

OPUNTIA

289

Middle November 2014

Opuntia is published by Dale Speirs, Calgary, Alberta.
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When sending me an emailed letter of comment, please
include your name and town in the message.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN WAY

photo by Dale Speirs

Portal Peak, Banff National Park, is shown at right. For
size, compare to the full-grown spruce trees at lower right
of photo. Note the waterfall. On the next page is a view
from Canmore, Bow Valley Provincial Park, looking
south at Mount Ehagay Nakoda.





The peak at right is Ha Ling Peak, named in 1884 after the first man to find an easy route to the top. Quarry Pond is in the foreground and is artificial, having been used to excavate sand for masonry in the village of Canmore. There wasn't much there so it is quite shallow, making it a popular family attraction for small kids to splash around in the water on a hot day.

The Nakoda tribe are just downstream from Canmore; the Trans-Canada Highway runs through their Reserve.

HOW WE ENDED UP WHERE WE DID

by Dale Speirs

I was born in the rural village of Eckville in west-central Alberta because of climate. A couple of decades later when I graduated from university in Edmonton, I moved to Calgary, again because of climate.

So Much For The Prologue.

The Palliser Triangle is a treeless semi-desert portion of the western Canadian prairies. The Triangle is roughly southern Alberta and Saskatchewan from the Trans-Canada Highway to the American border, from the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountain foothills to a small piece of southwestern Manitoba. Calgary is directly on the very northwestern edge of the Triangle, its eastern suburbs sprawling out onto the prairies and the western suburbs climbing up into the foothills.

Capt. John Palliser led a British Army expedition through the area in 1857-58 when it was in its normal climatic condition, a semi-arid grassland with long droughts. He pronounced it unfit for anything but rangeland grazing. In 1883, as the transcontinental railroad was being built across the Palliser Triangle, there was an abnormally wet climate lasting several decades. Settlers poured in, cropped the land, and scoffed at Palliser.

Why I Am Here.

My paternal grandparents homesteaded in 1912 in the heart of the Triangle in southern Saskatchewan near Shaunavon. My father was born there just in time for the climate to revert back to normal. The Dirty Thirties cost the Speirs family their homestead when the land dried up and blew away. They bought a new farm in what is now northwest Calgary and started over from scratch, not an easy thing for them to do in their late 40s with several children still at home.

My father was at the Ontario Veterinary College by then. After graduation, he wrote letters to various prominent citizens in rural Alberta, asking them for advice on where he should set up his practice. I have since inherited the one letter Dad ever kept in his life, from an auction mart owner near Eckville who wrote that whatever other problems the district had, no drought ever plagued them. That decided the issue for my father, and he spent the rest of his life in west-central Alberta. He met a local schoolmarm whose family had

homesteaded just north of the village, married her, and now I am typing this in 2014 as their oldest son.

When I was a student at the University of Alberta, Edmonton was going through a spell of cold winters. The temperature would go down to -20° C in November and stay that way until March. After graduating, I decided I couldn't take another winter there, and so moved 300 km south to Calgary, which gets warm chinook winds through the winter. Chinooks vanish the snow and make a break in between the snowy weather, and I've never regretted moving here. Since I'm not a farmer, dry spells don't worry me the way they did my father and his family.

Those Who Are There.

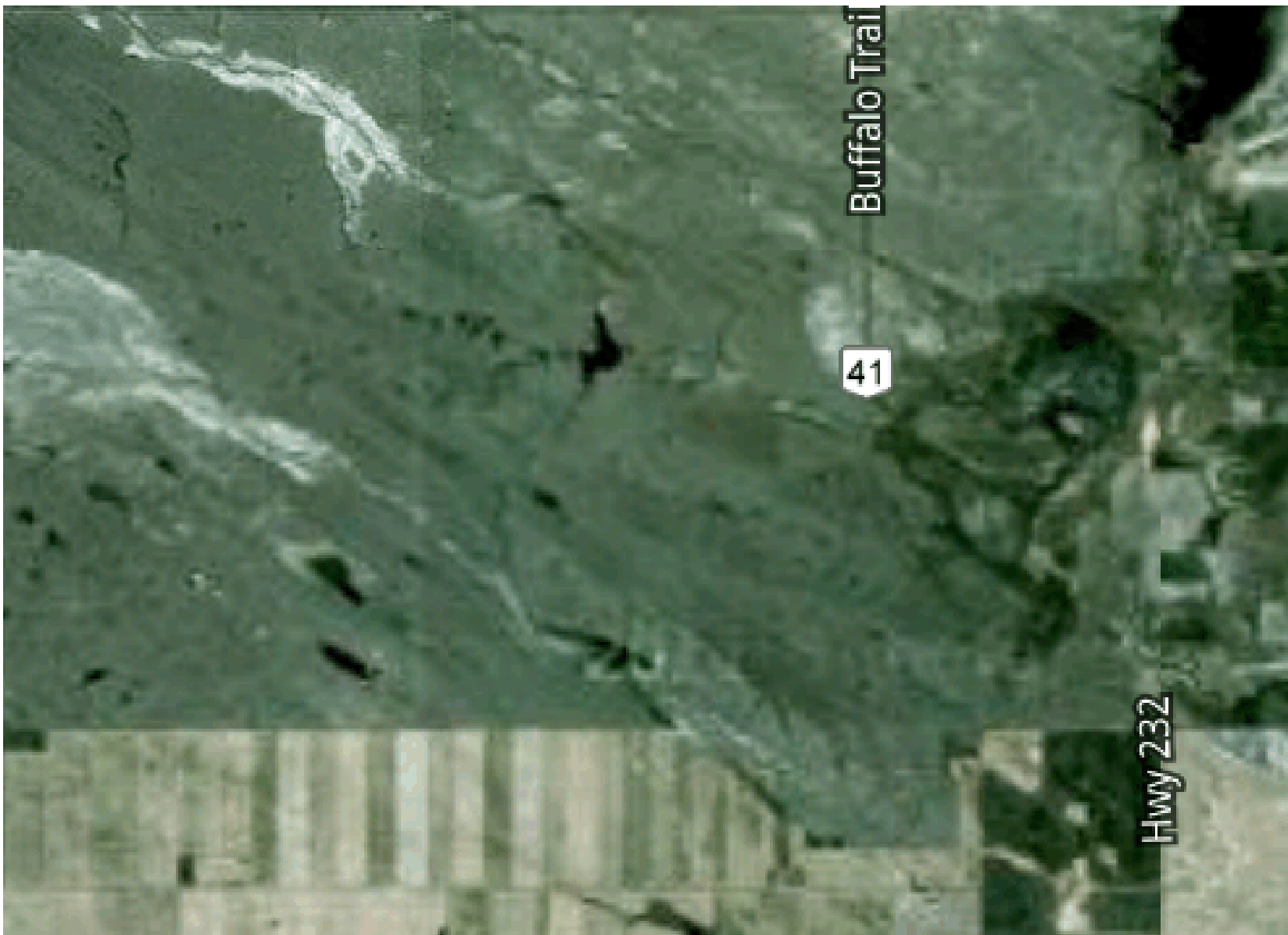


Canada Postes Postage 8

DEFYING PALLISER (2012, trade paperback) by Jim Warren and Harry Diaz is about the Palliser Triangle and the people who never left it. During the Dirty Thirties, the population fell precipitously and has never recovered. Much of the land was permanently seeded to rangeland grass by the federal government, who put a permanent embargo on cropping it. Some irrigation

projects were also started up, as the empty valleys made good reservoirs if enough water could be collected to fill them.

As an interesting effect of this, the 49th parallel along the southern border of the Triangle is one of the few non-geographical borders that can be seen from space. American farmers receive billions of dollars of subsidies not to grow crops. They therefore plough fenceline to fenceline even where they would not normally do so, put the surplus land into summerfallow, and then claim subsidies for not growing crops they never had any intention of growing anyway. Montana farmers plough right up to the 49th parallel, while on the Canadian side there is only rangeland. Consequently the border can be easily seen from space, as shown on the next page on a Google image.



