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# ATLANTEAN RESEARCH

Official Organ of

THE RESEARCH CENTRE GROUP

Vol. 2. No. 5.

December, 1949/January, 1950.

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Editor: **EGERTON SYKES.**

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### ATLANTIS THE ANTEDILUVIAN WORLD.

By Ignatius Donnelly, revised and edited by Egerton Sykes.  
Published by Harper & Bros., New York, November, 1949. \$4.50.

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## THE THEORY OF HOERBIGER.

By EGERTON SYKES.

The fundamental queries of the Atlantis problem are:  
Where, When, How, and Why. Reasonably satisfactory  
answers have been evolved in the course of time to cover the  
first three. The last query, however, "Why," has remained  
unsolved, most investigators contenting themselves by merely  
begging the question, or falling back on the earlier platitude  
of divine wrath, but without attempting to elucidate by what  
process all the natural forces involved could have been brought  
into play.

It was easy enough to say that there was a sudden tilt of  
the axis of the earth, or that the accumulated ice sheets of  
thousands of years proceeded at one fell moment to melt, until  
the curious began to calculate the amount of force necessary  
to shift the angle of tilt by some fifteen degrees, or the amount  
of heat necessary to melt some hundreds of millions of tons of  
ice, and to enquire how they were produced.

Ignatius Donnelly came near to the solution in **Ragnarok**  
when he talked of a comet having caused the great drift; while  
Comyns Beaumont in one of his earlier books, also put forward  
a similar solution; but the real answer eluded them as with so  
many others. The fact that the bulk of all known comets is  
vast while their weight is practically nil, rendered some other  
solution necessary.

It was left for an Austrian Engineer, Hans Hoerbiger, who  
was investigating the problem of cosmic origins, to produce  
unintentionally, the only scientific explanation of the accumu-  
lation of the vast masses of water necessary to submerge the  
Atlantic Continent. Hoerbiger was the owner and Managing  
Director of a large engineering works near Vienna, and in the  
intervals of inventing engineering specialities, he devoted his  
attention to the engineering problems involved in the Solar  
System. He started his researches in 1894 and some four years  
later he met Philip Fauth, a well known German astronomer.  
The intellectual partnership thus formed progressed so well  
that Fauth shortly afterwards became his son-in-law.

In 1913, after fifteen years of work, they presented their  
conclusions to the world in a vast tome of some 772 pages,  
filled with diagrams and pages of figures, and entitled  
**Glazialkosmogonie**, soon to become the bible of a new science.  
The partnership lasted until the death of Hoerbiger in 1931.  
Fauth following him exactly ten years later.

The English translation of the title is **Cosmic Ice Theory**,  
but as this is too long winded for the Anglo Saxon mind, it is  
now generally known as the **Moon Capture Theory** of Hoer-  
biger. The brief recapitulation which follows gives details of  
its relationship to the Atlantis question.

Within a planetary system such as ours, the space between

the various bodies of which it is composed—in our case from the Sun to beyond the orbit of Pluto—is not completely empty, but contains small quantities of rarified gases, mostly produced by the parent sun. Although very diffused, these gases are sufficient, in the course of astronomical time, to cause a slowing down of the rate at which the planets revolve around the sun and the moons around the planets. This slowing down is to some extent compensated for by an automatic reduction in the size of the orbit tending to keep the period of rotation relatively constant, the paths therefore resembling infinitely fine inwardly converging spirals.

In terms of every day life the track of the planet or moon around its sun or planet is like the spiral of a gramophone disc, where the period of revolution is constant, while the distance traversed by the pick-up becomes progressively shorter with every revolution. The rapid flick in of the sound head when the end of the music track is reached resembles the headlong rush to doom of the planet once the gravitational force of the larger body is sufficient to draw it out of its orbit.

However, there is one important difference in the planetary world, and that lies in the fact that the mass momentum of large bodies enables them to brush past the diffused gases with greater ease than in the case of the small ones, which results in the sharpness of the angle of the inward spiral being in inverse proportion to the mass of the body concerned. Bearing in mind that the whole solar system is moving through space on what is, presumably, an elliptical track around some body, the position of which is still a matter for conjecture, the tracks of planetary bodies, over long periods of time would resemble funnels.

