

THE AMERICAN UFO WAVE OF 1.896-97

TRANSCRIPTION FROM "THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS" DALLAS, USA

MONDAY APRIL 19th. 1.897. PAGE 5:



"THE GREAT AERIAL WANDERER" IT IS EITHER A REALITY OR ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA WERE (MARE) (illegible on the original) AMATEURS. EFFECT OF CHAMBERS GREEK WATER. FOUND ON THE GROUND AT GREENVILLE AND STEPHENVILLE AND EXPLODED AT DECATUR".

"Stephenville, Tex., April 17.- This afternoon Mr. C.L.Mollhany, a prominent farmer who lives three miles down the Bosque from here, came into "The News" correspondent's office and before seating himself he said:

"I have found it".

"Found what?".

"Found the airship "The Dallas News" has been talking about. It is no joke. I discovered the ship on the ground early this morning. It was in charge of two men, one an engineer and the other a pilot. They had been compelled to come to the ground to make some repairs on the machinery. At one came to Stephenville and reported my find."

"I got a large number of our citizens, who at once proceeded to the spot to view the aerial monster. Among those who viewed the wonderful machine were: Col. James U. Vincent, Eugene Moore of the Stephenville Empire, Mr. Charles Bassell of the Stephenville Journal, Judge W.W. Moores, Senator L.N. Frank, Mr. M.F. Martin, Dr. S.D. Naylor, Judge Thomas B. King, Mr. J.C. George, Dr. M. Day, J.H. Cage, S. Frank, W.P. Orr, mayor of the city, James Collins, Mr. Lee Young, Dr. R.B. Cameron, Dr. J.H. Stewart, A.M. Borders, S.C. Back, Hon. J.T. Danfel, ex-district attorney Hon. J.W. Parker, district attorney Otho S. Houston and Hon. J.S. Straughan, district judge, and many other of our prominent citizens. The airship is very much as reported by "The News" heretofore."

"It consist of a cigar-shaped body about sixty feet in length, to which is attached two immense aeroplanes and the motive power is an immense wheel at

attached two engines, one at each end, in appearance much like a metallic wind-mill. It is driven by an immense electric engine, which derives its power from storage batteries. The crew consisted, as stated, of two men, who gave their names as S.E. Tilman and A.E. Dolbear. They report that they have been making an experimental trip to comply with a contract with certain capitalists of New York, who are backing them. They are confident that they have achieved a great success and that in a short time the navigation of the air will be an assured fact. They refused to have their machine critically inspected and refused to talk further as to their plans for the future. They rapidly made the necessary repairs, boarded the ship and, adding adieu to the astonished crowd assembled, the ship rose gently into the air and sailed off in a southwesterly direction. "If you don't believe me, just ask any one of these men who saw it. And say, I want you to tell "The News" about it. This is one time old Earth is ahead - the first place the airship has been seen to light. And say, what you reckon is going to happen when dynamiters get to riding in airships and dropping bombs down on folks and cities? Is this world ready for airships? Without an answer Mr. Mollhany went forth to tell the news."

=====

"A JUDGE SEES IT. THE CURIOUS EFFECT OF CHAMBERS CREEK WATER"

"Waxahachie, Ellis Co., Tex., April 18.- "The News" reporter has had an interview with Judge Love of this city concerning the mysterious airship, which has been puzzling the minds of many Texans. A rumor having gained currency that it had been seen by him. "The News" reporter called at his office in quest of further information. Judge Love said:"

"Mr. Beatty and myself were on a fishing tour on Chambers Creek near the mouth of Great House branch yesterday. The wind was in the north and we were having very little success. About 5:30 or 6 o'clock in the afternoon we decided to go further down the creek about 600 yards from the mouth of Great House branch Mr. Beatty was slightly in advance, and I heard him say, "My God, what is that?". When I struggled through the underbrush to him he pointed to the left and there, in a ravine, was a group of five peculiarly

Dressed men, and resting on the bank by them was a queer looking machine, which from the sketches and description heretofore published in "The News" we decided must be the airship. The men were taking their case-stretched out full length on some furs- and they were smoking pipes. We, with some trepidation, advanced upon them: when they saw us they appeared somewhat disconcerted, but one of them in fairly good English called to us, "Come on and join us". We advanced and after mutual introductions had taken place, I asked if that was the famous airship. The man who had first called to us, and who appeared to be the leader of the party, said, "That is one of the airships ; would you like to examine it?". The vessel or airship is thirty-two feet long and in the <sup>2</sup> center is fourteen feet wide, sloping gradually toward each end like a Mexican cigar. It has three pairs of wings, each is like the wings of a bird. They are ribbed fore and aft. and are covered, so that the stream of air can have its full lifting capacity somewhat after the manner of the wings of the kits sent up by Lamson in Rigby park. The airship contained machinery by which the wings can be worked or flapped very rapidly and by means of a lever the ship can be turned in any direction or made to ascend or descend at the will of the helmsman. The ship is fitted for the accommodation of its crew, containing bunks, cooking department, gasoline stove and other conveniences. We were told by the aerial navigators that the airship was capable of a speed of 250 miles an hour, but that its normal rate of speed was from 125 to 150 miles an hour. On evincing desire to hear whence they came and how long they had been navigating the air, their leader produced pipes and a sack of excellent tobacco and asked us to make ourselves comfortable while he proceeded to enlighten us.

"We, he said, live in the regions of the north pole. Contrary to the general belief, there is a large body of land beyond the polar seas, containing about 250 square miles of territory. The first time this land was visited by human beings, so far as we know, was when the ten tribes of Israel found their way there after the captivity and dispersion of the Jews. According to tradition they were attempting to cross Bering straits and were carried by a floating iceberg and landed on the shores of north pole land. The climate there, while at that time cold, was prevented from being uninhabitable by the influence of the gulf stream, which, after flowing for hundreds of miles many fathoms under the surface of the sea in that region, came to the surface and flows entirely around the continent of north pole land. You wonder how I speak English?."

well, the polar expedition of Sir Hugh Willoughby in 1.742, who, with his crew, was supposed to have been lost, as a matter of fact succeeded in reaching north pole land. The ship had been so wrecked and broken up by the voyage that Sir Willoughby and his crew were unwilling to risk a return trip, therefore they remained at north pole land. In the early part of 1.546 Sir John Franklin's crew reached north pole land. Sir John having died near what is now called Lady Franklin bay. Sir John's crew remained, as to return was impossible, the ship being crushed between two icebergs 100 miles from north pole land, to which they went in boats. In addition to the foregoing, various parties in the United States and Europe have from time to time reached this land in a (HOPELESS) (one illegible word) condition".

"How do you manage to live?"

"Well, we have a splendid country now. You know how (....) (one i. word) are heated by steam?"

"Well, we have (PIPES) through water steam to convey it all over the inhabitable part of the country and the (SOIL IS KEPT) at such a temperature that we can produce all the (....)....the country is lighted....(4 illegible lines of text). The oxygen burns very rapidly, giving out great heat. Now, by means of the chemical process, we take an iceberg, separate the hydrogen from the oxygen and use the latter for fuel and lights. For lack of timber we can not build ships or trains, therefore we were led to the invention of the airships. We have been using the airships in north pole land for many years for local travel, but not until recently have we made the experiment of taking such trips as the one we are now on".

"On the 1st day of January the Historical society of north pole land decided to send out a number of airships throughout the United States and Europe. Twenty airships were ordered built expressly for the purpose with a capacity of five men each. On the 1st day of March, 1897, ten of these ships were started to Europe and ten to America. There are ten airships in the United States. We have guns and fishing tackle and the speed which we go enables us to take any game we can sight. By agreement the ten airships in the United States will meet in Nashville, Tenn., to attend the Centennial Exposition on June 18 and 19 and the ships will be on exhibition for those two days free of charge."

"About 100 miles north of here we had to descend and saw one of your trains go by. They are very curious things, but go so slow. Now we must be going".

Judge Love continued:

"We then shook hands with the crew and they stepped into their ship, rose in the air and started toward Waco. The description of the ship I have given you is a very meager one, but you can all go to the Nashville Exposition June 18 and 19 and see for yourselves".

"HAS A MUSICAL CREW" ("The Dallas Morning News", April 19th 1897)



3

Hillsboro, Hill Co., Tex., April 18.- A number of persons in this city whose curiosity in regard to the airship has been aroused to fever heat by the graphic accounts of this mysterious wanderer of the heavens as published in "The Dallas News" sat up most of last night in hopes of seeing it. Their vigilance was not rewarded, probably from the fact that it had engagements to fill in other sections and could not get around.

However, a gentleman named Walter Williams, who camped with his wagon on a high hill about two miles east of here on the Hillsboro and Mount Calm road, and who slept on the extreme summit of the hill, says he heard and saw wonderful things that were not on the programme. He came to town this morning and "The News" reporter ran across him at the city watering trough as he was watering his team. The reporter observing that he appeared perplexed about something, halted and entered into a conversation with him, and soon learned the cause of his perplexity. An account of this man and his strange experience is best related in his own words. Said he: "My name is Walter Williams. I am a farmer and live in Anderson county near Mentalba, a small country village. I am on my way overland to Hardeman county, where I have land interests. Last night I stayed two miles east of here on a high hill.

