

Wednesday,
6th June, 1979

B. O'Reilly, Esq.,
de la Salle Training College,
Old Northern Road,
P.O.Box 264,
Castle Hill, 2154,
Sydney,
Australia

Dear Mr. O'Reilly,

I thank you for your recent letter in connection
with the International Flat Earth Society.

I do not think that I will be able to help
you very much. This Polytechnic, through its Science
Fiction Foundation, an autonomous division of the School
of Humanities within the Faculty of Arts, acquired the
papers of the recently deceased Mr. Shenton for its
archives. These papers are currently lodged in our
Frank Lampard Library, where they may be researched by
any student. We have, in fact, had scholars from
Australia over in the U.K. on a Sabbatical come to investigate
the papers.

I enclose a sample of the literature that
Mr. Shenton used. I am surprised that you were unable
to track down the International Flat Earth Society, for
it still flourishes in several parts of the world,
notably in California and in India. In the U.S.A. it
still exists under the name of the Zetetic Society of
America. Perhaps this name will give you a further lead
to your enquiries.

I trust that this information, scanty though
it may be, will be of interest and use to you.

I am,
Yours sincerely,

Chairman

Tuesday,
17th October, 1978

J.F. Barber, Esq.,
15, Darracott Close,
Deal,
Kent, CT14 9PU

Dear Mr. Barber,

Your letter of the 8th October has been passed to me. The situation is this. The Science Fiction Foundation has acquired the papers of the Flat Earth Society, and they are on display for inspection and research purposes. The Science Fiction Foundation did not take over the Flat Earth Society organization. The Society, I think, died with the death of the late Mr. Shenton, its secretary. There might be individual former members scattered about the country, but I have no knowledge of them.

We do have a lecturer - Ellis Hillman, Principal Lecturer, School of Architecture, Faculty of the Environment, NELP, Waltham Forest Precinct, London, E17 4JB, who has made a study of the papers. He might be able to address your society. I suggest you get in touch with him.

I am sorry not to be more helpful than this.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

Principal Lecturer,
Chairman,
Management Committee,
Science Fiction Foundation

/ Forest Road

Monday,
26th September, 1977

M. J. Moore, Esq.,
Metal Box Packaging Ltd.,
Paper and Plastics Group,
P.O.Box 5, Speke,
Liverpool L24 9JA

Dear Mr. Moore,

Your letter of the 21st September, 1977 asking for a speaker to enunciate the beliefs of the Flat Earth Society has found its way to my desk.

The Science Fiction Foundation, of whose Management Committee I am the Chairman, has acquired the papers of the moribund English branch of the Flat Earth Society for its archives. The late Mr. Shenton was the mainspring behind the organization. I do not know of any officers of that society active in this country. The Flat Earth Society is fairly active in the USA and other places.

However, we have on our staff a senior lecturer who is familiar with the principles of the Flat Earth Society. He does occasionally travel to give talks to organizations such as yours on this subject and has, indeed, visited Liverpool to give such a talk to a University debating society.

His name is Ellis Hillman, and I have directed your enquiry to him. He is located in the Faculty of Environmental Studies, Forest Road, London, E.17 4JB. Give him a week or so to reply - he is a busy man, a Greater London Councillor - and then, if he has not responded, I suggest you drop him a line and jog his memory. He may be able to help you.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

Chairman,
Room 1020,
Barking Precinct

From the office of the chairman,
Room 1020

Thursday,
15th December, 1977

Alan B. Porter, Esq.,
68 Debating Society,
8, High Street,
Baldock,
Herts

Dear Mr. Porter,

I thank you for your letter of the ninth of this month in which you request that a member of the Flat Earth Society should attend a coming meeting of your Society.

The Science Fiction Foundation, of whose management committee I am the chairman, has acquired the papers of the defunct Flat Earth Society for its archives. As far as I am aware the nearest organized society of Flat Earthists is in California. However, there are many ex-members of the former English Flat Earth Society still thriving, as there are believers in the doctrine of the Flat Earth movement. Unfortunately, the Science Fiction Foundation does not have the names and addresses of such people, as registers were not among the archival material that we acquired.