Owing to this factor, any small planet between the Earth and Mars would in due course of time spiral past the Earth on its way towards the Sun, and, would in all probability be captured by the superior gravitation of the Earth as compared to its own. It appears almost certain that this has happened not once, but several times, in our past history, the rain of disintegrated material which accompanied the final dissolution of these small bodies having in each case marked the end of a geological era, by crushing all that had preceded it, and adding measurably to the Earth's bulk.

The Cambrian, Silurian, Carboniferous, Mezoic and Tertiary deposits appear to have come into being this way, and in the case of the destruction of the Tertiary Satellite we actually have records in the Eddas, in portions of the Old Testament, the Book of Enoch, the Book of Revelation, and others. However none of these events had any direct connection with the loss of Atlantis, which arose when, some 13,000 years ago, Luna, then a small planet between the Earth and Mars, which had for some hundreds of years been approaching uncomfortably near the Earth at its conjunctions, was eventually captured. From the viewpoint of an extra terrestrial observer the

effect was minimal, merely a slight increase in the water covered areas near the Equator, with a corresponding shrinkage near the North and South Poles, the vanishing of two of the smaller continental land masses, and a slight variation in the tilt.

To our forefathers, however, it was the second greatest disaster in the whole history of the human race, the first being the disintegration of the Tertiary Satellite, referred to above. Although Luna has only one eightieth of the gravitational pull of the Earth, this was sufficient to start a succession of great tidal waves, drawing the waters away from the Arctic and Antarctic Seas (a process assisted by the shifting of the North Pole from somewhere near Petermanns Peak in Greenland to its present position), towards the Tropical and Equatorial belts. This process, which involved the reduction in the depth of the seas off the Norwegian coast by some 800 feet, and the piling up of an additional 10,000 to 15,000 feet of water over the Atlantic Island, was accompanied by the flooding of the landlocked valleys of the Mediterranean Sea, the flooding of the Carribean plain and its transformation into an Arm of the Atlantic, the submerging of the Atlantic and Pacific continents, the separation of Ireland from England, of Madeira, the Canaries and the Cap Verde islands from the African Continental mass, and, last but not least, the creation of the Sargasso Sea, and the Gulf Stream, by the current swirls set up in the waters—"the fountains of the great deep," as the Bible calls them. X

Among the minor by-products was the washing up of an estimable gentleman named Noah, in a ship, with his family and a large collection of livestock, on the flanks of Mount Ararat, and the reduction in the length of the Congo river by some three hundred miles, leaving only the long underwater canyons as traces on ocean charts. It was at this time that the stellar trinity came into being with the Moon as a male god, Venus as a male, and the Sun as a female. It took humanity many thousands of years to recover from the shock, by which time the Sun had become male, and the Moon and Venus female. In fact, the moon was a masculine god in the Hadramut up to at least 1920, while in modern German it is **Der Mond** and **Die Sonne** contrary to the other European languages. The rhythmic influence which the passage of the Moon around the Earth exercises on our lives may explain why Luna has always been a woman's god rather than a man's.

In the Pacific the great island continent of Lemuria, or Pan, on Polynesia, was submerged in a similar manner to Atlantis, leaving only the cyclopean remains in the Carolines, the Marianas, Easter Island, Pitcairn Island, the Society Islands, the Marquesas, and others, as traces of its existence, together with a few memories in the mythologies of the races which succeeded the original inhabitants. Unfortunately, we have as yet no idea whether one or two island masses were in-

magazine, nothing of import has appeared.

It is of interest to note that a French writer, Emile Belot, appears to have evolved an independent approach to the question on similar lines, and to have published a series of papers between 1914 and 1924 in the French scientific press. That the moon capture theory, with or without Hoerbiger, is gaining adherents is shown by the fact that a well-known Swedish astronomer, H. Alfen, of Stockholm, has adopted in some of his writings.

For the future of the Hoerbiger Theory the prospects seem good. Gradually the value of the idea is penetrating to the Anglo-Saxon world, and, unhampered as it now is, by any considerations of a political nature, it stands an excellent chance of success.

## THE DATING OF ANCIENT TIMBERS AND BONES BY THE ASSAY OF THE RADIO-ACTIVITY OF CARBON.

By FRANCIS ASHTON.

Francis Ashton is perhaps best known to readers of Research as the author of novels based upon Hoerbiger's theory. Writing fiction is, however, at present only a hobby, and for many years he has been a member of the staff of Jealott's Hill Research Station. Recently his work has been concerned with the application of radio-active isotopes to agricultural research.

Radio-active isotopes are today a powerful research tool and are used extensively in medicine, chemistry and biology. Recently an application of the technique to archaeology has been suggested; for it should be possible to estimate the age of ancient timbers and bones by assaying the radio-activity of the carbon they contain. (F. A. Paneth, Nature 4141, 1949.)

The value of such a method to Atlantologists and other investigators of the era that precedes historical times requires no emphasis, and the purpose of the present article is to explain in non-technical terms the principles upon which the method depends.

**Isotopes.** According to Bohr's theory, the atom consists of a relatively heavy nucleus about which circles a number of "planetary" electrons. An electron is a particle of negligible weight which carries an electrical negative charge of 1 unit. In an un-ionised atom the planetary electrons are sufficient in number to neutralise exactly the positive charge on the nucleus. Their number determines the chemical properties, and therefore the identity, of the element.

The positive charge on the nucleus is determined by the number of protons it contains, for each proton carries a positive charge of one unit. Besides protons the nucleus contains neutrons, uncharged particles with precisely the same masses as protons. The chemical properties of an element

therefore depend upon the number of protons in the nuclei of its atoms, but its atomic weight depends upon the number of protons and neutrons they contain. The number of protons and neutrons in a nucleus is known as the "Mass Number" of its atom.

It can now be seen that it is possible to have two atoms with identical chemical properties, but different mass numbers, for, though the number of protons, and therefore the number of planetary electrons, may be the same, the number of neutrons may vary. Such atoms are called **isotopes**, and nearly all the elements have been found to consist of mixtures of isotopes.

The most abundant isotope of Carbon has a mass number of 12 and a nuclear charge of 6. Its nucleus therefore consists of 6 protons and 6 neutrons, and its atom has 6 planetary electrons. There is an isotope of carbon with a mass number 14, so that its nucleus consists of 6 protons and 8 neutrons.

**Radio Activity.** Some isotopes are radio-active, that is to say their nuclei are unstable and tend to expel particles. When such an expulsion happens the atom turns into one of a different element.

For example  $C^{12}$ , i.e., carbon with a mass number 12, is perfectly stable,  $C^{14}$  is not. Every so often one of its nuclei emits an electron and thereby increases its positive charge by 1 unit to 7. The nitrogen nucleus carries a charge of 7, consequently a mass of  $C^{14}$  steadily turns into nitrogen, radiating vast numbers of electrons in the process.

As the atoms of  $C^{14}$  become nitrogen one after another, the number available for the expulsion of electrons grows steadily less, and the radio-activity of the whole mass declines; it is said to "**decay**." The rate is always the same and it takes roughly 5,000 years for the radio-activity of  $C^{14}$  to decay to one half of its original value. At the end of a second 5,000 years it will have decayed to a quarter of this value, and so on.  $C^{14}$  is said to have a "**half-life**" of 5,000 years. This is a comparatively long period, half lives of less than a second are known, but on the other hand uranium 238 has a half life of thousands of millions of years.

**Artificial Transmutations.** At the beginning of the present century Rutherford showed that it was possible to disrupt some of the nuclei of an element by bombarding it with showers of particles such as alpha rays. A little of the element was thereby transmuted into a different element. Today with the powerful tools of the pile-reactor and the cyclotron, enormous numbers of such transmutations have been made. Many of the isotopes thus obtained are radio-active and are entirely new substances which have not existed on the earth before.

If nitrogen is brought under the powerful neutron bombardment of a pile-reactor, some of it is transmuted to  $C^{14}$ . It is believed that when a neutron scores a hit on a nucleus it is absorbed, but at the same time a proton is omitted. The mass number remains unaltered at 14 but the charge is reduced from 7 to 6,

**Naturally produced C<sup>14</sup>.** The nitrogen of the air is under constant bombardment from Cosmic rays, which have the same effect as the neutron bombardment in the pile. A minute proportion of it is transmitted to C<sup>14</sup> in the upper regions of the atmosphere, and is oxidised to form carbon dioxide. On descending to lower levels, it becomes thoroughly mixed with the normal atmospheric carbon dioxide. All the carbon dioxide in the air is therefore very slightly radio-active, and since the intensity of cosmic radiation is constant, the activity is always the same.

**Effect on Organisms.** Plants obtain their carbon from the carbon dioxide of the air through the agency of their leaves. Animals obtain theirs by eating plants and each other. All organic carbon is therefore found to be radio-active to a slight though fixed extent, and it can be distinguished from inorganic carbon by this property.

