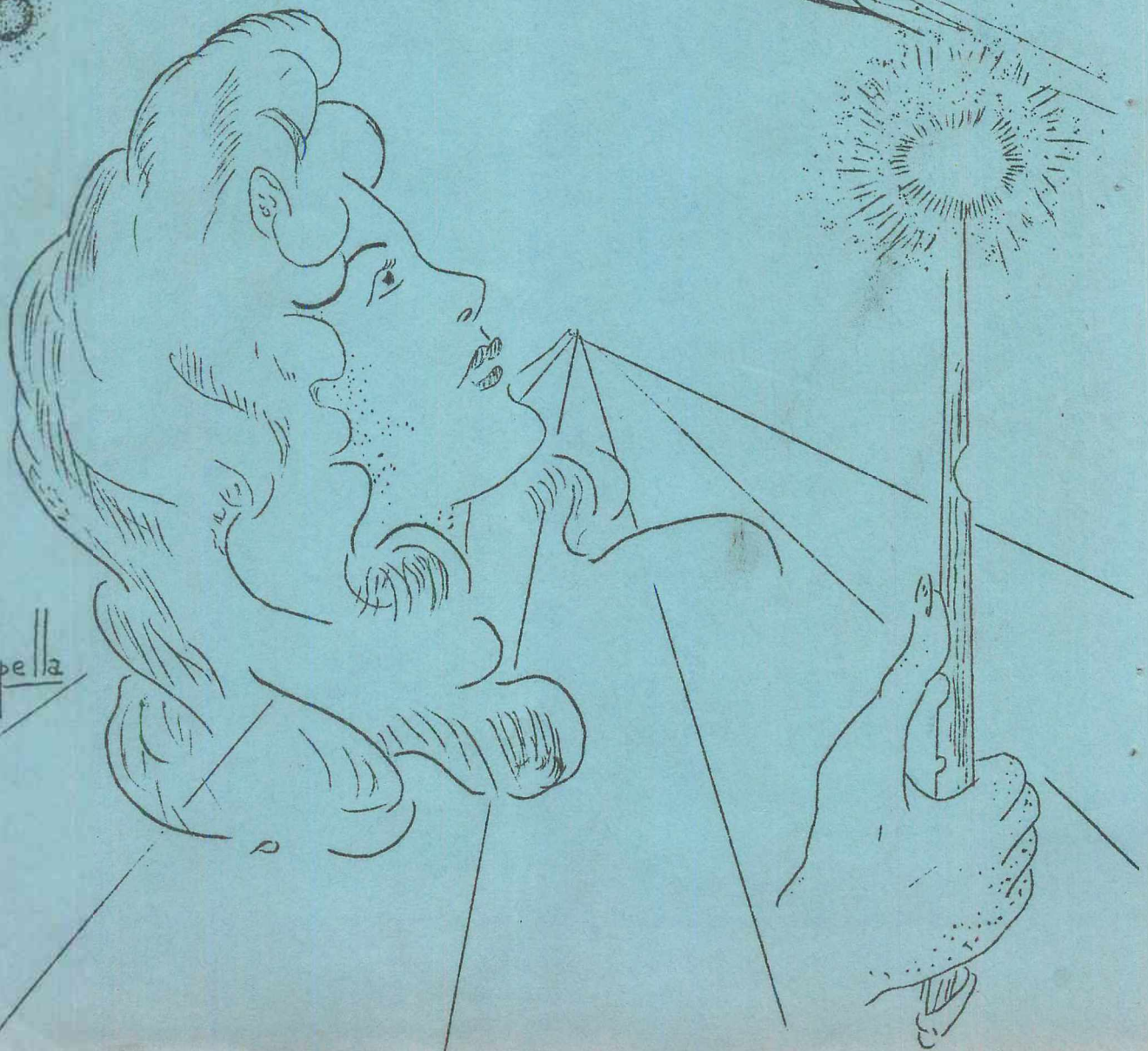


ROMAN SABUKA



Capella

RENAISSANCE; Number 3, Volume 2; whole number 9. Published at irregular intervals. One issue for ten cents, three for twenty-five cents, six for fifty cents and twelve for a dollar. All material should be sent to Joseph Semenovich, 155-07 71st Avenue, Flushing 67, New York. The same applies for subscriptions, etc.,. It might also be added that articles are preferred and can be on almost any subject. Fiction is also used. Each issue usually has at least one fiction piece, if room permits. Room did not permit any to be used this issue. One helpful suggestion to you fans who think yourself to be another Ray Bradbury: I prefer weird prose. Weird prose is very hard to write. Science-fiction is also used.....sometimes. Or should I say, most of the times as weird prose is hard to write, therefore I seldom get any to use. As for art work, this is also used but seldom. I donot have the patience to cut stencils, let alone use shading plates, etc.,. If you have any drawings to send me, make them plain, make them simple. Also, there is no need to send, along with your ms., self-addressed envelopes. I receive so little from, pardon this term which I must admit is corny, "free lance" amateur authors that it doesn't cost me that much. And after all, the author is doing me the favor; he does not receive any payment for his ms. Oh yes, before I forget; this is the September, 1953 issue. Next issue will be out whenever I find it possible. Probably in two and a half months.

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WE DONOT BELONG TO FANVARIETY ENTERPRISES!

FORTEAN PHENOMENA

-By George T. Wetzel-

"THE EARTH IS HAUNTED," is the conclusion one receives after reading the "Books of Charles Fort." Showers of living creatures from the sky happened too many times in too many places over hundreds of years and was witnessed by too many diversified people to be dismissed as imaginings. In numerous cases scientists examined such debris from the upper air, proving that the showers were investigated and were not merely just "yarns."

Strange lights seen in the heavens from time to time, which phenomena are now classed as "flying saucer" data:- There is a secret in the sky but it puzzles all who explain or try to explain it by conventional beliefs. Then there are the occurrences of poltergeist phenomena which are very closely related to the showers of living creatures and objects from the sky; and with them the sightings of "ghosts" and "haunted houses."

Some of Fort's theories I accept; others seem to have been refuted as his belief that the stars, the sun and the moon are dangerously close upon the earth. The radar echo bounced off the moon in recent years reveals his error. But in some other things Fort was a prophet.

One of my attempts herein will be to convince the reader that most, if not all, Fortean phenomena are related to one another. The inexplicables of science and the causes ---- not the beliefs ---- of superstition will underlie my discussion; for to me, "ghosts" and mysterious lights in the sky are made by the same unknown.

(The data that follows is not in Fort's "Books" or has been quoted by anyone else to my knowledge.)

(Sun. Jan. 29, 1852). A strange spectacle seen in the night sky over Baltimore. On either side of the moon appeared two luminous bodies resembling the nucleus of a comet; or, more curiously, like the nebula of outer space. They trailed light which partially encircled the moon, grew brighter, then faded away.