I stopped my wagon and team at the feet of the hill, where I fed my team. After supper I strolled about a little for relaxation and eventually got to the summit of the hill. The night was an ideal one, with no clouds visible anywhere. The moon was cleverly up and the view from the hill was eminently beautiful and impressive. The city of Hillsboro lay off in the valley to the west in all its picturesqueness, while beyond it the shadow of the cross timbers showed darkly against the horizon. The timbered creek above and below me and the clear sky above, from which a few stars blinked sleepily added to the happiness of the occasion. Moved by an impulse, I took off my hat in adoration to the hand that had fashioned the hills and spread the

valley there. The place was so lonely and quiet I decided to spend the night there, and get my blankets and spread them on the ground, with nothing but the blue canopy above me.

I soon drifted away into the land of slumber. After a while I was awakened by the sound of music. I lay on my pallet with my eyes closed and listened to it. Softer, sweeter, weirder music was never heard. Its melody coursed through my veins and penetrated my very soul. Presently I was sufficiently awake to remember where I was, and it struck me as very strange that I should hear music at that place and time. I opened my eyes and looked around me. I could see no one and the music very strangely seemed to be in the air overhead. I sprang to my feet and peered into the air with all my might, but could not see anything. It must have been midnight or past, for the moon had climbed high up the heavens, and its silver rays filled the earth with their radiance. I felt as if I was in a spirit land listening to the weird music of spirits. It was like the music of an organ with flageolet, violin, flutes and cornet accompanying. At times it seemed very near and then floated far away almost beyond the range of hearing, but always returning sweeter and more devotional than before. Look as I would, I could see nothing of the invisible musicians, and it is natural that I should have felt somewhat superstitious about it. Yet I was not as disturbed as one would suppose by it. I knew or felt reasonably certain that no human agency produced the music, still it did not terrify me. The tune was "Coronation", and while it was soft and low, it seemed to penetrate the entire universe. The very air seemed to thrill from it. The stars in the distance, dim and indistinct, appeared to feel its vibrations. After a while the music ceased and I noticed a commotion in the milky-way almost overhead. It seemed as if millions of stars, moved by a sudden impulse, had started revolving about each other in what appeared to be a space ten feet in diameter. They revolved around faster and faster, occasionally throwing off stars, which darted into the void and disappeared.



Ignacio Darnaude Rojas - Marcos

41001 - SEVILLA - SPAIN)

This lasted for scarcely a minute, when the disorder ceased. In the center of the circle was plainly outlined a cross of stars, adorned with a crown of thorns. This presently faded and left the milky-way in its natural state. Just as it faded I plainly heard from myriads of tongues the refrain, "Peace on earth, good will to men". I fancied I could see in the far heavens flashing in the moonlight the silver tips of angel wings. The song died away and everything grew silent. After that I could not sleep till nearly day, when I fell into a soft slumber. I am at a loss to account for it. It could not have been a dream. It was too vivid, and I can not account for it. While it is possible that Eastertide may have had something to do with it. I am not prepared to say that it did. I relate it as it occurred to me, and I give you my word as an honest man and as a Christian that I saw what I saw. If you doubt it I refer you to any one at Montalba, Tex., who will tell you I am at least regarded as truthful. When the reporter recovered from the strangeness of the adventures, Mr. Williams was some distance down the street.

4

"C.G. WILLIAMS SAW IT. IT WAS ON THE GROUND AND HE INTERVIEWED THE CAPTAIN"

Greenville, Hunt Co., Tex., April 17.- (To "The News").- I have surely seen the airship. I saw it last night about 12 o'clock. I was walking across a field two miles south of town. I was in a meditative mood, and suddenly I was aroused by a brilliant light in front of me. I was dazzled by the light and frightened almost out of my senses. I should have left the place at once but my legs refused to move.

As soon as I could recover a little I noticed that the lights had gone out and by the light of the moon I saw an immense cigar shaped vessel resting on the ground in front of me. I saw three men walk out of the vessel. Two of them went to work about the rigging of the ship. The other called to me and asked if I would mail some letters for him. This gave me courage to approach and talk with him. Having been at one time connected with a daily paper and by mere reporterial instinct I took out my pencil and paper. Seeing this the strange visitor said: "See here, young man, don't give this thing away. We are experimenting with this vessel. So far it is a success. We expect to revolutionize travel and transportation. We have seen a few copies of the daily newspapers and are very much amused and entertained at the accounts of the appearance of our ship. If you will promise on the square not to reveal what I tell you I will give you a

little history of our adventures".

"At a little town in the interior of New York state I have worked for many years on my ship. About two weeks ago I started accompanied by these two assistants to make a trial trip. My intention at first was to make a very short trip. We started in the night to avoid being seen. Everything worked so well that I decided to keep going, and I soon found myself passing over the state of Indiana. We stopped in a secluded spot near a small railway station. I went into the town and procured a daily paper, which gave an account of my ship being seen. Since that time we have been passing from place to place at a rapid rate of speed. Occasionally we stop near a town to get the newspapers. I am going home in a few days to improve my ship. I find some improvements necessary to perfect it. This trial trip has been most satisfactory. You will hear from me again in a short while, and then it will not be vague reports, but a full description of the modern wonder, the airship".

I had a good opportunity to look at the exterior of the monster while its occupant was talking. It is much the shape of a cigar. The main body appeared to be about 30 feet long. Great wings shaped fans spread out either side. At the front end was a large wheel much like the side wheels of a steamboat, but made of very light material. At the rear end was a fanlike projection like the tail of a fish. The whole was about 75 feet long. I asked my visitor to explain his ship, how it was propelled, etc.. He simply replied: "Electricity. Within are electrical machines, which furnish the motive power, and the lights. When once in motion the wind operating on the large wheel in front like a windmill keeps the ship in motion and but little electricity is needed. Now, young man, I can't tell you any more. Just wait and you will learn all about it. If you will mail these letters and not disclose the names and address and keep this all quiet for awhile, and will give me your name I will return soon and take you with me on a trip to Mexico and South America". I promised not to give him away. He and his assistants went inside, there was a flash of light, a sizzling noise, the monster rose gracefully and flew away in a northeast direction. I am in honor bound not to disclose the names and postoffice address of the letters. I deposited them in the Greenville postoffice that night. When my visitor returns and I leave with him for Mexico and South America I will write "The News" regularly. It is a grand invention, and I am fully convinced that in a short while we shall discard slow railroad trains and ocean steamers.

C.G. WILLIAMS.

(From "The Dallas Morning News", Dallas, Texas, Monday April 19th 1.897).





November 24th 1982

1.896-97

Dear Sirs,

. Spain

I refer to "INFO JOURNAL" , N° 38, page 8 , concerning "the lost Arctic expedition of Sir John Franklin".

I am sending you enclosed a curious text from "The Dallas Morning News" , Dallas, Texas, April 19th 1897, about the great UFO wave of 1896-97, from which you can gather information on alleged Sir John Franklin expedition. By the way this entire article printed on Dallas newspaper is of the most remarkable interest, and as far as I know it never has been published in modern times.

My congratulations for the general high quality of INFO JOURNAL.

Best wishes.

Truly yours

Juanic Vannaude

1997/1997: LDIN 90 p 4

1997: LDIN 120 p 5



cade: La prima quindicina del mese dovrebbe trascorrere piuttosto serenamente. Nella seconda, invece, l'in-



cade: Probabili crisi di nervosismo e tensione dalle dall'Influenza Mercurio, soprattutto nella seconda quindicina. Se possibile, evita.



cade: La situazione un po' caotica del mese precedente dovrebbe tornare a normalizzarsi si con l'avvicinarsi del

1997: FSR 130 p 29

commento in particolare. Per i nati nella 3a decade: Il vostro peggior nemico sarà la gelosia, che può portar-

Per i nati nella 3a decade: Sarete portati a tentare nuovi approcci sentimentali, ai quali però, sarebbe bene dare un'importanza molto

Per i nati nella 3a decade: Permane l'influenza negativa di Giove, che si rinfletterà sulla vostra attività

1997: FSR 92 p 14

1997/1997: FSR 124 p 10



Per i nati nella 1a decade: Spensieratezza cambia la vostra parola



Per i nati nella 1a decade: Nettuno e Marte nella seconda quindici-



cade: Nettuno, Plutone e Venere in aspetto negativo, faranno il pos-

1997: Vellicé Messengers 39

1.897

28

and made of "free silver." A door opened and three strange looking beings stepped out. They were like regular men except that there was no demarkation between the nose and the mouth and they had immense gills on the side of the head. These gills resembled elephant ears and moved in and out as in respiration. The mouth extended from gill to gill and they had a huge fin down their backs. Their feet were pointed and stuck in the ground. The feet prevented them from slipping off the ship and the fin was used to guide them in case they did. Their hands were simply claws and this was because in some places the air was so heavy they had to dig their way around. The mayor spoke to them and found that they were from Mars. This was followed by a political discussion in which the mayor wanted to know how many votes there were on Mars. After a few more political cuts and discussions, the craft left.

