to us recently. Since the first hardly needs comment but is such a delightful shot, we can't help breaking out in a rash of illustrations. The caption under the first remarkable photo is perfectly "ghastly" and we apologize for it. The photo is ex good old AP; the caption was composed by those classic punsters at the NEW YORK NEWS. It went: - "THE EGGONY AND EGGSTASY. Proud mother hen inspects her young fry in Salem, Oregon, where she laid an egg 8 inches in diameter and lived to cackle about it." We've seen some big hen's eggs in our time, one containing three yolks, but we are wondering if this is a record. Further, just what brought it on?



OLD THREE-TOES AGAIN

The other item is really of rather a different nature. All the information we have as of now is taken from an article by Harry Butler in the March, 1969 issue of SCIENCE DIGEST, for permission to paraphrase which we are grateful to both the author and the publishers. This was entitled "Australia's Embarrassing Egg" and was listed rather splendidly as a "Science Adventure". We wonder what Messrs. Butler and Richard Dempewolf, Editor of the magazine, will have to say when they see this. And, incidentally, we are grateful to both the latter and to "Keystone" for permission to reproduce the astonishing counterpart of AP's hen, also reproduced in the above item. This shows an inquisitive Mynah Bird inspecting an ostrich egg. No wonder the Australians are embarrassed by their egg; it's almost exactly twice as long as the ostrich's. What is more, an average ostrich egg has a capacity 1.18 litres; the Australian oof has a capacity of 6.50 litres! This story goes as follows.

In the year 1930 the younger son of a ranching family living near a place called Nannup some 250 miles south of Perth, Western Australia, was rounding up cattle down in the coastal sand dunes, and left his horse tethered in order to look around for cattle tracks. This young man's name was Vic Roberts, and he had with him a friend named Chris Morris. Suddenly Vic spotted this vast egg just lying on top of the sand. It was very heavy but it has not yet been stated whether it is fossilized, filled with something, petrified, or just plain heavy. Nearby they found some bones and a very large

skull with a beak. Vic Roberts' mother was a school teacher and a lady of rather wide knowledge and she was considerably excited by her son's find. She said it looked like the egg of the Aepyornis, a vast flightless bird of Madagascar, the semi-fossil egg of which is about the same size. She wrote to the West Australian Museum in Perth about the item but they merely asked her to bring it in to look at. It was a long haul in those days so she had her daughter take some photographs with a hen's egg for comparison and sent them in. Nothing happened, so she gave up and just sat on the egg, until Harry Butler, a well-known Australian naturalist who has done much collecting for Australian and foreign museums in his country got wind of it in 1962. He visited the farm, was shown the egg, and set some wheels in motion. Finally the object was given to the museum in Perth on permanent loan by Vic Roberts. It was put on display and became a worldwide five-day wonder, but then it just sat on its pedestal in the museum forever after.

This is a fascinating enough story in itself but it has a wildly fortuitous aspect that has been overlooked. Harry Butler tells in his article of Vic Roberts having later found some more bones and another skull; while he himself was shown some flat rocks on which were the imprints of kangaroos and other modern animals as well as some enormous four-toed bird tracks. These form nearly a "cross", as follows:

Now, most
they would
very rapidly
deposited
leaching and
to stone in



in that the middle toe front is in direct line with a backwardly pointing one. people will immediately say that you can't imprint tracks into solid stone, and be quite right. However, imprints in mud or other soft ground surfaces can be "fossilized" themselves if said surface is dried hard and then a layer of silt is upon it which then too dries. (See Petrified Oranges, above.) Mere chemical drying may turn many surface materials, and especially in lagoons and beaches, very short order. As we said above, we once assisted the Mexican police in

chiselling some truck tracks out of what was very tough and solid sandstone! These Australian tracks, however, look more like weather-worn petroglyphs made by man as they included some strange symbols.

Harry Butler goes on to speculate what bird could have laid this egg, giving several possibilities; namely, first, that it was some huge species, suspected from some bones and eggshell fragments found in Queensland and other parts of South Australia to have existed in Pleistocene times. Second, that it might be an Aepyornis egg that had been washed out of a sand bank in Madagascar and floated across the Indian Ocean. (The currents to make this possible do exist and junk from the other side of that ocean does come ashore about this point.) Another suggestion was that it was a trophy that came off one of the whalers that customarily called in Southwest Australia after leaving Madagascar. But his last suggestion is the most pertinent. He says: "New evidence may turn up that will clinch matters for one of these possibilities — or that will indicate that an entirely new explanation is correct." So to such a suggestion.