(Sun. Jan. 11, 1839). This time it was in Providence, Rhode Island that the moon was identically encircled by trails of light from two valls of variegated colors. They seemed larger than the moon, were at opposite sides of it and had comet-like tails. Time: 3AM.

They certainly were not comets or meteors. The flying saucers were here far before 1947. Many objects rushing through our skies are not all meteors, yet have been classed as such.

(Sun. Oct. 3, 1907). Suffern, New York: Objects similar to a huge sky rocket swept the sky there and was thought to have exploded over the Rampapo Mountains.

(London Times. Sept. 27, 1865). Stacey-hill, Wolverton, England: A meteor resembling a rocket, observed.*

(Sun. Aug. 4, 1902). Peculiar lights seen in the night sky over Baltimore from vantage point in Montgomery County.

*I should say here that all data from The London Times is based on Charles Fort's "Notes" for an unpublished book or books; the new stories in LT were looked up at the Peabody Library in Baltimore, Md.

There is a relationship between "meteors" and earthquakes. My idea is vastly different from Fort's and is based on the possibility that the earth's magnetic field can be or is used as a propellant for the tropospheric craft of some otherworldly race (we call their craft "flying saucers").

Fort has documented falls of meteors during earthquakes and thought they were chunks of a stratospheric terrain encircling the earth and shook down by seismic shocks. My belief, as I have stated, is quite different.

However, some new data on which to hypothesize:

(Sun. Nov. 21, 1840). Baltimore: At 1AM a sudden flash of light in the sky followed by a rumbling like thunder; those who saw it said the flash came from balls of fire.

(Baltimore-Clipper. Nov. 19, 1840). Philadelphia: During a thunder storm, a slight tremor of the ground was felt. Several witnessed a ball of fire rush pass a man, felt great heat and smelt sulphur. It exploded with a cannon like report.

(Sun. Oct. 6, 1907). Baltimore: A shower of aerolites over the city at 9:55 PM. No ground tremor reported but significant is the explosion of what must have been a large meteor. From accounts of viewers both in the city and surrounding counties the aerolites were going at varying directions. What more proof of an explosion and not aerolite shower need I give? But there is a second unusual circumstance. One brilliant ball dimmed the market lights where it fell atop a tin roof of a market stall. Explosion, followed by clouds of smoke. The inquisitive climbed the roof. No meteorite residue nor any scorch marks on the roof where the thing burned. Meteorite iron is not volatile, nor vanishes in a froth of smoke as this one did.

I have another datum of the vanishing residue of an exploded meteor. (Sun. Dec. 6, 1894). The ship, The Urbino, ran into a terrible storm in the Atlantic on November 22. At 9PM, during it, there was a loud report in the sky. An immense ball of fire appeared. Another explosion; then it was a mass of forked streamers of light. A third explosion; scintillating particles spread everywhere; large lumps of fire fell on the deck and vanished when the astounded men tried to pick them up. On November 20 - 25 auroral displays were seen. Only when the earth's magnetic field becomes erratic does the aurora occur. A storm of wave and air endangered a man made ship. An electronic storm silently lashed the earth's magnetic field and a ball of fire exploded in the air.

There have been instances of phantom blasts upon the earth but nothing has been found. (London Times. Jan. 5, 1866). Paris, France: Tremendous explosion heard; no signs of it discovered. Similar explosion heard, not long before, elsewhere in the city.

(Sun. Jan. 2, 1912). Baltimore: Mysterious blast heard and felt all over city. Authorities considered it 6 or 7 sticks of dynamite set off by some practical joker. The blast site was localized; a signal operator in a Railroad tower felt shock, heard blast and saw smoke near Druid Hill Park and Cedar Avenue. He proceeded to spot where the smoke had been, found no trace. A housewife in the same neighborhood saw a flash in the same direction and time of explosion. All other reports confirm this was the center of disturbance. A few days later detectives said dynamite was on a raft in a stream there. But no raft was found. Seems excessive lengths to go for a mere practical joke.

Not only phantom explosions but phantom earthquakes have occurred here in Baltimore. The ambiguity of that remark will soon be clarified.

(Sun. Aug. 11, 1884). Earthquakes felt in the middle Atlantic states, Maryland included. But it was not recorded on seismograph in Baltimore. (Sun. Sept. 1, 1886). Earthquake felt in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, etc., and Maryland. Again not recorded by seismograph. The latter seems to be a god with clay feet.

The converse situation is equally puzzling. (Sun. April 6, 1901). Baltimore: residents of Roland Park section felt ground trembling. One witness had been through earthquakes elsewhere and knew the feel of this one as the real thing. The seismograph at John Hopkins University was not working at the time, so no seismic verification was made.

(Sun. Feb. 5, 1902). Earth tremors felt in Baltimore County and on the Eastern shore. At Oxford, Maryland, a long report like artillery noted. The tremor and report also experienced in part of Baltimore City. (Sun. Feb. 11, 1902). The seismograph at John Hopkin's University checked but no trace of the tremor upon it. Now comes the joker. (Sun. April 26, 1902). The seismograph at JHU records at 9:30 PM, April 25, the tremors of an earthquake that occurred a week prior in Central Asia. Why, is the question, is the JHU seismograph sensitive to earthquakes removed in both time and space from Baltimore, yet cannot record local ground tremors? Another damning fact is that the JHU seismograph felt that Asian earthquake but Baltimore residents did not.

(Sun. Jan. 11, 1907). Earthquake felt in Baltimore County but no record of it on the JHU seismograph. Professor Reed of the University said their seismograph was "not of a sufficiently delicate nature to record a slight local shock....." What does he call a tremor from Central Asia recorded here on April 25, 1902 ----- a large shock? And why wasn't it felt by the Baltimore residents as well as by his seismograph?

There is much mystery anent three local tremors in Baltimore and elsewhere in Maryland, felt by the inhabitants but not by the local seismograph. Only in early Mesozoic times was there any volcanic activity in Maryland ----- so that can be ruled out as the cause of our local tremors (forgetting for the time the enigma of the insensitive local seismograph). Tectonic --- rock faults --- appear to be the only other accepted scientific explanation. But no tectonic faults exist in Maryland to my knowledge. But ephemeral, artificially induced rock faults might be the answer. Quartz crystals contract and expand when alternating electric current passes through them. What the piezo-electric properties of the rocks under our feet are I don't know. But earth currents have been measured as traveling through the earth's crust. There also is an induced field there by the earth's magnetic field. In magnetic prospecting there occur magnetic anomalies in the earth's magnetic field which aid in locating minerals.*

If some tropospheric craft utilized the earth's magnetic field as a propellant (and this appears possible as the action would be akin to an electric motor.) storms in that magnetic field would cause disturbed flight. In radio circuitry one learns that converse actions can

*see "Terrestrial Magnetism & Electricity," edited by J. A. Fleming, page 113.

be used; so, it is possible that the magnetic motor of a tropospheric craft could, if it developed trouble, cause an interaction upon that part of the earth's magnetic field it is when passing over. Let us say that divergence and convergence of the earth's magnetic lines occur there, with a resultant piezo-electric effect in the immediate crust of the earth. Final result: a contraction and expansion of the rocks and a tectonic earthquake; sometimes this tremor might even cause loud crackling or artillery like reports.