Warren and Diaz’s book consists of interviews with farmers who learned the hard way what works and what doesn’t. Minimum tillage of dryland wheat, where the stubble is left undisturbed, keeps the soil from blowing away. Nowadays the farmers also spray Roundup to kill the weeds and prevent them from using up soil moisture. Some farmers rely on cold holes, which are 10-metre-deep dugouts placed to catch runoff from the spring rains. The deep water does not evaporate as much as shallow dugouts because of its cold depths.

Cattle can thus be watered through the worst drought. Nonetheless, dryland farming and ranching is gambling without the casino floor show or free drinks. Most of the problems faced by farmers in the Palliser Triangle are not production but economic. Crop prices bounce up and down. Crop insurance is expensive. It is a dead loss if a good crop, and barely pays seeding expenses if it is needed.

Government regulations hamper farmers from every side, whether digging dugouts or using sound cannons to frighten away geese eating swathed grain. Double-digit interest rates took out as many farmers during the 1980s as the drought did during the 1930s.

The most successful farmers are the self-reliant kind who know how to fix tractor engines and auger out a plugged sewer line. Being a farm boy long since a city slicker, I always get a laugh out of people who tell me they want to give up the rat race in the city and enjoy the simple life in the country. I ask them if they know how to fix a furnace on a cold winter’s night, because the repair technician certainly isn’t driving out in a blizzard to help.

THE MAN FROM MONTENEGRO: PART 6

by Dale Speirs

[Parts 1 to 5 appeared in issues 252, 253, 275, 278, and 279.]

THE ARCHIE GOODWIN FILES (2005, trade paperback) is an anthology of articles and pastiches by Nero Wolfe fans. As with Sherlock Holmes, Wolfe fans have analyzed the stories in sometimes excruciating detail. The first half of this book is articles and learned essays, and the second half is given over to pastiches.

The essays cover a variety of topics. The first few discuss Wolfe’s origins, the background story and life in Montenegro, and how he came to the USA in 1930. Other articles go into more detail about Wolfe’s use of the mails, his legal liabilities, forensic abilities, who his lawyers and doctors were, and the life and times of his legman and narrator Archie Goodwin.

The question of where Wolfe’s brownstone was on West 35th Street is discussed at length. In the stories, the house number constantly changed, and most of those numbers would put the brownstone in the middle of the Hudson River. However, it is logical that Goodwin would give a fictitious number in the stories so as to protect their privacy from both revenge-seeking criminals and autograph-seeking fans. As with Watson’s stories about Holmes, the later stories mention in passing that the public was reading them and both Holmes and Wolfe were sometimes plagued with fans.

The pastiches lead off with “A Healthy Way To Die” by Maggie Jacobs, about a health food store cashier falsely accused of poisoning her boss by putting a little something extra in the pesto. The culprit is exposed because he got a smidgen of pesto on his thumb while spiking it with poison and later stained a document that only he had handled. A short story and rather routine. Next was a play, “The Daughter Hunt” by Henry Enberg. I have never been able to get through any kind of a script; they were meant to be performed, not read, so I skipped it whatever its merits may be.

“Firecrackers” by Charles E. Burns uses hints in the Corpus (as Wolfeians call the original stories, just as Sherlockians call Doyle’s stories the canon) about how Goodwin came to work for Wolfe. It reads quite well and stays true to the Corpus, with Goodwin’s first job as a warehouse night watchman, his being hired by Wolfe for a small job investigating a restaurant murder, and getting on permanent with the great detective. This is the best story of the bunch.

“Memo For Murder” by Greg Hatcher is another damsel-in-distress story, this time a cashier at a copy shop falsely accused of murder and theft of stolen government documents. This pastiche doesn’t play fair with readers, for in the closing scenes new evidence is suddenly introduced which points the finger at a co-worker using an implausible background story.

COME THE REVOLUTION

by Dale Speirs

The Source Of The Trouble.

THE STAMPS THAT CAUSED THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (1976) by Adolph Koeppel is a hardcover published as a Bicentennial project sponsored by the town of North Hempstead, New York State. Most people are vaguely aware that the Stamp Act of 1765 was the spark that eventually flared up into the American Revolution. Few realize that the stamps in question were not adhesive labels like the postage stamps that would be invented in 1840, but rather were embossed seals impressed into paper. It was compulsory to use this stamped paper for newspapers and legal documents.

Although they used it as a rallying cry, the real issue for the Americans was not taxation without representation, since Canadians paid the same stamp taxes without representation either. The embossed stamps had to be on paper provided by British printers, who made an excellent profit on it, and had a monopoly position that would wipe out the nascent North American paper industry. The stamps themselves were short-lived, but did their duty in more ways than one, not just earning the British government a small part of the cost of subsidizing the colonies, but touching off a major point of divergence.

This book could have been better organized, as it immediately starts off with an inventory of all surviving America stamps known to be in stamp collections. This is of ephemeral interest, used to establish how rare the individual values of the stamps are, but which could have been in an appendix where it wouldn't bog down the story.

Koeppel goes next to a history of how the Stamp Act was drafted and passed into law in the British Parliament, a textbook case of badly-written legislation. The innumerable customs tariffs and transaction duties which were to be paid by the stamps were a randomly-listed jumble of items. Even in Canada, where the stamps were used, few notaries (= solicitors, not to be confused with the notaries public of our times) ever correctly applied them. The legislation was written by Britons with little knowledge of life in the colonies, and useful advice on what type of duties to assess and at what rates was largely ignored. An example is the ecclesiastical courts duty, barely justified in Britain where there was an established church, but certainly not acceptable in the Americas, where the majority of the population were Catholics or Protestant dissenters.

Koeppel's text is mainly taken up with two examples of public reaction to the Stamp Act, based mainly on the fact of surviving examples of the stamps. An early and major opposition to the Stamp Act came from Nova Scotia, where the editor of the weekly newspaper HALIFAX GAZETTE made himself so obnoxious on the matter that he had to skip south to the 13 colonies to evade an irate Provincial Secretary (= modern-day Lieutenant Governor). Newspapers were opposed to the Stamp Act because they had to print on British-made stamped paper, which increased their cost fourfold compared to locally-made newsprint.

Koeppel's other example is the use of stamped paper on legal documents in Québec. In that province, notaries (Québec uses the Code Napoleon for civil torts and does not have barristers or solicitors) are required to keep all their

documents for life, then pass them on to the law society on retirement. Thus Québec has an unmatched collection of legal documents of great value to historians. It must be remembered that when the Stamp Act was passed, Québec had only just been conquered in 1759, and the military overlords were anxious to keep the population happy. There were 70,000 Québécois and 100 anglophone Protestants, so the British had no choice but to allow tolerance of Catholicism and the Code Napoleon. Koeppel then goes into great detail about the Québec legal system, more than we really needed to know. I get the impression that he put all this in because he had the research data, not because it was useful in advancing the story.

Strangely enough, the Stamp Act was never fully applied in the 13 colonies. Government bureaucrats had their stocks of stamped paper burned on arrival by angry patriots. The America stamps are therefore extremely rare from those colonies. Most of the stamp paper that was actually used did not survive the next generation, since in the USA legal documents are kept by those involved, not the lawyers, and the next generation threw out musty papers of no value. (How many people treasure up Grandpa's car registration today, or Mom's rent receipts from fifty years ago when she was a shopgirl?)

The Stamp Act's consequences caught the British off guard when the 13 colonies resorted to violence over it. I suspect that even had the British not enacted the Stamp Act, something else would have been used as a pretext to start the revolution. The Patriots were spoiling for a fight, and a divergence with no Stamp Act would still have come out the same as our timeline.

