



# The Lizard Man of South Carolina

by Jeanne Scher

**T**he Lizard Man of South Carolina is a fairly new phenomenon, first reported on June 29, 1988. This date makes one wonder if all the nuclear dump sites in South Carolina didn't have something to do with its appearance.

The first person to see the Lizard Man was Christopher Davis, a 17-year-old boy who was driving home from work at 2:00 a.m. According to Davis, he stopped his car on a road alongside the Scape Ore Swamp to change a tire. Just as he was finishing this job, he heard a loud thumping noise behind him. He turned and saw a large, lizard-like creature coming at him at a fast clip.

Davis had never seen anything like it before. The monster was taller than the average man, with red, glowing eyes, not unlike those of an alligator at night. The creature's face was reptilian, but somehow also humanlike. From the neck down, the beast was covered with rough greenish-brown skin that looked somewhat scaly. It had a

long, heavy tail like that of an alligator. Its hands had three big fingers each, and its feet ended in long, black, curled claws.

## Cars Attacked

The young man, naturally frightened, threw down his tools and jumped into the car, intending to get out of the area as fast as he could. But the creature was fairly close by that time and grabbed onto the car before the boy could get it started. The terrified Christopher tried to drive away as the monster climbed onto the roof of the car. The youth raced and swerved frantically trying to throw the horrid creature off, but the thing managed to hang on for at least a hundred yards.

When Christopher got home, he examined his car. The sideview mirror was badly damaged and there were scratch marks on the roof where the creature had sunk in its claws to hang on. There was no other evidence of Davis's encounter with the monster, but his parents could see that

he was badly shaken.

In the weeks that followed there were other reports of a large, lizardlike creature in the area of the swamp. There were also reports of unusual damage done to cars parked outside overnight. People started complaining of odd damage to their vehicles, not only scratches, but bite marks that punctured metal. These reports came in from all over the general area, but Bishopville, South Carolina, suffered the most harm.

On August 5th of the same year, Kenneth Orr, an airman stationed at Shaw Air Force Base, reported that he had had an encounter with the beast while driving on Highway 15. Orr claimed that he stopped his car and shot at the creature, wounding it. He saved a few scales and a small amount of blood as proof. There is no record of whether tests were performed on this evidence.

Local law enforcement officials reacted with skepticism to these reports, even after a good number of these sightings were made by reliable people. The cops said that people were most likely seeing an unusual-looking bear under poor visibility conditions. But some weeks later the sheriff's department was persuaded to make a few plaster casts of what appeared to be three-toed footprints. These prints ranged in size from 11 to 14 inches, suggesting that there was more than one monster out there.

Johnny Evans, a South Carolina Marine Resources Department representative in 1988, said that the unusual tracks neither matched, nor could be mistaken for

the footprints of any local animal on record.

## Million-Dollar Bounty

Stories of the Lizard Man attracted curious tourists to the state. In 1988, radio station WCOS offered a million-dollar reward to anyone who could capture the creature alive. This reward prompted hunting parties to try to track the monster down, but so far the money has not been claimed.

Sightings of the creature declined by the end of 1988. The Lizard Man managed to keep out of the papers until 2002, when reports of sightings came in again. There was another long, quiet period for the Lizard Man until March 4, 2008, when it made the front page again.

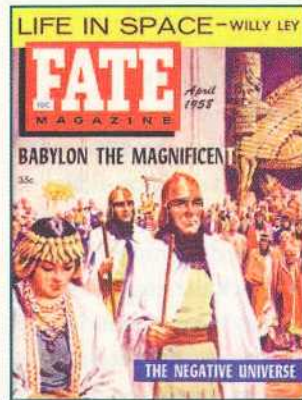
The incident happened in Bishopville, the town that was most troubled during the creature's previous appearances. Bobby and Dixie Rawson of 990 St. Charles Road woke up to find that their 2002 Dodge Grand Caravan had been chewed up during the night. Again there were bite marks that punctured metal, making one think that the jaws of the creature must be as powerful as those of an alligator, and scratches deep enough in the metal to scare even the stoutest of hearts.

Regrettably, the Rawsons also found that most of their 17 cats were missing. They believe that the damage was done to the vehicle because the cats sought refuge under the car when the beast attacked them.

As far as I know, the million-dollar reward still stands. I hope that money will be paid out soon. **T**



*Fifty years ago*



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## Floating Ghost of the Arctic Sea

*What keeps this amazing derelict  
ship intact—apparently able  
to defy the crushing ice packs  
of the Arctic indefinitely?*

by Paul Brock

A party of Eskimos saw her in March, 1956, a gaunt grey phantom creeping through the swirling snow and chopped pack-ice of the Beaufort Sea between Icy Cape and Point Barrow.