In 1948 there was a tremendous uproar in Florida about a protracted series of enormous three-toed foot-tracks that cropped up on beaches for several months and ending about forty miles up the Suwanee River. We investigated this case personally and it is described in detail in a book entitled MORE "THINGS" (1969; Sanderson, Ivan T.; Pyramid Books, N.Y.) It is a very long story but may be summarized by saying that, when all was said and done, the only kind of animal that could have left such tracks would be a giant penguin. Two dozen sane, sober citizens saw just such a creature along that coast that year, and all concurred in that it stood about 15 feet tall and had enormous feet. The same year the skeleton of a seven-foot penguin was found in New Zealand. Then the presence of such creatures was brought to light through early descriptions of the Kerguelen Islands which lie in the middle of the south Indian Ocean. Penguins are southern hemisphere birds — though one species just gets north of the equator in the Galapagos Islands — and they are essentially sub-antarctic creatures. They all go ashore together once a year to lay their eggs and rear their young at special places only.

Giant penguin foot tracks have been recorded from all around the Antarctic oceans and as far north as Queensland and Nantucket Island. Penguins are great wanderers and might in some cases lose their way and get north of the equator via the great cold Humboldt, Benguella, and West Australian currents. Southwest Australia is right in their natural range. Did one get washed ashore there in a storm and have a ready-to-lay egg in it which got left intact when the body rotted away or was taken apart by beachcombing animals, and then just lie around on the surface of the sand? If there are such giant penguins, this could have happened only a couple of years, or even months, before Vic Roberts found the egg.

Both Aepyornis and penguin eggs have some rather distinctive surface and structural features. We would like to suggest that this Australian embarrassment be examined by some oophologists — or Oologists, if you want to be a purist.

OCEAN-GOING ELEPHANTS

About four years ago there was a terrific uproar in New Zealand where a vast hairy corpse was found by a game warden on a beach, and photographed to boot! A very great expert stated that in view of its hairiness it might be an elephant! Since there are no elephants swimming about in the extreme southern Pacific and they are not hairy we can only presume that the professor was misquoted and that the newsboys had once again appealed in desperation to that old standby — a Woolly Mammoth that melted out of an Arctic iceberg. The same suggestion had been made by a really leading government mammalogist in Australia a few years before when the famous "Globster" was found on a Tasmanian beach. (It had no hair, incidentally!) Now come two more little ditties dredged up for us by Member No. 190, C. J. Fortner, of Long Beach, Cal. The first is dated the 20th March, 1960; the date of the second is indecipherable.

GRIMSBY, England (AP) — "A British trawler caught an elephant Saturday. The huge beast, stone dead, came up in the nets of the trawler AMPULLA off Flamborough Head on England's northeast coast. It was so heavy it burst the trawl and floated away on the tide. Skipper Fred Ireland said he had no idea how the elephant got into the sea."

We would have been much surprised if the skipper had known, but we are much more surprised to know that an item so heavy that it burst a trawler's nets could then "float away". Very bizarre.

BORDEAUX, France (UPI) — "The body of a 13-foot-long, 10-foot-wide 'sea monster' washed up on the beach at nearby Arcachon actually is that of some kind of land-based mammal, possibly even an elephant, experts announced. The remains, still covered by thick hair, had been in the sea too long for positive identification, the experts said."

Another fine bunch of "experts". One bone would have given them the answer; failing that, they could have pinned it down from even very small samples of flesh. Did it contain any organs? It's the same old story.

So we have beached hairy elephants; beached hairless things said to be hairy elephants; elephants swimming about the Pacific; and finally elephants that sink when dead. All most enlightening. Of course, if an elephant, in a shipment to a dealer or a zoo, dies en route, the captain of the transporting freighter is well advised to rig a heavy hoist and toss it overboard; record the matter in his log; and report it to the shippers and insurance brokers. A dead elephant can, surely without meaning to, become singularly unpleasant, and in a surprisingly short time, and even in cool weather. Only one trouble is, elephants float and continue so to do until the gases within them are released by the body bursting. But then they won't ever float again. Quite a lot of elephants do die at sea.

THAT TECOLUTLA MONSTER

Back in March of this year the press went into a near tail-spin over a story that a sea-monster had been washed, or pulled, ashore at a small coastal town named Tecolutla, on the Gulf Coast of Mexico in the State of Vera Cruz. The story was kicked off by the local Mexican press but the international wire services picked it up and it went worldwide. Apparently some of the home offices of these organizations don't know Mexico; also, it should still have been the off-season for monsters despite its rather far southerly appearance; but at least UPI in New York got the clue and were, we would like to record, more than just cooperative.

Over the years that we have spent perusing reports on forteen items, we have accumulated a reference index of classics — classics of stupidity, misinformation, and mendacity. The reports on this item have been duly registered therein as we cannot find anything in the monster-hunting department that comes anywhere near it by way of concentration of idiocies. We would like to make it clear, however, that we are not blaming the press on this occasion but rather those whom they have quoted. Both the wire services and the working press have become very leery of publishing their own speculations, and especially in such departments as the biological. They've been stung too often. Certain commentators, and especially those of higher reputation, however, continue to publish the most arrant nonsense on practically all forteen matters. On this occasion they could not even get their dates straight.