Samuel Johnson.

TAXATION NO TYRANNY was a pamphlet churned out by Samuel Johnson in 1775, and published by the firm of T. Cadell, London. It was hackwork, written for money, and not one of the better efforts of Johnson. The opening paragraph was in the usual rolling Johnsonian style of endless sentences liberally sprinkled with Latinate words: "In all the parts of human knowledge, whether terminating in science merely speculative, or operating upon life private or civil, are admitted some fundamental principles, or common axioms, which being generally received are little doubted, and being little doubted have been rarely proved." Sounds like modern-day politics actually.

What caught my eye in reading through the tract was a passage where Johnson speculated about an alternative timeline as follows.

“Had the Western continent been discovered between the fourth and tenth century, when all the Northern world was in motion, and had navigation at the time sufficiently advanced to make so long a passage easily practicable, there is little reason for doubting but the intumescence of nations would have found its vent, like all other expansive violence, where there was least resistance, and that Huns and Vandals, instead of fighting their way to the South of Europe, would have gone by thousands and by myriads under their several chiefs to take possession of regions smiling with pleasure and waving with fertility, from which the naked inhabitants were unable to repel them.”

“Every expedition would in those days of laxity have produced a distinct and independent state. The Scandinavian heroes might have divided the country among them, and have spread the feudal subdivision of regality from Hudson’s Bay to the Pacifick Ocean.”

“But Columbus came five or six hundred years too late for the candidates of sovereignty. When he formed his project of discovery, the fluctuations of military turbulence had subsided, and Europe began to regain a settled form, by established government and regular subordination. No man could any longer erect himself into a chieftain, and lead out his fellow subjects by his own authority to plunder or to war. He that committed any act of hostility by land or sea, without the commission of some acknowledged sovereign, was considered by all mankind as a robber or a pirate, names which were now of little credit, and of which therefore no man was ambitious.”

“Columbus in a remoter time would have found his way to some discontented Lord, or some younger brother of a petty Sovereign, who would have taken fire at his proposal, and have quickly kindled with equal heat a troop of followers. They would have built ships, or have seized them, and have wandered with him at all adventures as far as they could keep hope in their company. But the age being now past of vagrant excursion and fortuitous hostility, he was under the necessity of travelling from court to court, scorned and repulsed as a wild projector, an idle promiser of kingdoms in the clouds, nor has any part of the world yet had reason to rejoice that he found at last reception and employment.”

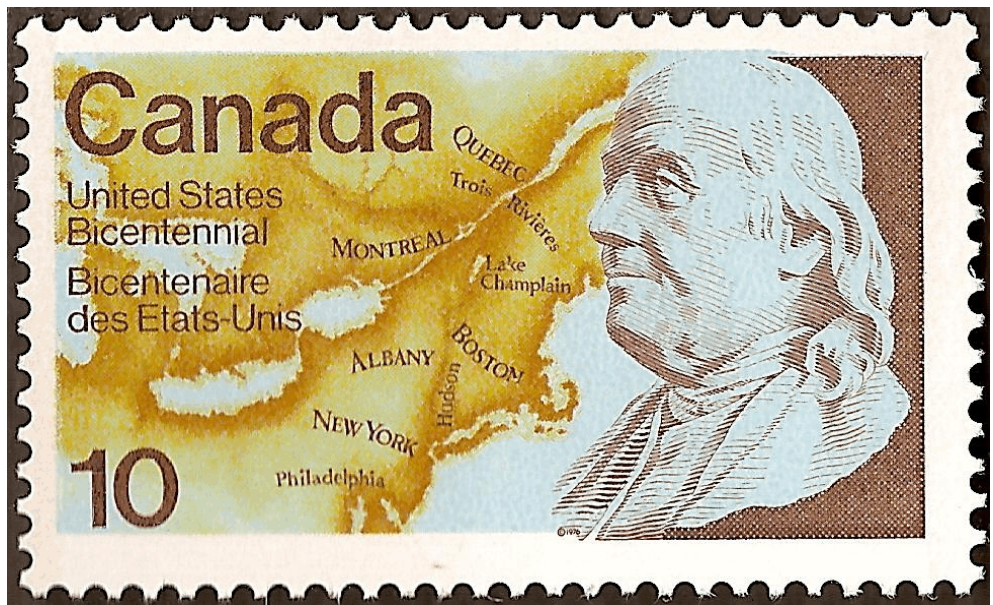
If I understand Johnson correctly, he was a Tide of History man. The barbarians were going to invade something, whether Europe or the New World. Columbus was going to go traveling, no matter who supplied the money. People would have their actions shaped by geography and culture.

**THE EXAMINATION OF DOCTOR BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
RELATIVE TO THE REPEAL OF THE AMERICAN STAMP ACT IN
1766**

transcribed by Dale Speirs

The text below is from a 50-page pamphlet with the above title sold in 1767 by an unknown publisher, giving Ben Franklin’s verbatim testimony before a British House of Commons committee the year before. I have modernized the punctuation and spelling slightly in a few places to make it more readable, and converted the long f to ‘s’. I have not otherwise altered the text, excepting that testimony not immediately relevant to the Stamp Act is deleted. All headings are mine, for convenience in locating topics. And finally, don’t forget that the stamps Franklin and the committee are discussing are embossed on blank paper. Revenue and postage stamps as gummed labels were still 74 years into the future, two generations away.

Benjamin Franklin was, by the way, the first Postmaster-General of Canada.



Introduction.

- Q. What is your name and place of abode?*
- A. Franklin, of Philadelphia.*

Q. Do the Americans pay any considerable taxes among themselves?
A. Certainly many, and very heavy taxes.

[Franklin then explains the tax system of Pennsylvania.]

Stamp Distribution Problems.

Q. Are you not concerned in the management of the Post Office in America?
A. Yes, I am Deputy Postmaster General of North America.

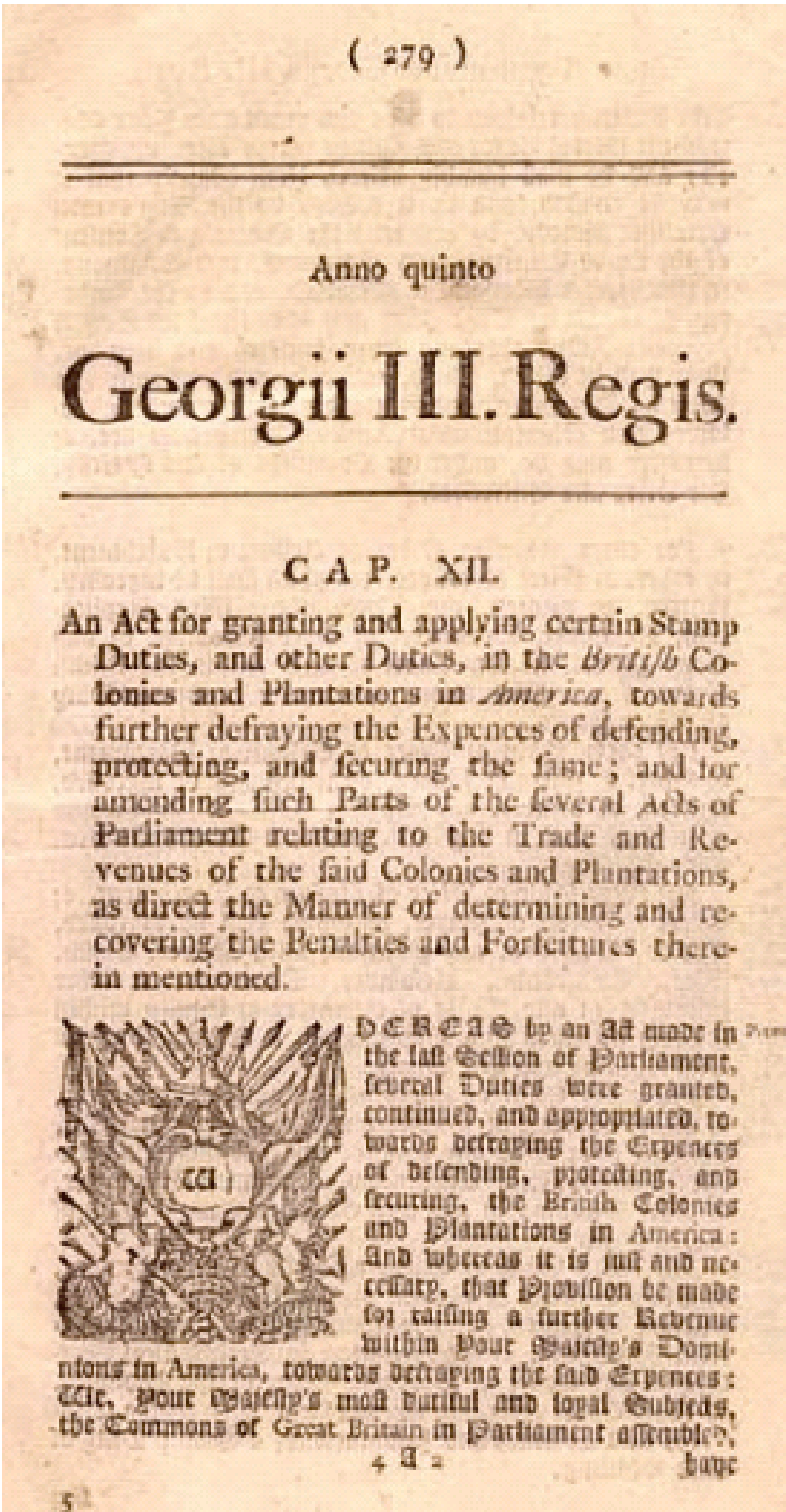
Q. Don't you think the distribution of stamps, by post, to all the inhabitants, very practicable, if there was no opposition?
A. The posts only go along the seacoasts. They do not, except in a few instances, go back into the country, and if they did, sending for stamps by post would occasion an expense of postage, amounting in many cases to much more than that of the stamps themselves.

Q. Are you acquainted with Newfoundland?
A. I never was there.
Q. Do you know whether there are any post roads on that island?
A. I have heard that there are no roads at all, but that the communication between one settlement and another is by sea only.

Q. Can you disperse the stamps by post in Canada?
A. There is only a post between Montréal and Québec. The inhabitants live so scattered and remote from each other in that vast country that posts cannot be supported among them, and therefore they cannot get stamps per post. The English Colonies too, along the frontiers, are very thinly settled.
Q. From the thinness of the back settlements, would not the Stamp Act be extremely inconvenient to the inhabitants, if executed?
A. To be sure it would, as many of the inhabitants could not get stamps when they had occasion for them, without taking long journeys, and spending perhaps three or four pounds, that the Crown might get sixpence.

Economy Of The Colonies.

Q. Are not the Colonies, from their circumstances, very able to pay the stamp duty?
A. In my opinion, there is not gold and silver enough in the Colonies to pay the stamp duty for one year.



Q. Don't you know that the money arising from the stamps was all to be laid out in America?

A. I know it is appropriated by the Act to the American service, but it will be spent in the conquered Colonies, where the soldiers are, not in the Colonies that pay it.

[Franklin is referring to the recent conquering of Québec by the British in 1759.]

Q. Is there not a balance of trade due from the Colonies where the troops are posted, that will bring back the money to the old colonies?

A. I think not. I believe very little would come back. I know of no trade likely to bring it back. I think it would come from the Colonies where it was spent directly to England, for I have always observed that in every colony the more plenty the means of remittance to England, the more goods are sent for, and the more trade with England carried on.

[A discussion then followed on colonial trade in general.]

Q. Do you think it right that America should be protected by this country and pay no part of the expense?

A. That is not the case. The Colonies raised, clothed, and paid, during the last war, near 25,000 men, and spent many millions.

Q. Were you not reimbursed by Parliament?

A. We were only reimbursed what, in your opinion, we had advanced beyond our proportion, or beyond what might reasonably be expected from us, and it was a very small part of what we spent. Pennsylvania, in particular, disbursed about 500,000 pounds, and the reimbursements, in the whole, did not exceed 60,000 pounds.

[A discussion then followed on the Pennsylvania economy.]

Taxes.

Q. Do not you think the people of America would submit to pay the stamp duty, if it was moderated?

A. No, never, unless compelled by force of arms.

[There was a discussion about tax rates.]

Q. What is your opinion of a future tax imposed on the same principle with that of the Stamp Act; how would the Americans receive it?

A. Just as they do this. They would not pay it.

Q. Have you not heard of the resolutions of this House, and of the House of Lords, asserting the right of Parliament relating to America, including a power to tax the people there?

A. Yes, I have heard of such resolutions.

Q. What will be the opinion of the Americans on those resolutions?

A. They will think them unconstitutional and unjust.

Q. Was it an opinion in America before 1763 that the Parliament had no right to lay taxes and duties there?

A. I never heard any objection to the right of laying duties to regulate commerce, but a right to lay internal taxes was never supposed to be in Parliament, as we are not represented there.

[An extended discussion then followed about the difference between duties and internal taxes, the behaviour of the Colonies in supporting the public good, and the local currencies.]

Q. Can anything less than a military force carry the Stamp Act into execution?

A. I do not see how a military force can be applied to that purpose.

Q. Why may it not?

A. Suppose a military force sent into America. They will find nobody in arms; what are they then to do? They cannot force a man to take stamps who chooses to do without them. They will not find a rebellion; they may indeed make one.

Q. If the Act is not repealed, what do you think will be the consequences?

A. A total loss of the respect and affection the people of America bear to this country, and of all the commerce that depends on that respect and affection.

[Discussion about the self-sufficiency of the Colonies.]

Q. But is not the post office, which they have long received, a tax as well as a regulation?

A. No. The money paid for the postage of a letter is not of the nature of a tax. It is merely a quantum meruit for a service done. No person is compellable to pay the money if he does not choose to receive the service. A man may still, as before the Act, send his letter by a servant, a special messenger, or a friend, if he thinks it cheaper and safer.

Q. But do they not consider the regulations of the post office, by the act of last

year, as a tax?

A. By the regulations of last year the rate of postage was generally abated near thirty per cent through all America. They certainly cannot consider such abatement as a tax.

[Further discussion as to what is a tax and what is a duty, and why Americans object to some but not others.]

Q. Supposing the Stamp Act continued and enforced, do you imagine that ill-humour will induce the Americans to give as much for worse manufactures of their own, and use them, preferably to better of ours?

A. Yes, I think so. People will pay as freely to gratify one passion as another, their resentment as their pride.

[Discussion about trade in the Colonies.]

Q. Would they live without the administration of justice in civil matters and suffer all the inconveniences of such a situation for any considerable time, rather than take the stamps, supposing the stamps were protected by a sufficient force, where everyone might have them?

A. I think the supposition impracticable, that the stamps should be so protected as that every one might have them. The Act requires sub-distributors to be appointed in every county town, district, and village, and they would be necessary. But the principal distributors, who were to have had a considerable profit on the whole, have not thought it worth while to continue in the office, and I think it impossible to find sub-distributors fit to be trusted who, for the trifling profit that must come to their share, would incur the odium and run the hazard that would attend it, and if they could be found, I think it impracticable to protect the stamps in so many distant and remote places.

Q. But in places where they could be protected, would not the people use them rather than remain in such a situation, unable to obtain any right or recover by law any debt?