They recognized her at once. That tall single funnel and long rakish bridge could only belong to the *Baychimo*, the most amazing mystery ship of modern times, the floating ghost of the Arctic.

She was still intact and trim as the day she was launched, and sailing the Arctic seas with not a soul aboard her.

The *Baychimo* is the only derelict vessel in the history of the Arctic to defy the crushing ice packs and to escape destruction—apparently indefinitely.

Although the Eskimos who saw her in 1956 tried to reach her the weather, and

perhaps the knowledge that three of the last band of Eskimos who boarded her lost their lives, stopped them. They watched in awe as the stately ghost ship moved away, for all the world as though her twin screws were turning again and her captain was controlling her from the empty bridge.

Since men have sailed the seas ghost ships have been common talk among sailors of all nations. And of all such ships the *Flying Dutchman* has been best known. Some claim, however, that the *Flying Dutchman* was a ship of men's imagination only and the stories about her vary. Another famous ghost ship was the *Marie Celeste*. Hers was a baffling mystery but she made only one dramatic appearance.

The *Baychimo* is in a class by herself. Weighing 1300 tons, the *Baychimo* was a substantial, strong, steel built steamer be-





ing to the Hudson's Bay Company. She was the second of the company's northern fleet to pioneer the opening of the vast trading territory around the Beaufort Sea, McClintock Channel and the end of the North West Passage into the Pacific.

The *Baychimo* took up the work of the schooner *Lady Kindersley* after it was crushed in the Polar Pack in 1921. The crew of the *Lady Kindersley* escaped with their lives following a nightmare journey over the ice.

Year after year from her home port of Vancouver, British Columbia, the *Baychimo* pushed through the world's most treacherous sea lane, covering 2,000 miles of the Western Arctic to visit the eight Hudson's Bay posts. She threaded intricate passages and uncharted stretches where shoal water was a constant menace, and the leadsmen's life was a misery.

There were no wharves in that region. The *Baychimo* had in some cases to lie miles off her point of call because of shallow

water. All outgoing cargo to the posts and incoming freight of bundled fur and mineral ore had to be loaded on scows and towed either to or from the steamer. And ice conditions permitted no shelter for the scows and launch. These had to be carried aboard the steamer all the way from Vancouver and back again.

Always it was a race against time, with the *Baychimo* hurrying to escape the relentless ice pack. No other ship had made the passage for more than two successive seasons, but the *Baychimo* stretched the record to nine years.

Every trip was filled with drama. Sailing out of Vancouver in the first week of July, 1931, the *Baychimo* made her usual fast passage of the Pacific, and sailed through the Behring Strait and Beaufort Sea. Night and day the crew, helped by Eskimos, worked feverishly under the long light of the unsetting sun. They reached the shores of little-known Victoria Land, an immense tract of unexplored territory

Finally they gave up hope and moved to Point Barrow, 50 miles away.

They had just got there when an Eskimo hunter came hurrying to announce that he had found the ship. She had traveled about 45 miles south and west of her first position. A deal was made with the Eskimo. He brought several members of his tribe, and together with the *Baychimo* crew, they trekked across the ice to the ship and labored to salvage the valuable fur cargo. For 15 days every man worked like a slave until the greater part of the fur bales had been taken from the ship's hold.

In a series of blizzards the men began to carry the bales of furs back to the comparative safety of Point Barrow. When the men, gaunt and frost-bitten, returned for the last of the furs the black fury of the storms once again had swallowed up the *Baychimo*. Again it had vanished without a trace. The crew once more abandoned hope of ever finding it. A derelict in such a sea *must* be chewed and ground to death and sunk to the frozen depths. Never in the history of these Western Canadian waters had a derelict ridden in the ice floes more than two seasons. Usually they went to pieces very quickly after being caught by the ice, as had the *Lady Kindersley*, the *Baychimo*'s predecessor.

Now that the crew definitely had abandoned the ship—or perhaps the ship had abandoned the men—it was decided that nothing could be gained by staying in that wilderness of ice. By radio the men once again asked for aircraft to pick them up.

Nome, 600 miles south, promised help. On the appointed day two planes arrived and, in stages, the crew were flown out.

Back in civilization the men from the *Baychimo* described the disappearance of their ship which they assumed now was covered by a million tons of ice, forced down to a bleak and lonely end. The *Baychimo* had become just another victim of the Polar Pack.

Therefore, it was with unbelieving eyes, that five months later, on March 12, 1932, Leslie Melvin saw the ship in the ice, close inshore, several hundred miles from Herschel Island. Melvin, alone on a 300-mile dog-team journey from Herschel Island to Nome, was traveling light, so he could not salvage anything of value.