When an organism dies, its uptake of carbon ceases and the radio-activity begins to decay. Therefore the time that has elapsed since the death of the organism can be estimated by assaying the activity that remains in its carbon.

The activity is very slight, and for the decay to be measurable the organism needs to have been dead for a long time. On the other hand it must not be too ancient or all the activity will have gone. No activity at all can be detected in coal, the remains of plants that have been dead for hundreds of millions of years.

The method is open to the criticism that we do not know whether cosmic radiation has always had the same intensity, and we are not at liberty to assume that the radio-activity of organic carbon was the same, say, 5,000 years ago as it is today. Absolute dating by the method is therefore a risky business, but on the other hand it may be used confidently for relative dating. For example, if the remains of "Noah's Ark" were discovered, it should be possible to find out whether its timbers were younger or older than those used by the ancient Egyptians at any period of the history.

## ATLANTIS THE PARADOX OF HISTORY.

By CONTINENZA ANGELO.

"The dawn of history reveals a humanity already civilised—perhaps a civilisation already old. The curtain rises on a play already begun, and shows the truth of the paradox that there was a history before history." This quotation, not from the Sybil or the Delphic Oracle, but from Aldo Valori (1) contains the keynote of our researches.

Dietz (2) considers that our present geological age started some 25,000 years ago with the end of the fourth ice age, while Barbagallo (3) considers that it was during the ice age that humanity first appeared on the earth, at the end of the tertiary or the beginning of the quaternary, at a time when

according to Wendel Philips (4) the Tethys Sea spread from the Atlantic to the Arabian Peninsular.

From the above it would appear that those parts of Europe which were not coated with ice were at that time under the Tethys Sea. But if that was the case, how can one explain the remarkable cave paintings found in Central and Southern France and Spain, together with statuettes and other remains. Allowing for the fact that art is not improvised, and requires not only genius but also long training, in fact a school in which to perfect itself in line colour and impression, one is forced to admit that "This art reached Europe in an already perfect form, having been evolved in a land of which we know nothing."

Dietz considers that the skeletons found on the Canaries were of the Cro Magnon type, the same type as those of the producers of the art referred to above, which would seem to indicate that the land of their origin was probably Atlantis, and that they escaped there from the Deluge. Could this be the answer to our enigma.

Plato (5) in his dialogues showed himself to be well informed both as an historian and as a geographer, and without his interest nothing tangible would have survived of the story of Atlantis, of which memories must have been extant even in his day. When Homer (6) wrote of "Odysseyus languishing in misery on an island, in the clutches of the Nymph Calypso" that "remote Island of Ogygia" where "from four separate but adjoining springs, four crystal rivulets ran" he must have been thinking of Atlantis, while "Scherie the rich country of the Phaeaceans" must have been another aspect of this civilisation, as was also the violence of the island of the Cyclops.

Hesiod (7) spoke of Atlantis, as did Euripides (8), Diodorus Siculus (9) and Seneca (10); Pliny (11) says memories of Atlantis occur in the Labours of Hercules; Virgil (12) comments on the Atlantean culture in the Georgics; Herodotus (13) mentions it frequently; Pherecydes (14) says "The people who lived near Mount Atlas said that they were descended from those who had accompanied Hercules on his travels."

Among the modern writers, it suffices to quote Latreille (15), Mentelle (16), Tournefort (17), Rudbeck (18), Bory de St. Vincent (19), Carli (20), Cellarius (21), Bontempelli (22), D'Amato (23), Russo (24), Humboldt (25), Sykes (26), Savorin (27), Bayer (28).

Stories of the Deluge are to be found in the Sagas, the Eddas, the Puranas, in the memories of the Algonquins, the Aztecs, the Incas, the Mayas, and the Toltecs, in the same manner as the Babylonians, the Hebrews, the Egyptians, the Chinese, in fact all the peoples of antiquity who have legends of the Garden of Delights, of the Hesperides, of Posedonia, of the Garden of Eden, the Terrestrial Paradise, and of Atlantis.

Underlying all this is the fact that language, tradition, monuments, of all of the ancient civilisations have an under-

lying similarity which seems to prove conclusively their origin from a single source, and in addition they all start their histories with an account of some kind of deluge, although some, such as the Vedic and the Babylonian have pre deluge stories.