The affair actually began on the 27th of February when a visiting non-local learned from the local inhabitants of this tiny fishing village — about two dozen families — that there was something unpleasant and of large size on the beach of a lagoon nearby that is separated from the Gulf by a sandbar. After inspecting this the gentleman in question appears to have hot-footed it (there being no car available) to the high road and taken a bus to Vera Cruz. There, he reported the Thing to be about thirty feet long and eighteen feet wide, to be covered with huge plates, and to have an enormous single horn sticking out of the front of its head. He further stated that it had first been spotted at sea by some local fishermen who said that it was then still alive. This gentleman then vanished from the scene and, needless to say, nobody has tried to trace him. He seems to have been a man of considerable initiative and, in view of the fact that there was a something on that beach, he was obviously not a plain liar. He might be the one person able to describe the thing as it truly appeared on first being found. The first report of this appeared on the 6th of March, in the Mexican papers; was picked up by the wire services; and then broadcast that night all over the U.S., Canada and abroad as a news item. Then the blather was on. These reports went as follows, and we quote: —

"Villagers have found a 35-ton sea creature which has washed up on the beach here. The carcass of the creature was described as about 30 feet long and 18 feet wide, with a 'serpent-like body', covered with hard armour, jointed so it would swim. It was also reported to have a 10 foot tusk. The creature washed up on February 28th and marine biologists are studying it in an effort to determine if it belonged to the age of dinosaurs. Mexican authorities (according to a UPI story) on prehistoric sea life say that the sea monster could be 50,000 years old. Dr. Bernardo Villa of the National University of Mexico said the creature may have been trapped and preserved in an arctic iceberg and discovered when the iceberg finally melted. Superstitious fishermen recovered a fin, two tusks and large portions of hide before scientists arrived but authorities have recovered most of the pieces cut from the animal and turned them over to scientists. The fishermen who sighted the animal insist the animal was alive when they first saw it and only died later. Scientists say the body has not become too decomposed because it still is in salt water."

There's worse to follow but let us analyze this first. How did anybody weigh this thing, more especially as later two bulldozers and thirty men could not winch it onto a flatbed truck? Have you ever seen anything of a 'serpentine form' that is two thirds as wide as it is long? (We will ignore the 10-foot tusk for the moment.) What is 'hard armour' and why does it have to be jointed so that its owner can swim? Turtles are fully armoured, not jointed, but swim like hell. "Belonged to the age of dinosaurs". Now, really! Just what was this supposed to mean? That the corpse had been that of an individual animal that had been swimming around for some 70-million years; that the species to which it belonged had managed to survive, so far undetected, since that time; or, that it was a kind of fresh fossil? But then comes Dr. Bernardo Villa, presumably one of the "experts on prehistoric sea life".

First of all, the word prehistoric is a bit vague to say the least. What are these gentlemen specialists in? Life in seas and oceans immediately prior to the invention of written history, or palaeontologists specializing in extinct marine forms of life? Why 50,000 years old? That, by current notion, puts us near the end of the Interglacial in the northern hemisphere. Could it be that the new dating of some of the animals preserved in the muck of Siberia by the Russians could have influenced their thinking? Then comes the greatest drivel of all. First off, no animal has ever been found trapped in ice, for the very simple reason that ice forms downwards and a corpse below it keeps being pushed down. If the ice finally reaches the bottom and grabs the body, that body is the first thing to be released when the ice melts. All the frozen bodies of the north are in a kind of frozen soil called muck; none has ever been found in ice, either glacial or, more especially, in an iceberg. Even if one ever was, who ever heard of an iceberg drifting majestically down to the Mexican Gulf, against the Gulf Stream among other things, and finally releasing its load. Should anything so preposterous be possible, said load would go straight to the bottom, as it would have been degassed by ice pressure and all bacterial action stopped, so that it would not float. Don't any of these experts ever read anything?

The next phase began when some "biologists and other scientists" reached the corpse. And, so help us, they issued the following: — "But after seeing the corpse (we) could not match it with any sea creature known to man". Now really: biologists! Further, some of them, and at the scene, said it may be the body of a sea creature from the age of dinosaurs, preserved in arctic ice. This is quite inexplicable. Couldn't they even tell whether it was a mammal or a reptile? And since when has Arctic ice been lying around for 70-million years? We then get into the usual run of corollary nonsense. First, they got the name of the village wrong (and three ways) and then changed it from Tecolutla to

Casitas, while one idiot even put it in the State of Yucatan! Perhaps this was due to the fact that the next batch of 'scientists' swooped down from the north; i.e. from Tampico.

These were biologists Sergio Garcia and Martin Contreras of the Mexican Navy's Marine Biological Station at that city. These gentlemen seem to have known their stuff as they took one look at the thing and stated that it was a highly decomposed corpse of a small Sperm Whale with nothing much left but some vertebrae and the stomach, the skull, and one ramus of the lower jaw. They need hardly have taken the trouble to go look-see because the photographs of the famous "horn" obtained by UPI were clearly of one half of the lower jaw of that animal. Further, one sensible Mexican newsman had already pointed out that it was made of bone and not horn and was very porous. However, a "great expert" in Mexico City, who had never seen the thing, told two of our members that this bone was one side of the upper jaw of a baleen whale of some sort. We should point out that such a bone is curved and blunt and quite unlike this thing on the beach. So endeth the umpteenth lesson in sea-monstery. It's a classic in its own way and in its own class but is, of course, in no way in the category of The Messy Little Boy we reported on in our last issue.