During natural earthquakes and at sunspot heights, the earth's magnetism is affected intensely. During the 'Frisco quake of 1906 there was a considerable variation in the earth's magnetic intensity; likewise an alternating change in earth currents interfered with a telephone wire between there and Texas.*

(London Times. Aug. 9, 1865). Scientists, measuring earth currents on two miles of wire, found that during a magnetic storm they were strong enough to transmit messages upon.

(London Times. March 18, 1906). A ship, bound for Liverpool, experienced an undersea earthquake. While it lasted, the compass card revolved rapidly.

(Sun. April 27, 1906). The telegraphy between Rome and Naples was affected during the recent eruption of Vesuvius. Apparently the flow of lava beneath the earth's crust affects the permeability of the earth's magnetic field. In such affected areas it is my belief that the objects classified as "flying saucers" shy away from as the energy or propellant there is malfunctioning. To fly over such an area is similar to a ship sailing dangerously close to hidden coral reefs. And conversely, the malfunctioning of such a tropospheric craft's magnetic motor could cause anomalies in the earth's magnetic field at that spot with resultant ground tremors.

One of the most amazing of the flying saucer stories was that which came out of West Palm Beach, Florida, one August 19, 1952. The story is too well known to repeat entirely but certain parts of it bear, I think, new significance if compared with certain other data. Scoutmaster Sonny Des Vergers stumbled upon a flying saucer in a palmetto forest and some creature in it fired a ball of fire at him, which ball gave off sparks and rendered Des Vergers unconscious for a while. And afterwards, Des Vergers' reactions were those, I maintain, of someone shocked by an electrical current or charge.

It is that, plus the means of attack -- the ball of fire -- which interests me. I have collected many newspaper accounts of people shocked or frightened during an electrical storm by balls of fire that gave off sparks. I have also read elsewhere, besides collecting myself accounts of such sentient fire balls.

(Sun. July, 13, 14, 15, 1952). A state trooper heard reports of a strange light seen on a country road near Hebron, Maryland. He found the light; but at all attempts to approach it, the light dimmed to a red, went out and reappeared behind him. All actions of the thing pointed to some sort of sentience. Old time residents claimed it had been seen about for years, with just the same antics.

A similar phenomena reported by the AP on March 13, 1951 from Suffolk, Virginia (I don't know what paper carried it; certainly not the local Baltimore papers). A mysterious light seen on a country road

*Sun, April 26, 1906 and also for April 21st.

reported to the deputy sheriff. He investigated and had similar experience as the Md. state trooper at Hebron.

(Sun. March 6, 1893). Baltimore: A globe of fire seen over and in the Greenmount Cemetery, and which thing's actions were akin to the Hebron and Suffolk lights. Sometimes this light was seen forty feet in the air there; at others, bobbing along near the ground at a certain distance regardless of rises and falls of the ground. In this respect it also resembles the other "light" phenomena. If it were a living, sentient thing the only way it could ----- in all three cases ----- have maintained a specific distance from the earth was by a capacitive or electrostatic sense perception.

Among the many cases of fire balls seen in electric storms, there are two that bear some similarity with Sonny Deo Vergers' burning by a fire ball from a flying saucer. The fire ball that burned him shot off sparks which action was likewise a feature of fire balls seen in electric storms.

(Sun. Aug. 3, 1904). Baltimore: An electrical storm; fire ball invades pavilion, radiating sparks. It shocks unconscious two women there; passed also by a man and his right arm and leg shocked into paralysis by it. The thing rolls out. One month prior (Sun. July 10) an unusual meteor seen from Southern Maryland to Adams County, Pa. (Sun. June 16, 1908). Six boys playing near a wire fence during thunder storm. Then a large ball of fire played up on the fence, struck a boy and killed him. The others rendered unconscious by it.

To impute all fire balls, roaming about in an electrical storm, as sentient beings or even as "bullets" that fell from a weapon aboard a flying saucer is stretching it a bit. But some of them are not all charges of electricity as claimed. The Hebron light, for one, behaves like no spherical charge of atmospheric electricity I ever heard of.

There are other secrets in the sky that continue to baffle us despite "explanations" of scientists. And why do such showers of living creatures occur? --- with the fall of rain. Mirages?

Mirages follow proved laws of optics. When they don't, why then I guess they are not mirages but only seem to be. What has this to do with flying saucers and sentient fire balls? Suppose the occupants of flying saucers are biologists; they would desire specimens to examine. And when they finish with them, send a shower of things down upon us. That has happened many times ----- instances which Fort calls selective teleportation. But the reverse, the dredging up on the specimens, data is meagre on such occurrences --- if I am right in my supposition along with Fort that we are being studied by interstellar biologists who dump their specimens out of their flying saucers when through with them.

But I was speaking of a curious mirage datum I have. (Sun. June 26, 1894). Captain Hill's schooner was anchored in Elk River which is on top of Chesapeake Bay. At 9:30 PM his eye was caught by something in the sky, NNE. A mirage of a ship. Obviously it was wrecked as it head - gear and the main mast rigging was gone. What is inconsistent with mirage optics were the facts that part of the keel, or bottom, could be seen from stem to about mainmast, and that the hull was a pure white color. It remained fifteen minutes during which the top of the main mast broke off. Then this ghost sank sternmost into a cloudbank. If it is agreed the spectre was not a mirage, what kept it up there? Was it being dredged from the bottom of our atmosphere into space by some outre beings?

The things that have rained down upon us ---- are they the refuse from some outre dissecting table?

(Sun. April 24, 1843). Baltimore completely covered with sulphurous substance after rain storm.

(Sun. May 12, 1883). Sulphurous stuff fell in Baltimore County, the city and in Washington, D.C. A professor declared it was pollen carried on the wind from the Alleghageny Mountains. Much of his explanation is self contradictory.

(Sun. May 14, 1887). Sulphurous stuff found after rainstorm in Baltimore. Another professor calls it pollen. Why the association with rainfall? Why does teleportation occur mostly at such times?

(Sun. Aug. 10, 1839). Elmira, New York: Showers of dry leaves and broken, green twigs at 5 PM. Twenty-five miles east of Elmira, over Owego showered at six and seven PM the same oak, beech and maple leaves.

(Sun. March 5, 1880). Thousands of worms found in North Baltimore after a rainstorm.