However, this latest view of the ship did not change the certainty of all experienced men that she would be seen no more. Yet, a few months later a party of prospectors reported they not only had seen the *Baychimo* but had managed to scramble aboard. They reported the ship in perfect condition.

A year later the *Baychimo* drifted past Point Barrow. Her progress was so even that it seemed a crew must be on board. By now the tribes all along the rim of the Arctic Sea knew the strange history of this ghost ship. The *Baychimo* had been formally abandoned by crew and owners. She was anybody's ship. Envisioning rich salvage, 30 Eskimos set off in small boats from Point Barrow. Aloof and stately, the *Baychimo* moved forward but the Eskimos finally



which marked the end of the eastward journey, and then with a million dollars in bundled fur the ship turned her nose back toward Vancouver.

Howling headwinds hampered her progress but the stout ship plowed on, bucking the heavy seas. In the morning the crew watched fields of ice drifting and grinding and cementing themselves together. Only a small space of open sea remained around the ship. The men knew what tremendous pressure could be exerted on the ship by the ice. In a blinding blizzard, on October 1, the Polar pack closed around the staunch *Baychimo* and the crew scrambled to pack their belongings and escape on to the ice, believing that the ship would be crushed at any moment.

Captain Cornwall established a base on safer ice nearer the shore about a mile from, but in sight of, the steamer. With lumber and canvas from the ship's stores a rough shelter was rigged and a huge gasoline drum did duty as a stove. The captain and 16 members of the crew, taking up their quarters in this shelter, were prepared to wait nearly a year, until next summer's thaw might free the ship—if she miraculously resisted the pressure of the ice for that long. Cornwall radioed for help and a plane on skis managed to get through from Nome to take off three passengers and two crew members.

Coal on board the ship had to be conserved so the men spent gruelling days searching far along the nearby mainland for driftwood. They shot a bear to help eke

out the ship's stores. Then a tribe of Eskimos discovered the camp and sold them reindeer meat.

Yet all their staunch loyalty to the ship, all their hardships and anxiety came to nothing.

On the night of November 24, there was a sudden change in temperature, a rise to 70 degrees. Such a violent and sudden change always signaled a storm. This time it hit with tremendous fury. A high wind together with a blinding blizzard held the men tight in their shelter for three whole days.

When the storm abated the men ventured out into the grey twilight of a polar day. All about them fantastic ridges of ice loomed like miniature mountain ranges. The tremendous ice pressure had built hummocks 70 feet high. As they looked about this strange new world the men suddenly discovered that the *Baychimo* was gone, swallowed up by the fury of the storm, with nearly all their food and a million dollars' worth of top-grade fur. The steamer had been whisked away by a genie more powerful than any in the Arabian Nights.

The captain's wide knowledge of ice conditions told him that the ship had not been smashed, had not foundered. The thaw and following wind simply had moved the part of the sea ice containing the ship away into the unknown. For weeks, parties of men under Captain Cornwall, and Officers Sommers and Kively, searched over a wide area without finding the ship.

overhauled her and scrambled on board. Eagerly they began to explore the silent hold. But the silence did not last. Suddenly the ship was filled with a mighty roaring as a tremendous blizzard bore down from the Pole.

Pan ice came first and then larger floes which began their old grinding warfare against the *Baychimo*. The Eskimos had not the slightest knowledge of marine engines, nor did they know how to steer so large a craft. For 10 days they drifted helplessly, terrified by their superstitious belief that the great storm was the *Baychimo's* way of freeing herself from unwelcome visitors.

At last the natives lowered themselves on what they judged to be a substantial ice formation. Presently the stout pan ice detached itself from the ship's side and began moving before the wind. The 30 natives could do nothing but wait on the ice formation in fear and hope. Now that the *Baychimo* was left to solitude the winds became kinder. Winds and currents together brought the ice raft to shore.

Three times great storms had saved the *Baychimo* from being brought back under human control. Having experienced a taste of wild freedom, the ship seems unwilling to slave again for taskmasters or be taken down to quiet seas and civilized docks.

In August, 1933, she was seen moving slowly northward with the drifting pack ice. During that summer Eskimos sighted her several times and the next year the schooner *Trader* came upon the ghost ship

now entering her third year of unprecedented life for a derelict of the ice-floes. She is the first ghost ship of her kind the Arctic has ever known.

Among those who boarded her from the schooner *Trader* was Miss Isabel Hutchinson, a hardy Scottish botanist gathering arctic plants for Kew Gardens, London.

