

ROBERT J. SCHADEWALD
2100 East Cliff Road, #224A
Burnsville, MN 55337
U.S.A.

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Science Fiction Foundation
North East London Polytechnic
Longbridge Road
Dagenham, Essex RM8 2AS
England

Dear Ted and Joyce:

Thanks, Ted, for your letter of the 13th, which only arrived today. (Mail from England sometimes comes via sea-turtle, I think.) I finally got a decent photo of Rowbotham's grave printed. I guess it's the best one could expect under the circumstances. The afternoon was disgustingly clear, and I had to shoot right into the sun. I maneuvered into a position where the sun was directly behind the cross of the stone, but it still washed out the upper part of the photo. I guess the photo lab did its best. The inscriptions are about as legible as if you were actually standing there (not very). Fortunately, because I have auxiliary sources, I think I have completely recovered all of the inscriptions, despite their sometimes fragmentary condition. I am sending a copy separately.

From my conversation with Ellis Hillman, my correspondence with Charles Johnson, and my knowledge of the Universal Zetetic Society, I think I know essentially how the flat earth collection came to SFF and why it is incomplete. As shown by the old International Flat Earth Research Society letterhead, Ellis Hillman gained the confidence of Samuel Shenton to the extent that Shenton named him his successor. About the time Shenton died, Charles Johnson of Lancaster, California made contact either with Shenton or his widow. Lillian Shenton was apparently not a flat earther, but she apparently cherished her husband's memory and didn't trust Ellis Hillman. Charles Johnson was anxious to carry on Shenton's work, and Lillian Shenton sent part of her late husband's library to Johnson. (Hillman contradicts this, but I don't know where else Johnson would have gotten some of the stuff he has. For example, Johnson has a copy of Rowbotham's rare 1865 first edition of Earth not a Globe, and I suspect it was Shenton's.) Anyway, whatever bits and pieces she sent to Johnson depleted your present holdings. I think you got the bulk of Shenton's collection. As for why you have almost no Hampden or Carpenter material, I think the answer is easy; Albert Smith had almost no Hampden or Carpenter material. From my study of Earth -- Not a Globe! -- Review, which Smith edited, I find no hint that Smith was familiar with works by Hampden or with any Carpenter work other than One Hundred Proofs. As for American flat earth works, most were printed after the turn of the century, and there seems to have been little contact between the groups after the demise of Earth Review in 1897. Most American works never made it across the pond.

Perhaps it's not strange that Shenton never catalogued his flat earth library. He knew what he had, after all, and perhaps he didn't worry about posterity.

First Class International Air Mail is so frightfully expensive that I'm sending the articles and flat earth bibliography separately as printed papers. The bibliography is not as complete as I had hoped to make it, but I simply don't have time to work on it now and don't want to delay it any further. Let me put it this way: It is already far more complete than any flat earth bibliography ever previously compiled. I'm also putting a map of how to reach Rowbotham's grave and a copy of the inscriptions on the stone into the packet.

Thanks again to both of you for all of your assistance. I hope I will soon be able to have another beer and sandwich at the Robin Hood. I have no current plans, but the flow of events in my life often takes strange and pleasant turns.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RJS' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Robert J. Schadewald

April 30th, 1982.

98 Miller Street,
Ashton-U-Lyne,
Lancs.

Dear Sir.,

I am writing to you asking what has happened to the flat earth research society. It is a few years since I was in touch with the late Samual Shenton, I also paid him a visit at Dover Rd.

We had a great deal in common but I soon realised that without a good knowledge of Astronomy the scientists seem to hold the upper hand.

I don't know whether Samual has mentioned me to you, we were on the front page of Patrick Moores book " Can you speak Venusium or a guide to independent thinkers." I gave a full description of a "New Universology" to Patrick and pointed out to him that the basic theory of astronomy was nothing more than THEORY.

I have lectured to Cambridge, Keele And Birmingham Universities and have prosponed six more because I needed all my time making a camera for astronomy.

I have been corresponding with two professors for a good number of years and they have done a great deal of experimenting for me. They have the same views as myself.

You might wonder why I have kept my findings to myself, well when I first found that the theory of astronomy was nothing more than a jumble of matematics and ifs, buts, might be, perhaps, suggestions and anything else that might help them to overcome their difficulties in coming to any solution or facts.

I first became interested in astronomy, cosmology and cosmogony in 1939 when I saw the planet venus as a pure cross and also the solid stoney metallic background of the universe, from then on I knew that the earth was flat and I am able to prove it.

I have written in manuscript form seven books exceeding half a million words and I now feel it is time to contact publishers, (I know how difficult it is to get them to accept such work being so unorthodox) Patrick Moore has offered me tha name of some publishers and promised to read any of my work. I cannot accept the latter as he is always looking for work from other people or books to credit himself with. You will notice this in the book mentioned above.

I have made a complete study of the Koresharity system of the universe (That we live in a cell and in the bottom of it) just reversing the eight inches to the mile fall) Their theories are in good faith but unacceptable as they contradict themselves.

I was on BBC wireless with Dr Hussey from Cambridge and with Patrick Moore on T.V., also with Dave Allan on T.V. Much to my surprise I knew that neither of them knew much about astronomy as Patrick said when we first met at my home that he could only speak of what he had read. This of course proved to me that reading what he has written I can find in older books.

I would be delighted to be of any assistance to you in proving that the theory of astronomy is all wrong and that the earth is completely flat. I have dozens of examples of where the astronomers went wrong.

I can easily prove of the biblical creation and where the bible states the flatness of the earth and that it is NOT going round.

Yours faithfully,
John Bradbury.

John Bradbury

*Ps Barry J Lawrie's
Secretary's address.*

28th June, 1982.

Mr. John Bradbury,
98 Miller Street,
Ashton-u-Lyne,
Lancs.

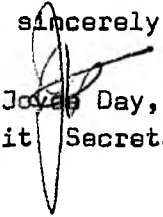
Dear Mr. Bradbury,

Many thanks for your recent letter which I shall pass to our Administrator for further attention.

Meantime, I have passed your name and address to a journalist who has recently spent some time at this Unit researching into the findings of the Flat Earth Society, in connection with a proposed radio programme. I trust this introduction will be of mutual benefit.

May I take this opportunity to forward some information regarding this Unit and our own journal Foundation: The Review of Science Fiction.

Yours sincerely,


Joyce Day,
Unit Secretary.

Encl: