

GURPS[®]

TIMELINE

From the Big Bang to the Bombing of Baghdad



By Chris W. McCubbin

STEVE JACKSON GAMES

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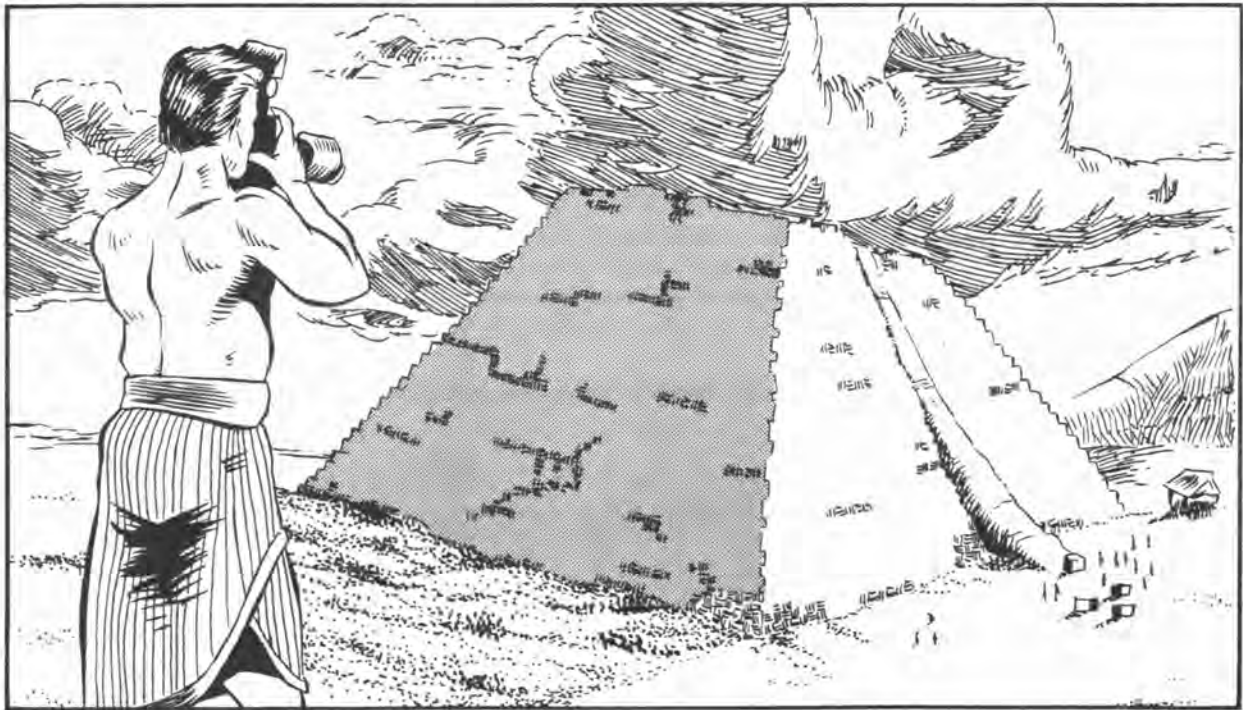
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INTRODUCTION

GURPS Timeline is a book in two parts. The three-column section that runs across the bottom of the pages is intended as a concise, comprehensive outline of human history from the Big Bang to Operation Desert Storm. It can be used by the *Time Travel* GM as a starting point for finding good plots and settings for adventures in the past.

The two-column section that runs across the top of the pages consists of more detailed "adventure seeds." Each gives an in-depth look at an event or setting of particular interest.



Time-Travel Scenarios

In literature, there are essentially three or four different time-travel plots.

The first can be called the "futuristic." In this sort of story, an observer from the present is projected into the future, and he provides a point of view which helps the reader understand the future society. Examples of this sort of tale include such varied classics as H.G. Wells' original *The Time Machine*, the comic-strip adventures of Buck Rogers, and Woody Allen's farcical movie *Sleeper*. The futuristic time-travel story is less common than it once was, however – as science fiction readers grew more sophisticated in their acceptance of the future, writers found they no longer needed anything so obvious as an observer from the present to explain what's going on.

An odd sub-genre of this type remains quite popular, though. This is the story where the modern-day protagonists do not, themselves, time travel, but they come in contact with time travelers – usually from the future – and must deal with them. Examples include Spider Robinson's *Callahan's Crosstime Saloon* stories, John Varley's *Millennium* and C.L. Moore's *The Vintage Season*.

A second type, by far the most common, can be called the "technological" time-travel story, where the emphasis is on the fact of time travel itself – the technology, or the physics, or the social or metaphysical implications of the ability to journey through time. Notable examples include Isaac Asimov's *The End of Eternity*, Robert A. Heinlein's *The Door Into Summer*, and Fritz Lieber's *The Big Time*.

The final type of story is perhaps the hardest to write. This is the "historical" time-travel story, which attempts to display the past through the eyes of a time traveler, and often to explore the changes in history which might result if modern technology or thought is introduced at a key moment. Examples include Mark Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, L. Sprague de Camp's *Lest Darkness Fall*, and Poul Anderson's excellent stories of the Time Patrol. It is this sort of adventure to which this book is devoted.

While it's never easy to create a good time-travel story, all that's required for a futuristic or technological story is writing ability and an active imagination. A historical story takes *work* – historical details need to be researched, compiled and verified.

The purpose of *GURPS Timeline* is to make this work easier for the *GURPS* Game Master. The most intimidating thing about history is its *size*.

About GURPS

Steve Jackson Games is committed to full support of the *GURPS* system. Our address is SJ Games, Box 18957, Austin, TX 78760. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) any time you write us! Resources now available include:

Roleplayer: This bimonthly magazine includes new rules, variants, new races, beasts, information on upcoming releases, scenario ideas and more. Ask your game retailer, or write for subscription information.

New supplements and adventures. We're always working on new material, and we'll be happy to let you know what's available. A current catalog is available for an SASE.

Errata. Everyone makes mistakes, including us – but we do our best to fix our errors. Up-to-date errata sheets for all *GURPS* releases, including this book, are always available from SJ Games; be sure to include an SASE with your request.

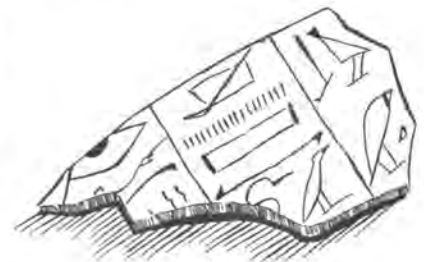
Q&A. We do our best to answer any game question accompanied by an SASE.

Gamer input. We value your comments. We will consider them, not only for new products, but also when we update this book on later printings!

BBS. For those of you who have computers, SJ Games operates a BBS with discussion areas for several games, including *GURPS*. Much of the playtest feedback for new products comes from the BBS. It's up 24 hours a day at 512-447-4449, at 300, 1200 or 2400 baud. Give us a call!

Page References

Rules and statistics in this book are specifically for the *GURPS Basic Set*, Third Edition. Any page reference that begins with a B refers to a page in the *Basic Set* – e.g., p. B102 means p. 102 of the *Basic Set*, Third Edition. Page references that begin with a TT refer to *GURPS Time Travel*.



About the Author

Chris McCubbin is a Nebraska native and a non-graduate of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, in English. He came to gaming by way of the comics industry, where he worked as an editor on Fantagraphics Books' two respected magazines, *The Comics Journal* and *Amazing Heroes*.

This book is McCubbin's fifth for SJ Games. His other books include *GURPS Callahan's Crosstime Saloon*, based on the award-winning science fiction classics by Spider Robinson, and *GURPS Fantasy Folk*, winner of the 1991 Gamer's Choice Award for best roleplaying supplement. He's also contributed to *GURPS Fantasy Adventures* and *GURPS Supers Adventures*.

In addition to being SJ Games' staff writer, he's also the editor of *Autoduel Quarterly* and the company's Art Director.

He's into good movies, fun books, decent restaurants, alternative rock music and BBSing. He lives in Austin with his wife, Lynette Alcorn, and the stereotypical cats, Polychrome, Clipper and Oliver.

Other GURPS Books

Readers of *Timeline* will also find the following *GURPS* books useful.

GURPS Time Travel is the essential sourcebook for cross-chronal adventuring. *Time Travel* presents more than a half dozen time travel and alternate reality campaigns for the GM to choose from. Yet another time-traveling campaign is presented in *GURPS Callahan's Crosstime Saloon*, based on the classic science fiction stories of Spider Robinson.

GURPS Camelot: In addition to covering the cinematic/legendary Middle Ages usually associated with King Arthur, this book also contains a detailed discussion of the historically correct Britain of the 4th century.

GURPS China: This historical world-book covers the Chinese empire from the "Yellow Emperor" to Tiananmen Square.

GURPS Cliffhangers: Edge-of-your-seat adventure between the world wars.

GURPS Conan: Based on the classic sword-and-sorcery tales of Robert E. Howard. Conan flourished in the Hyborian Age, a meticulously detailed era set in Europe, Africa and Asia 10,000 years before the dawn of current history.

GURPS High-Tech: An excellent companion to *GURPS Timeline*, *High-Tech* covers the development of technology from the 15th century to the present, with special emphasis on the evolution of firearms.

Continued on next page . . .

The Importance of the McGuffin

The term "McGuffin" was coined by the great suspense director Alfred Hitchcock. It means a plot element which exists only to allow the real action to happen.

For example, think of the familiar thriller plot, where the unwitting protagonist somehow comes into possession of a strategically vital, top-secret document. Immediately he becomes the target of one or more bloodthirsty groups who want that document at any cost. A series of narrow escapes, violent confrontations, romantic or mysterious meetings and remarkable coincidences ensue, until, at the end of the film, the hero finally manages to hand over the prodigal document to friendly authority figures and resume his normal life.

In the above case (which approximates several Hitchcock films, notably his early classic *The 39 Steps*), the document is a "McGuffin." The viewer probably has no idea, except in the vaguest possible terms, what the plans actually are *for*, and they may only be seen for a few seconds – at the film's beginning, its ending, and possibly at one or two crisis points, where they're almost lost or destroyed. They exist primarily as an abstract excuse for the exciting chases, fights and romantic encounters that are the real reason for the story to be told. Everybody remembers that in *North By Northwest*, Cary Grant had to fight for his life against a lethal cropduster in a corn field, and against gun-toting thugs on the face of Mount Rushmore, but how many viewers can remember *why* everybody was trying to kill him?

McGuffins can play a vital role in a time-travel adventure. Almost any assignment can serve as a McGuffin for an entertaining adventure. The most boring assignment imaginable ("Survey the industrial techniques and economic exchange patterns of the ceramics industry – if any – of indigenous agrarian settlements along the Dnieper river valley in the early 7th century BC," for example) can become a thrilling adventure if something goes wrong at a crucial moment. For perhaps the ultimate example of this principle in action, see Poul Anderson's "The Sorrows of Odin the Goth," one of his *Time Patrol* stories, and certainly one of the most brilliantly plotted historical time-travel stories ever written.

However, while almost anything in history can serve as a McGuffin, the best McGuffins are those which hold some sort of intrinsic interest beyond the complications they engender. "Interview and document the techniques of the architects and engineers of the granaries of Phrygia in the 10th century BC" is a perfectly valid assignment, with plenty of McGuffin potential, but "Interview and document the techniques of Imhotep, the first human scientist, later deified, the inventor of the Egyptian pyramid" – that's a mission with *cachet*.

So *GURPS Timeline* can be looked upon as a collection of particularly attractive McGuffins for the GM to choose from.

Crisis Points

In general, *GURPS Timeline* takes an elastic view of history. History is seen as a series of responses to irresistible forces that transcend the lives of mere individuals. If Lincoln had been prevented from freeing the slaves, someone else would have, just because it was slave freeing time.

Still, there are points where human history could have been forever changed in an instant. If a futuristic assassin, like the one on this book's cover, had been able to kill Hitler at the Nuremberg rallies, WWII would have gone very differently. Certainly the worst parts of the Holocaust would never have happened. Perhaps the whole Third Reich would have collapsed with the death of its leader, or perhaps saner heads than Hitler's would have taken up the reins of government and built up a solid base of German power that could have, in time, succeeded where Hitler failed in conquering all of Europe.

Several of the "adventure seeds" throughout this book are designed to point out crisis points where time meddlers would be likely to strike. In general, the author has tried to avoid the scenarios which would be most obvious and familiar to English-speaking readers. There's plenty of information available on the Third Reich, the Cuban missile crisis and the assassinations of Lincoln and Kennedy. While these events are all excellent sources for *Time Travel* adventures, we felt that the limited space in this book could best be used to point out equally important but lesser-known events – like the random and premature murder of the Caliph 'Umar in 644, which effectively ended the first wave of Moslem expansion. If 'Umar had survived another decade or two, Islam could well have dominated all of Europe and Asia by the year 1000.

One curious fact that the author discovered while researching crisis points: In general, you're more likely to change history by keeping a significant individual alive a little longer, than you are by killing him prematurely.

Other Adventure Seeds

In addition to the historical crisis points described above, there are three other types of recurring adventure seeds in this book.

The first is historical curiosities – unusual events without any particular major historical ramifications, but which will make an interesting and unusual background for an adventure.

The second is historical mysteries – those puzzling blank spots in the chronicles of history. Time-traveling researchers are in an excellent position to fill in those blanks, and the answers to the questions can be as strange as the GM cares to make them.

The final sort of adventure seed isn't really an "adventure seed" at all. Several important empires and cultures are described in (one hopes) sufficient detail to offer players a reasonable degree of authenticity if they should ever have occasion to visit, say 5th-century Persia or the Mohenjo-Daro culture of India. While there may or may not be a specific adventure idea attached to a given description, the GM can use the cultures described herein as a backdrop for many different sorts of time missions.

Research

The author is not a historian, and *GURPS Timeline* should not be taken as history for any purposes other than roleplaying games. While all the facts in this book have been checked to the best of the author's abilities, they are by no means guaranteed. If (as often happens in history) two reputable sources disagree on a given historical event, the author has made little or no effort to determine which account is most likely – instead, he's always taken the one which is most *interesting*. If the reader wants to use *GURPS Timeline* as a primary source for a history paper, he does so strictly at his own risk.

Likewise, *GURPS Timeline* devotes a fair amount of space to quasi-real events and entities – dragons, miracles, UFOs, what have you. A world with time travelers is a strange world by definition, and while none of the above might be appropriate subjects for serious history, they're all perfectly reasonable elements in science-fiction or fantasy stories, which is what a time-travel adventure really is. This book does not ask anybody to believe or disbelieve in Bigfoot or the Harmonic Convergence – it just offers them as possible adventure hooks for a *GURPS Time Travel* campaign.

Finally, *Timeline* focuses on some of the more obscure arenas of history. Events and places that may seem strange to the average reader, like Ibn Battutah's travels or the African kingdom of Aksum, can provide the most interesting roleplaying opportunities and the best adventures.



Other GURPS Books (Continued)

GURPS Horror: In addition to lots of scary stuff, this book also contains information on roleplaying in the Victorian Era and the 1920s.

GURPS Ice Age: From Australopithecus to the Cro-Magnon, this is the most comprehensive guide to prehistoric roleplaying ever written.

GURPS Imperial Rome: A complete guide to the greatest civilization of antiquity, from the founding of the Republic to the fall of the Empire.

GURPS Japan: The Empire of the Sun, from shoguns and samurai to ninja and yakuza.

GURPS Middle Ages 1: The history of England, from the foundation of the Saxon Kingdoms to the Renaissance. **Middle Ages 2** will cover the rest of Europe during the Medieval period.

GURPS Old West: A comprehensive gamer's guide to the opening of the American frontier.

GURPS Riverworld: Based on the famous novels by Philip José Farmer, the Riverworld is a place where every human being who ever lived is resurrected simultaneously. *Riverworld* GMs can use *Timeline* as a place to find background and origins for interesting PCs and NPCs.

GURPS Robin Hood: The adventures of the legendary outlaw during the reign of Richard I, plus "alternate Robins" in 17th-century Scotland, the American frontier and other, even stranger settings.

GURPS Scarlet Pimpernel: Based on the classic adventure novels of the Baroness Orczy. The Scarlet Pimpernel was an English nobleman who rescued French nobility from the Reign of Terror that followed the French Revolution.

GURPS Swashbucklers: Pirates and Musketeers for *GURPS*, from film and history.

GURPS Vikings: An in-depth look at the Northmen who terrorized Europe during the Dark Ages.

ADVENTURE SEEDS

The Genesis Bug

-1 Billion

Scientists can only guess at the form of the earliest earthly life. If a time machine had sufficient range, scientists would certainly want to send researchers back to dip a ladle or two into the primordial soup.

And what if some primeval bacterium were, through malice or incompetence, released into the modern environment? Probably it would simply expire in a few seconds . . . but suppose it flourished? Suppose it could feed freely off present organisms, and all the natural controls that held it in check in its own time were aeons past? If allowed to spread unchecked, it could take over everything, undoing a billion years of evolution in months, days or hours.

If the proto-bacteria is released by accident, the PCs could face the challenge of containing the contamination or perhaps returning in time to find a natural counteragent – and pray that the cure isn't worse than the plague. Matters could be complicated by having a specimen of The Genesis Bug fall into the hands of Stopwatch or some other terrorist organization, who use it as a threat to keep the PCs out of their affairs. More fanatic groups might attempt to use it to annihilate history sometime in the past, with only the PCs standing in their way.

Several variations on this theme are possible. If time travelers

were to unleash modern bacteria into the ecosystem at the dawn of time, it would certainly change evolution in fundamental and unpredictable ways – in fact, such an intervention would be very close to a time traveler's worst-case scenario.

Dinosaur Rustlers

-200 Million

In a time-traveling society, the return of the dinosaurs seems inevitable. However, the reintroduction of these creatures into the ecosystem – particularly an ecosystem as fragile as ours – poses serious problems.

It seems certain, therefore, that breeding and sale of dinosaurs would be strictly controlled. And not just the big monsters, either. Smaller dinosaurs are actually more likely to wreck the ecology by displacing some common and essential modern species (compare the consequences of introducing rabbits to Australia to the consequences of introducing camels to Florida).

The actual temporal importation of dinos is likely to be a strict government monopoly. If time travel itself is a government monopoly, then no problem. But if time travel is somewhat more accessible, a whole campaign could be built up with the PCs as Jurassic game wardens, assigned to locate and shut down wily time-traveling rustlers, in addition to facing the dramatic natural dangers of the age of reptiles.

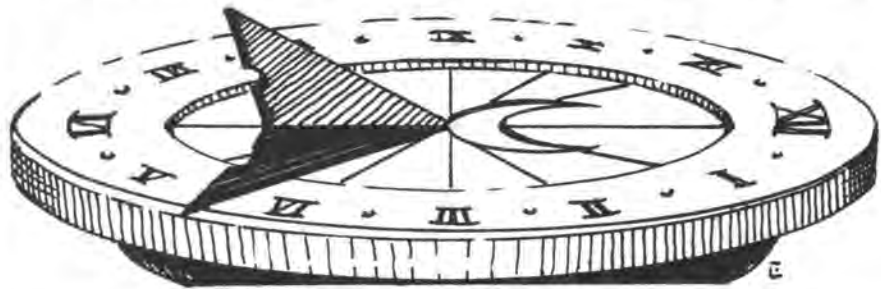
USING THE TIMELINE

Throughout *GURPS Timeline* this space will be devoted to a running chronology of the history of the world. Though a few "mythical" dates have been included, by and large the chronology is reserved for things that really happened . . . or, at least, historians' best guesses about what really happened.

While it is impossible for this chronology to give all the information the GM needs to run an adventure during any historical time period (though it can help with a short stop in any given period), GMs will find it useful in several ways.

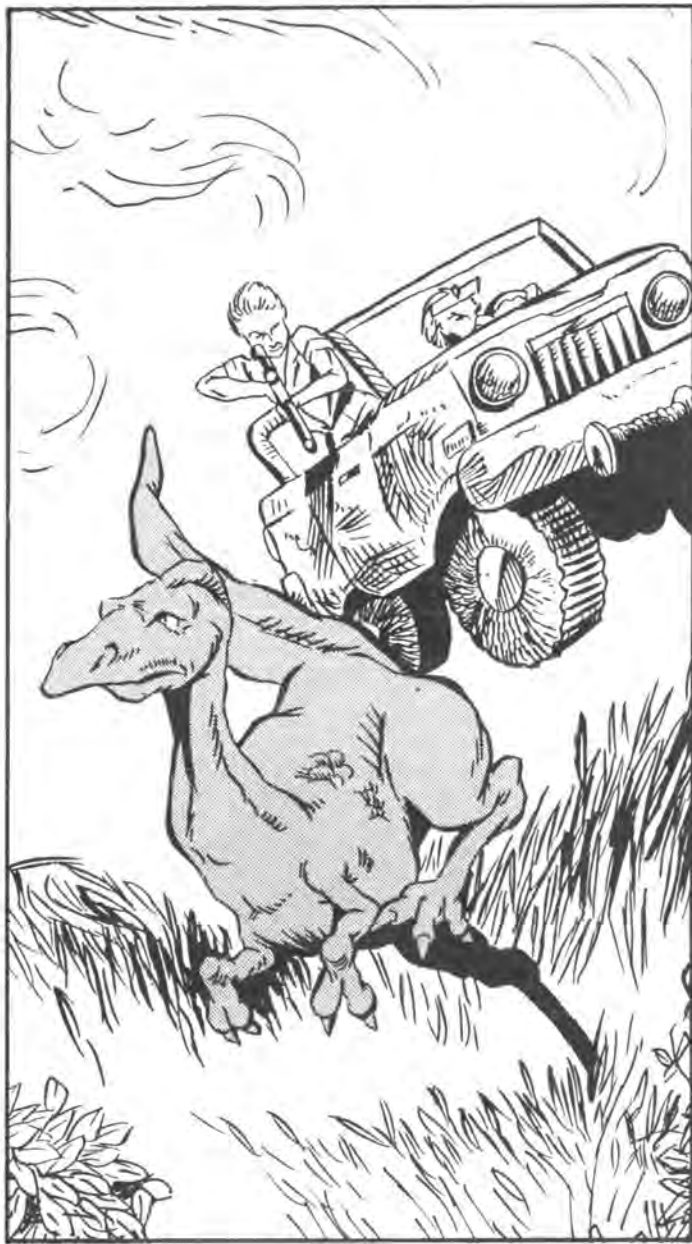
First, the Chronology is intended to provide a sense of history. Many detailed references focus rather narrowly on their immediate subject. The timeline can help the GM with such cross-cultural calls as what a traveler from India would have on his mind during the Napoleonic era, or what direction a fugitive from the Egypt of the Middle Kingdom would have to flee to find something besides savages and wasteland.

Secondly, the chronology provides countless adventure seeds for the GM. It should be remembered that an adventure



does not have to have an exciting-sounding purpose in order to actually be exciting. If, for instance, the adventurers are escorting a professor of philosophy to the year 1770 to interview Scottish philosopher David Hume, they will find countless chances to run afoul of highwaymen, Highlanders or the intrigues of Georgian England. A long and exciting campaign could be built around a mathematical historian's quest for the origin of the mathematical concept zero – if the time travelers aren't very careful, they're liable to find that the ancients got the idea from the historian's questions! And, of course, the brief references in the Chronology can suggest topics worthy of detailed research.