In Genesis is related the story of the Garden of Eden with the four rivers which we have already encountered on Calypso's Isle and in the Hesperides. The fact that two of them: Tigris and Euphrates, are in the Fertile Crescent, may be explained by the desire of the Noachic survivors of the Deluge to recreate their lost homeland as far as possible. From the many Deluge legends of Greece, Mauritania, India, the Americas, the Middle East, it seems that when the time of peril preceding the loss of Atlantis set in, many warned by their gods, by dreams or by animals, built their ships of refuge, and when the seas scattered their ships far and wide each one would believe that his party was the only one saved.

We have shown that the legends of the various elysiums of the past can only have referred to Atlantis, and it now only remains to establish where it was situated. It would appear to have been shaped like a triangle between the Azores, the Cap Verde Islands and the Bermudas. This was the site of the land which formed the object of the writings of Solon (29), so many great ones of the past, leading to the dozens of authorities of today.

Atlantis then, was the historical reality of man's first cultured existence, and this fact has—partially at least—solved for us the greatest paradox of history.

NOTE BY EDITOR.—*The above constitutes a shortened translation of Signor Angelo's paper which was too long for insertion in full. The complete Italian text may be consulted on application.*

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## THE MASTABA EXCURSION.

By C. A. J. CORDASCO.

Excursions organised by the Research Centre generally take the form of one-day visits by private coach to archaeologically important sites within 100 miles or so of London. These excursions, which are non-profit making, serve to stimulate interest and research, and they offer members a social opportunity to discuss their ideas and impressions.

Our latest excursion followed this rule, and it took us to Margate. In November! But the weather, though kind that day, was of no consequence to us: our objective was the famous Grotto.

The first stop on our way was at Coldrum, where a short and somewhat muddy walk brought us to the burial chamber. This, we are told by a leading authority, is "a mastaba, pure and simple," and it consists of a dolmen on a mound, in a centre of a D-shaped stone ring on three planes. Some of the remains of the 22 people found buried there are preserved in the nearby church at Trottscliffe, and include a bone showing traces of chronic rheumatism.

At Kits Coty, our next stop, we met Mr. Bodiam, who showed us the "Countless Stones" (which are indeed countless), and, across the Pilgrims Way, "Kits Coty House." Mr. Bodiam is an authority on the district, and proved himself a veritable mine of local legend and folklore.

After snatching a brief glimpse of Canterbury Cathedral, we reached the Grotto at Margate. For an hour or more we wandered and wondered, analysing and guessing. The detail is bewildering, the design lavish, the workmanship marvellous, and the acoustics perfect. We then went on to the Arts Centre, where Mr. Harper Cory gave a most interesting illustrated lecture on the Grotto. He was followed by the Mayor of Margate, who formally brought into being the Thanet Archaeological Society, to which we are now affiliated. Thanks are due to those who contributed so generously to the affiliation subscription.

Next, a short drive to Ramsgate brought us to an excellent tea, very kindly provided by Mrs. Harper Cory. Discussions started here continued unflagged until our return to London. The Grotto is definitely provoking. Mr. Cory suggests that it

is a mastaba, and supports his theory by tracing similarities of construction with "normal" mastabas and resemblances to Egyptian and Cretan symbols in the sea-shell studded wall patterns. There is such a wealth of symbols in the many panels, however, that for every point made by him, a contradictory theory may be advanced. Some of the panels sounded hollow, and it is not known what lies behind them. A different suggestion is that the Grotto is a Mithraic temple. This may be questioned on the grounds of physical shape, since most Mithraeums are long, narrow chambers with an entrance in one of the shorter sides and an altar on the opposite wall. The Grotto, so far, has only one false entrance. If there is another, it should be through the floor. What is known of the tunnels under Margate, with one of which there ought to be a link?

Another theory is that the Grotto is of Roman construction (possibly with Mithraic influence), for not only did that type of mosaic work flourish during early Roman times, but also mosaics have been discovered elsewhere in which are represented numerous esoteric symbols taken from many unrelated religious cults and assembled together apparently haphazard. Measure of the radio-activity decay of carbon in the sea-shells or cement will date the Grotto fairly accurately. Other questions, however, are raised by the sinuous structure of the cavern, which is reminiscent of the Snake Mound in Ohio. Is there not some special significance in a circular cavern connected by a curving passage to a rectangular chamber, and why is the latter assymetric? There is a fruitful field for further investigation.

### THE OMAHA EARTH LODGE.

By D. K. BENTHAM.