Nevertheless, one of our very senior lecturers is an expert on the beliefs of the Flat Earthists, and he does from time to time accede to such requests as yours. His name is Mr. Ellis Hillman, and he can be contacted at the Department of Environmental Studies, at the Waltham Forest Precinct of NELP, Forest Road, London, E. 17 (01 527 2272 Extension 247.) If you get in touch with him, he might be able to fit you into a tight calendar (he is also a GLC councillor.) Perhaps you will let me know in due course if you have been accommodated - that is, if I don't hear from Mr. Hillman himself.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

Chairman

Room 1020

K. Worthington Esq.,
Managing Director,
H.K.Porter (Great Britain) Ltd.,
Executive Office,
Forthvale Works,
Stirling, FK9 5AS

Dear Mr. Worthington,

I thank you for your letter of the 6th July in connection with the affairs of the Flat Earth Society.

As far as I know, there is now no FES organization within the United Kingdom. This has been the case since the death of Mr. Shenton, who was its mainspring. The Science Fiction Foundation, of whose Management Committee I am the Chairman, acquired the FES's papers for its archives from Mr. Shenton's widow. These papers are held in this precinct of the Polytechnic, where they are available for scholarly research.

I enclose two papers that the SFF has issued in connection with the acquisition of these archives.

Further, I understand that there is THE INTERNATIONAL FLAT EARTH RESEARCH SOCIETY OF AMERICA, to which organization your Mr. Morrow might more advantageously address his enquiry. I have had a letter from A Mr. Charles Johnson (President) of Box 2533, Lancaster, California 93534, U.S.A.

I am sorry not to be of more service to you.

I am,
Yours sincerely,

Room 1020

Tuesday,
12th July, 1977

J. A. Bennett, Esq.,
1, Lee Green,
Newton Aycliffe,
Co. Durham,
DL5 5HN

Dear Mr. Bennett,

I thank you for your letter of the 9th of this month. This reply is very much a holding operation, for I am in the middle of Exam. Boards and other humdrum academic affairs, and my secretary is off sick. However, the address of the American FES is:-

The International Flat Earth Research Society of
America,
Box 2533,
Lancaster,
California, 93534
U.S.A.

and the President is a Mr. Charles Johnson. Without being disparaging to Mr. Johnson, the correspondence that I have had from him suggests to me that he is largely self-taught and that he approaches the subject from the stance of mysticism rather than that of scientific enquiry.

As to the other matter, I will put the duplicating in hand when the end-of-term rush is finished. I'll get in touch with you again after I have had a brief holiday.

I am,
Yours sincerely,

Monday,
27th June, 1977

J. Bennett, Esq.,
1, Lee Green,
Newton Aycliffe,
Co. Durham,
DL5 5AN

Dear Mr. Bennett,

I thank you for your letter of the 18th June. I have made enquiries, and nobody in this office appears to have seen your earlier letter.

The Science Fiction Foundation, of whose Management Committee I am the Chairman, has acquired the papers of the late Mr. Shenton. These papers are available for research on appointment. I enclose a leaflet detailing the main subject areas of these papers.

One of our lecturers has written a short paper in connection with the Flat Earth Society. I also enclose a copy of this document.

As far as I am aware, there is no central organization in this country for the believers in the Flat Earth theory. There is, however, I understand, an American society devoted to this principle.

I hope this information will be of use to you.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

Chairman

Enclosures

The Chairman

Thursday,
23rd September, 1976

T. Parlett, Esq.,
114, Cowper Crescent,
Bengeo,
Hertford,
Hertfordshire

Dear Mr. Parlett,

Your letter of the 12th September has been passed on to me.

The Science Fiction Foundation of NELP has acquired the papers of the late Mr. Shenton, the mainspring behind the British branch of the Flat Earth Society. The papers now comprise part of the archival material of the Science Fiction Foundation, and they may be inspected by any scholar at any suitable time.

The Science Fiction Foundation is an autonomous unit within the Department of Humanities of this Polytechnic. Its main function is to provide specialist library facilities for any scholar researching SF as an academic subject - usually in the English School or for an M.Sc.

The Science Fiction Foundation does have a panel of lecturers, composed of academics and SF writers. Sometimes a member of the panel of lecturers will visit a school society. I suggest that, if you are interested in having a visit from such a person, that you should address your enquiry to P. Nicholls, Esq, The Administrator, The Science Fiction Foundation, at the address given above.

I am,
Yours sincerely,

Chairman

The Chairman

6/2/76

Miss J. Hopkins,
12a, Wrythe Lane,
Carshalton,
Surrey,
SM5 2RN

Dear Miss Hopkins,

I thank you for your letter of the 12th January, and apologize for not having answered it earlier.