The Ida Grove (IA) Era, of April 15th, said that the airship had been seen there on April 14th. It was in three sections: the first section was filled with newspaper men in search of the North Pole; the second section was too far away; and the third section contained the Des Moines Bulldozers and Carpetbaggers in charge of Dick Clarkson.

The Nonpareil of Council Bluffs, Ia., of April 16th, reported that the airship had been seen by a large number of people on April 15th. It appeared as generally described in the newspaper accounts and had a red and green light. A reporter got a "strong glass" and saw a package drop from it. He found it to be wrapped in manilla paper and tied with red and white string, like that used by druggists. The contents were written on rare, old parchment and concerned itself with the location of former Council Bluff residents and what they were doing there. It also touched on present residents and political figures.

The Humboldt Co. Independent of Humboldt, Ia., of April 22nd, <sup>1897</sup> ran a dispatch sent to Iowa Capital. It related that at 0300 on April 17th the airship landed in Lake Macouis. Over 173,000 people had been to see it. The water of the lake was heated so much that the fish were all cooked for 1/2 mile in all directions. The people were fed with fish and bread. It was a Billy goat that had eaten some of Dr. Prices' baking powder, who rose and the lasting of the powder kept him up. The people were taking a collection to buy him more powder so he can continue the journey.

The Indianapolis (IN) Sentinel, of April 18th, reported that the airship had been seen there early that morning. It made a whirring sound and descended rapidly. It was a large black object and was brightly lighted. It eventually landed on Soldier's Monument. A voice came from it and gave a very long oration concerning man and his quest for flight.

The Lansing (MI) News, of April 29th, reported that on April 26th, the airship landed at the Taylor House. The crew consisted of a correspondent of the Arizona Kicker and three others. After 15 minutes for refreshments, they left for Cuba. From there they were going east to watch the "Greeks kick the Turks for a few hours." Then to Topeka to "find out all about the bribery investigating business, and how much hush money representative Keefer got from Bailey Waggoner." The ship would stop at the Taylor House next Monday, at 1940, for more refreshments. The News of May 6th reported that the airship landed on May 3rd as promised.

The Mount Gilead (O) Union Register, of May 12th, reported that the airship circled and landed at Cardington on May 6th. It was cigar shaped, had great spreading wings, propellers, dynamos, headlight, etc.. An old man got out and anchored it to a tree with a steel cable. The reporter followed him back into the craft, where he met a beautiful woman. Both of them appeared to be Jewish. She said he was the first man she had a chance to talk to in 1800 years and that the old man was the "Wandering Jew." He then questioned the old man about the airship. He said he built it because he had gotten tired of walking. It was propelled by electricity and it's buoyancy was from ideas. There was a tank filled with a "double distilled ether extracted from the production of men like Plato, Washington, Jefferson, and Mr. J. Bryan, by a process that has cost me hundreds of years of hard toil. Occasionally, I shove in a bunch of ideas composed of sophistry and false reasoning, and when they come in contact with that ether they immediately explode and produce a pressure that is unconceivable." He then threw in a copy of the St. Louis republican convention and the pressure went from 60 to 100 pounds. He threw in an article from a Mt. Gilead republican paper and the pressure went to 1000 pounds. The craft suddenly lifted. The reporter jumped out, used the paper as a parachute, and landed safely.

The Bellefontaine (O) Republican, of May 14, printed a letter written by "A. Rustic" in which he reported that he had seen the airship last night. He was walking home from a Populist caucus when he saw a strange craft with a bright light fore and aft. It slowly settled on Hoge's Summit. He went in

1.896-97

il giorno dopo l'arrivo. Non si è mai capito bene questa fuga.

In quanto allo Yeti, schiavo dei cinesi, si possono ammettere 3 alternative:

1° Sono individui o smarriti o in missione sul pianeta terra con compiti di ricerche minerarie, specie uranifere, ma non solo uranifere. Questi individui avendo le stesse caratteristiche dei ragazzi lupo riconoscono i metalli anche se questi sono avvolti in panni ad occhi chiusi e solo al tatto (il che è un po' strano per essere una caratteristica terrestre). Dato che i terrestri spesso li uccidono, gli yeti assumono un atteggiamento passivo in apparenza ma di prospezione del terreno nei campi « effettivo ».

2° alternativa: Culturalmente debbono apparire primitivi, almeno in alcuni settori. Anche noi, ad esempio, su un altro pianeta potremmo apparire primitivi, perché l'evoluzione non è che un perfezionare il proprio adattamento ad un dato ambiente.

3° alternativa: Dovendo soggiornare a volte per periodi piuttosto lunghi, dopo la perdita dell'UFO, il troppo ossigeno terrestre agirebbe in senso negativo sui centri nervosi (da noi bambini troppo ossigenati, appena nati, nell'incubatrice sono stati resi ciechi o sordi). Anche i reni non svolgono bene la loro funzione depuratrice e molti Yeti puzzano di urina.

Alcuni ragazzi-lupo muoiono di nefrite e con edemi o pleuriti sempre in conseguenza di alterazioni renali. Lo studioso sovietico Zaitzev ritiene Gesù Cristo un individuo extraterrestre. E non solo Zaitzev. Non voglio esprimere un giudizio in merito, anche se mi sembra che esistano notevoli addentellati tra ufologia e religione, però io non scarto mai nulla per partito preso o per pregiudizio. Posso solo ricordare che quando venne trafitto dalla lancia sulla croce Gesù Cristo perdesse sangue misto ad acqua ed il fenomeno non è mai stato studiato accuratamente (pleurite? nefrite?).

La studiosa sovietica Anna Kofmann asserisce che un piatto appetitoso per lo Yeti è lo sterco di cavallo il che è un po' strano come gusto terrestre... sappiamo inoltre che sull'Everest sono stati trovati degli yak intatti ma senza le interiora; sappiamo del cavallo Snoopy trovato intatto senza cervello, senza midollo spinale e senza interiora dopo il passaggio di dischi volanti e sappiamo del profeta Ezechiele che ricevette da Dio l'ordine di mangiare il seguente piatto « Capitolo IV - 12. E mangia una focaccia d'orzo che sia cotta con sterco d'uomo, cuocila in loro presenza. - 15. Ed il Signore mi disse: Vedi, io ti dò sterco di bue in luogo di sterco di uomo; cuoci con esso il tuo pane ».

Non si può proprio dire che simili ricette culinarie siano di un Artusi terrestre.

Anche lo scheletro di questi Yeti presenta anomalie sconcertanti cominciando dal cranio che si presenta spesso appuntito perché esistono due ossa laterali che sovrappoendosi alle ossa temporali si congiungono sul cocuzzolo, (que-

sta forcina rovesciata potrebbe essere all'origine di alcune qualità di detector che essi hanno).

A volte le dita sono appuntite e a volte palmate (come Ramu, il ragazzo lupo) cioè con alterazioni cromosomiche e non ambientali.

Gli esami compiuti sullo scheletro di Zana, yeti femmina da lei citato, hanno sconcertato gli studiosi che non hanno potuto raggiungere una conclusione fondata. Il che è il minimo che possa capitare quando si studia un Extraterrestre.

### L'immagine riflessa

I sigg. Vincenzo Chiarelli di Agrigento, Paolo Franci di Supino (Frosinone), Carlo Bosco di Villanova Canavese (Torino), Alessandro Gabrielli, di Milano, Gerardo Imbè di Napoli, Antonio Nassi di Siena, Gianaldo Pantanella di Collesferro (Roma), Luigi Spadafora di San Giovanni in Fiore (Cosenza), Gianfranco Costelli di Torino, Antonino Capodicasa di Pescara e Giovanni Ferraris di Rapallo (Genova) scrivono rimproverando di non aver specificato meglio al signor Traviglia (G.d.M. n° 15, pag. 73) che l'immagine riflessa ha la stessa velocità della luce.

• Questa risposta avrebbe lasciato insoddisfatto il Traviglia il quale esponendo per es. uno specchio al sole, riceveva immediatamente l'immagine riflessa del medesimo. Preferii a questa risposta (indubbiamente esatta) un'altra in cui spiegavo che in realtà egli riceveva qualcosa che sembrava ma non era. In parole povere che si trattava di una illusione. Bisognava in effetti aggiungere che Traviglia riceveva qualcosa che era già arrivato prima, (e portato dalla luce) in base alla equazione

$$\text{TEMPO} = \frac{\text{SPAZIO}}{V \text{ (velocità luce)}}$$

Ma si consoli il sig. Traviglia. Anche Einstein è caduto sulla buccia di banana dell'ottica riflessa (che tra l'altro è una materia assai interessante come scrissi). Infatti interpretò alla rovescia l'esperimento Michelson dimenticando che l'esito di questo esperimento è interpretabile con la relatività di Galileo ammettendo che esista una corrente di spazio fluido che investe la terra con una velocità relativa al nostro pianeta di 30 km. al secondo e velocità assoluta di 60 km. al secondo, come risulta dagli esperimenti di Todeschini di Bergamo.