RETURN OF THE TOK

The PAKISTANI TIMES of 12th June of this year carried a Reuters report ex Rangoon, Burma, which warmed the cockles of whatever fortians use for a heart, for it's been over thirty years since our old friend it described was last heard of — at least as far as we know. This report goes: —

"Two giant 'Monkey Men' recently sighted roaming the jungles along the Mekong River near the Thai-Burma-Laos border have been terrifying local villagers. According to Press reports, the two creatures are said to be about 10 feet tall. The 'monkey men' were first sighted by a group of hunters led by a local preacher in the Taimilek area. However, the hunters were so frightened by the creatures that they fled without firing a shot. A few days later a farmer reported seeing the two creatures by moonlight in his fields. He said they made sounds like those of a child crying. A Rangoon daily newspaper, THE NEW LIGHT OF BURMA, said a third sighting was made by a group of Lahu guerillas. The guerillas had run for their lives after one of the creatures hurled a rock at them. The newspaper gave no dates on when the sightings were made but said the creatures had 'khaki' coloured hair on their bodies."

We can find no fault with this as a news report and, in view of the earlier reports, we do not presume to smirk. The Tok or "Mouth-Man" has long been a tradition all the way from the northern border of Burma to what is now central Malaya, and east to Cambodia. The best account of an encounter with one was given by the grown son of an American missionary resident in the Shan States in the late 1930s.* Sceptics should beware of deriding these reports just as they should those of the more ape-like original "abominable snowman", Meh-Teh or Yeti of the eastern Himalayas immediately to the north, and of our homegrown Sasquatches, "Bigfoots", Oh-mahs, and all the others. As Dr. Allan Hynek said of UFOs, they are as of now but reports, but once a report is made it too becomes a fact, and all facts should be investigated.

*See ABOMINABLE SNOWMEN — Legend Come to Life (1962), Chilton, Philadelphia.

ENDS "BOZO"— WE THINK

We feel that our members are entitled to a sort of preview of the epilogue to this astonishing and so widely publicized case. There is still a very great deal more that could be said about it but we have been asked not to publish further on it by just about everybody, and we have given our solemn promise, as journalists, not to do so until and unless given specific permission. This sort of promise is the only thing a journalist really holds sacred. It is an unwritten law because not just their reputations (if any), but what is much more important, their integrity depends upon their respecting the "off the record" request. This does make it a bit difficult for us.

The story, in a nutshell, is this. Our member No. 58, Dr. Bernard Heuvelmans, who was visiting us from France, and the writer (ITS) drove out to Minnesota last December to inspect an exhibit housed in a coffin in a special trailer truck on the private property of a Mr. Frank D. Hansen. This consisted of what appeared to be a large humanlike corpse clothed in thick long hair, and sunk in ice that was partially clear and partially opaque. Dr. Heuvelmans photographed this and ITS made some technical scale drawings. Mr. Hansen told us that he was not the owner; that he did not know what the thing really was; and that he didn't want to know as it was a better exhibit for fairs and midways when advertised as a mystery. Later, he told us that he had been led to it, in a deep-freeze plant in Hong

Kong, and had subsequently bought it, on the request of the owner. He refused to say who this person was or how the object was imported into the country. He further told us that said owner had had a copy made in Hollywood by a professional model-maker (for film makers and wax museums) "Just in case something like this happened". The "this" was the possibility that a scientist of Heuvelmans' stature, who happens to have spent over twenty years investigating the possibility of such ultra-primitive hominids still existing, examining it, and then publishing a scientific paper on it — which he did in the Bulletin of the Royal Institute of Natural Sciences of Belgium in February of this year.

As a result of this publication, the world press became alerted, and many scientists and notably the Smithsonian Institution became interested and the latter formally requested permission to inspect and X-ray the specimen. This request was flatly refused by Mr. Hansen in a letter in which he also stated that the specimen which Heuvelmans and ITS had inspected had been removed by the owner and would never again be exhibited, while a manmade copy was being prepared for the coming show season. Why such was needed when a copy was allegedly already on hand is not clear. However, the Smithsonian was led to a professional model-maker who stated that he had made just such a copy in April of 1967. Meantime, we had traced another professional model-maker who stated just as categorically, and for the record, that he had made another in April of this year. Both parties asked that their names not be divulged, but our man did say that he had been so requested by Frank Hansen! Hansen then turned up with the new model on exhibit in St. Paul, Minn. with a new truck containing a "something" in ice. This, however, did not resemble the thing we saw, and in five essential points. Further, the new signs on the trailer called the exhibit "SIBERSKOYA CREATURE" — A Manmade Allusion" (sic); and it had a large notice saying, "As investigated by the F.B.I."

