

A Review of the Work of Charles Fort

Here is a brief review of the work of Charles Fort, the author of "The Book of the Damned", "Lo", "New Lands", and "Strange Talents".

Charles Hoy Fort was born in August of 1874 in Albany N.Y. and died in May of 1932. At first he wanted to be a naturalist. But he became a newspaper reporter who ended up collecting tens of thousands of clippings and notes of unusual stories (He eventually claimed about 60,000 notes). He decided to write a book about these unusual stories. His first book was, "The Book of the Damned". By damned, he meant things that people (especially scientists) didn't want to discuss. Later, he wrote "Lo", "New Lands" and "Strange Talents". I haven't read "Strange Talents" yet.

One of the things that Fort chronicles is the huge number of stories relating to unusual things that have fallen from the sky.

The following things have been seen to have fallen from the sky or were found on the ground; black rain, red rain, blue hailstones, two pound hailstones, a hailstone the size of an elephant, pink snow, larvae in a snowstorm, mud, thousands of tons of butter (or a butter like substance), orange flavored hailstones, huge snowflakes (15 inches across, and 8 inches thick), ice, silk, seeds, periwinkles, charcoal, coal, a beef-like substance, organic matter, grain, flesh, salt, fish (some alive, some dry and dead), small frogs (some white, some alive, but no tadpoles or large frogs), snails, snakes, lizards, eels, mussels, huge ants, jellyfish, a manna-like substance (edible), a combustible substance, blocks of limestone, black pebbles, hail (with living frogs inside!), hundreds of dead birds, countless spiders, stones (in front of crowds of people), nails, coins, oyster shells, fire or fireballs, and even blood.

The usual explanation for these phenomena is that some whirlwind picked up material from somewhere and deposited it somewhere else. The problem with this explanation, as Fort points out, is that the falls are of one type. There is segregation. If a whirlwind was to descend on a pond it would surely pick up other material as well and wouldn't the whirlwind kill any living thing? Also, Fort could find no instance in which someone's pond got sucked up by a whirlwind. Some fish falls included deep-sea fishes. Red rains in Sicily were said have been caused by red sand picked up in the Sahara but Saharan sands are white. Also there is often a repeat occurrence of a fall. For example frogs fell in a small area in England and at a later date frogs fell again in the same place. This, according to Fort, eliminates the whirlwind hypothesis.

There are many other unusual stories. A block of metal was found in a piece of coal. Fossils have been found in meteorites. In Austria, a nail was found in a piece of quartz. Footprints of giants were found in Nevada. Water fell in a particular area from a cloudless sky. Columns of water have fallen after droughts, which caused flooding and killed many people. The conventional explanation here was that the columns were

waterspouts. Fort suggested the water was teleported from elsewhere. Stones were seen to shoot upward from a field. A strange darkness came upon London on Aug. 19 1763 that was greater than that of the great eclipse of 1748. Another darkness (said not to be a fog) occurred in London on Jan 22, 1882 at 10:30 A.M. that was so great that people across the street could be heard but not seen. Many earthquakes have been preceded by loud noises, fish falls and strange aerial phenomenon (UFO's?). Water fell in a crowded room. A sea monster with a head like that of a horse was seen. Some strange (apparent hybrid) creatures have been seen. I think Fort suggests that they were teleported from elsewhere.

Fort mentions an experiment with snails that fell from the sky. One person, who believed they were sea snails, put them in salt water and they lived. Another person, believed they were not sea snails, but put them in salt water and they died. Also, some astronomers, who favored Einstein, found shifts of spectral lines in Einstein's favor. Those who did not favor Einstein got opposite results.

In reading Fort's books I was most interested in how he explained these phenomenon. Here is what he says:

Pg. 133, Book of the Damned, "I began with the notion of some other world from which objects have fallen to this Earth...which is now attempting to communicate with this Earth...into acceptance that for centuries has been in communication with a sect, perhaps, or secret society, or certain esoteric ones of this Earth's inhabitants.

Pg. 139, Book of the Damned, "If I say I conceive of another world that is now in secret communication with certain esoteric inhabitants of this Earth, I say I conceive of still other worlds that are trying to establish communication with all inhabitants of this Earth".

Pg. 157, Book of the Damned, "I think we are property, that, once upon a time, this Earth was a no-mans land, that other worlds explored and colonized here and fought among themselves for possession, but that it's owned by something: that something owns this Earth - all others warned off....pigs, geese, cattle....first find out that they are owned. Then find out the whyness of it. I suspect that after all, we're useful...."

He also said "...Development is an autocracy of successive dominants..." (gods??), which are not final...".

He even wondered if the solar system was a living organism. He talked about, "Super-embryonic Development", in one enclosed system.

In my copy of the "Book of the Damned" (Ace Books) it says in small letters underneath the title, (By damned, I mean that which science has excluded). Fort, in his work seems to have an ax to grind with the scientists, especially the astronomers.

He complains that the scientists ignore data that "don't fit". He accuses the scientists of doing the same thing that they accuse the astrologers of doing. He says, "Who wouldn't be a champion marksman, if only his hits were recorded".

Fort also has numerous UFO stories and stories of strange objects seen in the sky (in one case what seemed like an enormous serpent), sheep kills (blood sucked out, no flesh eaten, torn apart), attacks by werewolf-like monsters (that mostly attack women), an apparent teleportation of a person and disappearances of people. He also asks some interesting questions like; "Why was Australia not colonized by Asiatics?", and "were the Mayans removed"?