Finally, the Chronology includes many interesting supplemental details and NPCs for the GM to add to the game. An encounter with the likes of Beau Brummell or John Belushi can do much to enliven an otherwise pedestrian gaming session, and a textbook on the Civil War is unlikely to mention popular composer Stephen Foster, the young Thomas Alva Edison, or the recent publication of Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, any one of which could be used by an imaginative GM. The chronology can also come in handy if the GM needs to quickly determine whether the offended noble is more likely to pursue on foot or in chariots, or if the Emperor's guards will be armed with bows or guns.



The GM is free to complicate the situation as much as he wants. Perhaps dinosaur importation is unrestricted by some eras/regimes, completely regulated in others. DNA replication of dinosaurs is much less of an ecological danger than temporal importation (since, as noted in *The Genesis Bug*, the parasites on the dinosaurs pose more of a threat to the modern ecology than the dinos themselves) – but how does someone tell the difference between an import and a clone?

It should be noted that, from a strictly scientific viewpoint extinct mammals probably pose a greater risk to a modern ecology than dinosaurs – but dinosaurs are just more *fun* to build an adventure around. In practice, the GM is free to use mammals, dinos, trilobites or any other extinct creature that catches his fancy.

Eve

-200,000

In the 1980s, biologists analyzed the mitochondrial DNA of people from around the globe. They deduced that all humans had a common female ancestor who lived not more than 200,000 years ago. Inevitably, this theoretical ancestor was nicknamed “Eve.”

The theory was controversial when put forth, and has suffered further in the intervening years. To the GM, though, the idea is almost irresistible – what if Eve really existed, and what if she could be *found*?

In this scenario, the research scientists have located Eve within narrow spatio-temporal confines – say plus or minus 25 years, within an area of 10,000 square miles in Northern Africa or the Mideast. The PCs are assigned to identify Eve, document her life and environment, and perhaps procure her physically for certain biological tests. The challenges of this adventure involve subtlety, rather than danger – it is of the utmost importance that Eve not be harmed, or her life be interfered with in any important way. And who can say what is “important” to the mother of the entire race?

Neanderthal Rock

-75,000

Little is known about *Homo sapiens neanderthalensis*. They flourished for more than 250 millennia and spread over much of Europe, Africa and Asia. During this time, they laid many of the foundations of human culture – toolmaking, firemaking, art, religion and more.

Historical Chronology

-15 billion

The Big Bang. Creation of the universe.

-4.6 billion

Earth and solar system were formed by this time.

-4.2 billion

Origin of life.

-3.5 billion

Blue-green algae, simple prokaryote bacteria; oxygen enters atmosphere.

-1.4 billion

Complex eukaryote bacteria.

-800 million

First multicellular organisms.

-600 million

Organisms begin to develop parts hard enough to leave fossils. All modern phyla except the chordates (to which man belongs) are in existence.

-570 million

Cambrian; first invertebrates, trilobites.

-550

Chordates evolve.





And that's almost all we know. Scientists aren't even sure if we're their descendants or just close cousins.

One of the more intriguing facts about the Neanderthals is that their ratio of cranial capacity to size – normally an excellent indicator of animal intelligence – is actually marginally *greater* than that of modern man (though Neanderthal brains were configured differently than modern brains, with the bulk of their mass in the forebrain).

Scientists are naturally restrained about reading too much into this, but GMs can let their imaginations go. It seems certain that *Homo sapiens sapiens* is a better toolmaker than the Neanderthals, but perhaps Neanderthals are more spiritually advanced than modern man. Maybe they never evolved civilization or a complex technology because they were so at peace with their environment and themselves that they never felt a need for such things.

In a time-traveling culture, Neanderthal shamans might be revered as gurus and religious teachers (and the GM should remember that the Neanderthals don't have to *really* be as spiritually advanced as their followers believe they are).

Or perhaps Neanderthal brains were even stranger yet. Maybe the Time Patrol regularly recruits Neanderthal agents, who are technologically inept, but gifted with powerful psionic abilities.

Neanderthal Time Agents

(This is not an "official" addition to any of the published campaign types from *GURPS Time Travel*. Psionic Neanderthal time agents can be incorporated into any campaign, or ignored, as the GM wishes.)

Neanderthal humans are regularly "recruited" by the Time Service for field duty. Despite marked ineptness with spoken

-500 million to -1 million

-500 million

Ordovician; mollusks, jawless fishes.

-435 million

Silurian; fishes with jaws and first land plants.

-410 million

Devonian; insects, amphibians.

-360 million

Mississippian; reptiles appear, giant insects.

-330 million

Pennsylvanian; reptiles continue to develop.

-290 million

Permian; seed plants evolve, trilobites die out.

-240 million

Triassic; first dinosaurs, turtles, crocodiles.

-220 million

First mammals.

-205 million

Jurassic; birds, largest dinosaurs.

-200 million

Pangaea begins to split into present continents.

-138 million

Cretaceous; horned and armored dinosaurs.

-100 million

Placental mammals, who give birth to live, fully-formed infants, evolve.

-70 million

First primates appear.

-63 million

Paleocene; dinosaurs extinct (possibly due to global cooling following a cometary collision), mammals dominate.

-55 million

Eocene; horses, camels.

-38 million

Oligocene; first monkey-like animals.

-30 million

Tailless anthropoid apes.

-24 million

Miocene; mammals continue to diversify.

-17 million

Early great apes.

-12 million

Ramapithecus diverges from human evolutionary line.

-6 million

Human line diverges from chimp and gorilla lines.

-5 million

Pliocene; human-like apes.

-4 million

Australopithecus afarensis appears in east Africa.

-2.5 million

Australopithecines develop first stone tools.

-2 million

Pleistocene; humans evolve, ice ages occur. *Homo habilis* fossils date from this time.

-1.75 million

First bone point is made.

-1.65 million

Homo erectus appears.

-1.5 million

Homo habilis becomes extinct; hand axe invented.

-1 million

Cooperative hunting; spear invented; language begins to develop.

Australopithecines become extinct.

language and technology, the Neanderthals are valued for their psionic ability.

Neanderthal "recruits" are normally infants or children under the age of two. Older Neanderthals are usually too acclimated to their own culture to ever feel comfortable in ours. In the first attempts at Neanderthal recruitment, there was a mortality rate of more than 75% – the children apparently died of sheer loneliness. Now, the time service keeps a trained staff of Neanderthal "nannies" (of both sexes) who meet the recruits' need for psionic communication. This has almost eliminated death due to "culture shock."

A Neanderthal time agent has ST+2 and IQ-1. He cannot master any spoken or written language with a skill greater than 10. A Neanderthal begins to age at 40, and aging accelerates at 50 and 60. It costs 10 points to play a Neanderthal time agent, plus the cost of any Unusual Background the GM finds appropriate for the race's psionic abilities.

A Neanderthal can purchase Telepathy (and any other psionic abilities the GM deems appropriate for his campaign). Most Neanderthals have Telepathy power of 5 to 10, though exceptional individuals with much higher power are not uncommon. Most time agents are trained to a skill level of IQ+2 (see below).

The racial -1 to IQ does *not* apply to psionic skills. Also, when a Neanderthal is "speaking" telepathically, his language skill is considered to be equal to his Telepathy skill.

Adult Neanderthals other than trained agents who are dragged along on a time mission, for any reason, have the Primitive disadvantage at the appropriate level relevant to the Time Service's home TL, with all the attendant problems. They may also have more social or psychological disadvantages stemming from the

shock of time travel. These additional effects should be much less severe if the Neanderthal accompanied the time travelers willingly, or if there's a Neanderthal time agent present to help him past the rough spots.

Operation Lascaux

-15,000

One of the true wonders of the prehistoric world is the magnificent collection of cave paintings at Lascaux, above the Vézère valley near Montignac, France. They depict thousands of animals (including some apparently mythical beasts, but only a few humans) in glorious color.

Painted perhaps over as many as 2,000 years, by Cro-Magnon hunters who seem to have had a very simple culture, the artistic sophistication and durability of the Lascaux paintings staggers the modern imagination.

The painters were completely human, and a modern man could easily pass himself off as a member of another tribe in the region, cut off from his own people. This is probably the earliest *known* time and location that time travelers could successfully infiltrate a primitive culture – to study them without serious risk of discovery. Meddlers should note, however, that visible anachronism at Lascaux presents a risk – somebody might sketch the helicopter or blaster for posterity.

The PCs' mission in a Lascaux adventure is to observe and record the production of the paintings and the society that produced them. But the challenge is simply to stay alive at TLO, while joining and observing a primitive and suspicious culture. Of course, cybernetics and miniaturized or camouflaged technological assistance are a distinct possibility.

-800,000 to -32,000

-800,000 to -700,000

Fire domesticated; earliest hearth fires found in China.

-550,000 to -330,000

Man learns to make fire. Earliest bone tool kit and simple clothing.



-300,000

Early man (*Homo sapiens neanderthalensis*) appears; *erectus* becomes extinct.

-280,000 to 130,000

Development of true spoken language and animistic religion.

-200,000

"Eve," theoretical female ancestor of all modern human beings, lives. See p. 7. Burial of the dead begins.

-150,000 to 125,000

Pre-Chellean culture in Europe uses flint tools.

-100,000

Chellean culture learns to shape flint. Neanderthal craftsman creates the earliest known ornament – a decorative amulet made from a piece of mammoth's tooth – in Hungary.

-79,000

Simple stone lamps are made.

-75,000

Acheulean culture in Europe develops specialized flint tools.

Heavy clothing and the first spear throwers developed.

-50,000

Homo sapiens sapiens (modern man) appears.

-42,000

Legendary date for the first Sumerian kings.



-40,000

Aborigines arrive in Australia. Mousterian culture in Europe learns to skillfully flake flint to make tools.

-35,000

Development of totemism.

-32,000

Neanderthal man vanishes.

Immigrant Song

-12,000

One of the great enigmas of human history is the influx of stone-age humanity to the Americas – when, who and why.

Humans were in modern New Mexico by 10,000 BC, and there is strong evidence that they were even as far south as Chile by that time – or even a millennium or two earlier. The question is, how much sooner than that did they first enter the New World?

It's generally accepted that humans entered the Americas from Asian Siberia, via an ice bridge that existed from 30,000 to 12,000 BC. No artifacts or sites have been found that reliably date to before 10,000 BC, but there is some evidence of humans in South America before 20,000 BC, and some scientists even believe humans have been in America for as long as 150,000 years.

As with Lascaux, the PCs might be tempted to join the intrepid humans who first crossed the ice shelf from Siberia – but the real challenge might be to find them first.

Lost Continents

-9500

One of the most intriguing and durable pseudo-historical concepts is the idea of the lost continent, where an advanced civilization was lost forever when the entire country vanished beneath the waves in a watery armageddon.

Atlantis

The lost continent of Atlantis was discussed by no less an authority than Plato, the father of modern rational philosophy, in his *Dialogs* "Critias" and "Timaeus." Plato said that the Atlanteans were a powerful and advanced people, living on a

large island in the mid-Atlantic. But after they invaded Athens about 9500 BC, the gods became angry at their pride, materialism and aggression and sunk the continent. Plato claimed to have gotten this story from priests of an ancient cult in Egypt. It was considered improbable even in his time – Aristotle tried to debunk it.

The idea of Atlantis was revived in the popular imagination in 1882, with the publication of *Atlantis: The Antediluvian World* by U.S. Congressman Ignatius Loyola Donnelly. Donnelly theorized that mutual trade with Atlantis explained certain cultural similarities between early Eurasian and American civilizations.

Over the decades, the idea of Atlantis became increasingly elaborate and fantastical. One intriguing idea is that the Atlanteans still survive, under the sea, living as Mermen or aquatic humanoids. The early science fiction writers of the 1930s through the '60s were fond of portraying Atlantis as a technological utopia of Tech Level 6 or 7, or even higher.

Mu

Mu was apparently the invention of Colonel James Churchward, a former Bengal Lancer and big game hunter, who claimed to have learned of the lost continent (a vast 6,000 miles by 3,000) from hidden clay and stone tablets in India, revealed to him by a Hindu priest. There is absolutely no hard evidence for the existence of these tablets. Churchward wrote four books on Mu, beginning in 1870.

Churchward's ideas received independent confirmation from Augustus Le Plongeon, an important early archaeologist who was the first to excavate Mayan ruins in the Yucatan. Le Plongeon

-30,000 to -6250

-30,000 to -25,000

"Age of art" begins.

European peoples carve tallies in bone.

Fired ceramics appear in Czechoslovakia, although ceramics will not be used to make pots for another 20,000 years.

-25,000 to -20,000

Cave paintings portray dancers and musicians.

Primitive geometric designs found.

Venus cult arises.

Boomerang invented in Poland, 13,000 years before first Australian boomerangs.

Aurignacian culture – the first Cro-Magnon culture in Europe – learns to make tools from bone.

Sewing needle in France, tailored clothing in Soviet Union.

Bow and arrow possibly appears in Spain and northern Sahara (other evidence suggests the bow did not appear until as late as 8000 BC).

-20,000 to -10,000

Beginning of agriculture.

Solutrean culture in Europe learns to make very sharp stone and bone tools and weapons.

Bone calendars made in Israel and Jordan.

Bone map made in USSR.

Rope in use.

Last ice age begins to retreat.

-18,000

Paleolithic culture in Egypt.

-16,000

Magdalenian culture in Europe develops very fine bone, ivory and horn tools, and creates more sophisticated art.

-15,000

Lascaux cave paintings created.

Dogs domesticated.

-12,000 to -10,000

Humans cross land bridge from Siberia to America (some theories hold that the first immigration of humans was much earlier). By -12,000, they have spread from Alaska, to the East Coast, to Chile and Peru.

Goats domesticated.

-12,000 to -10,000

Glaciers recede.

Jomon people in Japan use pottery – the earliest-known extensive ceramics industry in the world.

Reindeer and cattle domesticated.

Sinking of Mu, lost continent in the Pacific, according to Colonel James Churchward.

-10,000 to present

Holocene, the current geologic era; civilized humanity.

-10,000 to -9000

Houses of sun-dried brick without mortar constructed in Jericho.

Neolithic culture in Egypt.

-9500

Destruction of Atlantis, according to Plato. The Thosophists will later pin the date down to -9564.

-9000 to -8000

First boats.

Proto-Mayan peoples make astronomical inscriptions and constructions in Central America.

-8000 to -7000

Floodwater agriculture used in Nile Valley.

Earliest known wall built around the city of Jericho.

-7500

Sinking of the continent of Mu, according to Augustus le Plongeon.

-7000 to -6000

Earliest known clay pottery, woven mats and woven cloth.

-6250

Çatal Hüyük founded in modern Turkey. Until it is abandoned in -5400, it will be the largest city in the Near East. It's a major trading center for obsidian, a material essential for stone-age technology.

claimed to have translated Mayan documents which indicate that the Mayans and the Egyptians were the descendants of the "Muvians." These chronicles, like Churchward's tablets, are completely unconfirmed.

Churchward located Mu in the Pacific Ocean, centered just south of the equator. Humans were said to have arrived there 200,000 years ago, and the sinking was dated to 12,000 BC. The Muvians were said to have numbered as many as 60 million individuals in ten tribes.

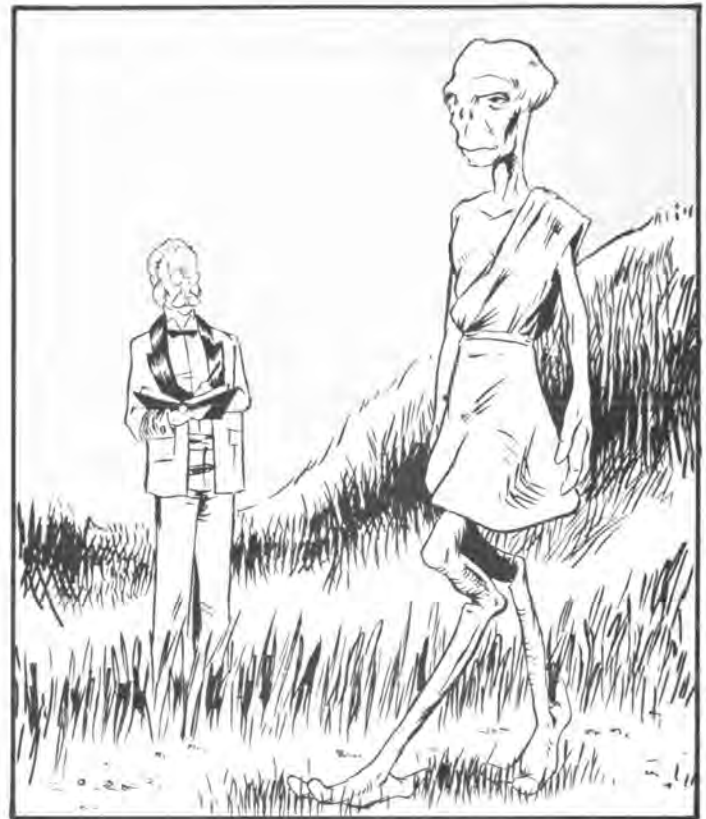
Lemuria

Lemuria was originally proposed as a serious scientific theory to explain certain apparent ambiguities in the evolution of the lemur (hence the name). Lemuria was said to be a land mass in the Indian Ocean which linked India and Madagascar.

When the concept fell into the hands of Madame Blavatsky and her Theosophic Society, however, Lemuria became the strangest of all the lost continents. It was said to be the home of the "third root race of humanity" – monstrous, psionically-potent beings 15 feet tall.

Lemuria was never precisely dated. Blavatsky regarded it as the true Garden of Eden.

Robert E. Howard made imaginative use of all three lost continents in the pseudo-history he concocted for his tales of Conan and Kull (see *GURPS Conan*). The GM can incorporate any or all of them into his campaign, if he's willing to take a freewheeling approach to history. The lost continents would perhaps fit in best in a mystical campaign, like the Order of the Hourglass from *GURPS Time Travel*.



-6000 to -3500

-6000 to -5000

Chinchorro Indians of Peru produce human mummies that survive to present.

Last land bridge between England and Europe submerged.

Wrought metals in use – copper used in a lake dwelling at Robenhausen, Switzerland.

Farming villages established on Crete.

-5000 to -4000

Susa and Kish effectively civilized by -4500.

Sumerians have sailing ships.

Stone houses built on Guernsey Island in English Channel.

Egyptians mine and smelt copper – bronze-age culture in Egypt.

Grain cultivated in Egypt.

-4754

Traditional Chinese date for the beginning of the world.

-4241

Beginning of Egyptian calendar. First precisely recorded date in history.

-4004

In the 17th century A.D., Bishop James Ussher will put forth this date as the date of the creation of the world according to Genesis. Specifically, he will cite Oct. 21 (a Sunday) at 9 AM as the exact moment of creation.

-4000 to -3500

Ur and Babylon founded in Mesopotamia.

Mesopotamians invent beer, kiln-fired bricks.

Chinese cultivate rice.

Primitive plows in use in China, cattle-drawn plows used in Mesopotamia.



Japanese legends place their earliest kings, Fu Hsi and Shen Nung, around this time.

Egyptians and Sumerians smelt silver and gold. Bronze age in Sumeria.

Egyptians begin to use papyrus boats.

Sumerians begin to use oars to propel their ships.

Harps and flutes played in Egypt.

Horsemen from Kurgan culture in southern Russia migrate to east central Europe, bringing Indo-European language and male gods, and displacing the earlier cultures of the Venus cult.

-3760

First year of Hebrew calendar.

-3500 to -3000

Wheel invented.

Troy founded in modern Turkey.

Temples built in Mesopotamia.

Potters' wheel invented in Mesopotamia.

Egyptian hieroglyphics developed.

First known numerals used in Egypt.

Papyrus boats in use on the Nile.

Neolithic period in western Europe (to -1700).

Metal smelting discovered – bronze age in Bohemia.

Masons and smiths become craftsmen.

Sumerians use wheeled vehicles.

Linen produced in Middle East.

Plowing, raking and manuring used in Egypt.

Welcome to Jericho

-8000

The city of Jericho – currently an almost-abandoned small town in disputed West Bank region between Israel and Jordan – is of great interest to the time traveler as the longest continually-occupied urban site in the world. 10,000 years ago Jericho was a thriving walled city that had already been inhabited for a millennium. The first citizens of Jericho were agricultural, but they didn't have the arts of pottery or metal-working.

Jericho was never the largest or most important city in the world. Even in the Stone Age it was eclipsed first by nearby 'Ain Ghazal, which flourished from 7200 to 5000 BC, then by the even greater Çatal Hüyük (pronounced "Chatal Huooyook") in Southern Turkey, which was the largest city in the world from 6250 to 5000 BC. Jericho has been captured and incorporated into countless empires. It was never a major capitol, but eventually each empire vanished . . . and Jericho went on.

The city's fortunes have waxed and waned over the millennia. It was inhabited only sporadically from 6000 to 3000 BC, and was a nomad camp from 2300 to 1900 BC. Since Roman times it has been little more than a village, except for brief spans of relative importance as a Crusader fortress, a British resort community in the 1920s, and a refugee center in the 1950s. Jericho has been largely uninhabited since the Arab-Israeli War of 1967, due to the precarious situation on the West Bank.

Jericho has moved around several times in its vast history. The Old Testament city, Roman city and Crusader city are all distinct sites within a mile or two of one another. The current town is built on the site of the Crusader city.

The Sumerians

-3000

The first human civilization was Sumeria. This was not a nation in the modern sense (at least, not until late in its history), but rather a loose aggregation of at least 12 walled, independent city-states in Mesopotamia. The known Sumerian cities are Kish, Erech, Ur, Lagash, Sippar, Akshak, Larak, Nippur, Adab, Umma, Bad-tibira and Larsa. The cities shared a common language, background and culture. Each city had its own god, worshipped from a temple in the center of the city. Initially the cities were ruled by the people, but as tensions between the cities inevitably rose, they one-by-one adopted kings, for self protection – the central authority provided by a strong despotic leader greatly increased the efficiency and effectiveness of the national military.

The origins of Sumerian civilization are difficult to pin down. Between 4500 and 4000 BC the area was settled by an advanced non-Semitic people whom archaeologists have dubbed the Ubaidians. They brought trade, metalwork, pottery and other trappings of civilization to the area.

The real Sumerian people, however, arrived in Mesopotamia about 3300 BC. Their origins are mysterious, but they might have come from the Anatolia region of Turkey.

By 3100 BC, the Sumerians had given the world its first written language, thanks to their invention of the cuneiform alphabet. The first Sumerian pictographs were crude, but the language continued to advance in sophistication until it was abandoned about 2000 BC. A search for the origins of the idea of writing would make a fascinating time mission.

The Sumerian cities were first unified by Etana, king of Kish,

-3500 to -2200

-3500 to -3000 Continued

Candles in use.

35'-tall ziggurat in Ur shows Sumerians were familiar with columns, domes, arches and vaults.

-3300

Semitic people move into Mesopotamia and begin to establish the 12 city-states of the Sumerian civilization.

-3250

Newgrange Tumulus built in Ireland; this circular building remains the oldest intact building on the earth today.