This considerably worried our Russian friends since one of the first stories told as to the origin of the thing was that it was found in Siberian waters by a Russian sealing ship; was then confiscated by the Red Chinese; but finally turned up in Hong Kong. Incidentally, the F.B.I. did not investigate the matter since, as they stated officially to the Smithsonian, they had no grounds for doing so. In view of these facts, the Smithsonian decided to drop the matter; and in this we heartily concurred because there would be no use in examining a wax or latex-rubber model clothed in bear fur and stuffed with sawdust! However, there are a number of points left up in the air, and we can almost guarantee that you have not heard the last of this case by a long shot. As far as we are concerned, however, the matter is now completely out of our field since it is no longer an item of purely scientific interest. If this mysterious owner really exists, and be other than Frank Hansen — who, incidentally, is a very fine showman and understands the operation of true, modern publicity — and brings out of hiding the thing that Heuvelmans and I saw — which we will know at once, for certain reasons that Mr. Hansen does not seem to appreciate — and permits it to be x-rayed, we would get a positive answer to the purely scientific question involved. If he doesn't, there is nothing more that we can do about it.

The "English" Language.

After many years, and losing two others because we did not make a note of them at the time, we were recently enchanted to finally capture one of our favourites. This came in a caption from a northern Midwestern state, and read: LOCAL FISH HATCHERY REEELING ITS POND, and went on to say that some disease or other environmental change had caused all the eels in this commercial enterprise to die or quit. The ponds were therefore being reeelled. One day Americans may rediscover the hyphen so that we may once again co-operate instead of cooperating.

VIII. ANTHROPOLOGY

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ELECTRICIANS

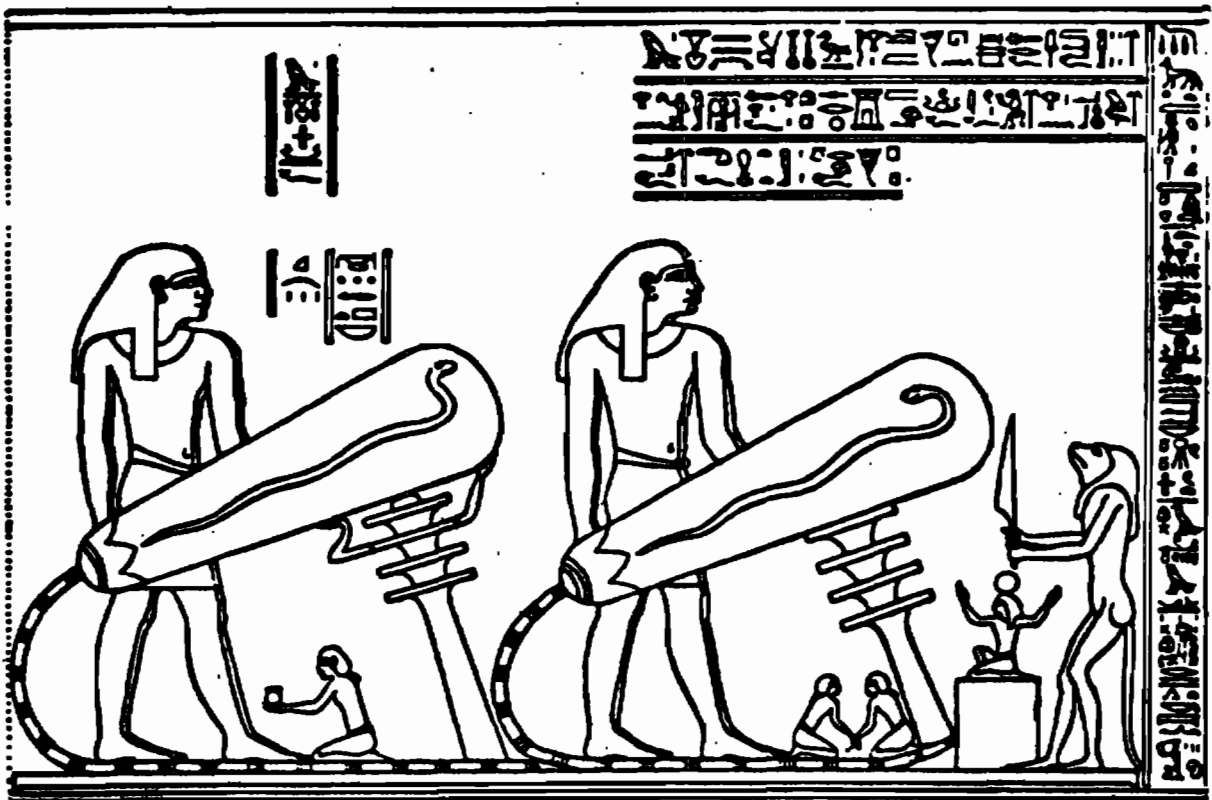
A most disturbing new concept is arising to plague us. Concrete evidence of and for this is coming in at an increasing rate, and fortune-tellers are just going to have to shift another gear, and fast, because for once we show signs of being over-ridden both by the mystics and the scientists. Yet, if anything was strictly down, or up, our alley it is this. The reasons for our having overlooked or deliberately ignored this development are, we believe, two-fold. First, Fort died before the dawn of the modern technological age, so that those who took him as their starting point for their general interests were not confronted with it. Second, we feel that honest fortune-tellers have been scared away from it due to its having for a long time been a particular pet of the mystics, including not a few religionists, and of the armies of kooks and krakpots — even unto the promoters of lost continents like Mu. The matter at issue is whether there was a worldwide technological civilization on this earth in extremely ancient times, and certainly before 4000 B.C.