### Fisiologia dei mostri

Il sig. Amilcare Ramponi di Viserba (Rimini), V.le Palazzi 19, scrive:

« Prima di finire sugli UFO (vedi parte della lettera nel numero scorso del G.d.M. indirizzata a Conti) due parole sull'articolo di Angelo Moretti (N° 10 pag. 28). Possibile che gli Americani USA tanto precisi, meticolosi, non abbiano esaminato a fondo all'esterno e all'interno i mostri fatti di materiale sintetico? ».

• Caro Ramponi, un conto è esaminarli,

un conto è capirli. Un conto è l'analisi veramente serena ed obbiettiva, un conto sono le pregiudiziali, anche se inconscie, che agiscono da freni inibitori all'analisi serena.

Esempio: una commissione governativa di scienziati australiani obbligata dall'opinione pubblica ad interessarsi del cosiddetto mostro di Tasmania e inviata appositamente sul posto in aereo, fuggè addirittura il giorno dopo senza dare spiegazione di questo comportamento alquanto strano e senza dare spiegazioni scientifiche. Altro esempio: nel 1896 a St. Augustine, sulla costa dell'Atlantico, l'oceano spinse sulla spiaggia un altro di questi mostri. Le analisi da allora ad oggi continuano senza che chimici e biologi ci capiscano nulla all'istituto Smitsonian americano. Esiste una parte esterna di colore roseo con riflessi argentei al sole, e straordinariamente dura tanto che un coltello lanciato contro di essa schizza lontano senza intaccarla. La parte interna sembra formata da polimeri più trattabili ed essendo formata da cellule regolari contenenti silicio, è stata etichettata come tessuto connettivo di piovra gigante anche perché si trovarono delle specie di mozziconi di enormi tentacoli. Ora qui bisogna far notare una cosa. La Florida è zona notoriamente calda e le piovre sono più nei mari freddi.

Questi tentacoli, posseduti anche dal mostro di Tasmania sono visibilissimi anche in alcuni UFO in volo.

Lo scrittore americano Fuller ha posto in risalto come questi tentacoli a volte escano dall'UFO e raggiungono i fili ad alta tensione. Questi tubi-tentacoli sono visibili anche sulla famosa pietra che ricopre il sarcofago di Palenque e sembra che persino Ezechiele ne accenni nella sua famosa visione. Anche nei libri sacri dell'India, come il Mahabharata, sono descritti questi tubi-tentacoli come « trombe di elefanti che lanciano lampi di fuoco dai danaya » cioè dai dischi volanti.

Per quanto riguarda le altre caratteristiche e le altre comparazioni vedi mio articolo sul N° 4 del G.d.M. 1971.

### Problemi di fisica

Il signor Giuseppe Baldini di Mazara (Trapani), via Catania 27, scrive:

« Signor Moretti, voglia rispondere a tutte queste domande: 1) Se lo spazio vuoto è pieno di particelle materiali, perché esse non producono attrito sui corpi che si muovono nel vuoto per inerzia? 2) Per Lei sono ancora valide le formule di Lorentz-Einstein sulla relatività della massa, lunghezza e tempo? 3) Se la massa è davvero relativa e se le particelle nucleari si muovono a velocità ultraluminosa, queste hanno massa immaginaria, e così tutto il nucleo: com'è possibile ciò se nel nucleo degli atomi è concentrata quasi tutta la massa della materia? 4) Secondo l'effetto Doppler, un corpo con velocità 10 volte quella della luce non si può vedere in alcun modo perché qualunque onda da es-

the moving coffins of Christ Church, Barbados; the lost Arctic expedition of Sir John Franklin; the Berbalang ghouls; the perpetual motion device of Orffyreus; Andrew Crosse and his acari; disappearing islands; Mersenne's numbers; M. Botineau and his remarkable eyesight; the planet "Vulcan"; and Nostradamus.

I mention the entire roster because while they are very familiar today, they owe much of their fame to the pen of Rupert T. Gould. Oddities was a best seller, and is still in print.

The success of Oddities inspired him to prepare a companion volume of similar content and style. The result was Enigmas (1929), with eleven more essays on strange and often tragic events of the past. Enigmas too was a success, and with Oddities, and together with the books of Charles Fort forms a basic library on mysterious phenomena.

Gould struck again in 1930 with The Case for the Sea Serpent. As a man of the sea, Gould was fascinated by the legends and sightings of sea monsters. His work on the subject (aside from Oudemans' The Great Sea Serpent, 1892) practically began the modern investigation of sea serpent reports, predating the efforts of Heuvelmans and Sanderson by at least thirty years.

By 1934, Gould had sufficient stature as a thoughtful and entertaining researcher to be asked to give radio talks for children. His fifteen-minute program, part of the BBC Children's Hour, was called "The Stargazer Talks." It proved to be widely popular. The term Stargazer was originally meant to indicate the focus of the show was astronomical, but Gould soon expanded this limited scope to include all variety of quaint and curious lore, from his beloved typewriters to the works of Jules Verne. The Stargazer Talks continued on the BBC into the war years, and eventually were printed up in a small book, The Stargazer Talks. Gould's accomplishments in radio gained him a position as one of the famous BBC "Brain Trust."

Gould's relatively early death in 1948 at the age of 57 was not only a loss to the world of scholarship, but also a blow to his readers and listeners, and to all those who search for answers to the world's oddities and enigmas.

Rupert T. Gould effectively bridges the gap between the work of Charles Fort, and earlier authors who wrote on strange phenomena, such as Andrew Lang, Charles McKay, Sabine Baring-Gould, and others. The pre-Fort writers were intellectuals who only dabbled in the unknown, and did better work in other areas. Lang was a folklorist; Baring-Gould was a vicar, whose best-known effort was his encyclopedic Lives of the Saints.

The two real founders of modern Fortean research therefore are Gould and Fort himself. Fort has priority of place through his earlier publication of The Book of the Damned (1919) and New Lands (1923). It is hard to say whether or not Gould was influenced to any degree by Fort, but ensuing generations show the influence of both men's influence.

And yet they were quite different, in outlook and approach. Charles Fort read voluminously in all manner of periodicals, cull through immense amounts of literature for a few fragmentary notices of some strange happening. Fort seldom followed up on his findings, but simply noted them down. Many have criticized this procedure as being superficial, which it may be, but those critics fail to understand the motives behind Fort's researches. Individual phenomena were not as important to Fort as was the whole phenomenological picture he could create for his own and others' philosophical amusement.\*

Rupert Gould, on the other hand, represents a school of thought which in practice is more common today than pure Forteanism. Gould picked his topics carefully, judging them on merits of high interest and high strangeness. Since he accumulated fewer cases than Fort, Gould made a more in-depth study of each mystery. While Fort vacuum-cleaned up huge amounts of heterogeneous data, Gould probed deeply into the details of twenty to thirty specific cases. In this way, Gould resembles the style of earlier authors; unlike them, Gould does not present his studies as mere diversions, but as serious attempts towards understanding and solution. (But would Lang, McKay, or Baring-Gould really appreciate the implication here that their works were merely

\* Recall Fort's remark that he was interested "not so much in things but in relations of things."

they heard appalling voices issue from within its walls by night and day."

One day two Spaniards happened to wander onto the ruins. "On entering one of the solitary streets, they beheld two rows of men, evidently, from their stately demeanor, hidalgos of noble blood, and cavaliers of the court. They were richly attired in the Castilian mode, with rapiers by their sides, and broad traveling hats such as were worn at the time. The two men were astonished to behold persons of their own rank and appearance apparently inhabiting that desolate place, unknown to the people of the island. They saluted them, and inquired whence they came and when they had arrived. The cavaliers maintained a gloomy silence, but courteously returned the salutation by raising their hands to their sombreros or hats, in taking off which their heads came off also, and their bodies stood decapitated. (Irving deserves an editor's medal for refraining from the use of an exclamation point at the end of that sentence.) The whole phantom assemblage then vanished. So great was the astonishment and horror of the beholders that they had nearly fallen dead, and remained stupefied for several days." (Bk. I, Ch. XI, p. 385)

#### Caucasian Natives?

Perhaps most astonishing of all was a confrontation with white men wearing white robes. In 1494 while cruising the south side of Cuba, Columbus sent a party on shore for food and water. An archer in the party wandered off to look for game. He met up with "a man in a long white dress" followed shortly thereafter by two others wearing white tunics that reached to the knees, "and the three were of as fair complexions as Europeans." (Irving seems to make a distinction between the style of the "dress" and the "tunics.") When about 30 more men armed with clubs and lances appeared in the background (it is not clear whether they also were fair-skinned), the archer fled in terror seeking aid from his companions.