-3114

World created on August 13, according to Mayan mythology. The end of the world is predicted for Dec. 24, 2011 AD.

-3,100

First dynasty in Egypt – Narmer unifies north and south kingdoms.

Sumerians invent cuneiform writing.

-3000 to -2500

Height of Sumerian civilization.

Sumerians write religious poetry and introduce polytheistic pantheon.

Pharaoh comes to be regarded as a god. Systematic astronomical observations begin.

Bronze used in Crete.

First iron objects manufactured.

Elephants domesticated in India.

Wrestling first highly-organized sport.

Metal coins begin to replace barley as legal tender in Mesopotamia.

Metal mirrors in Egypt.

-2903

King Urukagina reforms Sumerian city of Lagash, leaving behind the first recorded code of laws.

-2900

Zenith of the Harappan, or Mohenjo-Daro culture in India.

Babylonians predict eclipses.

-2800

First version of Stonehenge built.

-2738 to -2644

Long reign of Pharaoh Pepi II.

-2700 to -2625

Cheops, builder of the great pyramid.

-2697

Huang Ti, "The Yellow Emperor," traditional first Chinese emperor, comes to the throne. According to legend, his wife Lo Tsu is the first to unroll a cocoon and make silk.

c. -2650

Historical Gilgamesh lives. The earliest Gilgamesh epics will appear within 250 years.

-2630 to -2610

Career of Imhotep, Egyptian physician and architect (later deified), regarded as the first known scientist.

-2600

King Snefra orders Egyptian naval expedition to Lebanon, to buy cedar.

-2500 to -2000

First libraries in Egypt.

Dolmen period in Scandinavia.

Egyptians discover papyrus.

Domesticated cats in Egypt.

Bow and arrow used in warfare.

-2474 to -2398

Golden age of Ur; code of law instituted.

-2334 to -2279

Sargon unites Sumeria and Akkad to create the first known empire.

-2333 to -2234

Traditional life of semi-legendary Chinese Emperor Yao, who tried unsuccessfully to control the flooding of the Yellow River.

-2296

Earliest recorded comet sighting in China.

-2200

Pharaoh Sahuê sends Egyptian fleet in search of the land of Punt, on the east coast of Africa. Punt's exact location is no longer known – possibly modern Mozambique.

Egyptian Old Kingdom ends in turmoil.

Unrest among the Sumerian city-states.

Indo-European people conquer many of the coastal settlements of Greece.

about 2800 BC, but no one city could hold dominion over the others for more than a generation or two. Later the Sumerian cities became the largest part of Sargon's first empire (see below). Sargon's empire only lasted about 100 years, after which the Sumerian cities returned to autonomy. The final zenith of the civilization occurred about 2100 BC, during what has been dubbed the Ur III dynasty. Sumeria ceased to exist as a distinct political entity in 2004 BC, when the Elamites conquered the region.

The Mystery of Mohenjo-Daro

-2900

The Harappan, or Mohenjo-Daro civilization (the two names are taken from the two most notable cities so far excavated) flourished on the banks of the Indus river during the third millennium BC.

The Harappan civilization was technologically sophisticated. Its major cities have the most advanced plumbing and sewage systems of the age. Their architecture seems to reveal an intensely practical culture – the largest and most ornate buildings are not temples and tombs, but public halls and baths. The Harappans seem to have devoted little time to art, but what art they did leave was elegant and sophisticated, and seems to be decorative rather than ritualistic in nature.

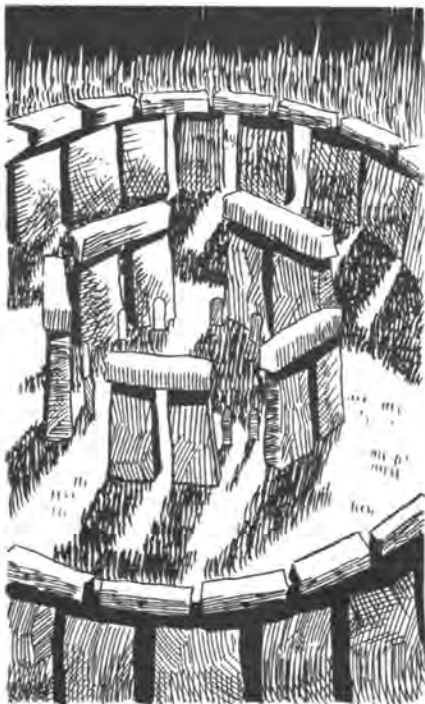
Many historians believe that the city of Mohenjo-Daro came to a sudden and bloody end. Sometime around 2500 BC, Aryan invaders swept through the city, slaughtering the inhabitants and leaving them where they died. Many believe that an account of this conquest (told from the invaders' point of view) can be found



-2184 to -1700

-2184

Emperor Yu of China learns to control the flooding of the Yellow River, and founds the Hsia dynasty.



-2100

Stonehenge in present form.

-2050 to -1800

Middle Kingdom in Egypt.

-2100

Abraham leaves Ur.

-2000 to -1500

Hittites in Asia Minor attack and plunder Babylon.

Pharaoh Mentuhotep launches a second expedition to Punt, under the leadership of an official named Henu.

Pharaoh Sesostri I extends Egyptian dominion into Nubia (modern Northern Sudan).

Teutonic settlements in Norway.

Cecrops, traditional first king of Attica in Greece.

Earliest known novel, *Story of Sinuhe*, written in Egypt.

Egyptians collect religious writings into *Book of the Dead*.

Bronze age in Britain.

Medical knowledge includes eye surgery in Babylon, contraception in Egypt.

First of seven periods of Chinese literature (to -600).

Natural world divided into Earth, Air, Fire and Water in India.

-1950

Founding of the Park of Intelligence, the first Zoo in China.

Cretan palace of Minos introduces indoor bathrooms with a water supply.

-1900

Communities on Crete consolidate into a unified state.

Mesopotamian mathematicians discover the Pythagorean Theorem.

-1887 to -1849

Sesostri III, greatest ruler of Egypt's Middle Kingdom, divides Egypt into three parts, each with its own governor, and invades Canaan.

-1800

Amorites take over the city of Babylon – beginning of Babylonian ascendancy.

Sedentary farming villages spring up across Mesoamerica.

Coastal communities along the Andean coast begin to coalesce into a civilization. Llama domesticated.

-1750

Code of Hammurabi defines earliest known formal legal system.

Babylonians under Hammurabi collect star catalogs and planetary records.

Multiplication tables appear in Mesopotamia.

-1700

Minoan palace at Knossos destroyed by earthquake.

This century marks the apex of Minoan civilization.

Ahmes, an Egyptian scribe, affixes his name to a papyrus dealing with the solution of simple equations; the papyrus was probably copied from an earlier document dating from about 1,825 B.C.

in the *Rig-Veda*, the earliest Hindu religious book. (It should be noted that the social structure of Mohenjo-Daro was already in a much-decayed state when the invaders administered the coup de grace.)

The most fascinating thing for the GM, though, is what *isn't* known about Harrapan civilization. Although it covered an area larger than Sumer, Akkad and Assyria combined, it flourished for only 500 years and vanished quite suddenly. While there was some trade between Harrapa and Mesopotamia, the Harrapan culture was extremely isolated, and no second-hand accounts of their culture exist. Most tantalizing of all, the Harrapans had a system of writing, using some 400 characters, which remains the only early written language completely indecipherable to modern scholars.

This makes Mohenjo-Daro almost a blank slate, on which the GM can draw whatever culture he wishes. Perhaps the Harrapan civilization was enlightened, socially advanced or even Utopian. Or it may have been a monstrous tyranny, ruled by pitiless masters, perhaps under the control of dark, prehuman Things Man Was Not Meant to Know. Either interpretation – or anything in between – can easily fit the scant known facts.

Huang Ti and the Chinese

-2690

The fourth great river civilization (after Sumeria, Egypt – see below – and the Harrapan civilization) is China, arguably the only ancient empire to survive into the present.

The confirmed history of China begins with the Shang dynasty in the 1600s BC, but the traditional mythic history of the land goes back more than a thousand years beyond that, to Huang-ti, "The Yellow Emperor." Earlier mythical kings are recorded, but they are nomad chieftains – Huang-ti is usually given credit as the man who civilized China.

He was said to have unified the tribes along the Yellow River. His reign saw the invention of wooden houses, carts, boats, the bow and arrow, writing and (in some accounts) bureaucracy and coinage. His wife is given credit for single-handedly inventing the silk industry.

There is no non-legendary evidence that Huang-ti existed – he's yet another of those misty historical/mythical figures like Gilgamesh or King Arthur. However, archaeologists do know that the third millennium BC was when China made its greatest strides from a tribal culture to a civilization. Even if Huang-ti didn't personally oversee the creation of all the wonders attrib-

uted to him, most of them were being invented at the time Huang-ti was said to have lived.

A time-traveling historian investigating the origins of Chinese civilization would be surprised and delighted to find that there really was a Huang-ti – a conquering chieftain who settled his people in permanent cities, brought together the technologies and industries of the various tribes under his dominion, and turned the Yellow River valley from a tribal culture into a true civilization. Or perhaps the great king was a time traveler himself . . .

Gilgamesh and Sargon

-2650 and -2300

These two Mesopotamian kings are, each in his own way, two of the most remarkable and enigmatic figures of early human civilization.

Historians are reasonably certain that there really was a Gilgamesh who reigned in the city of Uruk, but all that's known of Gilgamesh today comes from the fantastical and mystical Babylonian epic that bears his name. What could have caused this man, who even in his own epic is portrayed as a brawling, tyrannical egomaniac, to become forever entangled in the splendid and convoluted web of Mesopotamian myth? If there was a historical Gilgamesh, was there also a historical Enkidu, Gilgamesh's savage yet pensive "sidekick" in the Epic?

Gilgamesh is the prototype of those mysterious yet glorious figures whose biography has become fused to mythology – Gautama Buddha, Lao Tzu, Jesus Christ, Muhammad and even King Arthur. Finding the facts behind these mythic figures will be a major priority for time-traveling researchers.

Sargon was humanity's first conqueror and first emperor. Narmar's consolidation of the two Egypts and Etana's domination of the Sumerian city-states were more logical consolidations – the uniting of one people under one government. Sargon was the first human to take two different civilizations and forge them into one political unit, making him the prototype for such glorious and/or notorious historical figures as Alexander, Caesar, Napoleon and Hitler.

One trait Gilgamesh and Sargon share is ambiguous origins. Sargon was purportedly found floating in a basket (a motif that pops up several times in historical legend, most notably in the story of Moses), and raised by common working folk. Gilgamesh was said to be a demigod, of both human and divine lineage. The imaginative GM can come up with any number of "real" origins for these kings – perhaps one or both was a time traveler.

-1674 to -1500

-1674

Hyksos invaders capture Memphis and take over the Egyptian government.

-1650

Hebrews in Egypt.

-1645 or -1628

Volcanic island of Thera explodes, probably destroying nearby Cretan civilization, and causing unusually harsh winters in -1628 to -1626; conventional history places the explosion of Thera at -1550. These dates are based on tree ring dates from U.S. and Ireland (-1628) and glacial cores found in Greenland (-1645).

-1600

Aryans invade India.

Domesticated horses introduced to Egypt.

Prince Ch'eng T'ang of China deposes Emperor Chieh to establish the Shang dynasty.

-1595

Babylonia and Assyria conquered by the Kassites, a northern, chariot-using people.

-1570

King Ahmose of Thebes begins his successful campaign to drive the Hyksos out of Egypt, beginning the Middle Kingdom.

-1550

Chaldean astrologers identify zodiac.
Bellows used in glass making and metallurgy.

True plows made of bronze used in Vietnam.

-1515

Hatshepsut rules Egypt between the death of her husband, Thutmose II, and the coming of age of her son, Thutmose III, in -1480.

-1500 to -1000

Thutmose III conquers Canaan and parts of modern Iraq – Egypt reaches its greatest expansion.

Earliest Indian religious writings.

Destruction of Mohenjo-Daro culture in India.

Chiapa de Carzo, first known settlement in Mexico.



Imhotep and the Egyptians

-2615

Little need be said here about Egypt. Its history is meticulously chronicled from its inception by Narmer (aka Menes) about 3100 BC, to its ending at the death of Cleopatra more than three millennia later. In addition to its written history, it has left us its pyramids, tombs, memorials and temples in an amazingly well-preserved state.

While Sumeria narrowly edges out Egypt as the first civilization, Egypt reigns unchallenged as the first great, unified nation. Egypt also gave us the earliest great historical figures known by name.

The first Egyptian hero is Narmer, a minor official from Upper Egypt who unified the upper and lower kingdoms. He is history's earliest recorded conqueror.

Perhaps the most fascinating figure of the Egyptian Old Kingdom, though, is Imhotep, who flourished from 2630 BC to 2610 BC. Imhotep is remarkable among the great men at the dawn of history, in that he was neither king nor warrior.

Imhotep was the vizier and chief minister to Djoser, second king of the first dynasty. He was unquestionably a brilliant architect, designing and building the first pyramid, a 200-foot-tall stepped pyramid with six tiers, which still survives. He is remembered as the greatest physician of his time as well. Within a century of his death he was deified as a medical demigod. (In later centuries he would rise to be one of the three major gods in the Egyptian religion, and his worship would be continued by the Greeks.) Today, his achievements have earned him the title of humanity's earliest known scientist.

No time-traveling historian could dream of a more important or prestigious assignment than to interview and factually chronicle the life of this man who became a god, the first great genius of history.

The Minoans

-1700

The first Greek civilization flourished more than 1,000 years before the rise of Athens and Sparta, on the island of Crete. This epoch is usually called the Minoan civilization, after the legendary King Minos, the proprietor of the Labyrinth in Greek mythology.

Humanity arrived on Crete between 6000 and 5000 BC, and by 3000, there were already several thriving Bronze Age cities on the island. Minoan civilization proper can be said to begin about 2200 BC, when the Cretans began to build ornate, complex pal-

-1500 to -1350

-1500 to -1000 Continued

Domesticated horses introduced to China.

First Chinese dictionary, with 40,000 characters.

Head of Nefertiti sculpted and painted.
Egyptians invent metal casting, water clock.

Iron age begins in Syria, Palestine.
Silk fabrics in China.

-1493

Queen Hatshepsut sends five ships under the command of a man named Nehsi to search for Punt.

-1450

Archaeological evidence of extensive contact between China and Middle East.



Liquor distilled in Asia.

Two-wheeled carts used in warfare.

-1400

Earliest attempts at alphabetic writing in Phoenicia. The Phoenician alphabet will be perfected by -1000.

-1359

Akhenaton (Amenhotep IV) of Egypt destroys old gods and establishes monotheistic worship of Aton, the sun god; moves capital from Thebes to Memphis. See p. 19.

-1350

Olmec culture begins in Mexico.
Earliest known wrought iron knives, from Gerar.

aces in their major cities. The Greek legend of the labyrinth may originate with these low, convoluted structures.

The Minoan civilization was characterized by a high level of art, culture and technology. Like England in later centuries, Crete relied on the sea that surrounded it to keep it safe from invasion. Its military, while formidable, was primarily defensive.

One of the most unique and colorful (and bloody) Cretan customs was the sport or ritual of bull vaulting, where a young female athlete would face a charging bull, grasp it by the horns and vault onto its back. This custom is believed to be connected to the Greek myths of Zeus taking on the form of a bull to seduce human women.

Around 1700 BC, many of the great early palaces of Crete were damaged by earthquakes and other disasters. This only spurred the Cretans on to greater achievements. They built new palaces, far surpassing anything that had gone before. In the 16th century BC the civilization reached its zenith.

The volcanic eruption on the nearby island of Thera (see p. 17) sounded the knell for Minoan civilization, burying all the Minoan cities under several feet of ash and spurring a mass migration to the mainland. (Some scholars believe that the eruption also caused a tidal wave that destroyed several important coastal cities – this view is controversial.) After the blast the diminished Minoan civilization staggered on for a generation, until 1450 BC, when barbarian invaders from the mainland invaded the island, burned literally everything in their path and rebuilt the island under their rule.

The People of Babylon

-1750

The legendary Babylonian empire was the heir to the cultural tradition of its near neighbors of Sumeria and Akkad. Babylon flourished as the seat of empire for almost 1,500 years.

Babylon was founded by 4000 BC, and was always an important center of culture and trade. But the city didn't become a political force until a western Semitic tribe called the Amorites conquered Mesopotamia and made Babylon the commercial and political center of the region.

Under the greatest ruler of the Amorite period, Hammurabi (1792 to 1750 BC), Babylonia became a true empire, encompassing all of Southern Mesopotamia and part of nearby Assyria. Hammurabi's social innovations were perhaps as important as his military conquests. He promoted science and the arts, and created the code of laws for which he is best remembered.

Babylonian civilization declined after Hammurabi's death, until 1595 BC, when the Kassites, a tribe from the mountains east of Babylon, took over the Empire. Religion and literature flourished during the four centuries of Kassite rule, although Babylon was unable to retain its holdings in Assyria, which broke off to form its own empire. The Kassite dynasty was finally ended by an invasion by the Elamites about 1157 BC.

A new Babylonian dynasty rapidly emerged, and its greatest king, Nebuchadnezzar I (reigned 1124 to 1103 BC), ended the Elamite threat.

During the next several centuries, Babylon was ruled by an

-1350 to -900



-1350 Continued

Earliest possible date of first Olympic Games.

-1333 to -1323

Reign of Pharaoh Tutankhamen (King Tut), who restores the old Egyptian religion after Akhenaton's reforms.

-1288

Battle of Kadish between Pharaoh Rameses II and the Hittite King Muwatallis.

-1220

Exodus: Moses leads Israelites out of Egypt, ending Jewish captivity. Receives 10 Commandments on Mount Sinai.

-1200

Canaan conquered by Hebrews under Joshua.

Gilgamesh epic recorded.

Egyptians build canal connecting Nile and Red Sea.

-1184

Trojan War fought in Anatolia (Turkey).

-1157

Elamite conquerors end Kassite dynasty in Babylon.

-1140

Phoenicians found their first African colony, in modern Tunisia.

-1124 to -1103

Nebuchadnezzar I subdues the Elamites and re-establishes the Babylonian empire.

-1100

End of Egyptian New Kingdom.

-1050

Philistines conquer Israel.

-1028

Barbarians from Chou conquer China.

Chinese Duke of Chou builds a device to indicate direction – possibly a true magnetic compass.

-1025 to -937

Unified kingdom of Israel; Saul (-1,025 to -1,010), David (-1,010 to -974) and Solomon (-974 to -937). Solomon builds the first temple in Jerusalem, and greatly expands the Israeli empire. Upon Solomon's death the kingdom is divided into Israel and Judah in -937.

-1000 to -901

Asian Phoenicians contact European Greeks.

Ironworking – formerly a monopoly of the Hittites of Anatolia – becomes known throughout Europe.

Medes and Persians migrate to Iran.

Miletus and Ephesus founded.

Peking in existence.

Greek, Chinese, Hebrew alphabets.

Classic paganism in Greece, early Brahminism in India.

Mass migrations of Germanic peoples.

Chinese mathematics textbook includes geometry and simple algebraic functions.

-900 to -801

The prophet Elijah fights the worship of Baal in Israel.

Hunting from chariots is a favorite Sumerian royal sport.

Olmec culture at its peak in the New World.

Earliest known reference to a symbol for zero, in India.

Natural gas from wells used in China.

outsider more often than not. Numerous power groups vied for control, and the most frequent winners were the kings of Assyria, until the end of their empire in the 7th century BC (see *Assyria*, p. 24). The City of Babylon was devastated by Ashurbanipal, the last reigning Assyrian king, in a civil war with his brother.

With the Assyrians gone, a new, true Babylonian empire was established by Nabopolassar, a leader of the Chaldeans. Although brief, this last incarnation of the empire was perhaps the most glorious, thanks to Nebuchadnezzar II (reigned 605 to 562 BC), who conquered Syria and Palestine (where he took the Jews into their Babylonian captivity) constructed the legendary Hanging Gardens and rebuilt the Temple of Marduk and its accompanying ziggurat.

The Babylonian empire ceased to exist as an independent nation only a generation later, when it was conquered by the Persians under Cyrus the Great in 539 BC.

The Ahmes Papyrus

-1700

While an inquiry into the origins of Egyptian mathematics may not sound like a ticket to high adventure, the mathematical treatise signed by the Egyptian scribe Ahmes sometime during the 17th century BC provides an excellent excuse to involve the PCs in a fascinating and turbulent period of Egyptian history.

This document gives the kind of clear-cut starting point that time-traveling historians will find all too rare – they have a name, and a comparatively narrow time window of about a century. The

researchers' job is to find Ahmes, discover the origins of his source document, then make *another* time-hop back a century or so, to discover the actual mathematician who originally recorded the equations. Once that's accomplished, the team has the option of hopping back still further, to trace the concepts to their original creator.

The Egyptian Middle Kingdom was filled with dangers, curiosities and challenges. And if the PCs were caught, would the ancient people regard visitors from the future as enemies or gods?

The End of a Civilization

-1628

The eruption of the volcano on the Greek island of Thera was one of the great disasters of the ancient world, effectively destroying the Minoan civilization of Crete and causing atmospheric and climatic changes all over the globe.

Originally known as Calliste (Most Beautiful), the island was settled by 2000 BC. The eruption annihilated all life on the island, leaving only a rocky crescent of lava and pumice. It buried Crete, 75 miles to the south, under several feet of ash – a disaster from which the Minoan civilization never recovered.

A time assignment to observe the eruption of Thera would be exciting and dangerous even without extra complications from the locals or rival time travelers. The team's mission might include setting and monitoring sensor devices at ground zero (some of which might need to be retrieved, at great risk, only days or hours before the eruption), observing the community on Thera

-841 to -625

-841

First verified year in Chinese historical chronology.

-813

Carthage founded, according to tradition (archeological evidence suggests that the city was actually founded at least a century later).

-811 to -807

Reign of Semiramis (Sammu-ramat), legendary queen of Assyria.

-800 to -701

Highly-civilized Etruscans move into Italy, introduce horse-drawn chariots.

Greeks begin to settle in Sicily.

Celts move into England.

Oldest Chinese poems.

A woman reigns as high priest in Thebes.

Apollo worshiped at Delphi.

Legendary Laws of Lycurgus at Sparta.

Isaiah predicts coming of Messiah, fall of Assyria.

Olmec build pyramids in La Venta (Tobasco, Mexico).

-776

First definitely recorded Olympic Games.

-775

Solar eclipse of September 6, -775 marks first authenticated date in Chinese history.

-771

Rebellion in China after the Chou king humiliates his bride by slighting her for a concubine; the queen's relatives form an alliance to overthrow the Emperor, who is forced to flee.

-763

First recorded solar eclipse observed in Babylon.

-753

Traditional date of the founding of the city of Rome.

-750 to 701

Homer and Hesiod, Greek poets, compose their works.

-720

Chinese records of eclipses begin.

-708

Argistis II, king of Armenia, makes his kingdom rich by trading iron to Asia and Greece.

-705 to -681

Sennacherib, king of Assyria; under his reign, Nineveh comes to be regarded as a symbol of tyranny and bloody suppression.