It was a weird and depressing sight Miss Hutchinson related. Through the open hold she could see scattered samples of mineral ore, caribou skins, broken bales of fur, and pillaged cargo boxes, and still untouched cases of priceless anthropological specimens of primitive copper. These specimens were the result of perilous journeying and collecting by a Canadian scientist. In one corner of the hold a *Times History Of The Great War* cried out to be taken from an icy world where no one read. In the pilothouse a rusty typewriter stood silent. The charts of seven seas lay scattered on the floor. The Arctic specter now piloting the ship doesn't need them.

The schooner *Trader* steamed away leaving the ghost ship riding placidly on a great pan of ice. The *Baychimo* continued on her aimless way.

For a year or more no man saw the *Baychimo*. Then in September, 1935, Captain George Patterson saw her riding serenely near Wainwright, off the Alaska Coast. The self-sufficient ship appeared to be in no distress and slowly vanished to the north.

From time to time after that Eskimos reported the *Baychimo*, generally hundreds of miles from the last point of observation.



Memory of the ghost ship faded.

Then Captain Hugh Polson sighted her in November, 1939, in the middle of an ice field. Hardly believing that the legend ship could be still intact he and part of his crew crossed the ice and went aboard.

Again the lonely deck felt the tread of sailors. The dark hold was explored with flashlights. The experts found the ship as seaworthy as ever.

Captain Polson wanted to bring in the ghostly wanderer but fresh floes were drifting in steadily and his men feared that if they stayed to experiment with the *Baychimo* they might lose their own ship. The season of navigation was late and ice formations already were alarming. Reluctantly Captain Polson and his crew returned to their own ship.

Again the *Baychimo* was left to her wild freedom. Again the harsh forces of the polar

sea had intervened to save the ghost ship from civilization. Since then she has been sighted a score of times. Her record has no parallel in the history of the world. It is as though some phantom steersman, infinitely wise to ice conditions, came aboard the *Baychimo* on that October day in 1931 when her regular commander and crew took to the ice.

The last time the *Baychimo* was seen by men was in March, 1956, when the Eskimos saw her in the Beaufort Sea between Icy Cape and Point Barrow. But this miracle ship of the Arctic may still be cruising her lonely way in the Arctic sea. There is no evidence that she has met the fate so long predicted for her.

Perhaps during this year's or next year's brief northern summer the *Baychimo* will show herself again, riding serenely out of the mists, haughty and elusive. T

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# Reptilians

## From Fiction to Saucers



Matthäus Merian, *Iconum Biblicarum*. 1627

## HUMANOIDES

by Scott Corrales

The concept of sentient reptilian creatures has been around for a very long time. Anyone who doubts this should consult the book of Genesis to learn about a certain serpent endowed with very good powers of persuasion.

Humans feel both attracted to and repulsed by reptiles: ancient tribes venerated them as totemic animals, the emblem of wisdom and hidden knowledge. The Greeks coiled snakes around the caduceus, the sign of medicine. In Middle Eastern tradition, the hero Gilgamesh returned from his adventures with a flower of eternal life, only to lose it to a snake, guaranteeing serpentkind the gift of immortality.

The early authors of pulp fiction pitted their heroes against entire races of intelligent reptiles, usually lizard-men deep in an African or South American jungle, or occupying vast underground domains. Some authors, like Robert E. Howard, cre-

ator of such memorable barbarian warriors as Conan and Kull, wove reptilians into the tapestry of his sword-and-sorcery accounts, usually as the species that preceded humans as the masters of this planet. Michael Moorcock's early hero Sojan fought against muscular lizard-men, and in science fiction, reptilians ranged from the Lizard Men of the Flash Gordon serials to Alan Dean Foster's warlike AaNN in his *Flinx of the Commonwealth* series, and what memory could be more indelible than that of the hideous reptilian aliens disguised as humans in the V television program of the mid-1980s?