(Sun. May 14, 1860). A rain squall passed over a steam tug in the Patapsco River, Md: then some small frogs found on the tug's deck.

(Sun. May 20, 1898). When the steamer Essex docked in Baltimore, a four foot, flat shark was found on the lower deck. It was conjectured the propellar had thrown it aboard. Aside from the cuts around the body, it was still alive and active.

Here are a couple of possible teleportation data but I won't argue them. (Sun. Aug. 7, 1908). Captain Olsen of the steamer Bennet saw thousands of crabs at sea, south of Cape Henry. His guess: that recent storms carried them out from the Chesapeake Bay. (Sun. May 30, 1906). The ship, Babcock, sailed from San Francisco on November 24, 1905 for Philadelphia. For nearly three weeks they were followed by a multitude of sharks, which is unusually as sharks are reputed to be lone wolves rather than a school or herd fish. The steamer had made good headway but when the breeze fell, the mass of sharks actually becalmed them for twenty-four hours. No guess for this extraordinary number of sharks.

Occasionally, I collect data that will not fit the hypothesis I am building. Then I am forced to make some concessions. Like it may be possible that there exists teleportative currents occurring naturally (the idea is Fort's). The disturber of my hypothesis is data on the ballast that fell from the sky. (Sun. June 12, 1902). La Soufriere, on St. Vincent, erupted. The schooner, Congo, was in the harbor of Georgetown, Barbados, one hundred miles east of it. On the following morning the Congo's deck was covered with a fine, gray sand which looked like mercury or lead compound. So much of it fell that the Congo and the ship Lena, also in the same harbor, used the tons of it that landed on them for ship ballast. Despite the facts that these two ships were 100 miles eastward of the volcano and that an eastward wind was blowing, the presence of the dust there was "explained" by a higher attitude, counter wind current. If that is so, what carried the same dust to Jamaica, westward of the volcano 1,200 miles?

(Sun. June 13, 1902). The steamer Louisiana when within one hundred miles of Mt. Pelee, also in the West Indies, was covered with six inches of the same gray dust.

(Sun. Sept. 9, 1902). The steamer Chesapeake was ten miles SE of Fenwick's Island lightship when it ran into a sea of blood red water. A layer of lead colored dust covered the surface for miles and when the waves parted they looked bloody. Several bucketfuls were drawn up, each just red. When placed in a bottle, the dust did not float but formed a sediment on the bottom. I think it was Mercuric Oxide. Twenty-five

miles of sea were claret color before clear water passed into it. Did this dust hang somewhere in the sky from the time earlier in June when it was vomited from Mt. Pelee or La Soufriere, until say about two and a half months later when it fell upon the sea? Considering its simple mixture with water it could not have floated long before the Chesapeake plowed through it. Conclusion: it had waited in the sky for a while before falling back.

Perhaps the pumice, that stoned Baltimore about one and a half months after these volcanic eruptions in the West Indies, likewise was drawn and held up in the clouds until their time to return.

(Baltimore American. July 22, 1902). What is known is that during hurricane winds that swept over the city on July 20th, a shower of pumice stone hailed down on one block near the water front. A few speculators thought the stone came from the volcanos previously alluded to.

The competitor newspaper (Sun. July 23, 1902) called the Baltimore American the victim of a mad wag; claimed instead the pumice stone came from a neighborhood leather manufacturing house. The Baltimore American made in retaliation a very puzzling answer by saying that stone came from the roof of a furniture company in the street behind where they dropped. Then (Baltimore American. July 24, 1902) an official of the Weather Bureau sent a sample of them to the Washington Bureau to ascertain character and origin. What was found out does not seem to have been printed. Personally, too many phenomenal things are ascribed to practice jokers. Here is one datum that assuredly will be considered a hoax. (Sun. August 2, 1837). "In a recent storm at Otsego, New York, a shower of hen's eggs fell, as large as hail stones." Several wisecracks spring to mind.

Salt and salty water showers have been recorded by Fort. I have one datum of such. (Sun. Sept. 20, 1904). After a rain storm the red paint on Baltimore trolley cars was streaked "as if salt water were splashed on them."

(Baltimore American. August 14, 1839). Hunterdon, Pa.: a farmer found in an oat field of his countless worms, and curiously, a great number of land turtles. No one seen them fall --- but I have reason to believe that that is how they got there.

As Fort considered bleeding statues and the like as cases also of teleportation, in this case of blood, I will so include the following phenomena data. (Sun. March 7, 1915). An ancient tombstone in a cemetery at Rocky Hill, Fredrick County, Md. had been bleeding. The local explanation was more a Hawthorne allegorical tale. The stains had appeared before 1870, and were still visible in 1915.

More arrivals of enigmas from the sky. (Sun. Aug. 26, 1867). An alligator lassoed in Baltimore's harbor basin; six feet long and approximately eighteen months old. How did it survive a northern winter? Here is more of the same: (Sun. Sept. 25, 1888). An alligator, fourteen inches in length was found in a Baltimore gutter. (Sun. Aug. 11, 1890): Man finds eleven and a half inch alligator in his cellar in Baltimore. (Sun. Sept. 3, 1891). Alligator seen in sewer several weeks prior; when caught, measured eighteen inches. Would teleportation explain the existence of such animals? It is said they cannot live through the inclemency of the temperate zone winters.

Fort considers the discovery of strange animals as creatures teleported from another world. Possibly he is correct. I have a datum on such. But first I must preface one datum briefly with some facts. In

the course of researching on the present article I made notes of the newstories of eels and fishes that got into the drinking water supply of Baltimore, fifty to a hundred years ago, and which swam out of spigots. Too, it occassionally happened a person would swallow such watery inhabitants. Therefore (Sun. October 2, 1838), the living creature vomited by a shoemaker in Philadelphia was considered no more exceptional, unless the aspect of the creature was considered in which wise it was extraordinary. It was two inches long, with a dog-like head, snail body but lacking legs. Quite obvious he swallowed it in drinking water. But biologists know of no earthly animal of the like.

Poltergeists phenomena appears to be similar at times to teleportations from the skies. Take the following (Sun. July 21, 1881).: In a south Baltimore home something showered the front floor with pins. Fort gives data of stones, water and oil that sprinkled the inside of of houses, mysteriously.

Curiously there seem to be poltergeistic showering in the Alchemical four states of matter. Water and solid (objects) are well known. Cases of mysterious fires breaking out I consider the fiery state. And as for air or gaseous state, I believe I have datum in the following: (Sun. Dec. 26, 1911), Clouds of smoke rolled through the building of the Western Maryland Railroad at Hillen Station, Baltimore. Rooms and hallways filled with it, Firemen searched for a half an hour but found no fire.

An active, invisible agent whose main characteristics is visciousness shows up in much poltergeistic phenomena. I wonder sometimes if such is not done by some presences who want us to be superstitious ridden.