-701

Assyrians destroy Babylon and divert waters of the Euphrates to cover the city; however, by the end of the century, Babylon becomes the largest city on earth, under Nebuchadnezzar II, with an area of 25,000 acres.

Nubians under Shabaka conquer all of Egypt, founding the 25th dynasty.

-700 to -601

Many Greek poets flourish, including the poetess Sappho of Lesbos.

Olmec empire in Mexico apparently invaded by unknown opponents.

Vedas (a collection of hymns, the most ancient of the Hindu scriptures) completed in India.

Acropolis begun in Athens.

-671

Assyrians conquer Egypt, and their empire reaches its greatest geographical extent.

-660 to -583

Zoroaster (or Zarathustra), founder of Persian religion.

-643

War between the sons of Duke Huan of Ch'i, ruler of China.

-640 to -560

Solon, Athenian lawgiver and statesman; reforms government in -594, making it more democratic.

-630 to -610

Scythian nomads (living in wagons) sweep through Assyria and western Asia, and advance on Egypt before being wiped out by a mysterious disease.

-625 to -585

Cyaxares unifies the Median tribes.



and extracting any particularly interesting documents or artifacts (just before the eruption would also be an excellent time to "recruit" promising Therans into the time service), and recording the eruption itself from Crete, then monitoring the dissolution of the Minoan culture.

Many modern historians suspect that Plato's story of Atlantis (see *Lost Continents*, p. 10) is in fact based on an Egyptian record of the eruption of Thera and its effects on Crete. It is interesting to note that if a date 900 years before Plato's time is substituted for Plato's 9,000 years (an extremely easy error to make in ancient mathematics) the dates match up almost perfectly.

The Edge of the World

-1493

To the ancients, the land of Punt, on the East coast of Africa, was a place of mystery and legend. For many centuries Punt marked the absolute southern boundary of civilization.

Nobody knows where, or even exactly what "the land of Punt" was. In all probability it was not a nation in the modern sense, or even a civilization. Most likely it was just a region where the Egyptians sometimes traded with African tribesmen for treasures from the interior – ivory, hides, ostrich feathers, perhaps even live elephants and other exotic beasts. Historians tentatively place Punt on the southern coast of the Red Sea and the adjacent coasts of the Gulf of Adan, corresponding to the coasts of modern Ethiopia and Djibouti.

Later, Phoenician and Greek mariners would make trading voyages to Punt a commonplace occurrence, even setting up way-stations and trading centers along the route. But the early Egyptian voyages, under the pharaohs Sahue and Mentuhotep and the

-604 to -551

-604

Birth of Chinese philosopher Lao-tse.

-600 to -501

In Confucius, Buddha, Zoroaster, Lao-tse, the Jewish prophets and the Greek philosophers, poets, artists, scientists and statesmen, the sixth century B.C. reaches a zenith of human wisdom and achievement.

Mayan civilization underway in Mexico.

Nebuchadnezzar builds "Hanging Gardens" in Babylon, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Rome declared a republic after expulsion of last king, Tarquin the Proud.

Aesop, a former Phrygian slave, writes his "fables."

Assyrian civilization extinct.

The prophet Ezekiel exiled to Babylon.

Mahavira Jina (Vardhamana) founds Jainism in India, becomes first known rebel against the caste system (d. -477).

Legendary first Emperor of Japan, Jimmu Tenno, unites the islands of Japan.

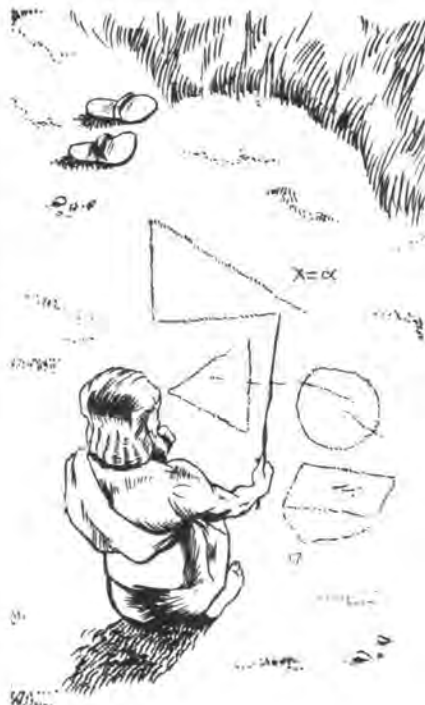
Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, built (destroyed by Herostratus in -356, later rebuilt in original form).

First reliably recorded circumnavigation of Africa by Phoenicians, ordered by Pharaoh Necho of Egypt, starting from the Red Sea and lasting three years.

Lydians adopt stamped metal coins. This innovation rapidly spreads throughout the civilized world.

Thales of Miletus, first Greek scientist. Oracle at Delphi becomes the center of Greek religion.

Theodorus of Samos credited with the invention of ore smelting and casting, the bubble level, locks and keys, the carpenter's square and the lathe.



-586

Nebuchadnezzar makes Judah a tributary, beginning the Babylonian captivity of the Jews; many books of the Old Testament are first written down in Hebrew during the Captivity.

-585

The prophet Jeremiah dies.

On the day of a deciding battle between the Medes and the Lydians, a total eclipse of the sun takes place. Both sides interpret this as an evil omen, call off the war and make peace. Astronomers have set the date of this event as May 28.

-581 to -497

Pythagoras, Greek philosopher and mathematician.

-567 to -521

Peisistratus, tyrant of Athens, encourages the replacement of classical paganism in Greece with mystery cults.

-553 to -529

Cyrus II, the Great, of Persia conquers Lydia, the Medes and Babylonia (in -539) transforming Persia into a vast empire. In -536, he frees the Jews from Babylonian captivity and aids their return to Israel.

-551 to -479

Confucius (Kung Fu-tse), Chinese philosopher.

legendary Queen Hatshepsut, present the most mysterious and enticing prospects for an adventure to Punt. Even if there was no fabled lost city of Punt (and who says there wasn't – it's up to the GM), infiltrating an Egyptian expedition to Punt provides countless opportunities to evaluate the economy and technology of ancient Egypt . . . and to find adventure, from the Pharaoh's court to the darkest jungles of the African interior.

Akhenaton the Iconoclast -1353 to -1336

One of the most fascinating figures of ancient Egypt is Akhenaton (or Ikhnaton), of the 18th dynasty.

Although his father, Amenhotep III, was a renowned hunter and athlete, Akhenaton was an odd, feeble figure of a man, with a drooping jaw, a scrawny neck, sloping shoulders, a pot belly and thick thighs. Some modern doctors believe he may have been a hermaphrodite. His physical condition was probably the result of the Egyptian practice of inbreeding within the royal family.

Despite his physical ineptitude, he took the throne as Amenhotep IV on his father's death, and married the legendary beauty Nefertiti.

About the sixth year of his reign, he began his radical religious reforms. He completely abandoned the traditional Egyptian religion, and became a monotheist, worshiping only Aton, the sun. He moved his capitol to a newly-built city at Amarna and changed his name to "Servant of Aton" – Akhenaton. The cult of Aton had existed for a few generations before Akhenaton, but it was never a popular movement until the king suddenly made it the state religion.

Aton was never portrayed in human form – he was only repre-

sented as the disk of the sun (sometimes with hands at the end of the rays, to dispense bounty to humanity). The cult of Aton had no holy writ and no moral code. Its only tenet was gratitude to Aton for his gifts. The king and queen were accorded semi-divine status as Aton's earthly representatives. Nefertiti lent her image and name to replace all the hosts of goddesses formerly worshipped in Egypt.

There was no doubt a political component to Akhenaton's reformation. The 18th dynasty saw the Egyptian empire at the zenith of its size and influence. Akhenaton wanted to take control back from the priests and bureaucrats, and return it directly to the king.

This ambitious plan was undone, though, apparently through Akhenaton's lack of cynicism. Instead of ruthlessly consolidating his political power, he threw himself whole-heartedly into the social and cultural changes his reforms initiated. Under Akhenaton, Egyptian poetry and art blossomed with a never-before-seen creativity. Art was colorful, uninhibited and beautiful – though sometimes rather bizarre, due mostly to a fashion of drawing all human figures to the king's rather freakish bodily proportions.

In the meantime, though, the king was neglecting the military and foreign relations. One by one, Egypt's foreign possessions dropped away, and her allies became alienated as requests for aid went unanswered. Inevitably, the reactionary faction of Egypt grew in influence and resolve as it saw the Empire's power slipping away.

Late in his reign Akhenaton undertook certain compromises, the details of which are not known, except that he estranged himself from Nefertiti and sent his heir apparent back to the old capitol at Thebes, to rule as co-regent. Apparently, these changes

-564 to -451

-564 to -494

Siddhartha (Gautama Buddha, called Sakyamuni), founder of Buddhism.

Buddha preaches first sermon in Benares -528.

-539

Chaldean Empire falls to the Persians.

-536

Milo of Crotona, legendary athlete, crowned six times at Olympic Games.

-529 to -485

Cambyses II, son of Cyrus, conquers Egypt and has himself declared Pharaoh.

In -522 Darius succeeds Cambyses, implementing major administrative reforms.

-525 to -456

Aeschylus, Greek dramatist.

-520 to -447

Pindar, Greek composer and poet.

-510

Cleisthenes overthrows the sons of Peisistratus and institutes democracy in Athens.

-500 to -451

Greek expansion checked by Persia to the east and Carthage to the west.

Settlements in the Valley of Oaxaca in Mexico form a unified state and build a capitol city at Monte Alban.

Mound-building Adena culture emerges, centered in modern Ohio. Despite their extensive burial mounds, the Adena are essentially a nomadic hunting and gathering society.

Ramayana, Hindu poem, completed.

Indian surgeon Susrata performs cataract operations.

Steel made in India.

Anaximander of Miletus, Greek scientist (d. -546) proposes first evolutionary theory of life.

-500 to -429

Pericles, ruler of Athens.

-496 to -406

Sophocles, Greek dramatist.

-490 to -449

Persian wars. Persians demand tribute from Greeks, leading to the eventual fall of their empire. Most important dates:

September 12, -490: Greeks defeat Darius at Marathon.

-480: small force of Greeks, led by 300 Spartans, fight vastly greater force of Persians at Thermopylae. Greeks refuse to retreat and fight to the last man.

Persians burn Athens and destroy Acropolis, but Greeks destroy Persian fleet at Battle of Salamis.

-479: Persian force smashed by Greeks under Pausanias at Plataea, near Athens.

-485 to -424

Herodotus, Greek historian.

-480

Greeks defeat Carthaginian invaders in Sicily.

-479 to -381

Mo Tzu, anti-Confucian Chinese philosopher.

-478

Greek city-states form Delian League, dominated by Athens.

-470 to -399

Socrates, Greek philosopher.

-464

Earthquake in Sparta, followed by slave revolts.

-460 to -377

Hippocrates of Cos, Greek physician, "Father of Medicine." About 400 B.C., he founds the profession of physician and develops the Hippocratic oath.

-460

Pericles comes to power in Athens.

-454

Chou rulers of China obliterated by an alliance of their enemies.

-451

Three Roman senators sent to Athens to study laws of Solon.

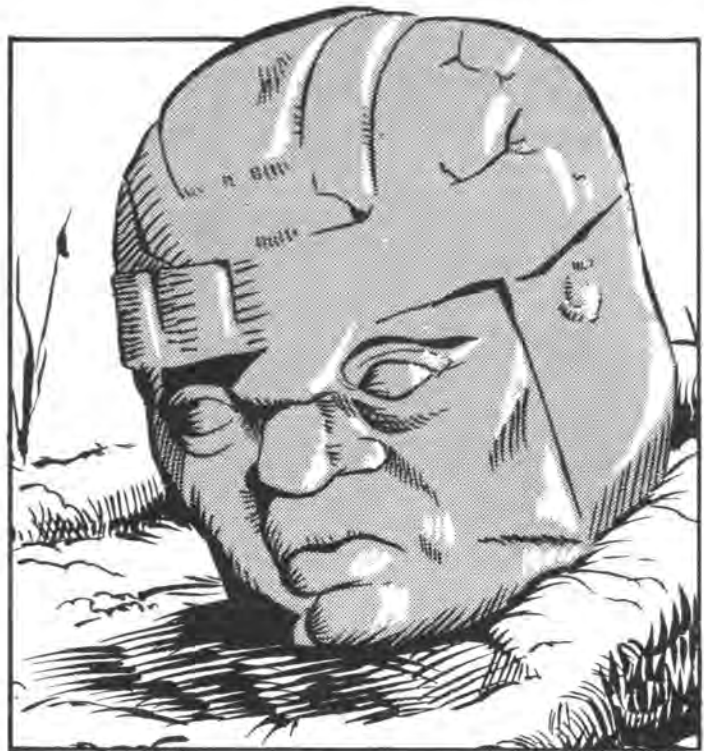
were undertaken at least partially due to the urgings of his mother, Queen Tiy, a practical and charismatic woman of common birth. These concessions were enough to hold the kingdom together until Akhenaton's death. Thereafter, though, his reforms rapidly crumbled.

His chosen heir, Smenkhkare, did not long survive Akhenaton, so the throne went to the child Tutankhaton (now known as King Tut – currently the most famous pharaoh of them all, because he was so obscure in his own time that nobody bothered to rob his tomb until the 20th century). Tutankhaton and Smenkhkare were apparently brothers, though it is unclear whether they were Akhenaton's sons, sons-in-law or (according to the royal custom of the time) both.

Tutankhaton was rapidly forced to change his name to Tutankhamen and restore the old state religion. He died, apparently of natural causes, some ten years later, at about age 18. A few years after his death a military coup took over the government, eradicating the last vestiges of Akhenaton's reforms and ending the 18th dynasty.

Adventures during the reign of Akhenaton will tend more toward intrigue than swashbuckling, with the time-travelers caught up in the subtle yet pervasive power struggle between the king and his freewheeling supporters on one hand, and the military and the old priesthood on the other.

Akhenaton's reforms, with their tolerant attitude toward religion, art and free expression, are attractive to modern sensibilities, and an idealistic time traveler, or time-traveling organization, might be tempted to tamper with the era to shore up Akhenaton's political power and preserve his reforms beyond his death. Whether the PCs will be called upon to support or resist this tampering is up to the GM.



The early Olmecs appear to have made the transition to civilization rather abruptly, and we know exactly where and approximately when they did it.

Shortly after 1300 BC, the agrarian people in the region now known as San Lorenzo decided to carry thousands of tons of clay, sand and rock in baskets to build a platform over 600 yards long, 100 yards wide and more than 20 feet tall. On this platform they made dozens of basalt sculptures, many artificial ponds and several clay platforms. Why they did this remains a mystery.

Technically, the great Olmec centers, like the one at San Lorenzo, were less cities in the modern sense than ceremonial

The Olmecs: Ancient Americans

-1300

The earliest true civilization in the Americas was the Olmec culture that emerged in the sweltering lowlands of the south coast of the Gulf of Mexico.

-450 to -380

-450 to -401

Ezra and Nehemiah rebuild wall of Jerusalem. Torah (first five books of the Old Testament) becomes the moral essence of the Jewish state.

A Phoenician captain named Hanno leads 60 ships carrying settlers down the west coast of Africa to the equator.

Beginnings of Indian empire.

Aristophanes, master of Greek comedy (c. -450 to c. -387).

-431 to -404

Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta. Greek historian Thucydides, in his account of this war, describes the plague of Athens in great detail; scientists to this day have failed to identify this mysterious, fatal disease.

-430 to -381

Life of Wu Chi, famous Chinese strategist.

-411

Coup d'etat in Athens transfers power to a people's assembly.

-407 to -399

Plato becomes the pupil of Socrates.

-406

Dionysius the Elder, ruler of Syracuse, invents the forerunner of the catapult; he also develops quadriremes – ships with four banks of rowers – both in preparation for an invasion from Carthage.

-404

Sparta destroys Athenian navy at Aegospotami, breaking the power of Athens and ending the Peloponnesian War.

-401

10,000 Greek mercenaries are hired by the brother of the Emperor of Persia in an abortive rebellion attempt. When their employer is killed, the Greeks fight their way home from the heart of the Persian Empire.

-400 to -351

End of Olmec civilization in Mexico.

-400 to -391

Semilegendary Chinese artisan Lu Pan produces the first known kite.

-390 to -381

Plato founds the Academy in Athens, which continues as a seat of learning until A.D. 529.

-390

Gauls from northern Italy, under Brennus, capture Rome, sack it, and withdraw. Early archives of Rome destroyed in the sack of the city.

-384 to -322

Aristotle, Greek philosopher.

-383

Dionysius I, tyrant of Syracuse, holds power over 80% of Sicily.

-382 to -336

Philip II of Macedon, conqueror.

-381

Dionysius I defeated by Carthage, ending Syracuse's expansion.

-380 to -343

30th Dynasty in Egypt; last native house to rule the country.

centers. Few people actually lived in the Olmec cities – most of them continued to farm the countryside as they always had.

Much about the Olmecs remains mysterious. They were known to practice cannibalism, but whether for ritualistic or nutritional purposes is unknown. A prevalent national vice appears to have been the consumption of the hallucinogenic secretions of the *Bufo marinus* marine toad. They did not have metal tools, but they had advanced ceramics and were exquisite stonecarvers.

The thing we know best about the Olmecs is their art. Olmec art looks bizarre and distinctly sinister to modern viewers. The most famous Olmec artifacts are the massive stone heads, some more than 10' tall. The heads have thick features and an expression that seems cruel and arrogant. They wear close-fitting headgear like an old leather football helmet.

Also common are bizarre human figurines that appear to be strangely deformed infants, possibly hybrids of humans and jaguars. The jaguar, and the outrè thought of human/jaguar hybrids, appear to have been very important symbols to the Olmec.

As with the Harrapan civilization (see p. 13), the GM has a wide degree of latitude regarding how he interprets this mysterious, rather sinister culture for his campaign.

Troy

-1200

Until the 19th century AD, most historians believed that the city of Troy was as mythical as the tales of gods and heroes that are attached to it. Then, in 1822, an eager amateur archaeologist named Charles McLaren declared that he had found Homer's Troy beneath the ruins of the Roman city of Ilium. His discovery was confirmed in 1870.

The city of Troy, in the Anatolia region of Turkey, was a vital trading center from about 3000 BC. It commanded the entrances of both the Hellespont and the Scamander rivers into the Aegean sea. Troy flourished until it was eclipsed by the founding of Constantinople in 324 AD. Archaeologists have identified no fewer than nine distinct cities that existed on the same spot during that time.

Nothing is known of the historical Trojan War between the Greeks and the city of Troy, other than the legends related in ancient poetry, most notably Homer's *Iliad*. However, it is known that the seventh city was burned about 1200 BC, after which the site was desolate for four centuries. Historians consider this city the most likely to have been ruled by the historical counterpart of Homer's King Priam, whoever he may have been.

In addition to the historical value of a time mission to establish the facts behind the legends of the Trojan war, there is a great deal of romantic appeal in the thought of living the events that spawned Homer's great poems.

Phoenicia

-1100

Unlike the other great civilizations of antiquity, Phoenicia never coalesced into an empire, or even a unified nation. Nonetheless, it remained a driving force in international politics for over 2,000 years, and only Greece and Rome can claim to have had as great an influence on modern Western culture.

By 3000 BC, the Phoenicians were already settled in an area corresponding to modern Lebanon. Their chief cities were Gebel, Sidon, Tsor (modern Tyre) and Berot (modern Beirut).

By 2500 BC, the Phoenicians had firmly established themselves as middlemen in the trade between Egypt and the rest of the near East. Egypt briefly ruled the Phoenician cities in the 15th century BC.

During this period, the Phoenicians were the undisputed masters of sea-trade. Only the Phoenician mariners dared venture more than a day's sail from the shore. They colonized extensively in North Africa.

In the 900s BC, natural deposits of tin (a necessary component of the all-important bronze industry) were rapidly being depleted in Asia Minor. Many historians believe that the Phoenicians were running regular trading missions all the way to Cornwall, in England, where there were rich tin deposits. The location of Britain and its mines would have been one of the deepest secrets of the Phoenician cities.

-370 to -340

-370

Jason of Pherae unites Thessaly but is assassinated before he can extend his dominion further.

-359

At the death of his brother, Perdicas III, Philip appointed regent of Macedon in the name of his young nephew.

-356 to -323

Alexander the Great, son of Philip, conqueror.

-356

Philip II takes the throne of Macedon.
Sun Pin, legendary Chinese general, wins a great victory for the state of Ch'i.
Herostratus burns the Temple of Artemis in Ephesus "to make his name immortal."

-352

Chinese astronomers record first documented supernova.



-351

Sun Pin wins another great victory for Ch'i over the rival state of Wei.

-350 to 350 A.D.

Indian heroic epic *Mahabharata* being written.

-350 to -338

Chinese philosopher Shang Yang devises the brutal code of Legalism.

-350 to -341

Celtic chiefs at Dorset begin building Maiden Castle, one of the great fortified castles of England.

-343 to -277

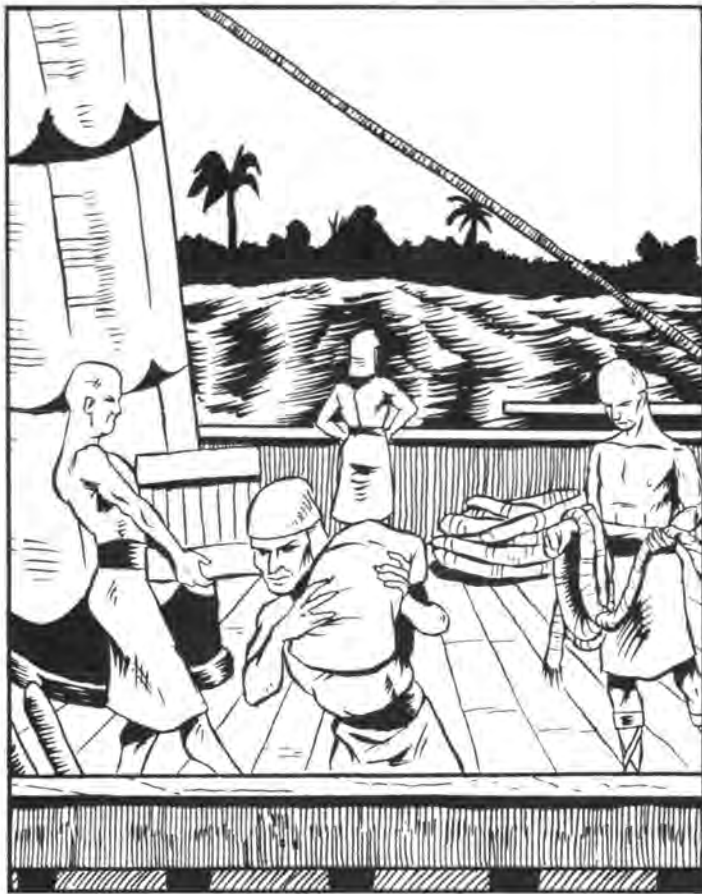
Ch'ü Yüan, earliest of the important Chinese poets.

-343

Aristotle becomes tutor of Alexander the Great.

-340 to -271

Epicurus, Greek philosopher, formulator of the first atomic theory.



Perhaps the greatest feat of Phoenician navigation was the circumnavigation of Africa by a Phoenician fleet in the pay of Pharaoh Necho II about 600 BC. Although it is only recorded by Herodotus, a notoriously unreliable source, this account is considered accurate. It mentions that during the voyage the navigators noticed that the sun now rose and set on the opposite side of the ship, indicating they had passed the equator – a scientific detail Herodotus could not have known, and was unlikely to have guessed.

Beginning in the 9th century BC, Phoenicia was usually either threatened or actually controlled by Assyria (see p. 24). In 538 BC Phoenicia was conquered by the Persians, and later came under the control of Alexander the Great. At the same time, the Phoenicians' place as the preeminent mariners of the world was being usurped by the Greeks.

The Phoenicians still had one more important task to accomplish in history, with their North African colony, Carthage. Carthage was a significant threat to Greece both before and after Alexander, the arch-enemy of Rome during the final days of the republic, and the home of Hannibal, one of history's greatest generals. It could be argued that the proximate cause of Rome's change from republic to empire was the Carthaginian threat. In the end, Carthage was destroyed.

The greatest achievement of the Phoenicians, however, was not one of navigation, or strategy, or trade. The most important Phoenician contribution to the world was the alphabet. Writing, of course, had been known for more than 1,000 years before the Phoenicians started to develop their alphabet. What set the Phoenician system apart was that each character did not represent a syllable, word or idea, but a distinct *sound*. This made it possible to use one alphabet to write in *any* language. Many cultures have

-340 to -287

-340 to -331

Eudemus of Rhodes writes a *History of Mathematics*. Although his manuscript is lost, a later writer makes a summary of it, which is also lost; but Proclus in the fifth century A.D. has access to the summary, and it is from his account that we know what we do of the early history of Greek mathematics.

-340

Praxagorus of Cos discovers the difference between veins and arteries.

-338

Philip establishes his dominance over Greece with his defeat of the Thebans and Athenians at Chaeronea.

-336

Philip assassinated, Alexander takes the throne.

-334

Aristotle founds the Lyceum in Athens, also called the Peripatetic school of philosophy.

-332

Alexander conquers Egypt and founds the city of Alexandria.

-330

Alexander completes his conquest of the Persian Empire.

Greek merchant Pytheus of Marseilles travels to Britain, then to Iceland or Norway.

-326

Alexander extends his empire to the Indus river, but is forced by his generals to turn back.

-323

Alexander dies after gorging himself on food and wine at a feast.

Ptolemy Soter, one of Alexander's generals, founds a new Egyptian dynasty that will endure until the death of Cleopatra in -30.

Euclid writes *Elements*, the standard work on geometry.

-322 to -298

Reign of Candragupta Maurya in India.

-322

Athenian fleet destroyed by Macedonians, ending Athenian sea power forever.

-321 to -311

War among Alexander's successors.

-319

Candragupta Maurya reconquers northern India from the Macedonians and founds the Mauryan dynasty.

-317

Agathocles, self-styled king of Sicily, halts the Carthaginian advance in Sicily by leading an army into North Africa and threatening Carthage itself, forcing a treaty.

-300 to -241

Followers of Mo-Tzu, a 5th century Chinese philosopher (Mohists), describe in their writings the first known use of poison gas in warfare, and clearly state what would later come to be known as Newton's first law of motion.

-300 to -291

The Museum is built in Alexandria as a home for scholars and artists of all sorts, particularly mathematicians.

In China, star maps are drawn that will be used for the next several centuries. The *Chou pei suan ching*, an early mathematical classic, is written, and the concepts of yin and yang (paired opposites) are incorporated into the Chinese model of the universe.

Chinese invent cast iron.

-300

Rise of the Chinese empire begins with the state of Ch'in's defeat of the state of Chu.

-287 to -212

Archimedes, Greek mathematician.

independently developed the art of writing, but only the Phoenicians thought of the alphabet – all modern alphabetic systems, no matter how apparently dissimilar, are directly descended from the first Phoenician alphabet of 22 characters (with no vowels). The earliest alphabetic inscriptions date from about 1100 BC.

The Phoenicians will be an important part of virtually any civilized or semi-civilized community in Europe or the near East, any time in the 2,000 years before the birth of Christ. Time travelers would be motivated to accompany Hannibal on his famous march across the Alps, join the fleet that first sailed around Africa, explore the connection between Phoenicia and Britain or research the origins of the alphabet – could this vital advance in human communication be the inspiration of a single genius, now lost to history? Or are its antecedents more complex?

The Heroic and the Wise

-1000

The term “dashing” is not normally used in connection with the heroes of the Old Testament, but it certainly applies to David – shepherd, poet, hero, outlaw, king and lover. Even if the supernatural trappings of the Bible are ignored, its portrait of David still stands as a detailed and insightful biography of one of the most gifted and remarkable rulers of ancient history. The history of the Israeli monarchy as presented in the Biblical books of I and II Solomon and I Kings, with its desperate escapes, Machiavellian intrigues, dramatic military victories and illicit romances, reads more like a modern thriller than a Bronze Age chronicle.

David, as portrayed in the Bible, is a very modern sort of adventure hero – his active, passionate nature always at war with his deep-rooted faith and exacting moral fiber, the two held in balance by a keen intellect and an unwavering sense of purpose.

In his youth, he is forced by circumstance to wrest the throne from a king and royal line he loyally served and genuinely loved. As a king, he unified his people and expanded his borders with unflinching success, but could never adequately control his own family.

His son and heir, the legendary King Solomon, is a more enigmatic figure. Hailed in his time as the wisest man alive, he forged Israel into a small but powerful empire, using largely commercial and diplomatic means, rather than military might. Occult tradition holds that Solomon was the greatest white magician of all time. Unfortunately, his son was not able to juggle the duties of empire with the same facility as the brilliant Solomon, and Israel rapidly split into two kingdoms, becoming easy prey for any imperial conqueror who happened to be passing through. Nonetheless, David and Solomon set a model for Jewish solidity and power which has held their people together, despite impossible tribulations, for 3,000 years.

The supporting cast in the biographies of David and Solomon is as fascinating as the principals – the brooding King Saul and his son, the dashing, doomed Prince Jonathan, the Machiavellian general Joab and the traitorous prince Absalom, the seductive Bath-Sheba and the enigmatic Queen of Sheba.

Queen Semiramis

-815

Sadly, the Greek legend of Semiramis seems to be a clear-cut case of romance overwhelming the historical facts.

Sammu-Ramat, Queen of Assyria, appears to have competently and unspectacularly held the reins of government of the Assyrian empire for a few years, between the death of her hus-

-285 to -222



-285

Ch'in formally absorbs the state of Chu under the pretext of stopping a coup.

-284

Ch'in breaks the power of the rival state of Ch'i.

-283

Pharos lighthouse built at Alexandria.

-275

Babylon abandoned for the new city of Seleucia.

Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, created (destroyed by earthquake, -224).

-272 to -235

Reign of King Asoka, Indian ruler, reformer and Buddhist saint.

-264 to -241

First Punic War between Rome and Carthage.

-264

First public gladiatorial combats in Rome.

-260 to -241

The Maya develop a system of numeration, including zero, which will remain the most sophisticated way of writing numbers for a millennium.

-260

King Asoka of India becomes a Buddhist and rejects the notion of conquest by violence.

Chinese state of Ch'in wins decisive victories over the rival states Han and Chao.

-256

Ch'in takes over Chou.

-250

Britain invaded by iron-age La-Tène people.

-246 to -182

Hannibal, Carthaginian general.

-240

First recorded sighting of Halley's Comet, by Chinese.

-238

Carthage begins conquest of Spain.

-234 to -149

Marcus Portius Cato the Elder, Roman statesman.

-233 to -183

Publius Cornelius Scipio Africanus, Roman politician and general.

-233

Death of Sun-tsi marks the end of Chinese classical philosophy.

-230 to -221

Chinese state of Qi develops the federal bureaucratic system that will run China for the next 2,000 years.

-222

Rome conquers northern Italy, including Mediolanum (Milan).

band, Shamshi-Adad V, and the majority of her son, Adad-nirari III.

The Greeks, however, found the thought of a woman head of state fascinating, and could not resist building a whole myth around her, including divine ancestry, intrigue, an illustrious military career and even the building of the city of Babylon.

Mythology aside, Sammu-Ramat stands out as one of two women (along with Queen Hatshepsut of Egypt, who ruled under similar circumstances eight centuries earlier) to successfully rule one of the ancient empires. She must have been a remarkable person, and it may well be that *some* of the seeming excesses of the Greeks are rooted in facts now lost to historians.

There must have been covert revolutionary forces in the Assyrian empire, scheming to take advantage of the perceived weakness of a child king and a reigning queen to seize the throne for themselves. Perhaps time travelers, sent back to observe Sammu-Ramat's reign, could become involved in foiling such a plot, so that Adad-nirari can eventually come to the throne according to history's schedule. Or perhaps the queen handled the situation herself, *despite* would-be helpers from the future . . .

Sennacherib and the Assyrians -701

Assyria first became a world power when it broke off from Babylonia in the 14th century BC (see p. 16). Its influence declined in the 12th century BC, except for a brief resurgence in the 11th century BC under Tiglath-Pileser I.

From the 12th century BC, the Assyrian kings were known for their military pitilessness. Assyrians did not merely defeat ene-

mies, they *annihilated* them, razing conquered cities and killing indiscriminately. This policy was a mixed success – when fighting from a position of strength, the Assyrian reputation wreaked havoc with their opponents' morale, and often the enemy would be half-defeated by their own fears before the first blow was struck. On the other hand, the Assyrians were universally hated, and had to stay constantly ready for war lest their former conquests rise up with the same sort of viciousness. Therefore, Assyrian history is a see-saw, with the nation rapidly rising to conquer the region, then being overrun by enemies, until they could muster the strength to rise again.

In the 9th century BC the Assyrians began a new period of expansion, climaxing with the reign of Sennacherib (705 to 681 BC), one of the great military commanders of antiquity.

Sennacherib began his career as crowned prince, where he served ably as a senior administrator and diplomat in the northern empire. Shortly after he took the throne, the Chaldean and Aramaean tribes of Babylonia rose up against the Assyrians, egged on by the troublesome Elamites. Between 703 and 689 BC he undertook six campaigns to subdue Babylonia. His arch-enemy during this period was the Machiavellian Chaldean, Merodach-Baladan.

The most famous of the Babylonian campaigns was probably the third, in 701 BC. With Egyptian financial backing, Merodach-Baladan incited Palestine to rebel (an excellent example of how the universal hatred of Assyria bound its enemies together into alliances of frightening power). Sennacherib systematically destroyed all the rebel cities except Jerusalem, where he settled for a massive tribute. Accounts in the Old Testament and Greek his-

-221 to -168

-221

All China united under the first true emperor, Shih-Huang-Ti.

-219 to -201

Second Punic War; Hannibal crosses the Alps, defeats Scipio -218; defeats Romans at Lake Trasimene -217; reaches gates of Rome -211, withdraws -207; Scipio Africanus decisively beats Hannibal -202.

-215

Great Wall of China built to keep out invaders, beginning this year.

-213

Legalist Emperor Shih-Huang-Ti orders all books in the empire burned, except for books on medicine, agriculture and divination.

-210

Ch'in Huang Ti dies while touring his empire. He has constructed for his tomb a relief map of his dominions, with the rivers formed from flowing mercury and the heavens depicted above.

-202

Emperor Kao-Tsu, who began his career as a minor officer and led a revolt of escaped convicts, begins the Han Dynasty and abrogates Legalism in China.

-200 to -197

Second Macedonian War; Romans vs. Philip V of Macedon.

-200

Mexican civilization at Monte Albán at its zenith.

Inscription engraved on the Rosetta stone.



-198

Antiochus III takes Palestine from Egypt.

-197

Rome and Greece form an alliance against Macedon. Macedon is conquered and the Greek city states fall under Roman political domination.

-195

Hannibal flees to Antiochus III of Syria; lands in Greece -192; Antiochus defeated by Romans at Thermopylae (-191) and Magnesia (-190); Hannibal defeated by Rhodian fleet at Eurymedon River -189; Hannibal commits suicide to avoid extradition by Rome -182.

On the death of Emperor Kao-Tsu of China, his wife, Empress Lu, rules capably for 15 years.

-192

Antiochus III invades Greece but is defeated by the Romans in Thessaly.

-190

The Romans, pursuing Antiochus, conquer Asia Minor.

-189

Insurrections in Upper Egypt owing to exorbitant taxes.

-172 to -168

War between Rome and Macedon; Roman victory begins Roman world domination.

-170 to -161

Ctesibius of Alexandria builds a "wind gun," a type of air gun.

-168 to -165

Maccabean revolt against Antiochus IV, spurred by desecration of Temple at Jerusalem in 168; temple rededicated by Judas Maccabaeus in 165.

tories suggest that Sennacherib was denied total victory in Palestine because a plague or some sort of disaster decimated his army before he could take Jerusalem.

In 700 BC, Merodach-Baladan died a refugee among the Elamites. The death of his great enemy bought Sennacherib enough time to organize a notable naval victory against the bothersome Elamites in 694 BC, which he audaciously executed simultaneously with a land assault on Babylon.

In 691 BC, a new Chaldean leader, Mushezib-Marduk, opened the treasuries of the Babylonian temples and hired a formidable mercenary force of Elamites. Sennacherib stopped the Elamite assault at Halule, but it was a Pyrrhic victory that left the Assyrians impotent militarily. Fortunately the Babylonians and Elamites were equally exhausted, and in 689 BC Sennacherib besieged Babylon and captured it after a nine-month siege. Having had more than enough of the Chaldeans, he systematically sacked the city, despite the objections of the religious establishment, which held Babylon sacred.

In addition to his military accomplishments, Sennacherib was a notable patron of science. His reign saw important advances in bronzeworking and hydraulics, and his engineering ingenuity during the naval campaign against Elam is remarkable. For all the cities he razed, he also undertook major constructions at several sites, including Assur and his capitol, Ninevah, which he completely reconstructed into a model of 7th century BC civic efficiency.

Sennacherib was assassinated in the beginning of 681 BC by his son Esarhaddon, who then took the throne. His queen, Naquia, was foreign and may have been Jewish. Perhaps she encouraged her son to assassinate the emperor, in revenge for the conquest of Palestine. The Assyrian empire endured for most of the rest of the century, until it was finally destroyed for the last time by an alliance of the Chaldeans and the Medes in 612 to 609 BC.

If time travel capability fell into the hands of a radical anti-Semitic group like the Nazis, they might well see an irresistible opportunity in Sennacherib's Palestinian campaign. If history could be tweaked so that Sennacherib would not spare Jerusalem, but instead overrun it with typical Assyrian ruthlessness, it might

well mean the end of the Jewish race. After all, the roots of the astonishingly resilient Jewish religious/ethnic identity wouldn't be firmly established for almost a century, until the Babylonian captivity – see *Babylon*, p. 16. It would then fall to the PCs to stop the temporal terrorists and insure that Sennacherib spares Jerusalem.

In fact, the sudden and mysterious nature of Sennacherib's setback at Jerusalem suggests that that event might have been a successful time intervention, by parties unknown – perhaps even the PCs.

The Nubians

-701

Nubia, in what is now the Sudan in northeast Africa, was by far the most advanced known civilization of ancient Africa. It is also known as Ethiopia and Cush.

The Nubians were civilized for at least as long as the Egyptians. In fact, Nubia is known to have used a form of picture writing (albeit an extremely primitive one) several centuries before Narmer unified the Egyptian kingdoms.

Although Nubia borrowed much of its culture from Egypt, the two states were often at war. Egypt undertook its first great invasion of Nubia in 2613 BC, under Pharaoh Snefru.

During the 5th and 6th dynasties, the Egyptian governors of Aswan alternately traded with and raided the Nubians. The most famous governor, Harkhuf, led an expedition deep into the African interior to a land he named Yam, where he obtained a pygmy he presented at the court of Pepi II, in the 27th century BC.

Nubian civilization reached its height in the 8th century BC, when the country was intensively Egyptianized from 750 to 730 BC, by Kashta and Piankhi. Piankhi's successor Shabaka actually conquered Egypt in 712 BC, beginning the 25th dynasty – Shabaka was the pharaoh who backed the Palestinian revolt against Sennacherib (see p. 24). The Assyrians finally ended the 25th dynasty in 663 BC.

Thereafter, the Nubians became steadily more isolated from Egyptian culture, and therefore from other civilized nations. Nonetheless, the Nubian kingdom endured until the 4th century AD. The greatest ruler of late Nubia was Queen Amanishakhete,

-156 to -115

-156 to -86

Marius, Roman general.

-150 to -1

Massive population growth in the city of Teotihuacan in the valley of Mexico.

-149 to -146

Third Punic War; Roman forces destroy Corinth -147; Scipio the Younger, son of Scipio Africanus, destroys Carthage -147, killing 90% of the population and selling the remaining 50,000 into slavery.

-147

Greece comes under Roman control.

-140 to -131

Chinese make paper; it is used as packing material, for clothing and for personal hygiene, but not for writing.

-140

Venus de Milo sculpted.

-138 to -78

Sulla, Roman dictator.



-135

200,000 slaves rebel in Sicily. After three years the rebellion is put down, ending with the crucifixion of 20,000 rebels.

-126

Chang Ch'ien brings wine grapes to China from the West.

-123 to -121

Gaius Gracchus, brother of reformer Tiberius (murdered by Senate -133) becomes tribune of Rome, and plans extensive reforms until his death in a riot in -121.

-123

Carthage rebuilt.

-119

The Han dynasty in China nationalizes cast iron and salt production.

-115

Chinese army crosses the Lop Nor desert and imposes Chinese authority on the local rulers of the Tarim basin.

who came to the throne in 43 AD, and temporarily restored some of Egyptian culture to Nubia.

The First Great Poet

-700

Homer's two epic poems, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, are arguably the two most important literary works by a single author in all of history. These dynamic, heroic poems played a key role in the cultural development of Periclean Athens, Imperial Rome and the European Renaissance, and their influence on modern art, culture and philosophy is incalculable.

Yet the genius who created these immortal works remains an enigma. Greek tradition says that Homer was a blind poet from Ionia. Modern scholars generally agree with the ancients on Homer's Ionian origin. Although all dates regarding the poet are extremely tentative, perhaps the best guess is that the *Iliad* was created toward the middle of the 700s, and the *Odyssey* was finished around the turn of the century.

It is now believed that Homer originally sang his epics before live audiences, and they were not written down until after his death – how long after is a matter of great controversy.

After identifying Homer (and perhaps recording a performance of his masterworks), time travelers might want to make a run to the district of Boeotia, where Hesiod was composing epic poems equal in brilliance to Homer's, if less extravagant and fantastic.

Hesiod's two confirmed works are the *Theogony*, which deals with the origins of the gods, and the pastoral *Works and Days*.

Both are somewhat darker and more moralistic than Homer's masterpieces. *Works and Days* is addressed to Hesiod's brother, Perses, who swindled Hesiod out of the bulk of his inheritance. If Perses wasn't a purely literary creation, he could be used as a way to locate and identify the poet.

Time travelers to the Greece of Homer and Hesiod will find a young, brawling, vital civilization just emerging from barbarism. Writing, a lost art since the destruction of Minoan civilization (see p. 15), has just been rediscovered. Theology and the arts are entering an unprecedented epoch (thanks, in great measure, to Homer and Hesiod). On a more worldly front, Greece is establishing itself as a trading center, and its generals are beginning to develop their revolutionary strategy of the phalanx. It's an excellent time to be a traveler and an adventurer.

In addition to his epics, Homer is credited with writing a series of 34 hymns to the gods. The Homeric Hymns were actually written over a wide span of time and are of unknown authorship. There's no proof, however, that Homer *didn't* write some of the earlier hymns.

By the 6th century BC, a clan of singers called themselves the Homerids, and claimed to be blood descendants of the poet. They claimed to have brought the epics from Ionia to the Greek mainland. By the 4th century BC, the Homerids no longer performed, but instead judged poets competing at the Panathenaea.

A tradition from late antiquity holds that Homer and Hesiod met, and even held a poetry competition (which Hesiod won). There is absolutely no evidence for this, but the thought is intriguing.

-114 to -53

-114

Death of Chang Ch'ien, who opened trade along the Old Silk Road, a route on which Chinese and European goods are exchanged. See pp. 34-35.

-113

The Cimbri, an ancient Germanic tribe, leave Jutland, which is devastated by storms, and reach the Roman province of Noricum.

-112 to -105

War in Africa between Romans and Jugurtha, king of Numidia.

-106 to -43

Cicero, Roman statesman and orator.

-105

First college of technology founded at Alexandria by Heron, a mathematician.

-103 to -101

Cimbri and Teutones ally and attempt to invade Italy; defeated by Marius.

-100 to -44

Gaius Julius Caesar, first emperor of Rome.

-100 to -91

The Greek explorer Hippalus discovers the regularity of the monsoon between east Africa and south Asia.

The Great Wall of China is completed.

The Chinese begin to use negative numbers.

-100

First Chinese ships reach the east coast of India.

-95 to -46

Cato the Younger, Roman politician.

-90 to -81

Ssuma Ch'ien's *Historical Records* includes first known reference to parachutes.

-90

Civil war in Rome; Marius driven out by Sulla.

-88

Mithradates V of Pontus drives the Romans out of Asia Minor. His offensive is joined by several Greek cities, including Athens. Romans beat Mithradates steadily back in Greece, regain their holdings in Asia and force Mithradates to give up his navy and pay an immense tribute.

-82

Sulla created dictator for life (voluntarily resigns, -79).

-72

The Suevi, a Germanic tribe, cross the Upper Rhine under their King Ariovistus and invade Gaul.

-71

Revolt of slaves and gladiators under Spartacus, crushed by consuls Pompey and Crassus.

-70 to -19

Virgil, Roman poet.

-65 to -8

Horace, Roman poet.

-63 to A.D. 14

Gaius Octavius (Augustus), Roman Emperor.

-63

Pompey completes conquest of Palestine, makes it part of the Roman province of Syria.

-62

Founding of Florence.

-61

Gaius Julius Caesar, nephew of Marius, wins his first victories in Spain.

-60

Caesar returns to Rome, is elected consul, and forms with Pompey and Crassus the First triumvirate.

-58 to -50

Caesar conquers Gaul.

-54

Caesar invades Britain; Cassivellaunus, a powerful Belgic tribe leader in southern Britain, agrees to pay tribute to Rome.

-53

Crassus defeated and killed by Parthians at Carrhae.

The 6th Century

-600 to -500

Something was going on in the 6th century BC. The advances in civilized thought and behavior made in this century have never been equaled. Some have come close – the 1st century AD, the Renaissance, perhaps even the past 100 years – but no era has ever really matched the extent and profundity of the influence of this century.

The GM is free to make what he will of the cultural ascent that took place in this century. Certainly it is dramatic enough to indicate some mysterious motivating force – aliens, the Illuminati, supernatural forces or enlightened time travelers – operating on many cultures independently, for their own mysterious reasons. Even if the GM rejects such extravagant explanations, it is certain that the 6th century will be one of the busiest eras for time-traveling historians.

Greece

The apex of Greek civilization – with the philosophies of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, and the social reforms of Periclean Athens – was still a century away, but the 6th century was the beginning of Greece's rise as the most advanced and enlightened civilization yet seen.

Great strides were made in this century in the realms of science (Thales of Miletus), technology (Theodorus of Samos), mathematics and philosophy (Pythagoras), religious reform (Peisistratus), political reform (Cleisthenes), drama (Aeschylus) and poetry (Pindar).

China

This century saw the lives of both of the greatest Chinese philosophers.

K'ung Fu-tse (Confucius) outlined the moral and ethical principles that would guide the Chinese empire for most of the next 2,500 years. Confucius is believed to have been born to a noble but impoverished family, and to have been orphaned at an early age. He educated himself and eventually became the most learned man of his time.

Living in a time of national chaos and corruption, Confucius formulated a system for an orderly, ethical society. His teachings emphasized self-awareness, duty, virtue and filial piety. Unable to gain a post where he could put his theories to practical test, he concentrated on teaching his principles to an ever-growing circle of disciples.

Lao-tzu is a more nebulous figure. Many historians doubt that he was anything but a legend. He is regarded as the founder of the philosophy of Taoism, and the writer of its sacred book, the *Tao Te Ching*.

Traditionally, Lao-tzu is said to have been born Li Erh ("Lao-tzu" means "old master") in the Chinese state of Hu. He lived a quiet, scholarly life and took little interest in the outward affairs of the world. He is said to have met with the younger Confucius, whom he rebuked for his pride and ambition, leaving Confucius greatly impressed. It is said that in his old age Lao-tzu, seeing the inevitable collapse of the Chou dynasty, left for the west, writing the *Tao Te Ching* just before his departure.

-51 to -4

-51

Cleopatra VII gains the throne of Egypt through her husband Ptolemy XIII; she quarrels with him and allies herself with Julius Caesar; battle breaks out and Ptolemy XIII is killed.

-49

Caesar crosses Rubicon to start civil war against Pompey.

-47

Pompey murdered in Egypt by order of Cleopatra; Cleopatra marries Ptolemy XIV, the young brother of Ptolemy XIII.

First fire at the Library of Alexandria.
Herod is governor of Galilee.

-46

Africa made Roman province; Caesar returns to Rome.

-45

Caesar adopts his nephew Gaius Octavius as heir.

-44

Caesar murdered by conspirators led by Brutus and Cassius Longinus.

In May and June, Roman and Chinese astronomers report a red comet that is visible in daylight. The comet is given its red color by dust from eruptions of Mt. Etna; in Rome the comet is widely believed to be Julius Caesar, who has been deified after his assassination.

Cleopatra poisons Ptolemy XIV to make room for her son by Julius Caesar, Caesarion; Caesarion made Ptolemy XV and reigns over Egypt with his mother.

-43 to A.D. 18

Ovid, Roman poet.

-42

Brutus and Cassius commit suicide after defeat by Second Triumvirate – Mark Antony, Marcus Aemilius Lepidus, and Gaius Octavius, now renamed Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus (Octavian).

-40

Herod appointed King of Judaea at Rome.

Mark Antony gives the 200,000 scrolls from the library at Pergamon to Cleopatra, who adds them to the library at Alexandria, making it by far the greatest library on earth.

-36

Lepidus attempts to take Sicily. He is defeated by Octavian, who takes Africa for himself.

Mark Antony defeated by the Parthians. He escapes to Armenia and returns to Egypt.

-31

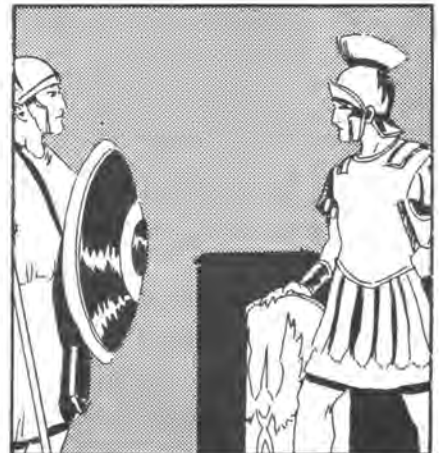
Mark Antony and Cleopatra defeated by Octavian at Battle of Actium, and commit suicide; Egypt becomes a Roman province; Cleopatra is to be the last independent ruler of Egypt until modern times.

-30 to A.D. 14

Octavian retitled Augustus and becomes virtual emperor.

-23

First recorded wrestling match in Japan.



-9

Roman army under Drusus and Tiberius penetrates Germania as far as the Elbe.

-6

Judaea annexed by Rome.

-4

Probable date of birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem.

Herod dies, Judaea divided among his sons.

As Buddha was doing in India, Lao-tzu taught enlightenment through simplicity and self-knowledge, leading to eventual reincorporation into the universal creative principle, which Lao-tzu called the Tao.

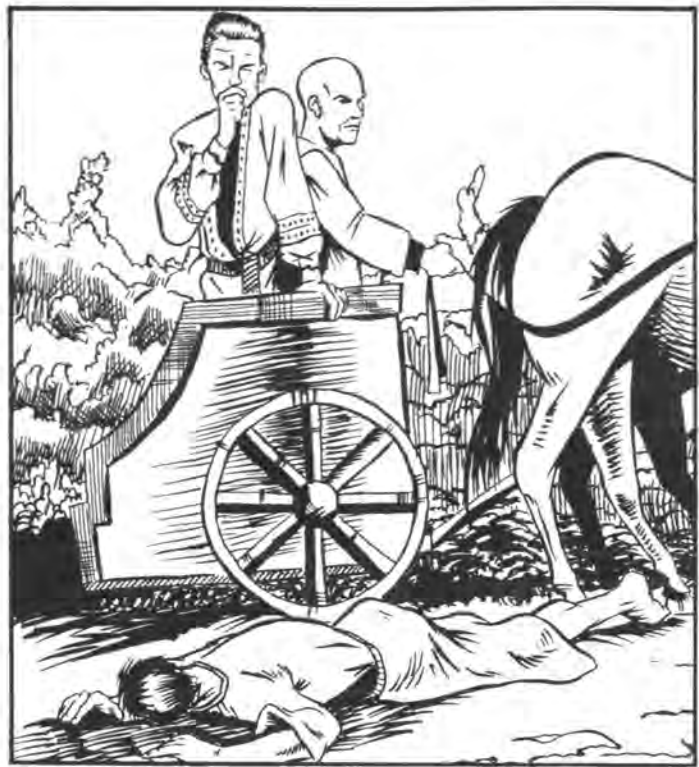
More details on Confucius, Lao-tzu and their followers can be found in *GURPS China*.

India

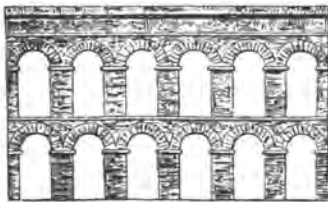
Perhaps the single most important figure of the 6th century was Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. The dates of Buddha's life are highly speculative. Some scholars believe he actually flourished in the 5th century BC.

The traditional outline of the Buddha's life is well-known. He was born Siddhartha, a nobleman from the warrior caste. He lived the opulent life he was born to until his 29th year, when he saw a sick man, an old man and a dead man on the same day. This experience persuaded him to abandon his wife and child, give up his property and title, and seek enlightenment as a holy man. For several years he studied and meditated, including six years of starvation and mortification, which he finally rejected as a path to enlightenment. About the age of 35, he attained enlightenment and began to teach others his path – that in order to achieve enlightenment one must transcend human suffering, and in order to do so, one must abandon human desire.

The faith he founded spread rapidly through India, and eventually was adopted in China, and throughout the Far East.



A.D. 1 to 60



1

The aqueduct Aqua Alsentina is built to supply water for a 1,181' by 1,800' artificial lake designed for mock sea battles to amuse the Romans.

1 to 9

Chinese make the earliest known description of a ship's rudder and build cast iron suspension bridges strong enough to hold a vehicle.

The semi-legendary Ko Yu invents the wheelbarrow.

1 to 200

Sometime during these two centuries, the city of Cuicuilco in the Valley of Mexico is buried under 5 yards of lava.

Mound-building Hopewell culture emerges in North America. Eventually it covers most of the middle west. The Hopewell are mound-builders, and control a vigorous trade network throughout the modern Eastern United States.

9

Romans invade east of the Rhine to conquer Germanic tribes, but the attempt is abandoned when three Roman legions are destroyed by the Germanic chief Hermann in the Teutoberg Forest.

14 to 37

Tiberius succeeds Augustus.

18

The Red Eyebrows secret society in China leads a rebellion against the rulers during a time of rampant poverty and debt; the rebellion is suppressed by Baron Liu Hsiu of Nanyang, who becomes emperor.

23 to 79

Pliny the Elder, Roman natural scientist; writer of *Naturalis Historia*, a work in 37 volumes summarizing all that is known in his time about astronomy, geography and zoology. It is taken entirely from secondary sources, and many legendary monsters are treated as real. Pliny dies of asphyxiation while observing the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius.

27

Jesus Christ baptized by John the Baptist; begins his ministry.

30

Probable date of crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

37 to 42

Caligula succeeds Tiberius, is assassinated by Praetorian Guard.

40 to 49

Greek sailors learn how to use the monsoon winds to sail from the horn of Africa to Southern India in only 40 days, shifting the spice trade to a new route and increasing trade between India and the Roman Empire.

40

Early Christian church erected at Corinth.

42 to 54

Claudius succeeds Caligula.

43

Roman invasion of Britain. British under Caractacus defeated at Medway.

Londinium (London) founded.

45

St. Paul begins his missionary travels.

50

The Romans learn to use soap from the Gauls.

51

Caractus captured and killed, ending resistance to Roman rule in Britain.

54 to 68

Nero becomes emperor, after his mother Agrippina poisons her husband Claudius.

58 to 138

Juvenal, Roman poet.

58

Ming-Ti, the new Emperor, introduces Buddhism to China.

59

Nero has Agrippina killed.

60

British queen Boudicca leads a rebellion against the Romans.

Another notable Indian religious reformer of the time was Mahavira, the founder of Jainism. (Mahavira himself taught that he was in fact 24th in a series of teachers of Jainism, the first being the legendary Rsabha. The only teacher of this line of whom any historical record remains is Puranas, Mahavira's immediate predecessor, believed to have died late in the 8th century). There is no record or tradition of Mahavira ever meeting his contemporary, Gautama.

Jainism holds that the central duty of all humans is to avoid harming any living being. Jainists build asylums and rest homes for old or diseased animals, where they are fed and cared for until they die a natural death. Jains are uncritical of other religions, and they do not proselytize.

For the last 2,000 years, the Jain priesthood has been divided into two distinct traditions. The Digambaras ("Sky-clad") hold that a priest should own nothing, not even clothes, and that salvation is not possible for women. The Svetambaras ("White-robed") reject these points.

Persia

Persia gave the world yet another religion through Zoroaster, the prophet whose teachings dominated the Persian Gulf region until the rise of Islam. Zoroastrianism is still practiced by small groups in Iran. There's a greater remnant in India, where the Zoroastrians are known as Parsis.

Zoroaster's life is highly legendary, and the dates presented on

p. 17 are speculative. The central event in his career as a prophet is said to have occurred in his 40th year, when he converted Vishtaspa, believed to be a king of Chorasmia, a kingdom south of the Aral sea. Time travelers would take a keen interest in tracking down the true details of Zoroaster's life.

Zoroaster's theology claimed that the Gods were ruled by two co-equal principles, one good and one evil. Zoroastrianism is believed to have had a material influence on Jewish/Christian/Islamic theology, particularly the concepts of an omnipotent God, and his eternal adversary, Satan.

The Greeks and, later, the medieval Christians, traditionally regarded Zoroaster and his followers as powerful magicians. The priests of Zoroastrianism are the Magi – a word that has since become effectively synonymous with "white magicians."

Babylon and the Jews

Babylon was undergoing its final, brief epoch of glory under Nebuchadnezzar II, the builder of the legendary Hanging Gardens. But the most important philosophical and cultural developments in Babylon were happening quietly, in secret, far away from the palace.

In 584 BC, Nebuchadnezzar had conquered the Israeli kingdom of Judah, ending the Jewish monarchy. He then took the most powerful and promising Jews to Babylon. During this Babylonian captivity, which lasted until Cyrus the Persian restored Jerusalem to the Jews in 536 BC, the Jews survived by

62 to 138

62

Seneca resigns his position at Nero's court.

64

A great fire destroys much of Rome. The first persecution of the Christians follows, when Nero blames them for starting the blaze.

65

Seneca commits suicide at Nero's orders.

67

St. Peter executed.

68 to 69

Galba is emperor following Nero's suicide.

68

Flavius Josephus writes *History of the Jewish War*.

69 to 79

Vitellius is emperor.

70

Jewish revolt against Rome; Jerusalem captured and destroyed.

75

Building of the Colosseum ordered in Rome; it will remain the largest amphitheater in the world until the Yale Bowl is constructed in 1914.

79 to 81

Titus is emperor.

79

Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius destroys the towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

81 to 96

Domitian is emperor.
Arch of Titus erected in Rome.

96 to 98

Nerva is emperor.

97

Pan Ch'ao, protector general of the Western Chinese empire, sends out an envoy to contact the Roman Empire. The man turns back at the Persian Gulf – a region that in less than two decades would become part of the empire, under Trajan.

98 to 116

Trajan is emperor; under him, the Roman empire reaches its greatest geographical extent, with the partial conquest of the Parthian empire in northeastern Iran.

98

Colonia Nervia Glevensis (later Gloucester) founded.

100 to 109

The Chinese discover the first insecticide, a powder of dried chrysanthemum flowers; the active ingredient, pyrethrum, is ecologically sound (it's virtually harmless to mammals) and is still widely used today.

100

Kingdom of Aksum established in Africa.

105

Tradition has it that paper is invented by the eunuch Tsai Lun. (Archaeological evidence suggests that paper was invented almost 250 years earlier, though not used for writing.)

110

Oldest known piece of paper used for writing.

114

Birth of Roman satirist Apuleius.

117 to 138

Emperor Hadrian.

120

Kanishka, Kushan king in India. Under his rule, arts flourish and a more mythological Buddhism is devised and spread.

122 to 135

Jewish rising under Bar Kokhba.

122 to 127

Hadrian visits Britain; Hadrian's wall built from Tyne to Solway.

132

Chinese mechanical genius Zhang Heng invents the world's first seismograph, a device that indicates the direction of an earthquake by dropping a ball from the mouth of a bronze dragon into the mouth of a bronze frog.

138 to 161

Antoninus Pius is emperor.

codifying their religion and society into a world-view and way of life of astonishing power and durability. Many of the most important beliefs of the Jews were developed and codified during this time. It is believed that much of the Old Testament as we now know it was first created in Babylon.

The religious and philosophical ideas which emerged in the Babylonian captivity are the reason the Jews still exist as a nation and as a religion, despite millennia of oppression and Diaspora. They are also the source of many of the most important doctrines of Judaism's two direct descendants, Christianity and Islam.

The Mound Builders

-500

The Adena culture of North America was in no sense a civilization. The people had no metalworking and little agriculture, and were at least semi-nomadic. They were, however, a remarkably unified and long-lasting culture with an extensive system of trade and a rich ritual life. The Adenas are best remembered today for the great burial mounds they left behind, notably the snakelike Great Serpent Mound, near Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Adena culture lasted 1,200 years, and extended from southern Ohio into Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

The Adenas built up their mounds over a period of years, adding a bit more each year as they stopped in that particular place. They buried their dead in clay pits within the mounds, usually with finely-wrought stone tools and art objects. They were prodigious users of tobacco – the ancient wild tobacco the

Adena used was much more potent than today's strains, and produced a much more profound narcotic effect.

One Man's Mede is Another Man's Persian -480

About the year 1000 BC, two closely-related Indo-European tribes, the Medes and the Persians, settled in what is now the country of Iran. It was the Medes, in 612 BC, who ended the savage Assyrian empire. They were allied with the Babylonians in the final campaign against Assyria, but the Babylonians arrived at the decisive siege at Ninevah only after the Medes had secured the victory. The Medes' share of the former Assyrian holdings formed a small-but-powerful empire, although it was ruled more as a confederation than a despotism.

A minor war with the Lydians provides an interesting footnote for time travelers. On the day the two armies were to meet, a total eclipse of the sun occurred. The opponents quickly agreed that this was an omen and called off their war! Thanks to modern astronomy, this almost-battle is the earliest major historical event that can be *precisely* dated. It occurred on May 28, 585 BC. This will no doubt be an important benchmark for time travelers, particularly at the dawn of trans-temporal historical research.

In 559 BC, Cyrus II, later to be known as Cyrus the Great, gained control of the Persians. He cannily consolidated his power base, until he was ready to rebel openly against the ruling Medes. In 550 BC the Median Empire became the Persian Empire.

Cyrus rapidly conquered Lydia and Babylon, using a masterful combination of military force and diplomacy. His rule was, by the

140 to 200



140 to 149

Ptolemy (Claudius Ptolemaeus, c. 100 to 170) writes *Megale Syntaxis Tex Astronomias* (Arab translation, *Almagest*); it becomes the most important text on astronomy during the Middle Ages.

150

Earliest known Sanskrit inscriptions in India.

161 to 180

Marcus Aurelius is emperor.

164 to 180

Great plague in the Roman Empire.

c. 164

Oldest Mayan monuments.

166

Emperor Huan Ti of China receives gifts from Marcus Aurelius.

170 to 189

Galen, Roman physician and anatomist, becomes the first to use the pulse as a diagnostic aid; compiles in his writings all medical knowledge of his time in one systematic treatment. This compilation will be used until the end of the Middle Ages.

180 to 192

Commodus, son of Marcus Aurelius, reigns until his murder in 192.

180

Romans, defeated in Scotland, retire to Hadrian's wall.

184

War in China between the imperial eunuchs and the Yellow Turbans secret society.

The generals of the war against the Yellow Turbans split China into three kingdoms.

185 to 254

Origen, early Christian theologian.

185

The Chinese observe a "guest star" – most likely a supernova – in the constellation Centaurus, with remains visible for 20 months.

190 to 209

Chinese develop porcelain.

Chinese mathematicians use powers of 10 to express numbers.

Mathematician Liu Hui uses polygons of up to 3,072 sides to calculate pi to 3.14159; he also develops the method of approximation known as Horner's method, after the man who rediscovered it in 1819.

190

General Tsao Tsao of China restores the young emperor to power, defeating the Yellow Turbans and breaking the power of the eunuchs.

193 to 211

Septimius Severus is emperor.

197

Albinus, self-proclaimed Emperor of Britain, killed in battle of Lyons.

200 to 540

Afghanistan invaded by the Huns.

200

Neo-Platonism, last of the Greek philosophies.

Bishop of Rome gains his predominant position as pope.

Carthage, under Roman rule, again becomes a world metropolis.

standards of the time, humane and light-handed to an unheard-of extent (no doubt because the tyranny of Assyria was still fresh in the minds of the ruling houses of the Near East). It was Cyrus who released the Jews from their Babylonian captivity, and sponsored their return to Jerusalem and the restoration of the temple.

Cyrus' successor, Cambyses, was a competent but unlucky ruler. He successfully completed Cyrus' planned conquest of Egypt, quietly assassinating his brother Bardiya in the meantime. While he was still trying to consolidate his power in Egypt, however, he was called home to deal with a rebellion fostered by an impostor claiming to be his dead brother. He died on the way home, from infection from an accidental sword wound.

The throne was then assumed by a general, Darius, also called the Great. Darius put down the revolts at home, consolidated the empire and established a bridgehead across the Hellespont.

He built the Persian empire to its greatest extent, taking large bites out of India, followed by Greece. It was now the largest empire the world had ever seen, stretching almost 3,000 miles from east to west, from Greece to India.

Darius' successor, Xerxes, made a fatal mistake in trying to complete his father's conquest of Greece. For all the Persians' cultural and military sophistication, the remarkable Greeks had raced ahead of them. Furthermore, the Persians' vast empire worked against them – the Greeks could concentrate on stopping Persia, but the Persians had to worry about holding their empire together, in addition to the problem of the Greeks.

The Greco-Persian war is one of the most dramatic conflicts of antiquity. From 490 to 449 BC the Greeks constantly outfought and outmaneuvered vastly greater Persian forces. Although it dragged on for another 20 years, the war was effectively over by 479 BC, when the Greeks smashed the thoroughly demoralized Persians at Plataea.

During the Peloponnesian War, the Persians were relegated to the sidelines, trying (with some success) to play the Athenians and the Spartans against one another, throwing their financial and political support to first one side, then the other.

All ambitions of conquering the Greeks were banished, however, in 401 BC, when the rebel Cyrus the Younger hired 10,000 Greek mercenaries in his attempt to take the throne. Cyrus was killed in the battle of Cunaxa, ending the revolt, but the Greeks were not broken and marched more than 500 miles, *directly through* the heart of the Persian Empire, to the Black Sea and safety.

After this humiliation the Persian Empire became completely immersed in internal rebellions and intrigue. The Persian empire was finally conquered by Alexander in 330 BC.

Although the details of the Greco-Persian war are meticulously recorded by the Greek historians, there remain plenty of details that need to be checked, since the account is, of course, entirely from the Greek perspective. This gives the time travelers an excellent excuse to visit the glorious battles of Marathon, Thermopylae, Salamis and Plataea. Time travelers might also find adventure in accompanying the Greek mercenaries on the long march home from Cunaxa.

The First Sack of Rome

-390

In 476 AD, the German chief Odoacer ended the Western Roman Empire by conquering the city of Rome, making himself the last in a long succession of barbarian chieftains to sack the city.

The first invader arrived more than 850 years earlier, and was only slightly less successful than Odoacer in his campaign. Brennus the Gaul is believed to have invaded Italy and taken Rome about 390 BC. He won his decisive victory at the Allia River, only 12 miles south of Rome. After that battle, he delayed a day or two in the field, unintentionally giving the Romans time to fortify the Capitoline, one of the seven hills of Rome. Brennus thoroughly sacked the rest of the city, and but was unable to take the Capitoline. After a seven-month siege, he allowed the defenders to ransom themselves, and left the city with a rich booty.

During his sack of the city, Brennus destroyed the civic archives, and therefore most of the contemporary records of the

200 to 260

200 Continued

Mogollon culture, noted for their sophisticated and beautiful brown and red pottery, established in modern New Mexico and Arizona.

Silkworms arrive in China and subsequently Japan, from Korea.

208

General Tsao Tsao attempts to reunify China and fails.

211

Septimius Severus visits Britain and dies at York; his sons Caracalla and Geta succeed, but Caracalla murders Geta.

212

Roman citizenship given to every free-born subject in the empire.

215 to 276

Mani, founder of the Manichaean sect in Persia.

217

Caracalla assassinated.

218 to 222

Heliogabalus is emperor.

220

End of Han dynasty in China, followed by four centuries of division.

The Goths invade Asia Minor and the Balkan Peninsula.

222 to 235

Alexander Severus is emperor.

224

Sasanid dynasty replaces the Parthian dynasty in Persia.

225

The southern part of India breaks up into several kingdoms after the end of the Andhra dynasty in the Deccan region.

235 to 238

Maximus reigns as emperor following murder of Alexander Severus in an army meeting.