A. It is hard to say what they would do. I can only judge what other people will think, and how they will act, by what I feel within myself. I have a great many debts due to me in America, and I had rather they should remain unrecoverable by any law than submit to the Stamp Act. They will be debts of honour. It is my opinion the people will either continue in that situation, or find some way to extricate themselves, perhaps by generally agreeing to proceed in the court without stamps.

Q. What do you think a sufficient military force to protect the distribution of the stamps in every part of America?

A. A very great force. I can't say what, if the disposition of America is for a general resistance.

Q. What is the number of men in America able to bear arms, or of disciplined militia?

A. There are, I suppose, at least ...

(Question objected to. He withdrew. Called in again.)

Q. Is the American Stamp Act an equal tax on that country?

A. I think not.

Q. Why so?

A. The greatest part of the money must arise from lawsuits for the recovery of debts, and be paid by the lower sort of people, who were too poor easily to pay their debts. It is therefore a heavy tax on the poor, and a tax upon them for being poor.

Q. But will not this increase of expense be a means of lessening the numbers of lawsuits?

A. I think not, for as the costs all fall upon the debtor, and are to be paid by him, they would be no discouragement to the creditor to bring his action.

[An extended discussion and speech by Franklin on trade in the Colonies and how they paid the costs of fighting the King's wars against the French voluntarily.]

Q. Do not letters often come into the post offices in America, directed to some inland town where no post goes?

A. Yes.

Q. Can any private person take up those letters and carry them as directed?

A. Yes, any friend of the person may do it, paying the postage that has accrued.

Q. But must not he pay an additional postage for the distance to such inland town?

A. No.

Q. Can the postmaster answer delivering the letter, without being paid such additional postage?

A. Certainly he can demand nothing, where he does no service.

Q. Suppose a person, being far from home, finds a letter in a post office directed to him, and he lives in a place to which the post generally goes, and the letter is directed to that place, will the postmaster deliver him the letter, without

his paying the postage receivable at the place to which the letter is directed.
A. Yes. The office cannot demand postage for a letter that it does not carry, or farther than it does carry it.

Q. Are not ferrymen in America obliged, by act of Parliament, to carry over the posts without pay?
A. Yes.
Q. Is not this a tax on the ferrymen?
A. They do not consider it as such, as they have an advantage from persons travelling with the post.

[Franklin’s testimony ends with an extended discussion about possible alternatives to the Stamp Act, and how revenues are currently raised in the Colonies.]

Speirs: The Stamp Act was short-lived. It was passed in March 1766 for implementation in November of that year, and repealed in early 1767. One of the root causes of the American revolution therefore only actually affected the colonists for a few months. It was enough though.

Actual copies of the America stamp are rare because it was a revenue stamp used on newspapers and sales receipts, not a postage stamp. People who see one for the first time are often disappointed because it is not a colourful label but an albino embossed seal on the sheet of paper that was being taxed.



The currency was another minor irritant, the revenue tax being denominated in British shillings. A wide variety of currencies circulated in the colonies, of which the Spanish reale or piece-of-eight was the most popular because of its metallic quality.

Another pamphleteer who wrote on the Stamp Act was Daniel Dulany, from whose 1766 tract published in London I quote as below (page 56). In CONSIDERATIONS ON THE PROPRIETY OF IMPOSING TAXES IN THE BRITISH COLONIES, he explains to the English the difference between a fee for service, such as postage for letters, and a tax, such as the requirement to use stamped paper even if cheaper unstamped paper was available.

“This matter therefore of the Post Office may be referred to the general superintending authority of the Mother Country, the power of the provincial legislatures being too stinted to reach it. In this view, and upon the consideration of the general convenience and accommodation arising from the establishment, the people of America have not complained of it, but if this instance were more pertinent than it is, it would only prove what hath been too often proved before. When men do not suspect any designs to invade their rights, and subdolous steps taken to that end are productive of immediate convenience without pointing out their destructive tendency, they are frequently involved in ruin before they are aware of danger, or that the conduct flowing from the negligence of innocent intentions may afford a handle to men of different dispositions for the commission of oppression. Of the truth of these observations the histories of all people who have once been blessed with freedom, and lost it, exhibit abundant examples.”

What Dulany was getting at was that if the government was inconspicuous in imposing taxes, they could get away with it. The current example is how central bankers around the world depreciate their currencies while the general public complains they have trouble making ends meet and blame the merchants and landlords for inflation.

The British were too blatant about it, specifying that only British-made paper could be stamped and not American paper. If they had allowed American-made paper to be stamped, then they would have succeeded in dividing the colonists even more so than they were. (And they were divided, as seen by the United Empire Loyalists, who were forced out after the revolution and resettled in eastern Canada.)

COWTOWN SIDEWALK ART

photos by Dale Speirs

Being an old cowhand, this group of metal silhouettes of cattle in the Mission district of central Calgary strikes a chord with me. What I particularly like is the farm dog trotting along at the rear. Back on the farm, we had an assortment of

dogs over the years, ranging from German shepherds to Boston terriers to toy poodles, and one Scottish collie dog. The cattle paid little or no attention to the dogs. The poodles would yap incessantly at the cows before finally giving up and realizing the herd wasn't going to move. We also had cats, which ignored both dogs and cattle, and only paid attention to us humans if they thought we might have food.



This statue is at the west end of the downtown core. It reminds me of a rhinoceros beetle but officially it is a caribou. There are caribou in northern Alberta but none in southern Alberta.



Surprisingly, there isn't that much western art on city sidewalks. This central downtown sculpture is an abstract of a rodeo bull rider carved from local sandstone.



SEEN IN THE LITERATURE

de Bruxelles, Simon (2002-03-04) **A better class of dust falls on National Trust.** THE TIMES (London), page 3

Studies on bookshelf dust in British stately homes shows that most dust on books derives from clothing fibres of upper garments of occupants. Footwear dust seldom rises more than 20 cm above the floor. Most dust settles at the hip to shoulder level. Only very fine dust can float to the top shelves. Dusting may damage books over a long period of time because the duster erodes the paper edges.

Takikawa, Y., et al (2014) **Electrostatic guarding of bookshelves for mould-free preservation of valuable library books.** AEROBIOLOGIA 30:435-444

Authors' abstract: *"Old books are highly susceptible to mould infection, and an effective method for avoiding moulding is needed to safely preserve valuable books in library stack rooms. Guarding a bookshelf with an electric field screen is a physical method that prevents airborne spores from entering the space used for book preservation. In this study, insulated conductor wires (ICWs) were used as electrodes to form electric fields. The ICWs were arrayed in parallel and linked to each other and to a direct current voltage generator. The electric field screen consisted of two layers of ICWs, which were negatively and positively charged with equal voltages to make dipoles, ICW(-) and ICW(+). Both ICWs generated an attractive force that captured airborne spores of Penicillium digitatum that were blown inside the screen. The attractive force was directly proportional to the applied voltage. At 0.9 kV, the screen exerted sufficient force to capture all airflow-carried spores, but a few spores that were once captured were repulsed out of the electric field when subsequent spores were attracted to positions proximal to them. This phenomenon was explained by creeping discharge between spores located close to each other on the ICW surface. This spore-repulsion problem was resolved by adding an additional ICW layer to the electric field screen, namely an electric field screen with an ICW(-) layer on both sides of an ICW(+) layer. The present study demonstrated that the three-layered electric field screen remained mould-free inside a screen-guarded bookshelf, irrespective of continuous spore exposure."*

Claisse, J.T., et al (2014) **Oil platforms off California are among the most productive marine fish habitats globally.** PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES USA 111:15462–15467