The concept of ETIs — Extraterrestrial Intelligencies as they are now called, and even by such people as the scientists who worked on the benighted Condon Committee — visiting this planet

throughout not just our historical period, but since we evolved some two million years ago, and way back before that point in time to the very start of our earth as a cosmic entity, is quite acceptable. Even Dr. Carl Sagan, who is more or less the father of exobiology, suggested just this as a possibility in his book *INTELLIGENT LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE*. The researches of Charles Hapgood (No. 55) into the origin of ancient maps — see his *MAPS OF THE ANCIENT SEA KINGS* — seem to prove as nearly as anything can be proved that some intelligencies mapped the whole surface of the earth circa 20,000 B.C., using most refined spherical trigonometry, and probably did so for the most part from the air. But the idea of mere humans running around laying coaxial cables, using computers, and building batteries circa 4000 B.C., just about when agriculture, writing, astronomy and other simpler things are believed to have been "invented", is asking perhaps a little too much of pragmatists. But there are now very concrete evidences of such advanced technology, so that one is forced to ask the question: How?

There are dozens of suggestions but, as we see it, there is only one, as of our current state of knowledge, that is outstanding. This is that not only the basic enterprises like agriculture, medicine, writing, religion, law, and so forth, but also a full-blown technology were brought to this planet at the same time and possibly by the same entities. The best bet is that this took place just about 20,000 B.C. and that said entities first mapped the joint; then landed and started getting our earth-evolved ancestors organized by herding them into "Gardens of Eden" and so forth and teaching a priesthood to govern them by exercise of a limited knowledge of practical technology; but finally buzzed off again to look for more Water Planets. This they would appear to have done about 5000 B.C., either leaving us wholly on our own or under the care of a few supervisors and our home-trained priests.

According to this notion, being virtually thrown on our own resources for the first time, we proceeded to make a monumental muck-up of everything, as is apparently our wont. The trouble may have been that then, just as now, we simply had not been sufficiently educated to cope even with the basics, let alone the residue of advanced technology. This latter was left in the hands of the priesthoods but they rapidly went all mystical and forgot how to make and run the essential machines — though some hung on for millenia and did not completely lose their minds, if not their grip. But a few of the basic things did take hold, like metallurgy; and it was this that, more than anything else, kept the remnants of the pre-ancient, ETI technology glimmering. A most puzzling and provocative example of a possible residue of this higher ETI technology is this picture.



This appears in a book published in Sweden. The caption reads in Swedish (and we give this in the original so that we may not be accused of mistranslation): — "Denna bild från Dendera Templets sal 5 visar uppenbarligen elektriska lampor uppburna av högspänningsisolatorer. Templet är egentligen ett slags museum. Tekniken i Egypten stod väsentligt högre före den stora katastrofen än någonsin senare." The hieroglyphic text on this wall-painting is being translated for us, and we will report on it in our next issue.

There are several points of interest in this depiction. First, the Egyptians indicated rank by the size of the figures shown. Here the two main figures are very large in comparison to four in the background. They are also almost twice the size of the tailed baboon, holding a knife, standing behind what appears to be an altar. This is most unusual. Thus, the two main figures must have been considered very important indeed, yet they have no regal appurtenances and are doing manual labour, even if they are high-priests. But, of course, it is what they are bringing to this supposed altar that is of major interest.

Nothing like this has been found elsewhere in Egypt. Each appears to be bearing an object of very carefully composed form — and this a most complicated one — which would seem to be transparent since items that appear like snakes are shown within. These transparent constructions seem to be inserted into solid bases with some kind of circular, and perhaps threaded, closure at the end. From each of these come what look like coaxial cables, which join and run into the little altar. Each main structure is apparently supported on a pedestal. These are somewhat, but not by any means entirely, similar. Both have four flanges, but that on the left has two supporting arms extending from the second of these, and a small dome on its top. There are those who have contended that these are an elaborate form of the sacred symbol known as the 'ankh' but this is shaped like this: —
Frankly, they look much more like certain modern insulation fixtures for very high-tension power lines. What is more, the large transparent objects that the two big figures are carrying look almost too much like enormous "lightbulbs" containing heavy filaments.



Naturally, any Egyptologist who is asked to interpret this depiction will come up with a wild explanation simply because one just cannot have priest-technicians or technician-priests wandering around in Egypt four thousand years ago installing high-tension cables with what one engineer suggested were some very clever 'male' and 'female' (i.e. positive and negative) terminals. Another technician took one look at this and threw it down. Then, he looked again for a longtime and said, "My God, the answer to tri-di-tv".