When told the story, the shore party believed it and fled to the ship. When Columbus heard the story, he believed it because he had recently heard about a civilized country called Mangon that had clothed inhabitants. For the next two days he sent out search parties to make contact, but nothing was found. (Bk. VII, Ch. IV, p. 413)

Catastrophists also can find grist for

their mill in the chronicles of Columbus. The natives of Hayti had a tradition concerning a universal deluge, described in an elaborate legend. (Bk. VI, Ch. X, p. 373)

These writings and others like them suggest that homogenized history and exclusionary science conveniently skip over (or rationalize) that which does not fit. Reality, taken in the raw, is much richer, more mysterious, and less neatly categorized than many of us would like to believe.

INFO JOURNAL, No 38, JAN-FEB 1981

## Founders of Forteana:

RUPERT T. GOULD: A RETROSPECTIVE EVALUATION

by Paul B. Thompson

November 16, 1980, marked the ninetieth anniversary of the birth of Rupert T. Gould, the noted British author, naval officer, radio personality, and scholar, who contributed so much to the investigation of unexplained phenomena and historical mysteries. The works of Gould remain outstanding examples, classics of the genre which has come to be known as Fortean, in honor of the greatest of such researchers, Charles Fort.

Who was Rupert T. Gould, and what did he contribute to the lore of Forteana? He began his career in the Royal Navy, as did many young Englishmen of his day. Gould served actively at sea from 1906 to 1915, and from 1916 to 1927 with the Hydrographic Department of the Admiralty. At sea or on land, Gould was first and foremost a scholar.

Gould's first book, a history of the marine chronometer, was published in 1923. A life-long passion for small, intricate machines led Gould to study the origins of both the marine chronometer and the typewriter; of the latter, he acquired a huge collection of assorted antique specimens, many of which were quite rare. It was fitting that Gould's first book should be on chronometers, because his last effort, published posthumously in 1949, was a history of the typewriter.

The first work Gould wrote in a Fortean vein was Oddities, which appeared in 1928 (see bibliography). In this book, Gould presented eleven essays dealing with some of the most famous yet insoluble mysteries known to man: the "Devil's Hoofmarks" seen in Devonshire in 1855;

# Science



Scientists root for 50 million-year-old bones, among them, inset, a primate jaw



three-toed dawn horse. Digging further in that spot and five adjacent areas, they retrieved 19 skulls, five eggs, over 150 jaws and hundreds of teeth, limbs and bone bits.

Like the animals from which they came, the fossils are tiny, many smaller than a matchstick. Says Krish-

talka: "One rarely finds small specimens preserved so exquisitely." Animals that have been identified include bats, monkeys, iguana-like reptiles, a possum-like marsupial and salamanders. The scientists have yet to label the new species but have linked them to the lizard and shrew families.

Such clues could help researchers better understand life in the Eocene, a time of turbulent change, climatic as well as geological. The earth was slowly cooling, and swamp areas were evaporating. As a result, hundreds of species were dying or seeking warmth farther south. The North American monkeys, for example, migrated to Central and South America. Warm-blooded beasts that could adjust to the new cold thrived, among them the forebears of pigs, cows, cats and dogs. For animals, says Stucky, the epoch "was a revolution." And with the bones unearthed for scientists to explore and understand, that revolution continues to reveal its buried secrets.

—By Natalie Angler. Reported by Timothy Loughran/New York

## Striking It Rich in Wyoming

*Paleontologists unearth a trove of early mammalian fossils*

The plains of western Wyoming are today a scarred moonscape of gray hills, but 50 million years ago they were mostly swampland, lush with exotic life. Primitive lemurs swung through palm trees, while the first horse, *Eohippus*, a short-legged creature about the size of a fox terrier, nibbled on grass beside the squirrel-like *Paramys*.

Now two scientists with the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh have rooted beneath the sediment of the Wind River valley to unearth a spectacular cache of fossils from the Eocene epoch, that critical time when many progenitors of modern mammals first appeared. Representing some 65 species and including about eight species previously unknown, the bones are the most diverse and perfectly preserved ever discovered from that time. Although they have only just begun to study their find, Richard Stucky, 34, and Leonard Krishtalka, 38, are already convinced that the bones will reveal precious clues to the evolution and extinction of ancient animals. Says Stucky exuberantly: "It's a gold mine."

Wyoming has been a favorite haunt of paleontologists for the past century, ever since westering pioneers reported that many vertebrate fossils were almost lying on the ground. Scientists soon discovered why. Roughly 55 million years ago, the Rockies rose violently, while enormous basins formed around Wyoming. Rains washed sediment into the natural bowls, and thousands of animal carcasses were buried and preserved.

Despite these promising conditions, scientists have rarely found more than a

few scattered specimens at a time. But almost as soon as Stucky and Krishtalka struck their pickaxes in the ground last June they unearthed a beautifully preserved Eocene skull and lower jaw of a



## Trapped in Time

"They look more alive than dead."

So said Physical Anthropologist Owen Beattie last week of the three British sailors he and his colleagues at the University of Alberta had dug out from Arctic permafrost. Buried in 1846, the corpses are in flawless condition, down to the 19th century outfits and funeral head wrappings. The hands of one of the corpses, says Beattie, are long and delicate, like a pianist's. Petty Officer John Torrington, 20, left, Able Seaman John Hartnell, 25, and Royal Marine William Braine, 34, died after the two ships of Sir John Franklin's ill-fated expedition in search of the Northwest Passage were trapped by thick ice near Canada's remote Beechey Island. Over the next year, the 129 men on board struggled to survive, setting up a supply shop and smithy on the frozen tundra, but all eventually perished. Now that he has recovered three bodies, Beattie says, scientists can try to learn whether it was scurvy, toxins in the food or merely despair that killed the stranded crew.





La nave *Frontier Sprit* y un rompehielos, en la expedición de Sauvadet.

MERS MAGNETIQUES

Sauvadet halla restos de la expedición de sir John Franklin en 1846

## Un explorador francés completa la vuelta al Ártico, sólo conseguida por Amundsen

OCTAVI MARTÍ, París  
Pierre Sauvadet es, junto a Roald Amundsen, el único explorador del Ártico que ha podido dar la vuelta completa a dicho océano. En 1991 reabrió el pasaje noreste siguiendo las costas siberianas hasta Japón a bordo de la nave *Astrolabe*. Este año, embarcado en el *Frontier Sprit*, ha completado el círculo por el noroeste llegando hasta Alaska.

En el primer viaje, el explorador francés compaginó aventura, investigación e intereses comerciales: "Cuando iniciamos el recorrido aún no sabíamos qué dirían las autoridades soviéticas. La

URSS existía e impuso ciertas limitaciones. Pudimos estudiar un poco cuestiones referidas a la deriva de los hielos, pero ciertas mediciones no nos fueron permitidas. Eso sí, demostramos que el

viaje era perfectamente factible, la intervención de los rompehielos fue mínima y acortamos el trayecto de manera extraordinaria, en varios miles de kilómetros y muchas semanas de navegación. Pero, de momento, es una ruta que no puede explotarse porque faltan puertos intermedios y porque las primas que hay que pagar a las compañías de seguros son altísimas".

La ruta siguiendo la costa canadiense, que comenzó en agosto y acaba de terminar, ha servido para descubrir otras cosas. "De entrada, que el Ártico de Canadá está mucho menos contaminado que el siberiano", cuenta Sauvadet. Los grandes ríos de la ex URSS están muy sucios. La costa rusa presenta una vida animal muy inferior a la de sus vecinos de enfrente".

"Además", añade, "hemos encontrado restos de la famosa expedición de sir John Franklin en 1846, un viaje emprendido con dos barcos y muchos medios, apoyado por la Corona británica, pero del que nada se supo desde 1847. La Armada británica realizó varias expediciones para averiguar qué había pasado. Cuarenta viajes partieron con este objetivo. Ahora nosotros hemos encontrado los restos, pero todavía queda el misterio de la expedición de sir John Franklin en su

LANCIA DEDRA

# CADA DETALLE DE ESTE COCHE, MERECE UN PRIMER PLANO...





## ...INCLUSO EL PRECIO.

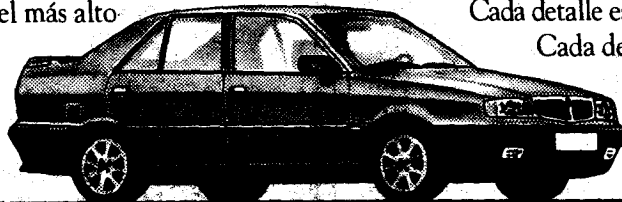
El LANCIA DEDRA ha sido diseñado para vivir muy de cerca cada uno de sus detalles. Hacer un recorrido por el exterior de un Lancia Dedra es seguir la línea y el perfil de un automóvil con temperamento y personalidad. Entrar en su interior es descubrir un ambiente cuidado al detalle para ofrecer el más alto nivel de confort y elegancia.