(Sun. October 8, 1874). Baltimore: A unkown rang the bells in this house. (Sun. October 12, 1874). Five days later the mystery was solved. A colored servant girl exercised an unkown influence over the wires which vibrated at her approach. The same phenomena existed at two former places where she had been employed, she admitted. Various experiments tried on the wires: unsuccessful. Members of the Maryland Academy of Sciences investigated and went away baffled.

(Sun. October 14, 1904). Another front door bell in Baltimore rang incessantly by invisiblc fingers. (Sun. March 15 & 16, 1892). A third such case. Not satisfied with bell ringing this poltergeist pulled pictures and nails from the walls. Chinaware thrown mysteriously off eight foot shelf but miraculously unbroken. I will note here that preceeding data of living creatures showered from the sky were also unhurt by their fall. Thus here is another similarity between teleportations from the open sky and poltergeist phenomena in closed rooms.

(Sun. March 30, 1902). The schooner, Margret Vane, was anchored in the James River, Virginia; the captain and the mate had retired. A rattle of glass came from the main saloon. Fearing thieves, both jumped up and found there a glass pitcher and glass had fallen from the table; the glass was still quivering. Back to bed. Midnight: a sound like a pistol shot in their cabin this time awakes them. No explanation for it. They search the main saloon also; the glass pitcher is now broken to bits.

I have a datum with uproarous overtones; it depends on whether or not you agree with my presentation. (Sun. May 30, 1892). Baltimore: Mr. Adams called the Police to solve the strange going-ons in his home. Mysterious rappings in the two back bedrooms on the second floor. His

brother-in-law claimed he was thrown out of bed by unseen hands the previous Saturday. It is possible Mr. Adams had a "wild talent," and could command poltergeistic forces to rid himself of an unwelcomed in-law. But Mr. Adams claimed the furniture in his room moved about the night before.

As soon as the two policemen left one of the supposedly (to them) haunted rooms, its beds and chairs danced about, claimed Mr. Adams. At the same time a bottle on the mantle at the opposite end of the same room was thrown at him and hit him. If poltergeistism is a "wild talent," Mr. Adams' brother-in-law may too have been an adept; but it is not likely. This poltergeist showered nails in these two rooms, also.

(Sun. Dec. 9, 1882). The family of a light house keeper had trouble. They lived in a house on shore opposite the Wolf Trap Light in the Chesapeake Bay. At night their house was visited with mysterious knocks and noises; one member of the family slapped by a hand in the dark which left a red imprint. So unruly grew this spook that the keeper and family had to move.

Mysterious fires I consider as poltergeistic phenomena. Here is a datum. (Sun. Sept. 17, 1887). Baltimore: On Tuesday the young Swedish servant girl told Mrs. McCormick there was a fire on the third floor of the house. Then early Thursday following, fire broke out among rubbish in cellar. Thursday night, the linen closet on fire. The servant girl dismissed on Friday. Nothing was said but she seemed to have left over a cloud of suspicion. After she left, three more fires found in the clothes press; in a drawer on the third floor; and later in the china closet. (Sun. Sept. 19, 1887). Someone named Hannah Johnson committed to court, charged with setting fire to the house of Mrs. McCormick. Was it the servant girl's name? The belief in witches grew partly out of such incidents where a poltergeist operated where a young servant girl was employed. Look back to the mysterious -- bell ringing for October 8, 1874.

Poltergeistic fires in a closed room and the converse teleported fire from the sky. (Sun. April 9, 1905). Baltimore: A farm hand saw clouds of smoke coming from the woods and ran to put out the fire he met. He fought it alone for a while; then called a companion to come and help. The friend came, stumbling over a charred body as he ran. Recognition of the corpse was impossible. The gun lying beside the body enabled relatives to identify it. It was a boy who had gone duck hunting early that afternoon. Death by accidental discharge of his own gun was the finding. I suppose a gun might start a fire.

However, (Sun. April 2, 1901) a man, obviously not a tramp from his description, found unconscious by the embers of a fire. From the thighs to chest he was horribly burned. Was not burned about face or lower part of legs. He died on the way to Baltimore to receive medical care.

The data I have gathered on ghosts is full of humor. Whoever is trying to frighten us has a ludicrous sense of what constitutes horror. (Sun. April 8, 1878). Baltimore: A dim flickering light shone out the second storey of an empty house. A crowd of five-hundred people slowly gathered. The superstitious claimed it was caused by a ghost. Others said no, it was instead a reflection from the gas lamps on the street. The gas lamps were turned out but the light still shone in the window. A Policeman and a few volunteers went in; but finding some canvas, declared that its flapping from the wind was their mysterious light. Some unpleasantness apparently transpired then, between the pol-

ice and the crowd who refused to move on at his order. One elderly woman pounded persistently meanwhile on the door, invoking the spook by the powers of Heaven to "come out o' that."

Almost identical was the riot another haunted house caused. (Sun. August 1, 1908). Chicago, Illinois: Five thousand people crowded to see the haunted house at 181 West 21st Street. Autos and wagons and street cars were tied up by the mob's presence. Thirty police fought the mob and made eight arrests on disorderly conduct charges. At the end of patience, police doused the mob with fire hose. While the police thus battled, detectives were after perpetrator of what they called a hoax. And where was the ghost?

(Sun. Nov. 14, 1898). Near Milton, Sussex County, Delaware, a farmer claimed he was pursued by a white dog, as large as a horse, one night. He escaped into his house, only to hear strange noises on the roof. Looking, he saw a four legged man dancing a jig on it. Later he heard a sound as of a falling tree and the four legged man disappeared. Other strange noises and white objects seen and heard about his house. So he offered his farming impliments for sale and moved. A murder had been committed a year before by Gordy who was hanged for it.

(Sun. March 12, 1906). The same section of Delaware farm country in Milton, was bothered by spooky disturbances. The state authorities sent a detective to investigate. Property was alternately vanishing and reappearing at the Donovan farm. Locks were missing from the barn door, tops from wagons found in a distant marsh. Horses and cattle would be gone and then return themselves in a few days. Strange noises and odd figures noted by the Donovan family. Donovan's son saw one spook; loaded up an ancient blunderbus with slugs and fired at it. Slugs found at spot where it had stood but they had no appearance of having been fired.

(Sun. May 8, 1908). Baltimore: The sexton of the First Baptist Church had for some time been awed by a man he saw in the church after hours. If the sexton was working downstairs, lo! there was this stranger up in the gallery, who disappeared mysteriously when the sexton hurried up to catch him. Or if the sexton was dusting in the gallery, he felt a creepy sensation; and looking downward saw the stranger in the nave. As nothing was missing from the church and further as the reverend had the only other key to the place, the stranger's purpose plus his means of entrance quite confounded the sexton. Was this person man or ghost? The accepted identification of supernatural nature seems best to suit the datum.