OLD AMERICAN ELECTRONICS (?)

Meantime, however, Barney Nashold (87) rolled in from Chicago. He and his wife have been on a SITU expedition to Centroamerica during the past year. When we showed him this frustrating business of the Egyptian "whatever-they-ares", he really flipped because he has over the years accumulated a file of drawings taken from Nazcan and other South American painted ceramics which appear, on detailed analysis, to be formalized (and in part "allegorical") layouts for electronic circuitry. This is a very interesting bit and we will report upon it in considerable preliminary detail when Barney has had time to prepare his report with documentary evidence and analysis. Meantime, he requests that anyone among our ranks who might have been harboring similar suspicions and collecting supportive evidence get in touch with him via SITU. Any electronic engineers who enjoy working with puzzles might also like to lend a hand in this effort.

Expenditure on Research

According to the official records of the British House of Commons, a backbench member, in criticizing the government's expenditure on scientific research, quoted from one of its publications. And we quote: "From this intensive survey it can be stated that half the married people of this country are women." (Aside: How about their new law permitting marriages between homosexuals?)

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THE LEFT-OVERS

There are a few items of general interest, at least to quite a high percentage of our members, that might appear to have been sort of left over from the formulation and classification of facts as demonstrated on page 42. There are three of these. Two can be quite rapidly disposed of for, although they at first appear to be extremely esoteric, they are really quite readily assignable.

The first is the matter of what are called Poltergeist Manifestations. It must be clearly understood that we are not here speaking of anything like a Geist or Ghost which, we presume, being as far as we know a classic intangible, must fall somewhere within Segments IX and/or X. What causes these purely physical and measurable "manifestations" would seem to fall into the segment assigned to Life-Forms (i.e. the Biological) since they seem to be entities, and possibly to have an intellect if not a mind. That they may be invisible; invisible to some but not to others; or able to become visible, is beside the point. It is what "they" do that is of interest to Fortean. since these doings are perfectly tangible. Thus, one discusses such doings as expressions of the behaviour of some life-form. For the nonce, however, unexplaineds of a similar nature — such as stone-lobbing — for the activation of which there is not as yet any evidence of volitional control must remain in limbo but be dealt with within the terms of Physics and/or Chemistry.

The second minor left-over is the matter of Brain Control and Mind Patrol. A living entity at the evolutionary state of Man is manifestly composed of four interlocked and coordinated units. These are a purely physical body; a computer built upon biological principles and run by electro-chemical mechanics and which we call a brain; a mind, or intelligence, or intellect if you want, that is completely intangible but which can be probed by such mentalogical procedures as psychology; and finally a Personality, which may be called a Soul, Spirit, Id, or what-have-you. It now transpires that we, by taking thought upon the matter, can to a considerable extent control the physical body. During the last quarter century we have made giant strides in controlling the brain — vide, such outfits as The Brain Research Institute of UCLA in Los Angeles, which has no less than fourteen thousand co-operating scientists with doctorates throughout the world. Much has also been done — but little published — on the rather unpleasant matter of the control of the mind or intellect. This is a very sensitive area of research, smacking as it does, and rather too forcefully perhaps, of Orwell's "1984". But, when it comes to tampering with the individual personality of a living entity, it appears that, at least so far, we are completely buffaloes. Maybe one day we will find out how to influence or even alter the basic Id of an individual but, as of now, it appears that the only way we can do this is to eliminate or "kill" the entity and start all over again. Nonetheless, these matters manifestly fall squarely into Segment IX, though with possible features of Segment X.

But then, there is still the greatest of all Unexplaineds still left over. This is that of the UFOs.

Here we run into something that does truly stand outside all the rest. We must first accept that these entities exist. Given this, we have to take note of the fact that, as of now, they display both tangible and intangible qualities. They are, in fact, as we have said several times before, basically cosmic in that they represent a whole "other world", or represent another space-time continuum (or continua), or universe(s), or however you choose to define it. Whether they are machines or life-forms; whether they contain life-forms or are robots; or whatever they may be; they present us with aspects of all ten segments of our wheel of knowledge. They may be infinitely varied in origin, construction, and intent but, until we have got at least one and tried to analyze it, we have no starting point for question-asking on any one of these ten aspects of its existence.

Therefore, we are from now on taking all ufological matters out of our general classification, and out of our expositions, and will in future report upon them here, at the end, as a separate subject.

* * * * *

THE TAXONOMY OF KNOWLEDGE

An Elaboration of the Working Chart

Presented on Page 42.

The definition of the word Taxonomy (as per Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary, 1965) reads: "The study of the general principles of scientific classification — i.e. systematics". This precisely defines what we were talking about in our Editorial. Knowledge as a term, per se, covers what we know or think we know of reality, and this may best be expressed as a closed circle which starts with the most intangible of all exercises and ends with it. You can keep on breaking down "knowledge" ad infinitum but we consider it to be wise to constrict this process as much as possible.