Fort rejected the dogma of both religion and science. He said, "It is probable that all religions were founded upon ancient jokes and hoaxes". He also implied that scientists belonged to a cult.

Fort also suggested that what seemed like natural disasters or mysterious disappearances of people (e.g. Marie Celeste) and also spontaneous human combustion, may actually have been acts of war carried out by an external force. He also thought we were "fished for".

He said' "There may be vast, habitable regions (in the concavity of a starry shell) that have been held in reserve for colonization from this Earth".

Fort also notes many amazing coincidences. For example, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions have been preceded by meteor showers (often during the close approach of Mars). Things have fallen from the sky in the same place at different times. In Feb 1872 there was a glare from the direction of the constellation Orion, that was seen all over the world. Meteors appeared after the glare and in Italy dust fell from the sky and later Vesuvius erupted. Fort suggests a connection between all of these events. The Krakatoa explosion was followed a few days later by the sighting of a bright light, thought to be a comet. It could be seen in the daytime. It was seen by the amateurs, but the professionals ignored it. He says disturbances on Earth, follow the appearance of new stars. He gives several examples to back this up. Also, some stars, including a group of three stars have disappeared.

He even thought the stars, and also the moon and planets are much closer than is commonly believed and suggested that the stars were on some kind of shell revolving around the Earth (which he thought was stationary). He also questioned whether light had any velocity.

He mentions the Kaspar Hauser story and the airship flap of the late 1800's.

Fort often ridicules the astronomers, such as Simon Newcomb who proved heavier than air flight was impossible shortly before the Wright brothers flew their plane. He

also complains that the predictions of the astronomers have often been wrong.

Lights have been seen many times on Mars, Venus and on the Moon, in the craters Copernicus, Aristarchus, Mare Crisium and Plato. Beacon-like lights have also been seen on the Moon and on Mars. An object in Linne changed color. A luminous triangle was seen in Plato. Many observers have reported seeing what appeared to be geometric structures on the moon. He even mentions that some observers thought that there were domes on the moon. A white spot (and also a dark spot) has been seen many times on the rings of Saturn.

Fort makes a connection between the closest approaches of Mars and increased UFO activity. Luminous objects have been seen, on or near, Venus, Mars, Saturn, Jupiter and the Sun.

I was particularly interested in the story of the discovery of Neptune, said to be one of the great discoveries, as Leverrier calculated the position mathematically, and "Lo", it was found in that spot by the astronomers. However the discovery seems to have been a "happy accident", as Leverrier's calculations turned out later to have been far off. According to Fort, Leverrier himself said it was not the planet of his calculations. Many other astronomers refused to believe that Neptune had been discovered by calculation. The text-books omit this. Leverrier also thought he had discovered the planet "Vulcan", closer to the Sun than Mercury. Some observers saw it several times but it eventually disappeared. Also the orbit of the Sirius companion did not move in its calculated orbit.

Lowell, Tesla and Marconi thought Martians were attempting to communicate with us.

He suggests psychic phenomenon is associated with beings from outer space.

He also thinks that certain knowledge is being withheld. It is to be released at the correct time.

Fort thought that if gushes of blood fell on New York City, business would go on as usual.

Astronomers (Tombaugh) discovered the ninth planet Pluto in 1930. The planet, was predicted by Lowell. But there was controversy here too. In the New York Times, June 1, 1930 it was said that Lowell's planet was approaching the Sun and would become brighter for another 50 years. Some astronomers apparently calculated that Lowell's planet had a period of 3000 years and an eccentricity of 0.3, a highly elliptical orbit. However, other astronomers calculated a period of 265 years and an eccentricity of 0.9. Fort used this example to ridicule the astronomers, but could these have been two different planets, Pluto and some other planet?

Here are some more quotes from Fort.

"My expression is that herein I'd typify my idea of organic control, which, concealed under human vanity, makes us think that we are doing all things ourselves, gives support to human institutions when they are timely and functioning, and then casts it's favorites into rout and fiasco, when they have outlived their functioning period".

"That ours is a pseudo-existence and that all appearances in it partake of its essential fictitiousness".

"...the gods of the twentieth century will sustain our notions be they ever so unwashed and frowsy".

"Almost all people are hypnotics. The proper authority saw to it that the proper belief should be induced, and people believed properly." (thanks to revisionist historian, Michael A. Hoffman II, for that quote)

Owen comments on Fort.

Fort's first book, "The Book of the Damned", is one of the best books I have read. I recommend it to all who are interested in the unusual. I would say, that this book is the first one that I would recommend to young conspiracy researchers. The next two books I'd recommend are; The Brotherhood by Knight, and the Protocols of Zion.

Fort was far ahead of his time. In the 1920's he was speculating about competing external intelligences that were/are controlling the "evolution" of mankind.

He was very interested in stories of things that fell from the sky. He came up with so much evidence that it's hard to refute. Things still fall from the sky and from what I have read, fell thousands of years ago in ancient Greece. In the papers, I've read recently of fish falling from the sky in Australia, and of chunks of ice falling from the sky from some where in Spain. Many things Fort mentions still happen. We have Chupacabra recently. Strange lights are seen in the sky before earthquakes. Horse headed creatures are seen in lakes all over the world.

But why? It seems like someone or something wants us to know that they are up there. I suggest that lake monsters, like Ogopogo, here in B.C. are holograms. There are many credible witnesses, but no bones or remains. The same goes for the Sasquatch.

Fort gives evidence of previous civilizations, a topic that has become more popular in the past few decades.