(Sun. Nov. 20, 1906). Baltimore: On this occasion another man of mystery stalked about and eluded attempts to catch him. His preference was one specific back yard in Hampden. And after one night in the previous summer after he had put in an appearance and departed, the roses in the back yard withered and died.

If the human race are haunted by ghosts that are manufactured by scientific means by unknown beings, sometimes it would appear they stoop to economical means of trying to frighten us. (Sun. July 19, 1901). Baltimore: A man rushed into a police station and breathlessly told of a drowned man floating in James Falls at the Gay Street bridge. A policeman, followed by a crowd, ran to the bridge. Sure enough a pale face stared up from the muddy waters. The policeman started down the side walls but several boys reached the bank first; and with a stick lifted the object out of the water. It was a false face.

That we are now visited from outer space seems admitted by many. When this visitation began is very speculative. The most suggestive evidence of visitants I have found is the bizarre garment found by a man grappling in the water from a Baltimore pier. (Sun. April 22, 1887).

I call it a garment even though it was not so identified in the original newstory. So unusual was it, a quoted description seems necessary: "It was about one yard of closely-braided, coarse cotton thread, two inches in circumference, and divided, every six inches, into shapes closely resembling links of sausage. The interstices between the layers of braiding were filled with very fine powders and small pellets the size of a mustard seed, closely resembling shot, but of a very light substance. The outside was painted, evidently to keep out dampness,....."

The waterman took it to the police station where it confounded the lawmen. Did an aura of evil surround the object or was the police captain just a nervous man? ---- for he ordered it returned to the bottom of the harbor "as a matter of precaution," he said.

A strange garment and phantoms of men. Oft times there are phantom fires and phantom earthquakes and phantom explosions. I even have a case of phantom bullets. (Sun. April 1, 1905). Three holes appeared in the glass window of a Baltimore residence on separate days. No shots were heard, nor were any bullets found with the small bits of window glass on the floor. The curtain was undisturbed. The home owner hired a detective but who has ever caught a poltergeist which entity I blame for the damage?

Most of my remaining data is hurd put to arrange in a coherent development, as the phenomenae are seemingly isolated cases of their kind. Yet certain motifs are there that help bind them together.

As I have pointed just priorly we have been visited on our earth by beings from beyond our stratosphere; and I attribute all poltergeist and teleportative sky showers as forces possessed by them. There is reason to believe, as Fort points out, that space craft has haunted our skies; and I might add, our seas. Fort has something anent likewise.

(Sun. July 7, 1900). The steamer, Indrani, was thirty miles eastward off Cape Race when a mass was sighted in the water. The steamer's crew thought it the legended serpent. Suddenly a long, almost fin-like attachment, resembling a trolley car pole, shot up and quivered thirty feet in the air. However, I think it was some sort of craft as no head nor tail was seen. Also it was described as "moving along in the water with a motion like the rising and lowering of a submarine boat." To me that indicates a mechanical thing and not an organic life form. Also the "trolley" pole could have been some sort of radio whip antenna.

Among my data are other mysteries or phenomena of the seas, that suggest to me magnetic anomalies have occurred there just as on land from, possibly, part of the time due to artificial interference.

(Sun. Nov. 1, 1908). On August 1, 1904 the ship Mohican was crossing the Atlantic when she was suddenly enveloped in a phosphorescent cloud. Iron chains became magnetized and adhered to the deck or one another as if rivited. The vessel and crew were covered by a fiery coating. And most provoking, the compass spun around "like an electric fan." Somehow, I think, the Mohican was engulfed in the field of a magnetic motor of a tropospheric ship of the space visitors I think we are unknowing hosts to. The spinning of the compass needle is absolutely identical to that of a motor armature between field coils and their magnetism. The spinning of a compass needle also took place during an undersea earthquake previously mentioned. See London Times March 18, 1886. Getting back to the Mohican: the cloud was so dense, the vessel could not see ahead, and the engines had to be stopped. After a time the phorescent cloud lifted and faded. It could have been a natural magnetic anomaly but I have searched many scientific books for a second such occurrence.

(Sun. Nov. 1, 1908). About 1905 the steamship, Mercedes, was off the Newfoundland Banks when the whole ocean became a mass of flames and balls of fire darted about the rigging. A heavy gale was going and wh-

em it died down St. Elmo's fires appeared upon the mast heads. Electrostatic anomaly would be my definition of this datum, though it is a strange one. I have a datum of another kind of electrostatic anomaly that happened on land.

(Baltimore American and Sun. Feb. 28, 1901). Baltimore: About January 28, the Maddox household experienced disconcerting shocks whenever any objects in the home were touched. The amplitude of the frictional electricity, which it seems it were, increased until a month after its beginning the phenomena began to worry them. The daughter on occasion was shocked severely and saw two blue flashes of light pass from her fingers to a picture frame she was touching. All objects were so afflicted with this prankish electricity except the wires in the piano. An to explain why it was discriminated against taxes my imagination as other certain objects in that house should have been proof against a static charge whereas the piano wires were metallic and thus excellent conductors. No electrical installations were in the house other than a weak chemical battery for the doorbell; induced currents must be ruled out.

The publicity of the Maddox's house of electricity seems to have predisposed others in the same block who out of fear of ridicule hadn't previously admitted they too were shocked by this strange electricity in their homes. (Sun, and Baltimore American; March 1, 1901). The shocks continued but in diminished force in the Maddox house; the blight was shifting its focus slightly or else dying. The Maddox house, 2641 North Charles; at 2643 the occupants had felt shocks upon touching objects in their house; at 2645 the shocks had begun over a week ago. It would appear 2639, if such a number existed, was vacant. Anyway 2637's occupants suffered light shocks from door knobs and furniture. The man of the house -- 2637 -- doubted the theory that walking on dry carpets caused the electricity. Why, he asked, were not such currents noticed in his homeworks ago and how was it that his son received a shock in the kitchen, the floor of which was uncarpeted? The inevitable explanation -- a Professor Lamb -- at 2617 pontificated it was static electricity. Some one named William Booze at 2605 claimed to have been shocked for several days but as he may have been confounded with his last name who would have believed him?

The strangest part of this strange event was that houses on the opposite side of the street were unaffected, as were the adjoining blocks of the accursed row of houses. Why did not Professor Lamb explain that?

(Sun, March 2, 1901). The electrostatic anomaly went on. The City Engineer of Subway Commission investigated and said it was due to friction. As some of the shocks were experienced when lighting gas stoves, the Gas Company sent repair men who found no currents in the lead gas pipes. The "Sun" thought it was animal electricity. Everyone had a theory, but little if any searching scientific investigation made. Measurements of potential in the air of the various afflicted houses with an electroscope could have told something but why Professor Lamb did not have the scientific curiosity to try it is maddening. Apparently if he found a cause other than his theoretical static electricity, he would have lost face, he thought. But scientific progress is not made by emulating the ostrich.