Authors' abstract: *"We found that oil and gas platforms off the coast of California have the highest secondary fish production per unit area of seafloor of any marine habitat that has been studied, about an order of magnitude higher than fish communities from other marine ecosystems. Most previous estimates have come from estuarine environments, generally regarded as one of the most productive ecosystems globally. High rates of fish production on these platforms ultimately result from high levels of recruitment and the subsequent growth of primarily rockfish (genus Sebastes) larvae and pelagic juveniles to the substantial amount of complex hardscape habitat created by the platform structure distributed throughout the water column. The platforms have a high ratio of structural surface area to seafloor surface area, resulting in large amounts of habitat for juvenile and adult demersal fishes over a relatively small footprint of seafloor."*

Hennig, H. (2014) **Synchronization in human musical rhythms and mutually interacting complex systems.** PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES USA 111:12974–12979

Author's abstract: *"In his book MUSICOPHILIA, neurologist Oliver Sacks writes: "In all societies, a primary function of music is collective and communal, to bring and bind people together. People sing together and dance together in every culture, and one can imagine them having done so around the first fires, a hundred thousand years ago" (1). Sacks adds, "In such a situation, there seems to be an actual binding of nervous systems accomplished by rhythm" (2). These thoughts lead to the question: Is there any underlying and quantifiable structure to the subjective experience of "musical binding"? Here, we examine the statistical nature of musical binding (also referred to as musical coupling) when two humans play rhythms in synchrony. ... Though the music produced by an ensemble is influenced by multiple factors, including musical genre, musician skill, and individual interpretation, rhythmic synchronization is at the foundation of musical interaction. Here, we study the statistical nature of the mutual interaction between two humans synchronizing rhythms. We find that the interbeat intervals of both lay people and professional musicians exhibit scale-free (power law) cross-correlations. Surprisingly, the next beat to be played by one person is dependent on the entire history of the other*

person's interbeat intervals on timescales up to several minutes. To understand this finding, we propose a general stochastic model for mutually interacting complex systems, which suggests a physiologically motivated explanation for the occurrence of scale-free cross-correlations. We show that the observed long-term memory phenomenon in rhythmic synchronization can be imitated by fractal coupling of separately recorded or synthesized audio tracks and thus applied in electronic music."

Speirs: The reason humans became the dominant species on Earth is because they developed cultural evolution that superseded biological evolution. The universal aspect of music in every culture was that humans had to assemble in one place to perform it for its pleasing sounds that resonate in the brain. While so assembled, this also led to better communication between individuals such as an exchange of knowledge ("Stay away from the canyon; there's a big bear eating people.") to education ("If you cook the meat, you won't get sick.") to political organizing ("We elect a new chief next week to replace the one who was eaten by a bear in the canyon.") to finding mates ("I'll give you twenty pieces of gold for your daughter.").

Gaston, K.J., and J. Bennie (2014) **Demographic effects of artificial nighttime lighting on animal populations.** ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS 22:323–330

Authors' abstract: "Artificial lighting, especially but not exclusively through street lights, has transformed the nighttime environment in much of the world. Impacts have been identified across multiple levels of biological organization and process. The influences, however, on population dynamics, particularly through the combined effects on the key demographic rates (immigration, births, deaths, emigration) that determine where individual species occur and in what numbers, have not previously been well characterized. The majority of attention explicitly on demographic parameters to date has been placed on the attraction of organisms to lights, and thus effectively local immigration, the large numbers of individuals that can be involved, and then to some extent the mortality that can often result. Some of the most important influences of nighttime lighting, however, are likely more subtle and less immediately apparent to the human observer. Particularly significant are effects of nighttime lighting on demography that act through (i) circadian clocks and photoperiodism and thence on birth rates; (ii) time partitioning and thence on death rates; and (iii) immigration/emigration through constraining the movements of individuals

amongst habitat networks, especially as a consequence of continuously lit linear features such as roads and footpaths. ... Already widespread, its impact continues both to intensify and to spread, and it is likely to do so for many decades to come as the human population grows and the associated infrastructure develops. Moreover, unlike many other anthropogenic pressures, nighttime lighting constitutes a rather novel environmental change, without natural analogues, disrupting natural cycles of light and darkness that have otherwise provided rather consistent resources and sources of information for organisms for long periods of geological and evolutionary time."

Deville, P., et al (2014) **Dynamic population mapping using mobile phone data.** PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES USA 111:15888–15893

Authors' abstract: "Mobile phones (MPs) now have an extremely high penetration rate across the globe, and analyzing the spatiotemporal distribution of MP calls geolocated to the tower level may overcome many limitations of census-based approaches, provided that the use of MP data is properly assessed and calibrated. Using data sets of more than 1 billion MP call records from Portugal and France, we show how spatially and temporarily explicit estimations of population densities can be produced at national scales, and how these estimates compare with outputs produced using alternative human population mapping methods. We also demonstrate how maps of human population changes can be produced over multiple timescales while preserving the anonymity of MP users. With similar data being collected every day by MP network providers across the world, the prospect of being able to map contemporary and changing human population distributions over relatively short intervals exists, paving the way for new applications and a near real-time understanding of patterns and processes in human geography."

Speirs: What worries me is the phrase "paving the way for new applications". The ongoing obliteration of privacy for average citizens while preserving it for the authorities is always done for a good reason, even though collectively such efforts are leading to a police state. Every snowflake in the avalanche proclaims its innocence.

THE WARS OF THE WORLDS

by Dale Speirs

“Yet across the gulf of space, minds that are to our minds as ours are to those of the beasts that perish, intellects vast and cool and unsympathetic, regarded this earth with envious eyes, and slowly and surely drew their plans against us.”

H.G. Wells was one of the great pioneer writers of science fiction and needs no introduction. His novel THE WAR OF THE WORLDS (WOTW) set itself apart from other invasion fiction by having the bad guys defeated not by the brave Soldiers of the Queen, nor by a man-of-the-hour scientist whose crazy invention just might work and does with two seconds to spare, but by a basic rule of science about disease resistance.

Interpretations.

Several movies have been made, each progressively worse as they derive from their predecessors instead of the original, and a radio performance in 1938 that panicked the gullible listeners. Modern writers have rewritten or parodied the novel, or extended it by way of alternative history or secret history. There was also a television version.

It is surprising how much of the novel’s plot has been fairly used in the adaptations. The localities are different, but that is allowed because the Martian invasion was worldwide. Artistic licence also allows the story to be reset to contemporary times instead of the late 1890s, since the original novel was set in contemporary times of the author. Not all the movies and other adaptations use every element of the plot. To anyone who has read the book, the storyline follows a familiar trend, even if many of the details are violated.

Some basic elements from the novel appear again and again in the movies. The hero meets up with a soldier whose unit was wiped out in the initial fight. The hero later spends a couple of weeks traveling with a curate who gradually loses his mind over an uncaring God that would allow this to happen. There is the huddle in the basement of a ruined house as a Martian war machine sends a video tentacle into the basement to search for bipeds. The war machines use heat rays and black poisonous gas, usually converted to particle beams and green gas in the movies.

Almost all video versions quote from the novel, with a narrator intoning the

opening passage and/or the closing passage. Wells made good use of ecology and evolution, from the red weed which spreads across the world to defeating the Martians not with brave heroes but with lowly bacteria. Wells started out as a science teacher, was friends with T.H. Huxley, and his first book was a biology textbook, so he was working with principles he knew from firsthand experience.

No one seems to have wanted to film WOTW exactly as written, so the story locales have been set in the USA. This is not a problem because the invasion was worldwide and therefore can be set anywhere in subsequent retellings. The novel confines itself to England because it is told from the point of view of one man, who cannot travel far in the wreckage nor can he find news of the world as the Martians take out communication systems. Survivors of a disaster are the least informed about it because they only see what is around immediately around them, and cannot see the big picture that emergency centres can piece together.

Events such as being trapped in a basement while a Martian probe snoops through it could have, one supposes, been repeated around the world, for after all, soldiers do not bypass potential hiding places for the enemy. The main problem is that Hollywood producers seem to have a grudge against tripods, and put the invaders in other types of machines. That too, could actually be plausible, since no army invades a country with one type of truck or an air force with only one model of aircraft.