La tapicería Alcántara®, los acabados en madera de Rosa Africana, la dirección asistida, el climatizador automático, la inyección electrónica...

Cada uno de estos detalles, sirve para definir a un gran automóvil, el Lancia Dedra.

Cada detalle es protagonista en el Lancia Dedra.

Cada detalle merece un primer plano.



P.V.P. desde 1.875.000 ptas.

Modelo	C.c.	CV	P.V.P. desde*
Dedra Strada 1.6 i.e.	1.581	90	1.875.000 pts.
Dedra 1.8 i.e.	1.756	110	2.235.000 pts.
Dedra 2.0 i.e.	1.995	130	2.598.000 pts.
Dedra Turbo ds	1.929	92	2.577.000 pts.
Dedra 2000 Turbo	1.995	165	3.452.000 pts.
Dedra Integrale	1.995	180	4.067.000 pts.

\*Península y Baleares IVA y Transporte incluidos

EQUIPAMIENTO DE SERIE LANCIA DEDRA STRADA 1.6 i.e., 90 CV • 1.600 c.c. • Servodirección

- Cierre centralizado • Alzacristales eléctricos delanteros • Acabados en madera de Rosa Africana
- Retrovisores exteriores a tono con el color de la carrocería • Apoyabrazos central anterior • Apoyacabezas posteriores
- Cortinilla parasol • Cristales acústicos • Inyección electrónica • Cinturones de seguridad retráctiles.

Nunca y por último, en esta ha servido de ejemplo para demostrar que la instrumentación nueva de que disponemos es magnífica, que gracias a ella podremos abordar nuevas fases de la exploración del Ártico".

### Un satélite fascinante

La estrella de estos equipos es el satélite ERS-1. "Nos permite saber, en tiempo real, la importancia del oleaje, la velocidad e intensidad de las corrientes marinas, la deriva de los icebergs", detalla Sauvadet, que está fascinado con este satélite de la Agencia Europea del Espacio. "El ERS-1 da una vuelta a la Tierra cada 100 minutos. Nos proporciona así imágenes que corresponden a superficies de 10.000 kilómetros cuadrados. Para nosotros era especialmente útil para poder prever cualquier cambio brusco de la climatología y guiar mejor el *Frontier Sprit* a través de los hielos. Lo mismo que hace con el Polo Norte, lo hace con el Sáhara y nos muestra cómo el desierto se agranda o cómo en el Amazonas el ritmo de deforestación es más rápido del autorizado y del comunicado por las empresas que allí trabajan".

"La primera vez que acudí al Ártico fue cuando tenía 18 años", recuerda el explorador. "Fue un invierno con temperaturas de entre 10° y 30° centígrados bajo cero. Recorri la bahía de Hudson y lo que vi hizo que siempre haya querido regresar. Además, las autoridades canadienses han sabido conservar su país, son muy duras con los barcos o empresas que contaminan el medio ambiente. Sin embargo, a pesar del control también en el Ártico está apareciendo un agujero en la capa de ozono".





# Toda la lentitud

ABC CULTURAL  
18 - 8 - 2001



ALEJANDRO GÁNDARA

**A** HORA que llega el fin de la novela, como todos los veranos en que los periodistas necesitamos titulares para animar la nada, es la hora de recomendar una que demuestra lo lejos que quedan algunas defunciones. Edhasa acaba de reeditar, doce años después de su aparición en español, *El descubrimiento de la lentitud*, del alemán Sten Nadolny. Si usted piensa que la literatura es como un baño de sol, o sea, que sin protector da cáncer, no toque este libro o lea lo que todos sabemos. Pero si no le importa que sus sentimientos trabajen un poco antes de que se achicharren en las playas levantinas, corra a la librería de al lado. Pero corra.

Sólo se trata de una historia pequeña, de una vida pequeña y de un empeño grande. John Franklin, el marino que abrió a la navegación el paso del Noroeste, probando con el calendario y el deshielo, calculando y fracasando hasta que ya anciano no regresa del último viaje, es un hombre lento. Su infancia es la de un niño al que consideran retrasado y su manera de ver el mundo la de un ser que vive fuera de él. Le interesan los detalles, los episodios, no las cosmovisiones ni la Historia. No va deprisa, no toma grandes decisiones, pero al final, como la tortuga de Aquiles, será inalcanzable para el resto. Hay una forma de llegar lejos, quizá la forma superior, cuya estructura es la lentitud.

En nuestro mundo, y como bien sabemos, las cosas funcionan de otro modo. Somos conscientes de que la rapidez y la prisa no garantizan el resultado, pero se han convertido en signos de distinción y de prestigio social. El trabajo, el amor o la simple existencia son medidos en términos de la velocidad del tiempo. Un *broker* capaz de mover por el planeta cientos de millones en pocos segundos, un redactor escribiendo una noticia que acaban de pasarle a última hora o un intelectual opinando a diario están siendo contrastados por su rapidez. En las biografías americanas suele comentarse la edad a la que el prócer ganó su primer millón de dólares. Los jóvenes empiezan a hacer el amor y otras cosas a los 15 años, con la sensación de haberse perdido algo si lo retrasan. Y todos pensamos que el tiempo corre demasiado cuando nos quedamos quietos. En consecuencia, no soportamos los periodos muertos y el ocio lo aceptamos a condición de una incesante actividad o de su sustituto, el consumo. El dolor entra en el sistema general convertido en rémora, en pérdida y autodestrucción: forma seres convalecientes y temerosos, incapaces de enfrentarse o de crecer con él. Ante todo esto, no es de extrañar que una de las terapias de nuestra época sea el trabajo.

Sucede que en nuestra economía vital hemos adoptado la rapidez del dinero, que nos impide ver y esperar, y nos convierte en lo-

— Hoy empieza la campaña antártica —

# ESPAÑA EMPRENDE LA BÚSQUEDA DE

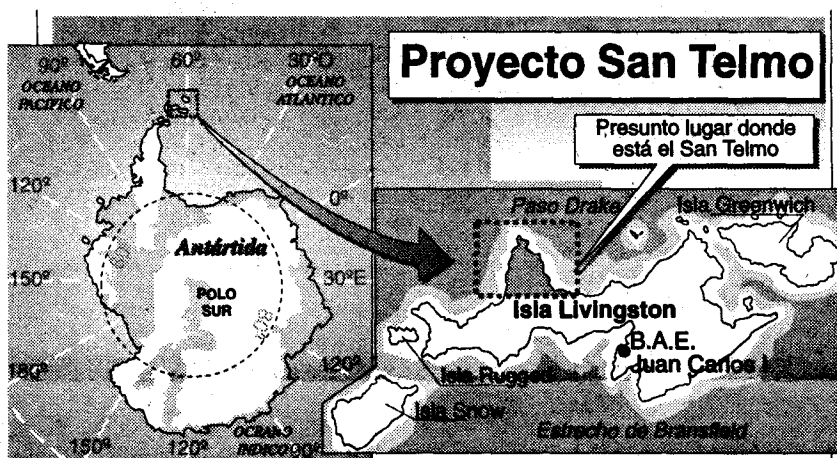
Madrid. **A. Aguirre de Cárcer**

**E**L proyecto, con un presupuesto de veinte millones de pesetas y tres años de duración, tiene por objetivo descubrir, localizar e identificar los vestigios del naufragio, así como recopilar datos sobre la estancia de los naufragos en Isla Livingston durante su corto periodo de supervivencia.

El San Telmo zarpó de Cádiz hacia Perú el 11 de mayo de 1819, con una tripulación de 644 marineros, bajo las órdenes del comandante Joaquín Toledo. Formaba parte de una flota compuesta por otro navío, el Alejandro, y dos fragatas, la Prueba y la Mariana, que partieron hacia Callao con un transporte de tropas que debía ayudar a los realistas en la pacificación de las colonias, ya en franca rebelión por el apoyo británico a la sublevación y el vacío de poder y control que provocó la guerra contra las tropas napoleónicas.

Pero el viaje fue un cúmulo de desgracias. Primero fue el Alejandro, que comenzó a hacer agua tras cruzar el Ecuador y tuvo que regresar. El infortunio atrapó más tarde al San Telmo. Al doblar el Cabo de Hor-

El 2 de septiembre del año 1819, un violento temporal en Cabo de Hornos arrastró al navío español San Telmo hacia las remotas costas de la Antártida, donde se perdió entre las espesas brumas de una leyenda que aún perdura. Un grupo de científicos españoles, dirigidos por el catedrático de arqueología Manuel Martín-Bueno, afirma tener evidencias de que el barco, en el que viajaban 644 marineros, naufragó en Isla Livingston, lo que convertiría a los supervivientes en los verdaderos descubridores de la Terra Australis Incógnita. La búsqueda del San Telmo es uno de los más notables proyectos de la campaña científica española que hoy comienza en el continente helado



Prueba y la Mariana lograron llegar a Callao el 9 de octubre y fue entonces cuando se conoció la desgracia del San Telmo. Varios meses después, los 644 tripulantes de este navío fueron dados por desaparecidos.