An earth current may have passed there in great intensity thus accounting for the high potential gradient or shocks received. But no electricity had been found circulating in the gas pipes. A number of facts might be introduced here to attempt a partial explanation. Human bodies can carry a static charge; in the Maddox household a discharge leaped from the fingers of an occupant to a picture frame. That person had picked up a negative charge. As the phenomena was restricted, the charge was gotten in the atmosphere of that one block. During the strength of

the electric field near the earth is more intense, and is positive with respect to the earth. And from such negative charges residing on the surface, lines of force extend outward from the earth and end on more positive charges either in the atmosphere or possibly in remote space.

All the time I penned the above I wondered about poltergeists and teleportation; wondered if I could devise a scientific theory to explain them. An astronomer in 1947 devised an equation in which gravity and electricity were two of the variables. Could not some scientific tampering with lines of earth potential cause levitation, teleportation? But no poltergeistic or teleportative phenomena happened in the Maddox and neighboring households. I must put the data back, then, in my "electro-static anomaly" file where it is the lone inhabitant. Yet I may find a linkage between it and my data file on "electromagnetic anomalies" such as the phosphorescent cloud that magnetized the iron chains and spun the compass on the ship Mohican. My reason for tentatively considering it is based on a fundamental of electronic circuit-try. A capacitance can be made to appear as an inductance --- the Armstrong system of FM radio uses this principle. In our case an electrostatic anomaly (a capacitance) is the converse of an electromagnetic anomaly (an inductance). To understand one is to know the other. The fire ball shot at Sonny Des Vergers from a flying saucer looked like and had the effect of a similar ball of electrical storm origin. Both are forms of electrostatics. The flying saucers seem related to electromagnetism; their weapons seem of the order of electrostatics.

What finally happened in the Maddox house and neighboring ones is not known. (Sun. March 4, 1901). Miss Maddox accepted no hogwash of "static electricity made from walking on heavy carpets." She wrote a very intelligent, public letter to the City Engineer and nailed his and Professor Lamb's hides to the floor.

Among electromagnetic anomalies I have come across a curious one indeed. But then all the datum herein is curious, otherwise I would not have noted it. (Sun. Oct. 15, and Nov. 7, 1898). The steamship, Mohagan, wrecked on October 14th off the Lizard on the Cornish coast of England; a hundred and one lives lost; a terrible disaster said the paper. But there was a mystery about this wreck. The captain was more than familiarly acquainted with every foot of the Cornish coast. The ship's engineer declared there was nothing wrong with the engine even at the moment of the accident. There was no fog. Some wind and a heavy swell. The captain was not a drinking man and did not permit it aboard. Had one officer been saved some light may have been thrown on the mystery. And it was a newly constructed ship.

The Coast Guard had noticed the strange course of the vessel and sent up a warning rocket that was not seen. The rocks on which the ship struck had only a bell buoy. But what of the ship's compasses? They were six or seven miles north of their course. Yet the crew said the compasses had been adjusted a few days before and no variation found in them. The compasses seem, regardless, to be the crux of the matter. Like the stationary electrostatic phenomena in and beside the Maddox home, I wonder if an electromagnetic anomaly had adhered to the Mohagan, causing its several compasses to be temporarily varied from the normal. The next time flying saucers are sighted it might be profitable to see if any compass variation in their path or vicinity has occurred.

-WHAT IS A PULP MAGAZINE?-

-by-

Bob Silverberg

Fans, lately, have taken to dividing the prozines into "pulp" and "slick" categories, with such anomalies as Startling Stories occupying a niche somewhere in between. But there's hardly any unanimity of thought; Redd Boggs, in a recent letter to me commenting on an article in SPACESHIP, expressed the opinion that magazines with trimmed edges and even those in digest size are still pulps. Let's examine the meaning of the words, and find out just what's what.

The first "pulp" magazines appeared toward the end of the 19th century, after their predecessors, the dime novels, had just about disappeared. The original pulp format is about 7x10, with untrimmed edges, and printed on cheap paper. That, and note this well, is the origin of the term "pulp." A pulp magazine is NOT one that prints a certain type of fiction, but one that uses cheap paper.

Now, the slicks. They began about the middle of the 19th century. And magazines in this class are those printed on expensive, coated paper. Let's keep the definitions simple and unsnarled by literary snobism: a pulp magazine is one printed on cheap paper, with untrimmed edges, while a slick magazine is one printed on high-cost glossy stock.

Of course, connotations have crept in here. "Pulp" fiction has become a stereotype, a symbol of poor writing. John Campbell, even when aSF was using the pulp format, probably would have been annoyed if anyone were to call his pet a "science pulp."

Slick mags have some unpleasant connotations, too, since it is no secret that the Saturday Evening Post, Collier's, and others in the group known as slicks, print (and pay huge prices for) formula fiction, conforming to a certain limited number of plots.

But now: some people call, say, Fantasy and Science Fiction a pulp. I guess Redd Boggs would be one of these. Others are even further from the truth in calling it a slick. Let's be clear-headed over this, and stay within the meanings of the words. Fans are eternally howling about semantics, so let's stick to it.

A pulp magazine is one printed on cheap paper, period. F&SF uses expensive, high-quality paper. By this basic definition, it is not a pulp. Furthermore, it's not even in the classic pulp format. And, of course --- but this is opinion, and not valid evidence --- it requires better writing than the mythical "pulp class."

Then why is it considered a pulp? More semantic confusion. SF mags, at one time, were wholly pulps. That way, science-fiction began to be considered a "pulp" fiction field, whatever that is, along with mystery stories, love stories, western stories, and so on. So now, by some weird process, any magazine using fiction that is also associated with a pulp field becomes, by definition, a pulp. The same goes for Galaxy, aSF, and all the other digest-sized magazines, which, once they shed the ragged edges and cheap paper of yesteryear, become by our pragmatic definition, not-pulps.

But they're by no means "slicks," either. Again, all literary connotations aside, a slick magazine is one of large page-size and high-quality glossy paper. None of our digest-sizers fit this category either.

There's been a little confusion here --- as, for example, the time when Jimmy Taurasi heralded Fantastic Science Fiction as a "slick" on a

basis of its page size alone, it seems, because that lowly magazine turned up with the cheapest paper in the field.

The question, then, is clearly answered. Pulp magazines are not those which publish a certain type of fiction, as some people seem to think, but those which use certain types of format. In our field, Thrilling Wonder, Planet Stories, and others of similar shapes are unquestionably pulps.

Slick magazines are merely magazines which use expensive paper, shiny, coated stock. There is nothing shiny about the paper used in ourazines except for the bonafide slick paper used on a few pages of aSF. We have no slicks in our field today.