Radio.

One of the most famous radio broadcasts of any kind is the Mercury Theatre presentation of WOTW on 1938-10-30, in time for Halloween. The American public was jittery due to the constant stream of bad news from Europe as the Nazis prepared for the real war to come. Orson Welles and his Mercury players presented the story as a series of news bulletins. Radio listeners who tuned into the show from the beginning knew it was fiction, but dial hoppers who came in later thought it was real, touching off a nationwide panic. The hour-long show is available as a free mp3 from www.archive.org/details/OrsonWellesMrBruns.

THE PANIC BROADCAST (1970, mass-market paperback) is a factual account by that fateful show’s scriptwriter Howard Koch. It also includes the radio script for completists. Welles had assigned Koch the task of converting the novel into a show. After reading through the book, Koch concluded that it

was unusable for an American audience. He was traveling in New Jersey while trying to decide how to write the script. When a gas station attendant gave him a road map of the area, that settled the issue. The Martian spacecraft would land near the real-life hamlet of Grovers Mill in New Jersey, and the invasion would spread from there. The network censors forced some changes to certain places and real-life people, but the geographical areas mentioned on the show were mostly real.

Welles produced the show with characteristic genius. It started off with a fake hotel ballroom orchestra programme, interrupted by occasional news bulletins. Welles deliberately held the opening to a slow pace, then gradually sped up the pace with more and more news bulletins until the show was nothing but. The news reports were so realistic that latecomers listening to the show thought they were the truth, and a panic began.

Anyone paying attention to the details could have guessed that it was a fake but few people pay attention to details then or now. In less than an hour, the Martian rockets were observed leaving the surface of Mars, landing on our planet, and beginning the destruction of Earth. New York City was reported to be evacuated in a half hour, a logistical impossibility. Ham radio operators were heard calling out as the last survivor asked plaintively if anyone was still out there.

Initially the network and Welles took a lot of criticism for panicking Americans into believing that an invasion was underway. Sober second thought soon appeared, pointing out that if it was so easy to panic people with a patently false story, then it was just as easy for politicians to panic the people with false claims to go to war. (Things like that don't happen no more these days.) It made the reputations of both Welles and Koch.

THE WAR OF THE WORLDS MURDER (2005, mass-market paperback) by Max Allan Collins is a murder mystery novel using real-life characters. The protagonist is Walter Gibson, who wrote hundreds of stories about The Shadow for pulp magazines. He is assigned to work with enfant-terrible Orson Welles, who is having trouble preparing WOTW for his radio show. The first half of the book is basically a rewrite of THE PANIC BROADCAST with some extra Hollywood gossip thrown in. The body finally appears just before the WOTW episode is to be aired. The victim is the studio receptionist with whom Welles had a brief fling; the knife that slit her throat is engraved with his name and was last seen in his office at the Mercury Theatre.

The problem is that before the police can be called, the body disappears. As this happens a few minutes before air time, Welles, Gibson, and the producer Jack Houseman, the only ones who saw the corpse, agree there is no point in causing a ruckus until after they have the show in the bag. The show begins, and, in jumps to locales across eastern USA, so does nervousness of listeners who missed the opening announcement because they were listening to Edgar Bergen. The panic didn't start to rise until Bergen brought on a lousy musical act (Nelson Eddy singing a mediocre ballad) which triggered dial hopping just as the fake news bulletins were being broadcast.

The rising panic in the various locales is well done, particularly in those places where the radio shows says death and destruction are everywhere but the inhabitants can't see anything happening. Who are they going to believe, their eyes or what the radio says was happening? As we know in reality, the inhabitants panicked. At Grovers Mill, in real life, local inhabitants of the hamlet went out searching for Martians with a shotgun posse. They immediately spotted a Martian tripod looming over them in the dark and spent the next ten minutes firing everything they had at it. Fortunately the Grovers Mill water tower, built decades before, was well constructed and only had superficial damage.

The panic plays itself out as it did in the real world, and we are left with only the murder. This turns out to be a disappointment as Houseman and an actress were playing a prank on Welles and there was no murder. She just got up and sneaked out while everyone else's back was turned. I suppose this weak ending was needed because without a murder mystery the book would have been only a fictionalized transcription of THE PANIC BROADCAST. If you read the latter, there isn't much point in reading the novel.

Movies: 1953.

WOTW was a natural for the movies, although they frequently ignore the original details. The first film version, and still the best, was the 1953 production by George Pal. The SFX were very well done and deservedly won an Academy Award. They look good even today, and are amazing considering they were done with 1953 technology. The acting is believable and there is no forced dialogue as so commonly afflicts science fiction movies.

The movie opens with a long narration explaining why the Martians couldn't invade any other planets in the Solar System because they were not suitable for

life. The ponderous dialogue takes us on a tour of the planets, illustrated by the great Chesley Bonestell. His astronomy art stands up well with the passage of time.

The venue of this movie is southern California. Townsfolk in a rural area see a fireball come down in the hills. Some visiting scientists are roped in to look at it, while the locals get busy calculating how they can make money off the fallen bolide. The military soon show up, as reports start coming in that similar meteorites are coming down worldwide.

Hollywood producers like to fiddle with original texts, often for no reason except they can, but this movie isn't too bad for that. H.G. Wells specified that the Martian war machines walked on tripod legs. In this movie, the machines look like manta rays with a streetlight on top. The streetlight thingy is articulated and moves like a cobra, firing what are described as heat rays but which look more like particle beams. The machines emit transparent rays downward for support and movement. They don't actually fly, although they look as if they do. Each machine is held up by three rays, like invisible legs, so they are keeping the spirit of Wells, if not the actual letter of the canon. The legs are only seen with the first war machine where they flicker in and out of visibility but subsequent machines do leave footprints as they move. The machines are protected by force fields, so artillery against them is useless. As an aside, the SFX man for this movie later recreated them for the movie ROBINSON CRUSOE ON MARS, except only as flying machines.

The movie is occasionally interrupted by narration from the book as it hurries the plot through to the more interesting bits. An atomic bomb is detonated on a cluster of war machines but to no effect. A nice touch is that SFX were used to create the nuclear blast instead of replaying the same old Bikini Atoll film clip that most movies use. Even more so was that the USAF plane that dropped the bomb was a YB-49 flying wing that even today looks futuristic.

The concluding part of the movie shifts to Los Angeles, where panicky extras run about and fight for any moving vehicle that can get them out of town as the Martian war machines approach. Finally the machines begin collapsing as Earth bacteria take their toll.

Movies: DVD-Land.

A direct-to-video company The Asylum specializes in imitating big releases by other production companies, to try and upstage the real blockbusters. It seems a shame they can't produce legitimate movies because their SFX are good and the scripts are no worse than the big studio movies. In 2005, The Asylum rushed a WOTW video into release as a Steven Spielberg version was also being released in theatres. The Asylum version, while not as good as the 1953 movie, is actually better than Spielberg's movie, about which more in a moment.

The basic plot of the Asylum movie is much the same, with the addition of the usual subplots, such as the hero's domestic problems, a crazy guy who'll get his yet, and a preacher who loses his faith because of the invasion. The Martian tripods have been replaced by six-legged walkers with crab-style bodies. The Martians themselves are shown as quadrupeds. The setting this time is eastern USA.

Lots of action sequences, padded by endless shots of people running about and soldiers trying to stop the war machines with assault rifles. As is standard practice in disaster movies, there are crowd shots of panicking citizens, half of whom are running one way and the other half in the opposite direction. Normally you can tell which half are going in the wrong direction because the hero's direction is the correct one for any extras and bit players who want to make it to the end credits. This time, the hero goes away from the camera, perpendicular to the crowds. Since he is by himself, we have to conclude that everyone else is going to die no matter which way they go. And the rock will not hide you.