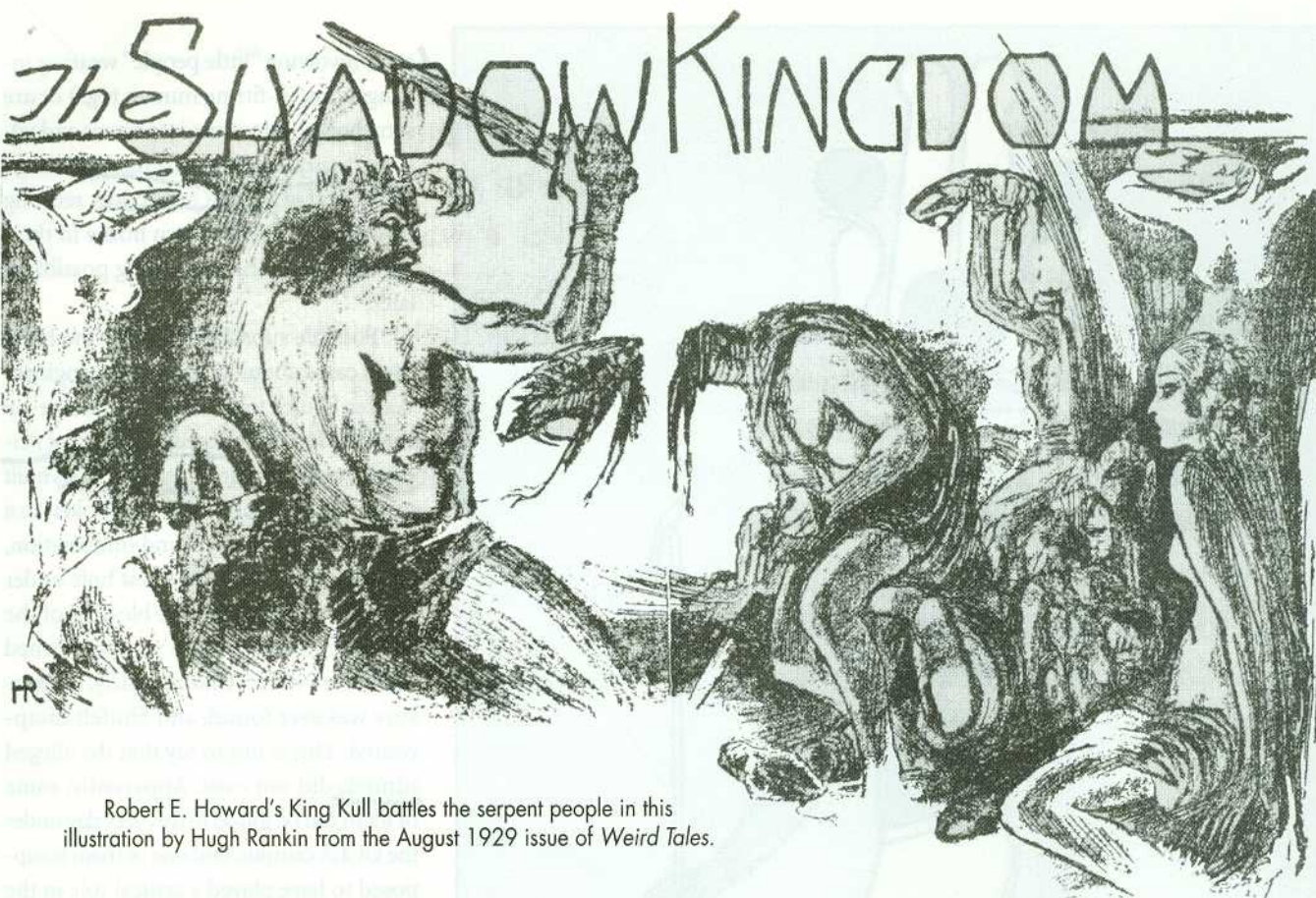
But the worlds of the imagination and mythology do not have an exclusive claim on the belief that an advanced nonhuman civilization of a reptilian nature once roamed the Earth before the first primate descended from the trees. The argument for lizard people living underground to "reptoids" emerging from spacecraft continues to this very day.

### Disquieting Evidence

Intelligent reptilian entities make their first appearance in the Testament of Amram (4QAmram), one of the texts from the Dead Sea Scrolls, set in the context of Exodus but containing the admonitions of Amram, son of Kehat, to his children. Discussing a vision or dream in which he has just seen two of the Biblical "Watchers" engaged in a dispute over him, Amram raises his eyes "and saw one of them. His looks were frightening [like those of a viper] and his garments were multicolored and he was extremely dark...and afterwards I looked and behold, by his appearance and his face was like that of an adder, and he was covered with...together...and his eyes..."

Unfortunately, the gaps in the text keep Amram from describing the ominous Watcher more fully, but the intent of his words is clear (see "Angels and Aliens," *FATE*, December 2000). It is possible that this passage echoes even older Mesopotamian





Robert E. Howard's King Kull battles the serpent people in this illustration by Hugh Rankin from the August 1929 issue of *Weird Tales*.

chronicles, which suggest that humanity's forebears were nonhuman.

Controversial researchers like Tal LeVesque suggested historical backdrops spanning 12 millennia into the Earth's past, when a battle shattered our world's surface as the Reptoids and the Elder Race (allusions to Richard Shaver's own extensive myths) slugged it out for ultimate dominion. The fight ended in a draw as some Reptoids headed to deep space while others burrowed deep underground, to become a source of worship for the human tribes left on the scarred surface. "The Reptoids are fellow members of humanity," LeVesque notes. "We are the human and they are reptilian man. They became self-conscious first, before we appeared on the scene. They taught us."