Dear Editor,

I was very interested in the correspondence of Drs. Rene Malaise and P. L. Collignon. One fact they are apparently unaware of is that among the Omahas, an American Indian tribe, there exists or existed a large wooden structure called the "Omaha Earth Lodge." This is similar to Stonehenge and Woodhenge, in fact if one of these were given a roof with a hole for a chimney and earthen walls added it would be identical. Vagsere de Prederre suggested a relation to the barrow, in fact a house of the dead in an article in "Antiquity," Volume XI, 1937. Most archaeologists reject any idea of correction because of the time scale. One of the latest would be that of Kostromskaya, 6th Century B.C.

### LANDS TO THE WEST.

Dear Editor,

When Dr. Malaise wrote to me from Stockholm on the 10th September, he asked me, as your readers will remember,

"... how could this people (i.e., the Ancient Egyptians) know there was a land to the West?" (1).

In my reply I said: "One ancient reference says that beyond the Pillars of Hercules there is a Great Ocean, and beyond it, a great land." I added that I could not, at the moment, trace this reference (2). It still escapes me, but I have now remembered another reference to the same thing. Referring to Atlantis, Plato says: "This island was larger than Libya and Asia put together. From this island the navigators of those days could reach other islands, and from those islands it was possible to sail to the great continent on the other side of the wide Atlantic. . . . This island. . . was called Atlantis . . . ." (3). He claims that the information was given to Solon by an Egyptian priest. Whether this was so or not, the quotation is, obviously, certain proof that the Ancients knew of the American continent.

Yours faithfully,

P. L. COLLIGNON.

Witney, Oxon, 2/12/49.

1. Atlantean Research. Vol. 2, p. 60.
2. Atlantean Research. Vol. 2, p. 61.
3. Stephanus. 25a: quoted by H. S. Bellamy. "The Atlantis Myth" (Faber and Faber). 1948. p. 19.

### THE ARK AND THE MOON CAPTURE THEORY

By PAUL S. ARUP.

I saw something about a proposed expedition to Mount Ararat, a matter which I believe has also attracted notice in the daily press. I was somewhat surprised at this because in the book "In the Beginning God," on page 155, is stated that the Ararat of the Ark Myth "was not the 17,000 feet high peak of our geographical atlases, but some mountainous region—whether the Caucasus range or not, cannot of course be established."

I should agree with this view of Bellamy's, for it is difficult to see how the Ark landing event could be pinned down to any definite place.

The following passage from Theos Bernard's "Hand of a Thousand Buddhas" (Thibet) might interest you as indicating Thibet as a possible flood report, page 28. "We came to a place where we were shown the water level to be reached by the next great flood; the monastery was assured safety by being built on the crags above. Likewise it was indicated to us how far the flames will reach when the world is destroyed by fire."

It seems to me that there is something in this Eastern idea of alternate destruction by flood and fire which fits in with the moon capture theory.



## THE LION AND THE UNICORN.

By ALICE MACKERN.

Dear Sir,

When I was a child in Ireland a good many years ago, we used to repeat a rhyme which went as follows:—

The Lion and the Unicorn  
Playing for the crown,  
The Lion beat the Unicorn  
Right round the town.

We children argued that playing was not the right word, since the Lion and Unicorn faced each other in the British Coat of Arms. It ought to be fighting we said. To my amazement some time after the 1914 war I saw in the handbook to the Egyptian Galleries in the British Museum a picture of a lion and a unicorn playing draughts. It was said to be one of the oldest drawings (predynastic) found in Egypt. Can this be connected with the Egyptian colonisation of England?

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## LITERARY MONOLOGUES.

*Moons, Myths and Man* by H. S. Bellamy. London, Faber & Faber, 1949. Price 16/-.

At long last the new edition of this remarkable work has made its appearance. Ever since the author formulated the basis of the Hoerbiger Theory for English readers in 1937, this work has been the bible of the research worker and the student, and its virtual disappearance from the book market for the last six years has been the cause of great annoyance and discomfort to many.

This work covers the whole field of the Hoerbiger Theory, starting from the origin of the Solar system, to the break down of the Tertiary Satellite—which was the precursor of the Golden Age—and, thousands of years later, to the capture of Luna which put a period to the earthly paradise of mankind, and also caused the loss of Atlantis.

The chapter on the General Outline of the Hoerbiger Theory has been re-written, while additions and corrections have been made to the remainder of the book, and there is sufficient new material to warrant those having a copy of the earlier edition purchasing a copy of the new one.