238 to 244

Emperor Maximus assassinated by his troops – succeeded by Gordian I and II, Balbinus, Pupienus and Gordian III.

244 to 249

Philip the Arabian reigns as emperor.

248

Rome celebrates its 1,000th anniversary.

249 to 251

Decius is emperor. General persecution of Christians.

c. 250

Arithmetica, by Diophantus; the earliest-known treatise on algebra.

251 to 253

Emperor Gallus.

253 to 260

Emperor Valerian.

257 to 258

Goths, divided into Visigoths and Ostrogoths, invade Black Sea area.

Franks invade Spain.

Alemanni and Suevi conquer upper Italy, but are defeated at Milan.

260 to 269

Mount Ilopango in what is now El Salvador erupts, sending the incipient Maya civilization hundreds of miles away. Their characteristic culture will not revive for about 200 years.

city's history before 400 BC. To salvage these records for posterity would be an important mission, and if the time travelers were also to observe the sack and siege itself, it could be an exciting one as well.

Brennus' campaign also offers a dangerous opportunity for catastrophic historical tinkering. What if Brennus had been persuaded not to pause after his victory at the Allia, but to press on, destroying his enemies before they could take refuge in the Capitoline? Rome might have been completely obliterated from history. More likely, the Roman Republic would have ended prematurely, as the defeated, demoralized remnant reverted to despotism in the name of a strong defense. Either way, the Roman Empire would have been far less likely if Brennus had been able to make his victory complete. The consequences of the obliteration of Rome from human history are incalculable.

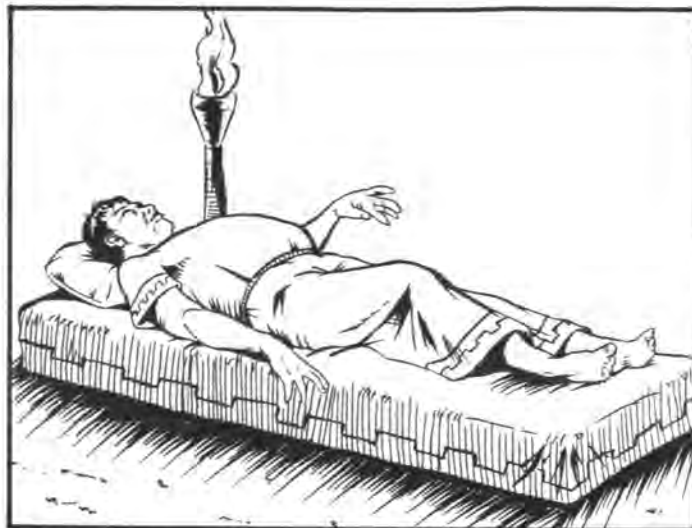
The Death of Alexander

-323

It is ironic that the man who still stands as the most glorious and successful conqueror in all human history succumbed to something as absurd as indigestion. Nonetheless, it is a fact that Alexander III of Macedon, called Alexander the Great, died in Babylon, at the age of 33, on June 13, 323 BC, apparently due to orgiastic excesses of food and wine at a feast ten days earlier.

There seems little doubt that the conqueror's life could have been saved by any competent time-traveling physician with a suitcase full of TL7 (or even TL6) medical supplies. What effect would such a dramatic intervention have on history?

Perhaps very little. There is a legend that when Alexander finally realized he had conquered the whole known world, he wept because there was nothing left to conquer. In his final years, Alexander seems to have fallen into an excessive and self-de-



structive lifestyle. Perhaps if he had been saved in 323, he would have simply found a more efficient way to kill himself in 322.

It also seems likely that Alexander was sinking into megalomania at the time of his death. Perhaps the best evidence for this is his unabashed campaign to have himself deified by the Greeks in 324. The Greeks humored their king in this conceit, though not without irony. The Spartan proclamation on Alexander's divinity read, with typical Spartan severity and aplomb, "Since Alexander wishes to be a god, let him be a god."

But it's also possible that Alexander would have proven as brilliant a ruler as he was a general, if he'd only been given a few more years to implement his policy.

260 to 325

260 to 268

Emperor Gallienus, Valerian's son.

265

Mongol and Hsiung-nu barbarians invade China during a time of internal chaos.

268 to 270

Emperor Claudius II.

268

The Goths sack Athens, Sparta and Corinth.

269

The Library at Alexandria is partly burned when Septimia Zenobia, queen of Palmyra, captures Egypt.

270 to 275

Emperor Aurelian, called "Restitutor Orbis," "Restorer of the World."

270

Marcomanni advance from Bohemia across the Danube.

271

Aurelian defeats the Alemanni and Marcomanni and rebuilds the walls of Rome.

273

Aurelian overthrows kingdom of Palmyra.

276 to 282

Marcus Aurelius Probus is emperor.

282 to 283

Marcus Aurelius Caus is emperor.

284 to 305

Diocletian is emperor.

285

Roman empire partitioned into western and eastern halves.

Carausius, Roman commander of the British fleet, proclaims himself independent Emperor of Britain.

297

Romans take Armenia from the Persians.

300

The five German dukedoms (Saxons, Franks, Alemanni, Thuringians and Goths) develop separately.

Lombards move from the Lower Elbe southward (arrive in Italy 568).

Ghana empire founded in Africa, ruled by Berber Maga dynasty.

Bowling is considered part of religious ritual in German monasteries.

302

Earliest known description of a stirrup, in China.

303 to 311

Last persecutions of the Christians in Rome.

304

The actor Genesius dies a martyr's death during a performance in Rome.

305

Diocletian abdicates in the East, Maximian in the West. Their empires go to Constantius Chlorus and Galerius.

306 to 337

Following death of Constantius Chlorus (in York, Britain), his son Constantine the Great succeeds and reunites the two empires under his sole rulership.

During his reign, Constantine forbids public gladiatorial combats.

313

Edict of Milan; Constantine establishes tolerance for Christianity.

320 to 330

Chandra Gupta, first Gupta emperor of northern India. See p. 38.

325

First Church of the Nativity erected in Bethlehem.

At the time of his death, Alexander had successfully disassembled his immense military machine, and was rapidly and ruthlessly cleaning up the corrupt Persian Empire (simultaneously eliminating those rulers whose loyalty he did not quite trust). His economic reforms had already stabilized and strengthened the economy, and he had laid out the skeleton of a comprehensive program of visionary social and political reforms. Nor was his military career completely over – he had never completed his conquest of Asia Minor, where Paphlagonia, Cappadocia and Armenia remained vexatious pockets of independence. And he hadn't even had time to turn his attention to such semi-civilized backwaters as Rome and Carthage.

As befits a pupil of Aristotle, the most vigorous scientific mind of the age, Alexander took a keen interest in geographical exploration and scientific research, and he was only beginning to turn these interests into coordinated programs at the time of his death. Alexander had conceived a son, and if the boy Alexander IV had been declared the heir and reached manhood under his father's protection, rather than being assassinated before his 14th year, Alexander might have succeeded in founding an imperial dynasty.

There seems little doubt that if Alexander had lived even a few more years, the face of antiquity would have been greatly changed. Had he lived to consolidate his empire and insure the succession, all subsequent human history might have been fundamentally altered – perhaps this book would have been written in the Texas Satrapy of the North American province of the Alexandrian Empire, in the year 2316 AA...

India

-260

It is difficult to pinpoint the rise of the second Indian civilization. Certainly the Indo-European tribes who overran the

Harrapan civilization about 2500 BC were already an advanced culture. And the India of Gautama and Mahavira was certainly a completely civilized, sophisticated and stable culture. But India was in no sense a nation. It was a land of thousands of autonomous tribes, cultures, city-states and kingdoms. The most significant political entity of pre-Alexandrian India was probably the kingdom of the Ganges valley, a small empire forged by the Magadha tribe in the late 5th century. This kingdom was to persist until the time of Alexander, through several different dynasties.

Shortly after Alexander's death, the first true Indian empire arose. The man who unified the Indian subcontinent was Candragupta, a prince of the nomadic Maurya people, who had met Alexander in his youth. In 325 BC Candragupta seized the throne of the Magadha kingdom, beginning the rise of the Indian empire. When Alexander's empire fell apart, Candragupta rapidly expanded his own empire, not coming into contact with Alexander's successors until he reached the border of Persia about 305. The Greek ruler Seleucus I Nicator was repelled in an attempt to invade India, after which Candragupta forged a lasting peace with the Seleucid Empire, and turned his imperial attentions to the south of the Indian subcontinent.

In 297 BC, during a catastrophic 12-year famine, Candragupta starved himself to death in sympathy for his suffering people. He was succeeded by his son Bindusara, who brought the empire to its greatest geographical extent. Bindusara did not conquer all the land to the tip of the subcontinent, however, apparently because the rulers of the far south were already stout allies.

In 272 BC, Bindusara was succeeded by his son Asoka, who proved to be one of the most enlightened and remarkable rulers of the ancient world. After a campaign against the Kalinga region in 260, Asoka, revolted by the suffering he observed, became a

330 to 383

330

Constantinople founded as new capital on site of old Greek Colony of Byzantium. Basilican Church of St. Peter's erected.



337

Constantine the Great is baptized a Christian on his deathbed. He is succeeded by his sons Constantine II, Constantius II, and Constans.

340

Constantine II killed in battle of Aquileia, fighting his brother Constans.

Rome again splits into two empires, with Constans reigning in the West and Constantius II in the East.

350

Persians regain Armenia from Rome. Fortifications built in London.

Aksum conquers the neighboring state of Meroe, becoming the sole civilized power south of Egypt.

c. 360

Scrolls begin to be replaced by books.

360

Picts and Scots cross Hadrian's wall and attack Britain.

Huns invade Europe.

361

Emperor Julian the Apostate attempts to restore paganism in the Empire.

367

A revival of the original Celtic religious beliefs begins, and continues for some decades.

369

The Chinese report a new star in 369 – probably a supernova – that remains visible for five months.

370

Picts and Scots driven out of Britain by Theodosius.

376

Huns invade Russia.

378

Emperor Valens defeated and killed by Visigoths at Adrianople in Thrace.

379 to 395

Emperor Theodosius reigns. During his reign, he forbids the Olympic Games.

382

Theodosius resettles Visigoths in the empire.

383

Roman legions begin to withdraw from Britain.

Emperor Magnus Maximus crosses Channel and conquers Gaul and Spain.

Buddhist and renounced conquest by violence. He continued to reign for 25 years, working constantly for a more peaceful, enlightened and unified empire. He is still regarded as a saint by certain Buddhist sects, particularly in the Far East.

After the death of Asoka, the empire rapidly declined and completely disintegrated within 50 years. It was not to rise again for more than 800 years. It is tempting to assume that the fall of Maurya was due to unrest over Asoka's liberal policies, or a weakened defense due to his anti-militarism. This does not appear to be the case. There is no evidence of any significant ethnic or religious unrest during Asoka's reign, and he appears to have maintained a strong military for defensive purposes. The fall of the empire appears to have been simply due to its chronic inability to feed its people – a problem that killed Candragupta, and that still plagues India to this day.

The Old Silk Road

-114

It is one of the great curiosities of history that, although China and the West knew of one another only as vague legends until the voyages of Marco Polo in the 14th century AD, a flourishing trade route between the two great civilizations was established late in the 2nd century BC. It was this route which Polo traveled on his epic journey, and it is now known as the Old Silk Road.

The Silk Road originated at the Chinese city of Sian. It followed the Great Wall to the Northwest, bypassed the Takla Makan Desert, claimed the Pamir Mountains, crossed Afghanistan and ended at the east coast of the Mediterranean, where it connected with all the trade routes of Western civilization.



386 to 410

386

Hymn singing introduced to Christian Church by Ambrose, Bishop of Milan.

The first "Hallelujah" hymns are sung by 390.

387

Establishment of military colony in Armorica by "Emperor" Maximus of Britain (memorialized as Prince Maccsen of Welsh and Cornish folklore). Maximus presses his forces forward and briefly captures Rome.

388

Maximus killed in combat with Theodosius, Eastern Emperor. Roman control over Britain is re-established, but never regains the strength it had before Maximus' rise to power.

389

Library of Alexandria destroyed during a riot of Christians against pagans.

392 to 395

Theodosius the Great becomes Emperor of both East and West – the last to rule a united empire. He closes the pagan temples, effectively making Rome a Christian empire. On his death, Honorius and Arcadius redivide the Empire.

396

Alaric, king of the Visigoths, invades Greece and plunders Athens.

398

Alaric plunders the Balkans.

399

Roman general Stilicho arrives in Britain with troops to help repulse an Irish invasion led by the high king of Ireland, Niall-of-the-Nine-Hostages. As part of his strategy, Stilicho establishes a defensive system organized under local chieftains, under whom Celtic tribalism begins to revive.

400

First definite records of Japanese history.

Possible settlement of English monks in the Glastonbury area.

Brief revitalization of the Yellow Turbans secret society in China.

Anasazi culture in the American Southwest begins to build pit-houses.

401 to 403

The Visigoths invade Italy.

402

Stilicho withdraws the legions from Britain.

405

British sea victory results in the death of Niall and the immediate reduction of the Irish threat.

406

Founding of Burgundian kingdom of Worms.

Stilicho checks Ostrogothic invasion at Fiesole.

Teutonic campaign in Gaul cuts Britain off from Roman control.

Constantine III is proclaimed emperor by the remnants of the army in Britain.

407

Constantine takes the remaining legions and goes to Gaul, but his second-in-command Gerontius undermines his power from the rear.

410

Alaric captures and sacks Rome; dies on his way to the south; buried in the bed of the Busento River near Cosenza.

Saxons attack Britain again. Regional councils of Britain write to Emperor Honorius of Rome and effectively proclaim their independence from the Empire. Honorius' only reply tells them to look to their safety, ignoring the independence question.

Constantine and Gerontius die in the chaos sweeping Europe.

c. 410 to 485

Proclus, foremost Neo-Platonist philosopher; becomes head of the Platonic Academy at Athens, 476.

c. 410

Beginnings of Alchemy; search for the Philosopher's Stone and Elixir of Life are chief objects.

The route stretched more than 4,000 miles, and there are no records of anyone prior to Marco Polo making the entire trip. Instead the goods were passed on from caravan to caravan, through a series of middlemen. Silk came westward, and wool, gold and silver returned East over the route.

The man most responsible for the establishment of the Silk Road was Chang Ch'ien, a Chinese explorer in the service of the Emperor Wu Ti. Chang led an active and exciting life. In 138 BC he was sent to establish relations with the Yueh-chih people, an Indo-European tribal group in central Asia. On the way he was captured by the Hsiung-nu nomads, and detained for 10 years. Nevertheless he finally completed his mission, returning 13 years after setting out.

Seven years later he was sent out again, this time to contact the Wu-sun, another Indo-European tribe north of the Tarim Basin in what would later become the Soviet Union. On this journey,

Chang sent his assistant to visit Fergana (in the Uzbek region), Bactria (in Afghanistan) and Sogdiana (in Turkestan). He gathered information on Parthia, India and other near- and middle-eastern states. This mission marked the first contact between Chinese culture and the Hellenistically-influenced cultures left over from Alexander's empire. These contacts rapidly led to the development of the silk trade, which was flourishing by the time Julius Caesar became the emperor of Rome a few decades earlier.

There is now a United Nations plan to establish a trans-Asian highway along the route of the Old Silk Road.

Time-traveling historians would be anxious to accompany Chang Ch'ien on his travels, and perhaps follow the Road all the way from China to Rome. In addition to high adventure and intrigue, this mission offers a unique chance to experience both the Chinese and Roman empires at their height.

411 to 455

411

St. Augustine writes *The City of God*.

415

Hypatia, Greek mathematician and philosopher, and the only woman to be so regarded, murdered by a band of monks for teaching pagan ideas.

416

The Visigoths conquer Vandal kingdom in Spain.

418

Visigoths granted land in Gaul. Franks settle in Gaul.

420

Nanking again becomes the capital of Northern China.

425

Barbarians settled in Roman provinces. Vandals in southern Spain, Huns in Pannonia, Ostrogoths in Dalmatia, Visigoths and Suevi in Portugal and northern Spain.

Six-year-old Valentinian III becomes Western Roman Emperor under the guardianship of his mother Galla Placidia.

Vortigern gains prominence in central Wales and begins extending his influence in Britain.

429 to 454

Aetius, chief minister of Valentinian III, virtually rules the Western Empire.

429

Saxons, Jutes and Angles expel Picts and Scots from southern England.

Gaiseric founds Vandal kingdom in northern Africa.

St. Germanus comes to Britain to combat Pelagianism. He specializes in calling down pillars of flame from the sky to consume cities.

432

St. Patrick begins his mission to Ireland.

433 to 453

Attila rules the Huns.

434

Aetius comes into power in Rome, and holds the Germanic tribes in check for the next two decades.

436

Last Roman troops leave Britain. Huns destroy Burgundian kingdom of Worms.

440

The ancient town of Ys in Brittany is submerged in a great flood.

443

Gaiseric takes last Roman possessions in northern Africa and establishes absolute monarchy.

The Alemanni settle in Alsace.

447

Walls of Constantinople damaged in an earthquake.

449

According to the medieval historian the Venerable Bede, in this year the first Angles, Saxons and Jutes arrive in England. In fact, by this date they had been arriving, in one form or another, for almost a century.

450

Vortigern allows mercenary troops composed of Angles, Saxons and Jutes to settle on the island of Thanet at the mouth of the Thames and nearby other land, in exchange for their aid in repelling future invasions of Picts and other Saxons. Hengist and Horsa, Jute leaders, settle with their people in modern Kent.

c. 451 to 500

Moshica culture of the Chimu Indians in Peru, Pre-Inca culture in Tiahuanaco, Peru.

451

Attila the Hun invades Gaul. Aetius fights him to a standoff near Troyes.

452

Attila ravages Northern Italy. Venice founded by refugees from the Huns.

453

Attila dies, Huns withdraw from Europe.

454

Vortigern is unable to maintain payments to foreign mercenaries, and fighting breaks out between British and Saxon forces.

Legendary date of Sir Galahad's arrival at Camelot, triggering the quest for the Holy Grail, according to *Le Morte D'Arthur*.

455 to 500

Huns under Mihirakula invade India.

455

Vandals sack Rome.



The Library at Alexandria

-47

A "dream mission" for many time travelers is to rescue the manuscripts lost in the burning of the library of Alexandria. The correct response to that suggestion is "which burning?" The Library was burned at least three times.

Perhaps the first library in the modern sense was compiled by Aristotle, for his Peripatetic school in Athens. It is believed that an exact copy of Aristotle's library formed the initial core of the Library at Alexandria, when it was planned by Ptolemy I Soter, and established by his son Ptolemy II Philadelphus, about 300 BC. The Ptolemys planned nothing less than the compilation of all existing Greek literature. They established their library in a temple dedicated to the Muses, known as the Mouseion.

The first fire at the Library occurred in 47 BC. Some of the manuscripts were saved, and a few years later Mark Antony donated the contents of the Library at Pergamon. The combination of the two libraries created by far the greatest collection of literature the world had ever seen.

The next burning occurred in 269 A.D., when Septimia Zenobia, Queen of Palmyra in present-day Syria, captured Egypt during her revolt against the Roman Empire.

The final burning occurred in 389, during a time of intense and violent power struggles between the Christians and pagans of Alexandria. The Christians burned the Library as a repository of pagan ideas and doctrine. Unlike the two previous fires, the destruction this time was deliberate and total.

All three burnings occurred during eras fraught with intrigue and violence, which could easily entrap time-traveling archivists.



The Rebellious Queen

60

Boudicca was queen of Icenia in Britain. Her husband, Prasutagus, was a rich man, and when he died in 60 he divided his

inheritance between his two daughters and the emperor, thinking that he could buy his family immunity from imperial interference.

457 to 491

457

Battle of Crayford; Britons defeated by Hengist, abandon Kent to Jutes.

British refugees flee to Armorica, establishing "Little Britain" (Brittany) there.

458 to 468

Reign of Mérovée, ruler of the Franks and founder of the Merovingian dynasty.

460

Cologne captured by the Franks. Vandals destroy Roman fleet off Cartagena.

461

Lyons becomes the capital of Burgundy. Ambrosius Aurelianus organizes the remaining Romanized Britons.

465

According to church legend, St. Columba faces and defeats the Loch Ness Monster, who flees in the face of the saint's prayers. (Note that the historical St. Columba is believed to have lived a century later - see 563).

468

British war leader Riothamus, considered by some to be the historical King Arthur, is contacted by the Roman emperor Anthemius seeking an alliance.

469

Riothamus leads an army into Gaul at the request of Emperor Anthemius. His force is destroyed the next year by Visigoths.

c. 470

Maya city civilization flourishes in southern Mexico.

471 to 526

Theodoric the Great, King of the Ostrogoths.

476

End of the Western Roman Empire; the German Odoacer (433 to 493) deposes the last emperor, the derisively-titled Romulus Augustulus, and is proclaimed king of Italy.

Gaiseric, king of the Vandals sells eastern Sicily to Theodoric, king of the Visigoths.

477 to 484

Huneric, son of Gaiseric, fiercely persecutes the Catholics.

477

Founding of the Kingdom of Sussex.

478

First Shinto shrines appear in Japan.

480 to 543

St. Benedict of Nursia, the patriarch of Western monasticism.

481 to 484

The revolt of Vahan Mamikonian secures religious and political freedom for Armenia.

481

15-year-old Clovis becomes king of the Salian Franks.

484 to 519

Pope's excommunication of Patriarch Acacius of Constantinople leads to first schism between Western and Eastern Churches.

486

Clovis beats Syagrius, the last Roman governor of Gaul, near Soissons.

487 to 493

Theodoric begins his conquest of Italy.

489

Theodoric defeats Odoacer on the Isonzo River and again near Verona.

491

The Saxons capture Pevensey, Sussex. The Armenian Church secedes from Byzantium and Rome.

Instead, the Roman Centurions plundered his land, then had Boudicca beaten. Both the daughters were raped.

Boudicca raised a rebellion among the British. Their first target was a temple to the emperor, at Camulodunum (modern Colchester). The governor, Suetonius, was out of Britain at the time, so the priests at Camulodunum appealed to the procurator Catus Decianus for aid. Catus sent only 200 men. Camulodunum fell to the rebels after a two-day siege.

Flushed with victory, the British under Boudicca met and destroyed the 9th Legion. Catus fled to the continent. About this time, however, Suetonius returned, and he was through underestimating the rebels. Arriving in Londinium (London), he raised what troops he could, then fell back, yielding the city to the rebels. Londinium was subsequently sacked, as was the undefended city of Verulamium.

Suetonius, with one full legion, the most experienced troops from another, and local auxiliaries, hand-picked the spot for his decisive encounter with the rebels. Boudicca, riding in a chariot with her daughters, spent the night before the battle traveling from tribe to tribe, rallying her force, but the next morning the disciplined, ready Roman troops slaughtered the Britons. According to the Roman historian Tacitus, the overconfident rebels had brought their women with them, leaving them in wagons at the rear to watch the battle. When the Romans broke the British force, the wagons interfered with the rebels' retreat, turning the defeat into a massacre. Tacitus says that 80,000 Britons fell, to only about 400 Romans. Boudicca, he says, took poison when the extent of the defeat became obvious.