I am afraid that there is no "fascinating organization." The Science Fiction Foundation of this Polytechnic has acquired the papers of the late Mr. Shenton, who was the mainspring behind the English branch of the Flat Earth Society. These papers are now catalogued, and have been included within the archives of the Science Fiction Foundation, which is a scholarly unit dealing with a specific branch of literature.

We do have a Mr. Ellis Hillman on the staff of the Polytechnic who is an expert on the philosophy behind the Flat Earth Society. He can be reached at the Department of Surveying, Waltham Forest Precinct, Forest Road, London, E. 17. He does now and again give lectures on this subject. You might like to contact him. I would point out that he is a very busy man - a GLC councillor and a committee chairman - so he might be difficult to run down. A message, therefore, to County Hall might also be timely.

The Science Fiction Foundation can call upon a panel of expert lecturers versed in the field of Science Fiction. Perhaps you might be able to get a speaker from that panel. The Administrator is Peter Nicholls in Room 1028 of this Precinct.

I am sorry that I am unable to be more helpful.

I am,
Yours sincerely,

Chairman,
Management Committee

The Chairman

Friday,
6th February, 1976

R. Godfrey, Esq.,
7, Lancaster Gardens,
London, SW19 5DG

Dear Mr. Godfrey,

I thank you for your letter of the 19th January, together with the enclosed, stamped addressed envelope, which I use to send this letter. I apologize for the delay in replying to you.

The Science Fiction Foundation of this Polytechnic has acquired the papers of the late Mr. Shenton, who was the mainspring behind the English branch of the Flat Earth Society. These papers have now been catalogued and deposited in the archives of the Science Fiction Foundation.

The Science Fiction Foundation has a panel of expert lecturers in the field of Science Fiction. Perhaps you might consider someone from that panel. Mr. P. Nicholls, the Administrator, who is in Room 1028 of this Precinct, will be happy to advise you. There is also one lecturer in the Polytechnic, a Mr. Ellis Hillman, who is an expert on the beliefs of the Flat Earthists. He sometimes gives lectures on this subject. His address is c/o The Department of Surveying, Waltham Forest Precinct, Forest Road, London, E. 17. It might be worth your while to contact him.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

Chairman,
Management Committee

The Chairman

Friday,
6th February, 1976

J.G. de Courcy O'Grady, Esq.,
The Red Lodge,
Bishopsgate Road,
Englefield Green,
Surrey, TW20 0YJ

Dear Mr. de Courcy O'Grady,

I thank you for your letter of the 15th January, 1976, together with the stamped addressed envelope that was enclosed.

With respect, you have made an erroneous assumption that "we" believe in the concepts of the Flat Earth Society. What we have done is to acquire the papers of the late Mr. Shenton, the mainspring behind the English branch of the Flat Earth Society. These papers have been catalogued - see enclosed handout - and are now in the archives of the Science Fiction Foundation of this Polytechnic, where they may be examined by arrangement with the Administrator, Peter Nicholls, or myself.

We do have a lecturer well versed in the beliefs of the Flat Earthists. He is Mr. Ellis Hillman, of the Department of Surveying, Waltham Forest Precinct, Forest Road, London, E.17. ~~You~~ may like to enter into correspondence with him.

I am sorry that I cannot be more helpful.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

Chairman,
Management Committee

Enclosure

Motala, April 2, 1975

Freelance Press
Östermalmsgatan 72
591 00 Motala, Sweden

The Director for
The International Flat Earth
Research Society, Room C
37 A The Banking Precinct
North East London Polytechnic
Longbridge Road, Dagenham
Essex, GB

Dear Sir:

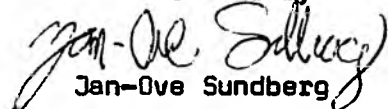
I'm working as freelance journalist for a number of Swedish weekly magazines; including the Hermann Bauer Verlag in Germany (Esotera), and the American SAGA released by Gambi Publications Inc. in New York City.

I heard about Your interesting society from a friend of mine at The Swedish Broadcasting Corporation in Stockholm, and as I'm coming to London on May 2, I had in mind to take a trip down to Your place in Dagenham and for the Swedish weekly magazine Hemmets Journal make an article about Your society.

I hope that You will agree to that, and that You can send me some information on The International Flat Earth Research Society.

Looking forward to hear from You very soon I remain,

Yours sincerely



Jan-Ove Sundberg

Editor for Freelance Press