¿Llegó algún superviviente a la Antártida? Martín-Bueno y sus colaboradores sospechan que es hoy día, el descubrimiento de este continente es atribuido al marino mercante británico William Smith que avistó en 1819 una tierra desconocida al cruzar el estrecho de Drake. Al llegar a Valparaíso, Smith anuncia su hallazgo y rápidamente se organiza una expedición, que poco más tarde verifica el descubrimiento. Los británicos desembarcaron en las Shetland del Sur, tomaron posesión de este archipiélago en nombre del rey Jorge de Inglaterra.

Sin embargo, en un viaje posterior, el marino William Smith escribió en su diario de navegación que había encontrado los restos de un navío de guerra, posiblemente español, en esas latitudes. Otro británico, James Weddell, confirmó el descubrimiento y afirma que puede tratarse de un barco español.

nos, una violenta tempestad causó averías importantes en el navío. En medio del temporal, y con el timón, la verga mayor y el

tajamar prácticamente inutilizados, el San Telmo perdió definitivamente el contacto con las fragatas y nunca más volvió a ser visto. La

## Atrapados por lo inesperado

**E**NTRÉ los motivos de interés especial que tiene el proyecto San Telmo no es el menor el de permitir abrir de forma decidida un nuevo campo en la investigación antártica como es el de la arqueología, y más concretamente la arqueología subacuática. Hay razones lógicas para comprender que la investigación de tipo histórico no ha gozado nunca de un interés preferencial, ni siquiera normal, en el abanico de las ciencias que se ocupan habitualmente de la investigación en aquellos parajes, tan desolados e inhóspitos como subyugadores. El medio físico, la atmósfera y sus problemas, la climatología, la fauna, la geología, los recursos potenciales. Todos han llevado de la mano a los diversos equipos de estudiosos que pacientemente van desentrañando incógnitas y perfilando posibilidades.

Junto a esta investigación básica o aplicada, de singular importancia para nuestro futuro, tenemos la posibilidad de recopilación de los datos que nos permitan elaborar la verdadera historia del continente helado, no solo a través de crónicas e informaciones

Por aquellos que llegaron a ese territorio con afán de exploración o de explotación, de aventura o de saber, en busca de respuestas o para formular preguntas, o incluso por aquellos que sin pretenderlo fueron arrastrados por vientos y corrientes y terminaron sus días en medio de la soledad y el frío.

El San Telmo y sus naufragos pertenecen a este último grupo. Arrastrados por lo inesperado, llegaron seguramente a Isla Livingston para agotar sus días trágicamente. Es con ellos y sus restos, junto con todos los que vinieron luego, con los que tenemos una deuda pendiente, el estudio y ordenación de su historia y la reconstrucción arqueológica de su tránsito por aquellos lugares. El proyecto San Telmo, que aúna esfuerzos de científicos españoles y chilenos, pretende dar cumplida explicación a muchas de las incógnitas planteadas por aquella presencia. ¿Fueron los españoles los primeros en alcanzar el continente helado? ¿Intentaron desesperadamente huir de aquellos lugares sin

la teoría, determinar cuál fue la supervivencia de los naufragos y comprobar los restos de éste y otros navíos que naufragaron en zona.

El buque San Telmo, con sus 74 cañones y sus 644 hombres embarcados, habrá de ser el primer eslabón en la aplicación de una ciencia, la arqueología, con su metodología específica y con las técnicas más modernas de la investigación oceanográfica y geofísica en unos parajes que hasta ahora tan vedados, a excepción de una primera exploración de colegas chilenos en un campamento de cazadores de focas en la isla Rey Jorge o por el reciente interés de algunos investigadores norteamericanos por recuperar una de sus primeras bases, construida a principios de los años cuarenta de este siglo. Es la arqueología, que como ciencia humanística nos permitirá recordar que tras todos los descubrimientos y gestas se esconden simples hombres con sus grandezas y miserias, **empezará a leer el diario de la Antártida escrito en sus muros y en su**

# SAN TELMO EN AGUAS DE LA ANTÁRTIDA

ñol. Así nació la leyenda del «navío negro», novelada en el siglo XIX por Antonio de San Martín y más tarde recogida por Pío Baroja en «Siluetas Románticas».

Hace ya nueve años, un grupo de investigadores españoles comenzó una investigación a fondo para confirmar si los restos avistados por los ingleses corresponden al San Telmo. En busca de las primeras pruebas, los arqueólogos bucearon en numerosos fondos documentales españoles y británicos, desde el Archivo General de la Armada Española, el Museo Naval, el British Museum al Scott Polar Institute, entre otros. Mapas, derroteros, cartas,... todo un gran volumen de escritos fueron analizados con detalle en busca de alguna pista. Hoy, los investigadores españoles están totalmente convencidos de que el San Telmo, arrastrado por la violencia del mar, fue a parar a Isla Livingston. Incluso afirman que algunos naufragos sobrevivieron en aquella isla, hasta que el frío y el hambre acabó con sus vidas durante su primer invierno antártico.

Dos científicos españoles se trasladaron a principios de este año a la Antártida para realizar una exploración preliminar en las playas de Punta Shirreff, de Isla Livingston, donde se cree que quedó hundido el San Telmo. «Por el momento— señaló el profesor Martín-Bueno a ABC Cultural— los análisis de las primeras

*Los más de seicientos marineros españoles embarcados en el navío pudieron ser los primeros en descubrir la Terra Australis Incógnita en 1819*

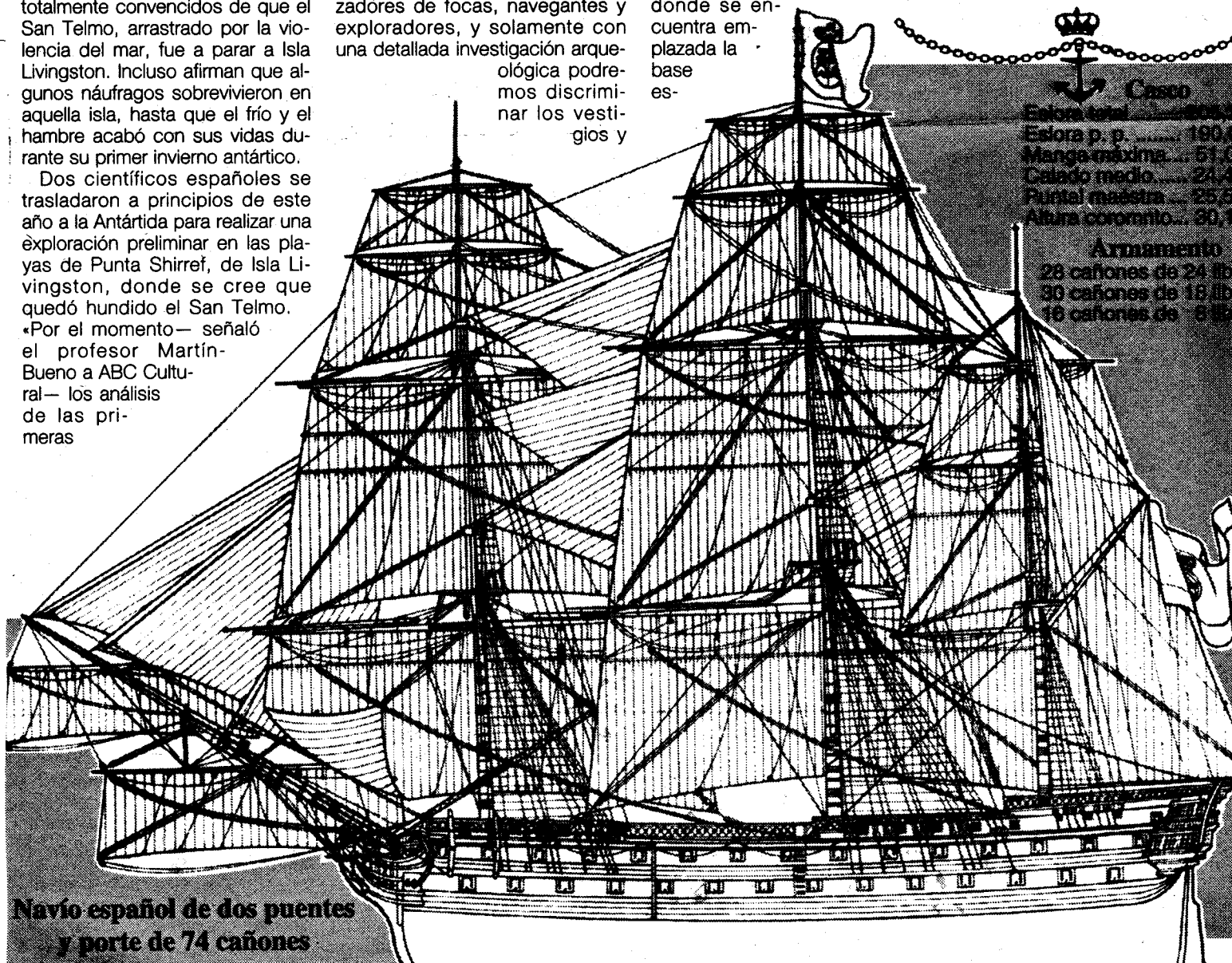
maderas recuperadas en la campaña preliminar de 1993, permiten identificar especies vegetales norteamericanas, como pino de Oregon, Picea sp, Red pine y Cupressaceae. También se localizaron en un acantilado unas oquedades, presumiblemente artificiales, posibles refugios antiguos, así como unas acumulaciones de huesos de focas, vestigios de animales sacrificados seguramente como alimento». No obstante, Martín-Bueno puntualiza que «aquella zona es muy frecuentada por cazadores de focas, navegantes y exploradores, y solamente con una detallada investigación arqueológica podremos discriminar los vestigios y

proceder a atribuciones fiables».