British researcher Lord Clancarty (Brinsley Le Poer Trench) produced some remarkable thoughts along these lines in regard to sentient reptilians in his book *The Sky People* (1960). Much like Tal LeVesque, Lord Clancarty suggested that humankind was the product of a series of breeding experiments, a notion allegedly

substantiated by his readings of numerous ancient texts. Behind this sweeping process were the highly intelligent "serpent people" who created humans as biological robots to carry out a variety of tasks. The serpent people's experiment failed, theorizes the author, when the biological robots managed to reproduce. These concepts would be developed in later decades by Zecharia Sitchin's work. But John Keel, in commenting on Lord Clancarty's work in *Our Haunted Planet* (Fawcett, 1971; Galde Press, 1999) adds a further wrinkle: that the newly emancipated humans now faced the wrath of the serpent people and their survival would probably have not been possible without the intercession of a superintelligence that would later be worshiped as God. "God worked out new means of communication and control," writes Keel, "always in conflict with the serpent people."

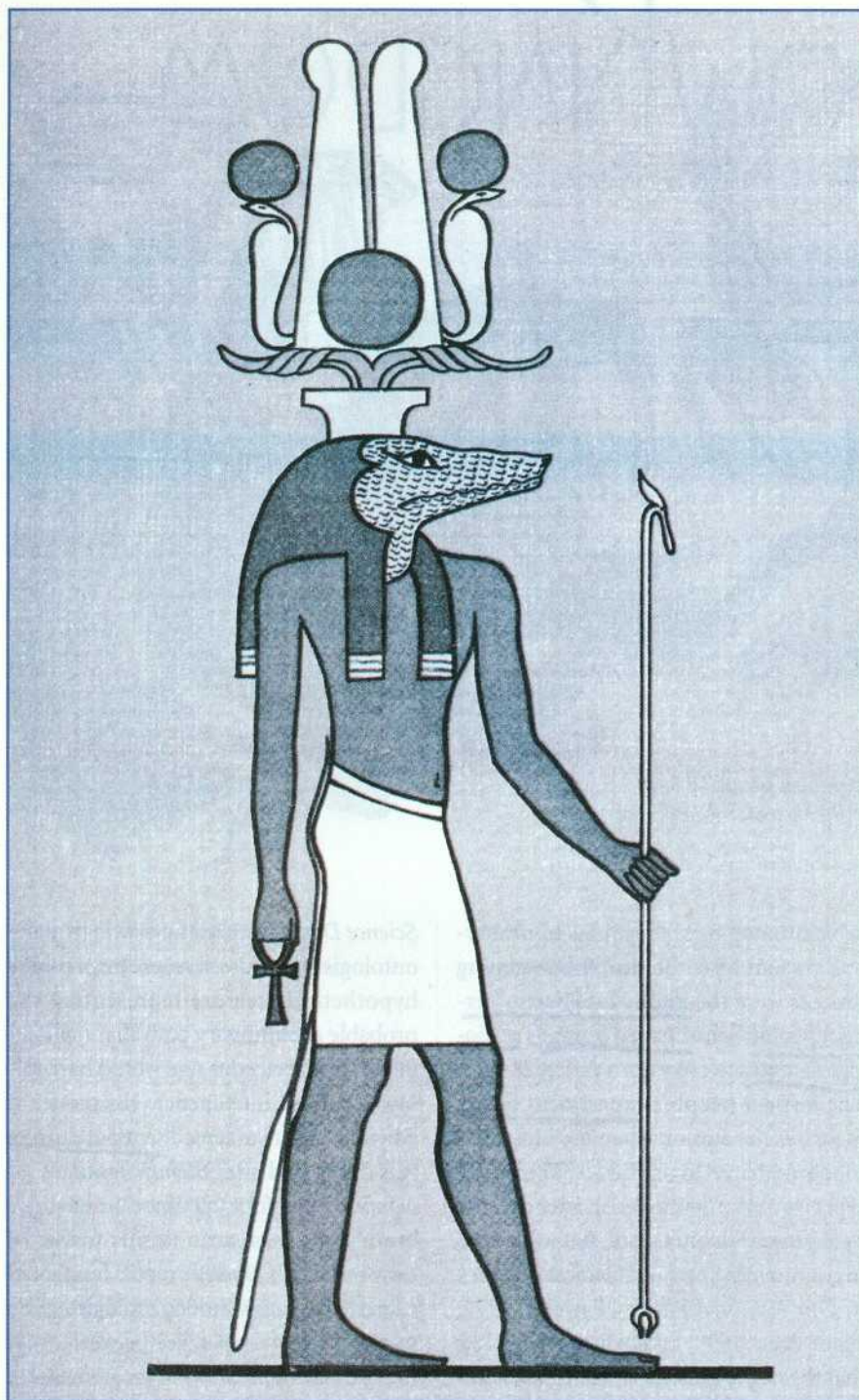
While these references hardly constitute proof by any standard, we are faced with even more tenuous—but nonetheless intriguing—suggestions regarding the existence of reptilian protohumans. In 1983,