In doing so, the ten segments allotted in this wheel are not, of course, of equal status in that, for instance, the affairs of little Man, although vastly important to us, in no way have the importance of their opposite, which just happens to be Physics. Then again, the Earth is but a very minor Gross Body and therefore a part of Astronomy but, again, it is of much greater importance to us than any other planet.

Just to be sure that you know what we are talking about, the following is an elaboration of that simplified chart, listing the departments of enquiry which fall into each segment. These are the standard — but not yet standardized — sub-sections as listed in such taxonomic works as Dewey's ABRIDGED DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION, and other standard works used by library scientists and computer programmers. We are going to have to come down to some such earthy system sooner than later if we are going to maintain any control over the explosion of knowledge, and more especially over so-called education. The elaboration goes as follows: —

- I. MATHEMATICS — The Theory and Practice of Measurement, or Mensuration. Number, Quantity, Probability, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, Topology, the Theory of Games, and such related matters of calculation.
- II. ONTOLOGY — The Theory of Existence. Cosmology, Space, Time, Locus; Classical Metaphysics, and such items as Coincidence.
- III. PHYSICS — The Laws and Method of Performance. Theoretical Physics, Nucleonics, Atomics (in part), Classical Physics, Electromagnetics, Mechanics and the Theory of Engineering.
- IV. CHEMISTRY — The Structure and Behaviour of Matter. Atomics (in part), and both Inorganic and Organic (i.e. Carbon) Chemistry.
- V. ASTRONOMY — The Structure and Behaviour of Gross Bodies. Galactics, Stellar and Solar Astronomy, Planetology, Selenology, Meteoritics, Astrophysics, etc.
- VI. GEOLOGY — The Structure and Behaviour of the Earth. This includes everything connected with the Earth Sciences — Atmosphere, Hydrosphere, and Lithosphere — plus the sublithic core. Thus: meteorology, hydrology, glaciology, oceanology, geophysics and geomorphology, geology (classical), volcanology, seismology, petrology, mineralogy, etc. Also — geography, geodesy, mapping, dating, etc.
- VII. BIOLOGY — The Structure and Behaviour of Animate Entities. These are the Life-Sciences, (apart from mental expressions) but including Exobiology as well as the life indigenous to this planet. It thus covers all life-forms, from the possibly non-material to man; and embraces Protogeanology, Botany, and Zoology; Histology, Physiology, and Anatomy, and Human Physical Anthropology (i.e. man, physically, as an animal).
- VIII. ANTHROPOLOGY — Manu-facture, or The Works of Man. Archaeology, Pre-history, History, Ethnology, Sociology, Folklore (but not Mythology), Philology, Economics and the Arts, Architecture, Agronomy, and some other useful arts, and their related technologies.
- IX. MENTALOGY — The Anatomy of Mentality. Psychology (of all life forms, including Man), Ethology, Behaviourism, Comparative Intelligence, Brain Control and Mind Patrol, Ethics.
- X. MYSTICISM — Mental Concepts. Aesthetics, Logic, Religion, Mythology, the Occult.

By using a wheel system such as this there is allowance within it for what we call "cross-overs" and also for the seething mass of technologies and other useful arts. Outside the wheel or circle lies the world of the unknown, which presumably reaches to infinity. In other words, the circle is constantly expanding, and it is probably tri- or multi-dimensional in that everything comes back to where it started as Einstein prognosticated cosmological realities, like space and time, should do. It's a pity that we can think only tridimensionally and express ourselves only two-dimensionally, but a slice of a cake is better than nothing and, above all, we need order in our thinking.

CUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

(This is not a paid advertisement.)

NOTE: We continue to list books which we consider will or may be of interest to members — in print, 'out of print', and forthcoming. This is arranged alphabetically by author. However, in Vol. 2, No. 4, we propose to publish an amalgamated bibliography of all titles by (a) author and (b) subject. At the same time, a subject index of the first two volumes will be issued. Books by members are indicated by an (*).

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As to whether titles 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.

We are always grateful for suggestions regarding books for inclusion here but would appreciate it if all pertinent information is included. This saves us considerable time and effort.

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The publishing schedule as now envisioned is four quarterly issues of both PURSUIT and SITU NEWS, dated January, April, July, and October each year, and numbered, in the first case, as annual volumes — Vol. 1 being 1968 and before; Vol. 2, 1969, and so on — and in the second case, serially, starting with No. 6, dated April, 1969.

NEWSLETTER**	DATE	JOURNAL
NEWSLETTER No. 1 *	May, 1967	
NEWSLETTER No. 2 *	March, 1968	
(contained in)	June, 1968	PURSUIT, Vol. 1, No. 3 *
(contained in)	Sept., 1968	PURSUIT, Vol. 1, No. 4 *
(contained in)	Jan., 1969	PURSUIT, Vol. 2, No. 1
SITU NEWS, No. 6	April, 1969	PURSUIT, Vol. 2, No. 2
SITU NEWS, No. 7	July, 1969	PURSUIT, Vol. 2, No. 3

* These are out of print and not available.

** Sent only to members.