«El análisis de la alteración antártica en la zona, así como un programa de estudio de tratamientos de madera a presión atmosférica en clima frío, complementarán las investigaciones previstas» en esta campaña, según el científico español. En los estudios, que constituyen el primer proyecto arqueológico y subacuático de la Antártida, se combinarán los trabajos en tierra con una serie de inmersiones en las gélidas aguas de Isla Livingston, donde se encuentra emplazada la base es-

pañola Juan Carlos I. Todos los trabajos se realizarán con un método instrumental arqueológico geofísico, nunca aplicado hasta ahora en el continente antártico.

La mayor garantía de éxito, dice, no obstante, en la calidad de los investigadores españoles, la Universidad de Zaragoza y el Instituto Español de Oceanografía, las dos instituciones que soportan el mayor peso del proyecto. En total participarán ocho científicos españoles que contarán con la colaboración de tres chilenos, miembros del Instituto Nacional Antártico Chileno y del Museo Nacional de Antropología. Entre los expertos españoles figuran arqueólogos, geofísicos, geólogos marinos y especialistas en buceo y navegación submarina.



Navío español de dos puentes y porte de 74 cañones

Casco	
Estora total	190
Estora p. p.	190
Manga máxima	51
Calado medio	24
Puntal máximo	25
Altura coronamiento	20
Armamento	
28 cañones de 24 lb	
30 cañones de 18 lb	
16 cañones de 9 lb	

FUNDADO EN 1905 POR DON TORCUATO LUCA DE TENA

PRONTO hará seis siglos que la muy fiel, noble y real ciudad de Betanzos, celebra las fiestas de San Roque.

Con su palitroque el santo de la palingenesia a la ciudad salvó de epidemias... y corrupciones.

En 1416 por vez primera los betanceiros comprendieron la importancia de este espiritual salvamento. Salvaje y sin salvos el día llegaría en que la putrefacción amenazaría con gangrenar nuestra propia substancia.

Como quinientos setenta y nueve años han pasado ya, podemos atrevernos a descifrar hoy el significado y la signatura de la fiesta. Gracias a la simbólica protección de San Roque betanceiros y betlemitas contra las epidemias ayer se inmunizaron como se invulnerabilizan hoy contra la moderna peste de la corrupción.

Cada año Betanzos eleva al cielo el mayor globo de papel del mundo como apoteosis alegórico. ¡Alegre y aleccionador alegató en tiempos de gusarapienta pudrición! ¡Aleluya!

El lanzamiento de este aereostático ingenio es metafísica metáfora de espiritual ascensión. Los lanzadores de globos betanceiros representan al quijote icástico iconoclasta y al ético y hélico poeta heterodoxo con ramos de anarquista divino capaz de alzarse por encima de misántropos humores y humanas miserias.

El globo, liberándonos de cotidianas corrupciones, elévase como arrabalesco arrebató, para alcanzar arreboles y firmamentos de poesía, ciencia, libertad y amor.

Los prístinos «globeiros» de Betanzos de los Caballeros, vivieron la prodigiosa aventura de la primera vez.

Primer globo nacido como chascarrillo del destino cual chiste de la fatalidad. Y es que a menudo hadas y hado, disfrazándose de buena estrella, estremecedora y enternecedoramente a extravagantes inventores se rinden.

El primer globo, como juguete de ciencia infusa, inflado de infinito, se izó desde un fogón de cocina hasta el techo de la habitación. Por mor de intelectual especulación que no por arte de magia. Creía el paridor del ingenio, preñado de fantasía, que humos y nubes efluvios eran de la misma efímera y efervescente naturaleza. En su cocina el inventor encerró humo en una esfera de papel para auparla como nube del cielo. Cuando fascinado contempló la ascensión de su artesano artificio de artista sin arteria dio por descubrimiento científico lo que era nada menos que hipótesis poética.

## EL ANHELO DE SUBIR AL CIELO

contenido aire del recipiente impulsando su irresistible ascensión. El calor, como símbolo de fervor, suplantaba a las fumarolas de infernal ciencia fumigadas por calderas de Pedro Botero.

Para el inicial vuelo con seres vivos el inventor eligió como primeros pasajeros sin pasaporte a tres alegóricos animales: pato, gallo y borrego. Ante la estupefacción de la multitud de espectadores esparrancados y boquiabiertos los tres pioneros animalitos tras un vuelo de ocho minutos, a más de mil quinientos pies de altura, volvieron a tierra y corral sanos y salvos. Aunque el gallo garrido recibió una coz del borrego borrero durante el aterrizaje que le fracturó una de sus alas.

El pato de aquella primera exploración era símbolo de fidelidad; el gallo imagen solar, heliaca, de quien canta cuando sale el sol; y el borrego, como figura central del toisón de oro, representaba la alquimista sabiduría.

Pronto se especuló con la especie (especiota para escépticos) de que incluso un ser humano podría volar. Entusiasta el rey ofreció un criminal condenado a muerte para afrontar tan peligrosa experiencia. Prisionero que hubiera sido indultado y endulzado si hubiera vuelto a tierra tras tan temeraria aventura. Varios centenares de encarcelados se propusieron como voluntarios volantes de la odisea en volandas. Pero el historiador de la corte, movido por su anhelo de conquistar gloria y fama, se adelantó a los famélicos de fortalezas y penales. Por vez primera un hombre voló durante venticinco minutos a una altura de quinientos pies por encima de una muchedumbre pasmada o pasmarote.

El globo inspiró insólitas insolencias e hipótesis hiperbólicas. El profesor británico Joseph Back demostró empíricamente que

una vaca inflada de hidrógeno por el culo planearía en el firmamento tan sencillamente como años más tarde lo harían los enamorados de Chagall en sus cuadros.

Muchas fueron las víctimas de la ambición de «volar en globo», del ansia simbólica de «subir al cielo». El explotado protomártir Rozier pereció al explotar sobre el Canal de la Mancha el hidrógeno de su balón. El sueco Salomón André, ventidos años después del lanzamiento del primer globo betanceiro, acometió la ardiente empresa del sobrevolar el Polo Norte con dos amigos. El ingenio aereostático se llamó «Águila», animal capaz de mirar al sol y símbolo potable de potencia. Días después del despegue un esquimal cazó una paloma mensajera que en su pata llevaba este recatado recado: «Todo va bien a bordo». Hubieron de pasar treinta y tres años para tener nuevas de la expedición. La tripulación de un navío polar noruego halló los restos de los heroicos «globeiros» suecos abrazados eternamente por un glaciar. En 1927 el capitán Cray batió el record de altura sin altanería. En el barógrafo del ingenio quedó registrado el dato: 42.470 pies. En el suelo de la góndola del globo convertida en ataúd se halló el cadáver del capitán sin caperuza; en sus caprichos capitaneantes no soñó con mejor muerte.

Los betanceiros siguen elevando globos años tras año, aplicando más de dos milenios después de Arquímedes su principio y sus conclusiones. Una vez en el aire el ingenio betanceiro se mueve a merced del viento, sin que nadie pueda presagiar su destino destilado por la providencia. Y sin embargo todos los años el globo pasa por encima del cementerio como para saludar a esos andantes caballeros que hicieron Betanzos de los Caballeros.

El final de este recordatorio ya sólo es referible en parábola puesto que sucede fuera del tiempo.

Dispersos por el mundo o reclusos entre las cinco puertas de la muy fiel, noble y real ciudad de Betanzos, todos somos los mismos. Los de antes y los de ahora, y los que han de venir. Locos y sabios, insensatos o héroes, peotas, inventores o caballeros andantes. No hemos venido a esta tierra para vivir mejor o peor. Tratamos de ascender en globo betanceiro al firmamento de la espiritualidad. Cuando el mundo, desmoralizado por la corrupción, parece perderse, betanceiros, quijotes y «globeiros» pronun-



ABC digame?

Para su pequeño anuncio llámenos 4615353

ABC pone a