*Science Digest* featured an article by paleontologist Dal Russell regarding a purely hypothetical creature representing the probable evolutionary path that reptilian life in the Cretaceous Age would have followed toward intelligence. His model of a two-legged, two-armed sentient saurian was developed after *Stenoychosaurus inequalus*, a ten-foot tall dinosaur having a brain-body mass ratio similar to that of early mammals. Russell's reptile humanoid caused a sensation among ufologists, who were quick to draw parallels between it and the Grey aliens. A model of the remarkable "dinosauroid" is on display in Ottawa's National Museum of Natural Sciences and has been featured in documentaries and magazines worldwide.

### Our Neighbors Downstairs

The legends of the Hopi tribe concerning the nameless lizard people declare that around 4000 B.C. (a curiously precise date) a natural disaster destroyed the reptilian people's city, prompting them to go underground, where they built a network of well over a dozen cities safe against any





The Egyptian crocodile god Sebek.

cataclysms. Much like Turkey's underground Derinkuyu, the cities possessed dwelling units, armories, refectories, and vast storerooms not only for food, but for the golden "tablets of knowledge" that chronicled the history of their people allegedly back to the world's creation.

California's Mount Shasta occupies a special place in Hopi lore precisely due to its reptilian connection. One of the more

notable cities was rumored to be under Mount Shasta—a curious detail, since in 1972, a hiker claimed to have seen a half-human, half-reptile creature making its way along the slopes wearing human garb. Some have noted that this highly memorable detail suggests the reptilians—if they exist at all—may steal garments off clotheslines (a humorous notion at first, although this has been suggested as a possibility in

cases involving "little people" wearing incongruous, ill-fitting human togs) or are somehow able to come into towns and villages "masquerading" as humans through some kind of mental projection, relaxing this ability as they return home to their lairs. More on this intriguing possibility later.

Possible substantiation for the Hopi myth came about in 1934, when engineer Warren Shufelt told a reporter from the *Los Angeles Times* that beneath the City of Angels lay one of the great reptilian cities built in ages past. Having allegedly spoken to a Hopi chief for background information, Shufelt drilled a 400-foot test hole under Fort Moore Hill, with the blessing of the city authorities, to reach what he termed "a treasure vault." Unfortunately, no treasure was ever found, and Shufelt disappeared. This is not to say that the alleged tunnels did not exist. Apparently, some of them can be found to this very day under the UCLA campus, and one of them is supposed to have played a critical role in the smuggling of Chinese immigrants in the 19th century.

### In the Halls of the Lizard King

Belief in intelligent reptilian creatures reasserted itself in the late '80s and throughout the 1990s in ufology and its related fields, creating fire storms of controversy and lengthy (albeit speculative) taxonomies of the "Reptoids," as they were now called, and their place within the UFO alien pecking order. The first mention of Reptoids in this new context involved them in the operations allegedly occurring at a subterranean base in Dulce, New Mexico, in apparent collusion with the so-called Grey aliens. One of the more sensational claims involving the Reptoids had to do with a gunfight that allegedly took place in the depths of this facility between Delta Force elements and laser-toting snakemen. According to Alex Christopher, the elite forces managed to kill a number of them despite sustaining casualties of their own. "If you have the drop on them, they die just like everybody else. They consist of mass just like we do" (interview on KSEO radio, April 26, 1996). In his book *E.T.*



# HUMANOIDS

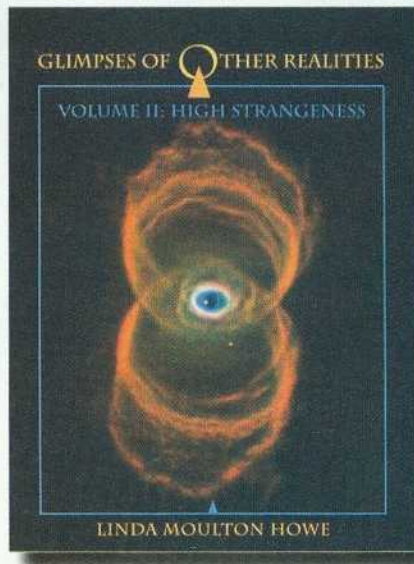
*Friends and Foes*, George Andrews conveys a conversation between two unidentified sources regarding the nature of the Reptoids. One of the speakers unequivocally declares that the reptilian creatures want to make use of Earth as a "staging ground" in an operation that has been going on for thousands of years and which continues apace. Andrews has issued unequivocal warnings about the reptilian entities: "The first thing to do is to alert the people to the danger represented by the predatory reptilian ETs as a preliminary to ridding the planet of them," he writes in an issue of the *Beyond Boundaries* newsletter (July/August 1997).