An excellent book, written with the author's customary lucidity of style, making even the Hoerbiger Theory seem ridiculously easy for the non-expert.

*Egypt* by Margaret A. Murray. London, 1949, Sidgwick & Jackson, 30/-.

For many years there has been a growing need for a comprehensive handbook on Egyptology, at a reasonable price, and in accordance with the latest ideas. Dr. Murray, who is well-known for her writings on witches and for several standard works on Egypt, has admirably filled the gap.

In its 350 pages, with over two hundred illustrations, the whole development of Egypt from pre Dynastic times to the death of Cleopatra, is admirably summed up, under the headings of: History, Social Conditions, Religion, Art and Science, and Literature, with appendices on the life of Sir Flinders Petrie, Foreign Connections, Marriages and Matrilineal Descent, Scarabas and the New Year God.

Recently we have been seeking a suitable book on Egypt for those working out the permutations of diffusion and their relation to our cultural background. This can be confidently recommended for this purpose, as with its aid, much of the working out of Egyptian names and customs is simplified.

*The Semetic Origin of British Place Names*, by F. Martin Payne, M.B., Blackburn, about 1923. Price 1/-.

There has recently come into my hands, through the kindness of one of our members, a copy of a lecture under the above title, delivered shortly after the First World War, to the Blackburn Antiquarian Society, by the late E. Martin Payne, M.B.

In spite of the title, which is misleading, there is a lot of hitherto unrecorded information as to the possibility of place names in the Midlands being derived from Egyptian in addition to other Middle Eastern Sources.

Unfortunately the Blackburn Antiquarian Society appears to have ceased to exist, as a letter of enquiry addressed to them was returned marked "Not known." Perhaps one of our readers could let us have some information, which would be most helpful, as all Mr. Payne's papers and memoranda are reported to have been handed over to one of the members of the Society shortly after his death. If access could be obtained to these I am sure we should find them to be of considerable assistance in our investigations.

The more one looks into this question of early British origins the more it seems as if Britain must have been the cross roads of the old world for thousands of years, because there is scarcely a race known in Europe which does not appear, at some time, to have left its cultural traces here, in place names, religious sites, folk lore, children's games, etc.



*Die Welteis Lehre*, R. v. Elmayer, Westenbrugg, Leipzig, 1942.

An interesting handbook on the Hoerbiger theory, as corrected to date by the Austrian Hoerbiger Institute. It contains many illustrations which had not previously appeared, and which should assist in working out the more complicated points.

*Ibo Village Affairs*. M. M. Green. London, 1947. 10s. 6d.

A study of social life in a village of the Igbo people of Nigeria, which is of considerable interest, not so much because of the vast amount of work which has been put into it, but because of its description of community where the matriachy still exists, although to a limited extent, a matter of considerable interest to those who consider that the existence of such an element in a culture is a proof of considerable age.

One day it may be possible for a whole series of charts to be issued, enabling the cultural similarities between various peoples and races to be plotted, in the same manner as Pitt Rivers charted the use of many of the accessories of culture. When this is done the immense value of works such as this will immediately become evident.

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### AUSTRALIAN CAVE PAINTINGS.

At the Berkeley Galleries, in Davies Street, W.1, an exhibition is being arranged of reproductions by Mr. James Cant, of cave paintings recently discovered at Obiri, in Arnhem Land, N. Australia, by Mr. C. W. Mountford.

These belong to two periods, one comparatively recent, in which figures are drawn in full form, and one older in which the figures are composed of lines, rather like "pin-men," but of astonishing vitality. They are more akin to the early Bushman out of Africa than they are to the Worora paintings which attracted such attention at Australia House, in 1947. The culture represented is entirely Australian and it is noteworthy that the line figures carry shields of a type characteristic of Central Australia, but no longer of the tribes of Arnhem Land.

The more modern paintings can be related to the mythology of the local natives, the Kakadie. An astonishingly sensitive female figure represents the First Ancestress, Imberomba, and a scene with a turtle-man, the Totemic hero, Muraian, shows the giving of Totemic names to the ancestors.

The exact date of opening the exhibition is not yet announced, but will appear in the press.

This is an exhibition which all members are recommended to visit.

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The illustrations, some of which have not been reproduced before, reveal the astonishing richness of public and private collections in this country and will come as a surprise to many in their close affinity to modern art. It is perhaps significant that one of the most important pieces comes from the collection of Henry Moore.

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