There is a third category, though, called, for sake of a better -- name, the digest-sizers. This is, granted, a poor name, but at least it conjures up a picture of whatever it's supposed to indicate, which is all a name should do. (Who is responsible for the name? First I saw of it was in a Ray Palmer advertisement.) This third category contains all of the prozines now using good (but not slick) paper, trimmed edges and pocket size.

I submit that this is the only method of classification that admits no confusion. When we start going by literary content rather than appearance to decide the categories, we find that many people would rate Imagination and Other Worlds as pulps, and TWS as a slick. This is --- while not unjustified --- obviously ridiculous. I propose we scrap "slick" as a definition for the digest-sized prozines, at least until we have a genuine slick in our field. After all, in the minds of many, including myself, a "slick" magazine is of no more literary value than a pulp --- when one takes Satevepost and such to be slicks.

The Boggs opinion, therefore, just doesn't hold true. aSF and Galaxy are not pulps, even if they are printing fiction usually identified with the pulps, because they are not using pulp format. But they are not slicks, either, even if they were to begin printing the formula fiction usually identified with slicks. (And it seems as if Galaxy has been printing a good deal of so-called "slick" fiction lately.)

Let's stop and examine our terms now and then. It's always dangerous to let concepts as "pulp" and "slick" get bemired under a morass of conflicting ideas and opinions..

-Bob Silverberg-

(Editor's Note: It should be noted that this article was written before Science-Fiction Plus came into being --- it being a "slick" prozine. It might further be noted, however, that with the latest issue Gernsback's magazine has stopped using "slick" paper and uses a heavy stock absorbant which still means that the science-fiction field is out a slick.)

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-SCIENCE-FICTION versus FANTASY-

by

Elmer R. Kirk

To begin with, facts must be admitted without fiction in articles, while imagination can run rampant in science or weird fiction. Remove the weird fiction ----- fantasy ----- from either of these two and very little would remain.

Science-fiction is hamstrung by the writer's knowledge of the various sciences and his mathematical education, while weird prose recognizes no such barriers. The imaginative boundaries of weird-fiction are limitless.

Of the two classifications of stories, from a literary point of view, WYRD fiction came first. In fact, it is the earliest of all known English Literature.

The first Anglo-Saxon literature concerned various northern legends of Beowa ----- Beowif ----- a half divine hero, and the monster Grendel, at a time when the ancient Spear Dances were without a king. It was at this juncture of early English Literature that "a belief in Wyrd, the mighty power controlling the destinies of men," was first introduced.

Just why some authors and most --- not all ---- fanzines frown upon old man Wyrd himself is hard to understand, since without his overtones of fantasy, science-fiction would never exist.

Many science-fiction stories become mediocre or rejected because the author's "differential and integral calculus" slipped up on him somewhere along the way. But imaginative weird-fantasy usually has nothing to do with such facts and seldom calls for explanation.

In Biblical history, one of the first science-fiction writers attempted to construct a ship to contain two of each of everything living upon the face of the earth, but his mathematical equations and scientific air-conditioning facts failed him miserably, which made the yarn nothing more than a paradoxical allegory. No small space-ship of the size mentioned could have possibly held all the necessary food and supplies, let alone two of every huge and monstrous animal that existed at the time....

Then, too, this ancient science writer informed us boldly that the ship was closed tightly for forty days and forty nights, with no method of air conditioning or sanitary sewer disposal.....And, as if these impossibilities were not enough, the science writer biologically infers that the seven lone Caucasian survivors propagated (?) the entire African race.

The point brought out here is not meant for religious argument but rather to show that science-fiction does have its limitations and must, of necessity, bear some semblance to fact, while weird-fantasy holds no such restriction.

But weird-fantasy can be traced further back than heretofore mentioned, far back beyond the stretch of modern man's imagination, back past the Spear Dances and the Anglo-Saxon literature, far back beyond the time of the ancient Greeks when their scientific spirit reawoke with the Renaissance. Weird fantasy goes back to the Stone Age and the Piltdown "dawn man," according to more recent anthropological discoveries.

Here at this juncture, facts refute Biblical chronology which created the world dated no further back than 4,000 years before Christ, while fossil osteology, also palaeoethnology --- the science that relates to the earliest races of peoples ---- dates back to well over a million

years. Here at the very beginning of man weird (not sf) started its uncanny mysteries.

Ancient Greek tradition informs us that the anthropological relics of early man, stone axes and weapons, called Ceraunia (Greek, thunder), were originally produced or launched by lightning, and extraordinary powers were attributed to them. Weird, isn't it? Here, then, is the fantastic origin of the first weird story about the thunderbolt or Ceraunia. These actual stone thunder-bolts, hurled by supernatural gods of "extraordinary power," was a literal belief of ancient man.

The World Book, encyclopedia, states that "centuries ago the ancient Greeks and Romans felt the mystery and danger of lightning and thunder; they believed that these were weapons in the hands of Zeus, or Jupiter, greatest of the gods....."

To lay credence to the authenticity of man's first true weird story, Funk and Wagnell's College Standard Dictionary tells us that "Until the knowledge of electricity became widespread the notion prevailed that a solid heated mass passed along the lightning flash and buried itself in the ground." These, then, were the weird stone axes and weapons, chipped from flint by "dawn man" and hurled down from the heavens as thunder-bolts.

Even today, modern man expressed the age-old saying, "A bolt of lightning struck him," not knowing the uncanny expression dates back to ancient man and his stone age weapons.

From these historical facts, it can be seen that early man did invent weird and supernatural stories long before science-fiction. Also, from these facts, it now appears that these medieval originals prevailed up until and after the time that man discovered that the Bible was erroneous in its inference that the world is flat, (after 1492).

It might be well put down here a few Biblical references so that we can understand that at a much later date than ancient man, the same identical fantastic phenomena existed.

The Bible tells us, at 1 Sam. 7:10, that the Lord smote the Philistines with thunder and smitted them before Israel. Also, at Ps. 78:48, we are told that cattle and flocks were given up to "hot thunder-bolts." All manner of evil horrors were inflicted upon man and beast by the legendary thunder-bolts, in the Bible's narration. Cruden's Complete Concordance gives Biblical references to terror, death and destruction in over fifty weird and fantastic instances.

Is it any wonder then that we become terror-stricken, with the fear of the gods, when a thunder-bolt splits the heavens and thunders down to strike terrible vengeance upon us--or its semimythical twin, the fireball, to strike chords of ancient and inherent fear in our astonished minds?

A modern science writer attempting to peddle these same Biblical stories gratis to some obscure sf fanzine -- about to fold for lack of material -- would have the yarns returned, rejected.

In all due fairness, it might be well to add here that much of the fact inspiration herein came from reading a book entitled, The Making of Man, An Outline of Anthology, edited by V.F. Calverton and published by Random House. Also, the works of H.G. Wells and those of Will Durant have had a great deal of influence upon some of the facts stated herein.