The Mexican town of Tepoztlán, roughly an hour's drive from the urban sprawl of Mexico City, is probably better known than any other place in that country for its UFO visitations. They have been captured on video and still photographs by hundreds of witnesses and conveyed around the world through documentaries and live broadcasts. The town, which has become a New Age mecca over the course of the last century due to its ancient ruins and reputation as a focal point for benign Earth energies, also boasts stories of alien contact which are somewhat less known.

## A Very Odd Creature

One of these is chronicled in Luis Ramírez Reyes's *Contacto: México* (Diana, 1995) concerning the experiences of Concepción Navarrete, a poor woman who operated a food stand at the base of the majestic rock formation known as El Tepozteco, a favorite UFO haunt. One day, according to Mrs. Navarrete, she was startled by the presence of a very odd creature standing near a cross-like structure marking the site where the coronations of ancient Chichimec monarchs took place. "I was deeply shocked," said the witness, "because he was facing away from me, and he looked like a giant lizard, upright, standing some two meters tall. His skin was green and covered in scales." She added that the lizard being's back had a leaden gray cast to it, and the whole creature seemed to have emerged from the mud.

What occurred next was even more in-



Glimpses of Other Realities II

credible. The reptilian entity made a sudden about-face, as if realizing that it was being spied upon. But at that very moment, its reptilian image was replaced by that of a "blond, cordial American tourist" who inquired—telepathically and in a somewhat mocking tone—if she had been startled by his presence. Feeling her senses overwhelmed by the entity, Navarrete cried out for help as another tourist approached. The lizard man subsequently vanished as if he had never been there. The approaching tourist calmly told Navarrete, to her astonishment, that he was aware of the lizard beings and their penchant for adopting human guise to wander among us.

A story similar to Concepción Navarrete's appears in researcher Linda Moulton Howe's *Glimpses of Other Realities II* (Paper Chase, 1998): Abductee Jim Sparks was allegedly teleported to a nocturnal rendezvous with at least a dozen large, powerfully built reptilian creatures whose true appearance was concealed by superimposed holographic human faces. When Sparks asked to see his interlocutor's real visage, he was cautioned that to do so could be a frightening experience for him, but his wish was granted. Sparks describes the entities' faces as resembling "a cross between a lizard and a snake."

Although his output has been the subject of heated debate, mention must be made of the comments issued by British

author David Icke on the matter of reptilians. Icke claims to have traveled extensively around the United States in 1998 interviewing people who had witnessed reptoid-to-human conversions and vice-versa. One of the most remarkable cases, in view of the accounts mentioned above, has to do with a broadcast journalist who saw the face of the man he was interviewing momentarily assume reptilian features and then resume normal human aspect. The TV newsman's female counterpart corroborated his astonishing account, claiming to have witnessed the subject's hands acquire reptilian characteristics momentarily.

The Navarrete and Sparks cases suggest that the reptilian entities don these disguises to facilitate interaction with humans, whose aversion to reptiles might become manifest. Curiously enough, this was the reason given by the Overlords in Arthur C. Clarke's *Childhood's End* for not revealing themselves upon their arrival on Earth—their bat-winged, devilish appearance would have been a source of global panic. But Icke's case involving the broadcast journalists hints at a near-perfect control of human guise for operating undetected in our midst.

## UWOs

It is interesting to note that in spite of their presence in ancient chronicles and native legends, sentient reptilian beings do not make an appearance in ufology until relatively recent times. A listing of alien creatures compiled by the late Otto Binder for *SAGA UFO Report* in 1975 under the ingenious heading "Unidentified Walking Objects" (UWO) reveals a motley array of saucer occupants worthy of the *Star Wars* cantina: dwarves with hairy bodies, creatures with glowing orange eyes, ones with three-fingered hands, green skin and hair... but no reptilians. Could contemporary researchers be correct in their belief that the Reptoids are in fact a byproduct of the abduction-filled late '80s and early '90s?

Scott Corrales is a frequent contributor to FATE. He is the editor of *Inexplicata: The Journal of Hispanic Ufology*.