

16 Jan 1976

Glanyrafon,
Hayscastle Cross,
Haverfordwest, Pems.

Many thanks for your letter. A strange new development has taken place over the Loch Ness monster which has caused me to postpone the GOBLIN UNIVERSE with Colin Wilson for the time being. He still has the draft copy and seems to find it very interesting.

If you ever read my first book on the monster (THE GREAT ORM: Faber, 1968) you will realize that I suggested it was a worm. This seems to be correct. You may have seen Dr Robert Rines showing his blurry pictures on TV before Christmas. I met him once. Friends at Loch Ness were shown original transparencies by Rines which they examined under a glass minutely. A drawing I possess made by an animal artist who has seen the things is identical to the photos. There is an additional factor. In 1972 Rines photographed a peculiar thing down in Loch Ness that no biologist could identify. I have now tentatively identified it with an aquatic worm larva known as a trochophore (see for instance Kaestner's INVERTEBRATE BIOLOGY, Vol 1) These beastly animals seem to be feeding on the sedimentary deposits. I am now trying to get Rines to catch a trochophore by net. In the meantime I'm working on A NATURAL HISTORY OF THE LOCH NESS MONSTER.

Many people might say that this quite removes the paranormal connotation but I don't think so. There are factors still unexplained. We know, for instance, that some - probable all - psychical phenomena requires physical energy. This is supplied by mediums, the percipient and teenage kids in the case of poltergeists.

My estimation is that these are probably the largest and most primitive animals on earth and widespread along the continental shelves. Could the Blacks use them to charge their psychic batteries? They represent raw biological energy in bulk. And we know UFOs love diving into the sea.

I am a great student of folklore and there is a continuous tradition that such monsters are evil running all the way Assyria and Egypt right up to about 1700 in Scotland. ~~that these creatures are evil~~. It may be merely their disgusting appearance. It remains a fact that Alastair Crowley picked a house beside Loch Ness to experiment with rituals.

It don't propose to delve too far into this in the

natural history book however.

My own feeling is that history IS shaped. The Duke University work proved that some precognition is a fact. Nost~~radamus~~radamus proved, at least with some of his quatrains, that precognition works hundreds of years ahead. Some scientists are already changing their world-view at least in physics.

I am not sure that I go along with the argument that external interference can ever be detectable. Burt and Lyall Watson think there is a screen which allows only certain knowledge to filter through. One can only hope so. Think what the CIA or KGB would do if they had the power to read people's minds or render themselves invisible. Such a screen might save us from our own folly. The H bomb has only produced stalemate.

Do let me have a copy of your alternative history bulletin when it appears. Theoretical argument is important but it must always be pointed by actual illustrations or experiences from named witnesses otherwise one makes small impact.

You mention terminal exams but I'm not clear whether you are an undergrad or a tutor or, if the former, whether you are doing a degree in history.

Until this Loch Ness worm thing is resolved we are still in the dark about what is organically involved in that quarter. I believe Rines can do it if he is left alone. Everyone is trying to clutter the act including Sir Peter fatuous Scott and his absurd "plesiosaurs".

Can you quote me a verse or two from "The Well Below The Valley" and "The Rose and the Lindsay" - have never heard of them. Are they folk songs?

Norwegian folklore categorized these various beings long ago under such names as Huldre-folk (The Hidden People) Jotun (giants related the Trolls), Oskorei and Trolls (evil spirits and demons) and Underjordiske (Those under the ground). 'Ground' could refer to mound (disc-mound?) There have certainly been very many disc sightings in Scandinavia.

I suggest you assemble all the material you can let me have and send it for study say sometime over the next year. ~~months~~. We can then discuss and amplify as required etc.

I ought to go up and see Dr Rines at Loch Ness this summer but the place turns me off after recent experiences.

Sincerely,

F.W. Holiday