The hero goes on an odyssey to be reunited with his family in Washington, D.C., with a happy ending. There is a group hug in the ruins of the Lincoln Memorial while all around them Martians die off from the Earth bacteria.

Movies: Steven Spielberg.

"Steven Spielberg at his best" says the blurb on the DVD of this 2005 version. It is, contrarily, the worst version done. The SFX are fabulous but the storyline has been muted in favour of the hero's domestic problems with his kids and ex-wife, and there are blatant disregards for the canon. The initial locale is New Jersey across the harbour from New York City. The hero lives in lower-class

row housing adjacent to a freeway. The forebodings quickly show up with television reports of massive lightning storms and electromagnetic pulses (EMPs) in Ukraine and Europe, followed by localized earthquakes.

One of the electrical storms appears over New York City. The row house residents rush into their backyards to watch the fireworks. This leads to the most famous scene in the movie, for a long shot of the scene shows laundry flapping on clotheslines in almost every backyard. Spielberg obviously did this for dramatic effect to show the wind blowing into the storm, then suddenly stopping as the climax is about to occur. The unfortunate effect, though, is that the audience is wondering why no one has drying machines and also why everyone in New Jersey does their laundry on the same day. We previously saw that the neighbours drive good cars, and undoubtedly have large-screen TVs and other iGadgets, so why don't they have dryers in their basements like the rest of North America?

The lightning storm kills everyone's cars with EMPs, as well as their iGadgets. Someone shouts that there is a hole in a nearby intersection where the lightning repeatedly hit, so everyone rushes over. It is this scene that makes the greatest divergence from the canon, for what happens is that a Martian war machine slowly lifts itself out of the ground from where it was buried centuries ago. The lightning bolts were actually transporting Martians into the buried machines from a mother ship orbiting in space.

It is simply unbelievable. The SFX of the machine rising out of the ground show that it was only shallowly buried. There were thousands of them buried around the world a few metres down but we are expected to believe that no humans ever spotted them. Seismic crews have shot millions of holes that outline oil fields or mineral deposits deep underground but not one of them noticed a Martian war machine. Countless drilling rigs aiming for oil or water never hit a war machine. Utility crews never hit metal when they were digging in pipelines, and no construction contractor digging the foundations of a building ever hit a war machine with the backhoe.

A few minor points in favour of Spielberg appear. The Martian machines are the first to walk on genuine tripod legs, and they have realistic heat rays, not particle beams. What follows next in the movie is the usual odyssey across a burning landscape, as the hero and his kids travel to Boston where it is supposedly safe. We do not see the other half of the crowd traveling from Boston to New Jersey but I'm sure they were just out of camera range.

Lots of panicky mobs (the northbound ones), narrow escapes, war machines picking off bit players and extras, and the crazy guy shows up on schedule. The hero and his kids finally make it to Boston as the Martians start to die off. Cue the orchestra and a happy ending.

Movies: Fin De Siecle.

It has been noted that every cycle of genre movies ends up in parodies before dying. WOTW met its death in SCARY MOVIE 4 (2006) when it and several horror movies were done in by bad toilet humour. The plot followed the Steven Spielberg version and borrowed some of its SFX. This is a movie for teenagers, drunks, and really, really bored viewers who have nothing else to watch (or someone reviewing it for their zine, I hasten to add in self-defense). The one good moment is the backyard New Jersey scene with all the flapping laundry when someone comes out with the question that viewers asked in the Spielberg movie: "Why don't any of us have dryers?"

Literary: Other Battles Of The War Of The Worlds.

The cylinders landed everywhere, and some writers have taken advantage of this to tell stories of what happened away from the main event.

"Night Of The Cooters" (1987 April, OMNI magazine) by Howard Waldrop is based in the original time of the novel and looks at what happened to the Martian cylinders that landed in southern Texas not far from the Mexican border. Sheriff Bert Lindley is roused out of the daily torpor in his village to go look at one of them thar strange devices that killed some of Ma Atkinson's cattle and tore up the fence when it crashed. It don't take long for a shooting war to break out, but unlike elsewhere, the locals know how to use heavy rifles and aim properly. They shoot off the eyes on those death rays, use homemade land mines to cripple the walkers, and blow the heads off any Martian that tries to escape. The invaders are stalled long enough for the bacteria to take hold. The story is Slim Pickens at his best, and the cowboys know enough to aim first before firing. I've always been irritated by stories where the soldiers spray the monster or saucer with machine gun bullets and keeping spraying until they run out of ammo. None of them think to aim at the eyes or down the throat, instead of bouncing bullets off the armour plate.

Literary: Sequels.

THE SECOND WAR OF THE WORLDS (1976, mass-market paperback) by George H. Smith might have had a better plot but chose to diverge too far into fantasy. The Martian squids (with apologies to Margaret Atwood) having been stopped by bacteria, they immunize themselves but instead of attacking Earth again they step sideways into a parallel universe. From their home planet Thor in that universe, they attack Annwn, the Earth analogue. Throw in telepathy and weird science for no good reason, and the novel quickly veers into disposable literature. Two men named Mr. H. and Dr. W. also wander into the plot on Annwn, presumably not named outright to avoid any copyright claims from the Doyle Estate. And begorrah! there is far too much stage-Irish dialect and just plain stage dialogue that read like it came straight from the 1930s pulp magazines. The Martians/Thorians are disposed of in their second attack by the use of telepathy, to project into their minds the images of squids being eaten by sharks and thus demoralize them.

AND A FINAL WORD ON STAMPS

Not the America revenue stamp, though. In 1997, the US Postal Service issued a set of stamps depicting horror actors, including Bela Lugosi. The American Philatelic Society took the opportunity to brag about him being an APS member, and showed his application form in the November 1997 issue of AMERICAN PHILATELIST.

Lugosi's proposer (bottom of form) was Noel Madison, a character actor from the 1930s and 1940s who usually did gangster parts in B-movies.

8

Please Read This Blank Carefully Before Filling It Out

5-1 June 29 1942

To The American Philatelic Society:

DR. H. A. DAVIS, Secretary, 3421 Colfax "A," Denver, Colo.

I hereby apply for admission to membership in the AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY. \$2.00 admission fee is remitted herewith, together with the dues and subscription to the American Philatelist for the current fiscal year,* at the rate shown on the back of this sheet. These amounts to be refunded to me if my application is not accepted.

Name Bela Lugosi Bela Lugosi
(Applicant must sign in own handwriting—Write Legibly.)

Street 10841 Whipple Street North Hollywood, Calif
(Shortest address possible with accurate delivery.)

Town North Hollywood

State California Occupation Actor

Age 59 Specialty, if any

If in business state name of firm

Dealer? Collector? Yes Collector-Dealer?

Do you wish to Exchange with members? Yes

REFERENCES

NOTE:—The By-Laws of the Society, as referred to on the reverse side of this sheet, require each applicant to furnish references, (not a firm of which the proposer is a member) as to his character and financial responsibility, in addition to one member of the Society, who acts as proposer. A minor's guarantor, instead of the applicant, must give references. Full address and business should be given in each case.

1. Name of bank reference Security First National Bank

2. Address 5303 Lankershim Blvd North Hollywood, Calif

3. Person to contact W. Park Newcomer

4. Names of two character references:

Name Dr. Joseph Mozer

Address 3416 West Slauson Ave. Los Angeles, Calif

Connection in which you know him Dentist

Name John Boyle

Address Taft Bldg. Hollywood & Vine Sts. Hollywood

Connection in which you know him Income Tax advisor - 10 year

I herewith endorse the above application and propose:

Mr. BELA LUGOSI for membership

Proposed by Noel Madison

Membership No. 13463

*The fiscal year of the Society expires June 30th, and all annual dues are figured commencing July 1. See schedule on other side.