Historians would be eager for a first-hand account of Boudicca's rebellion. A time-mission sent to observe and report on the conflict between this determined, resourceful woman and her implacable Roman foe would face danger both from the outraged, suspicious Britons and from the imperious, callous Romans.

The Chinese Invasion of Rome

97

At the close of the 1st century the Chinese and Roman empires were both at their height. The two empires were aware of each other (in a general way) and had a flourishing two-way trade along the Old Silk Road (see p. 34). That they never came into direct contact seems mostly a matter of mischance and coincidence.

The man who came closest to establishing relations between the empires was a Chinese nobleman named Pan Ch'ao. Ch'ao was the member of a remarkable family. His father, Pan Piao, began the definitive Chinese history text *History of the Former Han Dynasty*, his brother, Pan Ku brought the work into its mature form, and is known as one of China's great historians. His sister, Pan Chao, completed the work on Pan Ku's death.

In addition to their scholarly pursuits, all the Pans were important statesmen and courtiers, but Pan Ch'ao was much less a scholar, and much more a ruler, than any other member of his family.

He began his career in 73, when he was about 40. With only a small force, he was ordered to pacify the Hsing-nu tribes on China's Northwest borders. He achieved rapid success by playing on the inter-tribal rivalries among the barbarians. But his mission was cut short when he was ordered to return to court after only three years.

A few years later, he was allowed to finish his mission, after which he rapidly gained control of the entire Tarim basin. He was made *tu hu*, or protector general, of the western empire in 91. He then expanded his conquests across the Pamirs to the shores of the Caspian sea.

This conquest meant that only the small Parthian empire (centered in Persia — modern Iran) lay between the Chinese and Roman Empires. Hearing rumors of the great empire to the west,

493 to 526

493

Odoacer capitulates at Ravenna to the Ostrogoths and is murdered by Theodoric; Theodoric founds an Ostrogothic kingdom in Italy and marries a sister of Clovis.

494 to 534

The Ostrogoths in Malta.

495

Kingdom of Wessex founded.

496

Clovis defeats the Alemanni near Strasbourg and is baptized by his friend St. Remigius (or Remy), Bishop of Rheims; 3,000 of his followers also become Christians.

c. 500

Anglo-Saxons begin wearing shirts, tunics and coats.

Tamo brings tea from India to China.

Hohokam culture established in North American Southwest. This culture is distinctive for its advanced irrigation system, and its close cultural and commercial ties to Mesoamerican cultures.

500

Therasmand marries Theodoric's sister and obtains as a dowry western Sicily.

The Marcomanni, a German tribe in Bohemia, invade Bavaria; on their departure the Czechs settle in Bohemia.

The Lombards occupy the area north of the Danube and expand.

British victory over the Saxons at Mt. Badon, Dorset.

Chinese Buddhist monks sail east to "Fusang," a country that some believe may have been Mexico.

First plans of the Vatican Palace in Rome.

Incense is introduced in Christian church service.

505 to 565

Belisarius, general of Constantinople.

507 to 711

Visigoth kingdom of Old Castile.

507

Clovis kills Alaric II in the Battle of the Campus Vogladensis; Clovis annexes Visigoth kingdom of Toulouse. Visigoths driven into Spain.

510 to 563

Provence, the southeastern part of France, goes to the Italian Ostrogoths.

511

Clovis dies; his realm is divided among his four sons, Theodoric I, Chlodomer, Childebert and Clothar, with courts at Soissons, Paris, Metz and Orleans respectively.

517

Emperor Wu-Ti becomes a Buddhist and spreads the religion to central China.

519

End of the first schism (began 484); Western and Eastern churches reconciled.

522

The oldest known pagoda, from the Sung Yuen temple of Honan China, a tower-like structure derived from the stupa of ancient India.

525

Cosman Indicopleustes, explorer and geographer of Alexandria, travels up the Nile and writes his *Topographia Christiane*.

Caleb of Abyssinia conquers the Yemen.

526

On Theodoric's death, his daughter Amalawenantha becomes regent of Italy.

Ch'ao dispatched an envoy, but the man turned back upon reaching the Persian Gulf.

In 102 Pan Chao, Pan Ch'ao's sister, persuaded the Emperor to allow the 70-year-old statesman to return home, which he did, only a few weeks before his death. His sons could only retain control over the Tarim for a few years until it once again fell into barbarian chaos.

About a decade later, in 115, the Emperor Trajan stood on the shores of the Persian Gulf, having just added the Parthian empire to Rome, bringing the Roman empire to its greatest geographical extent. It is said he wept there, because he was too old to follow Alexander into India. Two years later he died, and the empire once again returned to its policy of not expanding its borders.

If Pan Ch'ao's envoy had persevered in his mission (perhaps due to the encouragement of an interested time meddler) and brought word of the glorious Chinese court to Rome, would Trajan (or his successor, Hadrian) have been content to stop at the Persian Gulf? Would the Chinese emperors have fought harder to retain control of the Tarim after Pan Ch'ao's death? Would the empires have co-existed peacefully, each content in its own right, or would they have warred to mutual extinction? Or perhaps one would have eventually conquered the other, to extend a single rule across Eurasia, from Britain to the Pacific.

Mound Builders Revisited

100

The Hopewell people were the second great mound-building culture of North America. Like their predecessors, the Adena, the Hopewell culture appears to have appeared in modern Ohio, and the two spheres of influence overlapped for several centuries, until the Adena culture died out. The Hopewell culture was much farther-flung than the Adena, extending from Missouri to the Gulf of Mexico to New York.

Most of the Hopewell people were primarily hunter/gatherers – the fertile natural resources of the area left little need for agriculture. However, in a few less-fertile regions at the edge of Hopewell influence, the Hopewell did begin to settle down and cultivate maize. They also had the art of pottery.

Unlike Adena mounds the Hopewell sites are rich in grave goods, indicating an abundance of human and natural resources. Much of the goods found in Hopewell mounds is from locations all over eastern North America. It is obvious that the Hopewell controlled an extensive and active trading network.

The New Guptas

320

More than 500 years after the reign of the first Candragupta (see p. 33), India again rose to imperial glory under a family named Gupta.

These Guptas were originally chiefs in the kingdom of Magadha. The line was established by one Sri Gupta, about whom nothing else is known.

Sri Gupta's grandson, Chandra Gupta, began his rise to power with an advantageous marriage, about 308, to a princess of the neighboring Licchavi tribe. (The official Gupta imperial chronology begins in 320, but it is unclear whether this event marks Chandra Gupta's coronation or his marriage).

The details of Chandra Gupta's reign are unclear (and would be of tremendous interest to historians), but he is known to have amassed enough power to take the title *maharajadhiraja* – “king of kings,” and he left his son Samudra Gupta with a sufficient power base to found an empire.

About 330, it is believed, Chandra Gupta abdicated the throne, passing it to Samudra Gupta. It is believed that the new king was chosen from among several claimants, and that the early years of his reign were spent suppressing rebellions led by his rivals.

527 to 543

527 to 565

Justinian the Great, Emperor of the Eastern Empire.

527

Saxon kingdoms of Essex and Middlesex.

In Europe, designs are made for paddle-wheel boats powered by oxen walking in circles, but it's doubtful any such vessels are ever made.

529

Justinian closes the 1,000-year-old School of Philosophy, in an attempt to suppress paganism.

St. Benedict of Nursia founds the Monastery of Monte Cassino and the Benedictine Order.

531 to 579

Chosroes I becomes king of Persia, leading his country to new cultural and artistic heights.

531 to 532

Belisarius defeats the Persians at Dara and is in turn defeated by them.

Belisarius recalled to Constantinople to put down the Nika revolt.

Constantinople destroyed during the revolt, but soon rebuilt.

532

The Franks overthrow the kingdom of Burgundy.

533

Belisarius overthrows Vandal kingdom and makes north Africa a Byzantine province.

534 to 870

Malta is a Byzantine province.

534 to 711

Toledo becomes capitol of the Visigoth kingdom of Spain.

534

Koreans introduce Chinese mathematics to Japan.

535 to 540

Belisarius occupies Ostrogoth kingdom in Italy.

536

After the destruction of the Ostrogoth kingdom, Provence becomes part of the kingdom of the Franks.

Naples becomes part of the Byzantine empire.

537

Battle of Camlan in Britain, traditional death of King Arthur.

539 to 562

War between Persia and Byzantine Empire.

540

Totila the Ostrogoth ends Byzantine rule in Italy, becomes king of the Ostrogoths the next year after the death of his father, Hildebad.

St. Brendan, an Irish monk, sets out on a voyage that some believe took him to America, from the Canadian coast to the Florida mainland.

The first Welsh poets: Taliesin, Aneirin, Llywarch Hên.

Empress Theodora introduces long white dresses, purple cloaks, gold embroidery, tiaras and pointed shoes to Byzantine fashion.

542

The plague in Constantinople (killing, at its peak, 10,000 persons a day in that city), imported by rats from Egypt and Syria, soon spreads all over Europe.

St. Gildas writes his history of early Britain.

543

Disastrous earthquakes shake the entire world.

He then began an impressive series of conquests, turning the incipient Gupta kingdom into a true empire. Some of his conquests he annexed outright; in others he returned the rulers to



their thrones, in exchange for tribute and homage. In all, he is said to have destroyed nine monarchs and subjugated 12 more.

Samudra Gupta has come to be regarded as a semi-mystical figure, an ideal of his race. He stands as the personification of heroic Hindu ideals in much the same way that David stands for the Jews or King Arthur for the British. He is portrayed as a muscular warrior with "marks of hundreds of wounds received in battle," but also as a poet and musician.

He was succeeded by his son, Chandra Gupta II, about 380. He expanded the empire, more through diplomacy than conquest. More important, he brought India to a new height of culture and science. In all the world at that time, only China and Byzantium could approach the level of civilization enjoyed by the Guptas.

During Chandra Gupta II's reign, a Chinese Buddhist monk, Fahsien, spent six years (405 to 411) in India. Although he never visited court, he made glowing reports on the efficiency and generosity of the empire, and the goodwill of its subjects.

All of the Guptas were devout Brahmanist Hindus, and perhaps their most enduring effect on Indian society was the revival of Hinduism that their reigns engendered. It is significant that they accomplished this without recourse to religious persecution – Jains and Buddhists were accorded full rights. Instead, the Guptas promoted Hinduism simply by effectively and publicly embodying its highest ideals.

During the reign of Chandra Gupta's son, Kumara Gupta, an ominous rumor reached the empire of the approach of savage hordes of barbarians called Hunas, or Huns.

It fell to Skanda Gupta, the next emperor, to face the encroaching Huns. The Huns were first ruled by Toramana, who was succeeded by his son, Mihirakula. Mihirakula is recorded in the Buddhist tradition as a figure of unrelieved savagery and cruelty.

After almost 50 years of warfare with Mihirakula, from 455 to

546 to 573

546

Totila enters Rome.

547

Totila leaves Rome.
The plague reaches Britain.

550

Totila conquers Rome again.
Westward migration of Turkish tribes (Avars) begins.
The kingdoms of Mercia, East Anglia and Northumbria founded.
Slav tribes settle in Mecklenburg.
Poles settle in western, Ukrainians in eastern, Galacia.
Wales converted to Christianity by St. David.
Beginnings of chess game in India.
Golden age of Byzantine art; the crucifix develops as an ornament.

551

Ostrogoth navy defeated by Byzantines.

552

Emperor Shotoko Taishi introduces Buddhism at beginning of Asuka period in Japan.
Justinian sends missionaries to China and Ceylon to smuggle out silkworms; beginning of European silk industry.

Totila killed at the Battle of Taginae, fighting against Byzantines under Narses.

553

Narses, the eunuch general, annexes Rome and Naples for Byzantine.
Silk industry becomes state monopoly in Byzantine Empire.

554

Narses appointed exarch, the highest military and civil authority in Italy.

558

Clothar I, son of Clovis, reunites the kingdom of the Franks.

559

Belisarius repels an army of the Huns near Constantinople.

561

Clothar I dies, dividing the Frankish kingdom among his four sons.

563

St. Columba, Irish abbot and missionary, founds a monastery on the Isle of Iona and begins to convert the Picts.

565

Lombards drive the Byzantines from northern Italy to the south, but leave them Ravenna.

Alboin rules the Lombards upon the death of his father Audoin, and destroys, with the help of the Avars, the Gothic kingdom of the Gepidae on the lower Vistula.

The Avars, an Eastern people, bring with them the trace harness and stirrup, both originally invented in China.

567

Leovigild, king of the Visigoths, drives the Byzantines from western Spain.
Partition of Frankish kingdom into Austrasia (Lorraine, Belgium, right bank of the Rhine), Neustria (France) and Burgundy.

568 to 774

Alboin founds a Lombard kingdom in Northern and Central Italy.
Avars invade Hungary.

570 to 632

Mohammed, founder of Islam.

570

Persians overthrow Abyssinian rule in the Yemen.

572 to 591

War between Persia and Byzantine empire.

573 to 634

Abu Bekr, Mohammed's father-in-law and first Caliph of the Mohammedans.

500, the Guptas managed to drive the Huns back to their own kingdom in Kashmir and the Punjab. However, the Huns had opened the door for other barbarian invaders, notably the Khazars. Steadily and inevitably the Gupta empire declined and disintegrated, until it was once again just one feudal kingdom among many.

Time travelers would take particular interest in the obscure early reigns of Chandra Gupta I and Samudra Gupta, Fahsien's visit from China at the height of Chandra Gupta II's reign, and the invasions of Mihirakula and his Huns.

Aksum 350

The African kingdom of Aksum, in what is now northern Ethiopia, was the heir to Nubia as the southernmost outpost of civilization.

The ancestors of the Aksumites were the Semitic Sabaeans people who migrated from Southern Arabia sometime during the first millennium BC. The Sabaeans are mentioned in the Bible, in the person of the enigmatic Queen of Sheba (or Saba'), who is recorded as having visited Solomon at the height of the Israeli Empire. The kings of Aksum regard themselves as the descendants of Solomon and Sheba.

Aksum became a national power in the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, when its traders increasingly interfered with the Nubian kingdom of Meroe's control of the southern coast of the Red Sea.

About 350, the Aksumites invaded and conquered Meroe. That same century they became Christianized, linking themselves religiously and politically with the Byzantine empire. Aksum remained unchallenged as the most important political power in Africa until the 7th century. In that century they conquered and annexed the Yemen, but shortly thereafter they were cut off from the rest of Christianity for more than 500 years by the Moslem conquest of Arabia.

The written history of Aksum for the next few centuries is limited to a scant handful of references in Arab chronicles. It's mentioned that there was war between Ethiopian kingdoms in 687, and in 976 it's said that a Jewish queen, Esato (or Judith), took the throne and persecuted the Christian population.

The Kingdom of Aksum formally ended in 1270, when the

reigning prince abdicated in favor of the ruler of the neighboring kingdom of Shewa. However, a dynasty claiming descent from an Aksumite Solomonic dynasty regained power in Ethiopia in the 13th century.

The Ethiopian Christians were reunited with European Christianity in the 15th century, when Ethiopian monks attended an ecumenical council in Florence. The Europeans immediately identified Ethiopia with the legendary kingdom of Prester John, said to be a powerful Christian king in Africa. Prester John was invented during the crusades as an African ally of the Europeans against Islam.

In the 16th century, Ethiopia allied with the Portuguese to expel the Moslem sultan of the Somalis. The Jesuits sent so many missionaries to Ethiopia that in 1633 the order was expelled from the country.

Aksum, the ancient capitol of the Aksumite kingdom, is still a thriving town in Ethiopia. It is known for the 126 ancient granite obelisks in the central square. One of these, measuring 110 feet tall (now fallen) is said to be the tallest obelisk ever erected. The most recent obelisk announces the nation's adoption of Christianity in the 4th century. At least 27 stone thrones have been uncovered in the ruins of the ancient palace.

There is a tradition that the 17th-century Church of St. Mary of Zion contains the original tablets on which Moses carved the 10 Commandments. It is said that these tablets were brought to Ethiopia by the legendary King Menelik I, son of Solomon and Sheba.

Time travelers might be sent to Aksum to witness the fall of Meroe, or to uncover the facts behind the mysterious Queen Judith. They might also go even further back, to explore the historical facts (if any) behind the Bible's mysterious Queen of Sheba.

The Merovingians 448

The first kings of France made up the Merovingian dynasty. The line was founded by the Frankish chief Mérovée or Merovech, about whom nothing is known except that he was crowned in 448 and died about a decade later, and that he may have fought Attila the Hun at the Battle of the Catalaunian Plains in 451.

573 to 598

573

War between Clothar's sons Chilperic and Sigebert.

576 to 613

Brunhild, widow of Sigebert, king of Austrasia, reigns as regent of the kingdom.

577

Women in Northern Ch'i, under siege from neighboring kingdoms in China, invent matches so that they can start fires for cooking and heating.

The English of Wessex defeat the Welsh at Deorham.

Death of St. Brendan.

582 to 615

War between China and Turkish empire.

584

Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia founded in England.

585

Leovigild conquers the whole of Spain.

587

Emperor Yang reunifies China and establishes the Sui dynasty.

Visigoths in Spain being converted to Christianity.

Foundation of the first Buddhist monastery in Japan.

589

Under Authari, first king of the Lombards, and Queen Theodelinda, the Lombards are converted to Roman Catholicism.

590 to 628

Chosroes II ascends the throne of Persia and renews the war with the Byzantine Empire.

590 to 604

Pope Gregory I, the Great.

590

St. Columba leaves Ireland with 12 other monks and goes to Luxeuil in the Vosges. The plague appears in Rome.

594

End of plague which began in 542; population of Europe has been halved.

595

First authenticated record of decimal reckoning in India.

597

St. Augustine of Canterbury lands in Thanet, baptizes Ethelbert of Kent, and founds a Benedictine monastery in Canterbury. He founds what is probably the first English school, at Canterbury, the next year.

598 to 614

Four unsuccessful Chinese invasions of Korea.

Mérovée's son was Childeric I, who was Grandfather of Clovis I, who unified the Franks and created the nation of France. The Merovingian dynasty ruled France (at least in name) until 750, when Pepin the Short overthrew Childeric III to found the Carolingian dynasty.

The Merovingians are central to several complex and fascinating conspiracy theories. One school of theorists, for example, contends that the Merovingians were the lineal descendants of Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene.

It is also said that one of the most influential illuminated organizations of the last 1,000 years, the Prieuré de Sion, exists with the avowed purpose of restoring the descendants of the Merovingian kings to the throne of France (and eventually the world). In pursuit of that goal, the Prieuré is said to have provoked the Crusades and created the Knights Templar, and later the Freemasons as their agents.

A detailed account of the Merovingian dynasty and its relationship to various secret societies is given in *GURPS Illuminati*. *GURPS Timeline* will confine itself to the possible consequences if these conspiratorial groups gain access to time-travel technology.

The Illuminati, of course, are subtle, and might try literally *anything* in the pursuit of their goals. The most obvious and direct way for the Prieuré to tinker with history, though, is to prevent the Carolingian dynasty from ever supplanting the Merovingians.

The Carolingians were descended from a hereditary line of "Mayors of the Palace." Though nominally servants of the king, the Mayors actually held the reigns of French government for several generations before Pepin the Short finally seized the throne officially.

The last Merovingian to make a serious effort to throw off the influence of the Mayors of the Palace was Dagobert II (later canonized as St. Dagobert), who reigned as king of Austrasia from 675 until his murder in 679.

Dagobert's father died in 656, and the son of the Mayor of the Palace took the throne as Childebert the Adopted. Dagobert was sent into hiding in an Irish monastery. Childebert and his father, Grimoald, eventually fell from power, and the throne went back to a Merovingian, Childeric II. Childeric was assassinated in 675;

Dagobert was located, with the help of the Bishop of York, and restored to the throne. He immediately began a program to unify the kingdom and return the power to the throne. He was vigorously opposed by his Mayor, Pepin the Fat, and the Church, and assassinated four years later. *Agents provocateurs* from the time-traveling Prieuré might insert themselves into the Austrasian court with the goal of promoting Dagobert's agenda, and undermining Pepin's opposition.

A more ambitious program might include the systematic assassination of all significant Carolingian Mayors of the Palace, over the course of several generations. An even more Draconian plot might involve strengthening the Merovingian line through the assassination of Merovingians deemed too weak to rule on their own, thus preventing the frequent splintering of the Frankish kingdom that kept the Kings from growing too powerful, and making it more difficult for the Mayors to usurp authority by giving them stronger kings to deal with.

Prolonging the Merovingian dynasty, by definition, implies the elimination of the succeeding Carolingian dynasty. The dangers of this course are particularly frightening, even by the risk-fraught standards of temporal manipulation. The most famous of the Carolingians was, of course, Charlemagne, the man who brought Europe out of the Dark Ages and halted the Moslem expansion into Europe. If Charlemagne is eliminated from history, a completely Islamic Europe by the start of the 12th century becomes a distinct possibility.

The situation can be complicated further by introducing rival Illuminati, who might seek to undermine the Prieuré by prematurely ending the Merovingian dynasty, thus making the founding of the Prieuré unnecessary or even impossible. The obvious way to do this is the early elimination of significant kings like Clovis or Dagobert, or even Mérovée himself. Of course, the time agents of the Prieuré would take any action necessary to prevent such interference.

The PCs could be on either side of such a time-war. Or, if the GM wanted to complicate the situation still further, they could represent an independent agency, assigned to run a "sixth column" operation to protect recorded history against any and all conspiratorial groups that might try to alter it.

600 to 610

600

Tibet begins to develop into a united state.

Czechs and Slovaks settle in Bohemia and Moravia, Yugoslavs in Serbia.

The barbarian invasions halt in western Europe.

The Khazars form an empire between the lower Volga and the lower Don.

Pope Gregory strives for the peaceful conversion of the Jews, introduces picture books for illiterates to replace the Bible, and writes a manual on the duties of the clergy.

The city of Teotihuacan in the Valley of Mexico dissolves, perhaps due to the ecological exhaustion of the valley's resources.

Civilized, pre-Inca states form in Peru at Huarí, Tiahuanaco and Moche-Chimú. All will collapse by 1000.

Agricultural Mississippian culture begins to spread across North America. This culture will dominate for more than 1,000 years, until wiped out by European disease in the 18th century.

Coptic art in Egypt.

Chinese and Korean artists and craftsmen settle in Japan.

Book printing in China.

In Italy the monetary system is replaced by barter.

From India, smallpox spreads via China and Asia Minor to southern Europe.

Earliest known windmills built in Persia.

602

Canterbury established as archepiscopal see by St. Augustine of Canterbury.

Korean priest introduce the calendar and astronomy into Japan.

Owing to disastrous floods, the bed of the Yellow River (Huang Ho) in China has to be changed for the first time (further changes until 1852).

605

Yang Chien, founder of Sui dynasty, completes the reunification of the Chinese empire.

606

Harsha-Vardhana restores the Gupta line, establishes the last empire in northern India under a native ruler.

Examinations demanded for applicants to public office in China.

607

First Japanese ambassadors in China.

Completion of Horyuji temple and hospital in Japan by Emperor Yomei (oldest surviving wooden building in the world).

608

Turks attack Mongols and drive them into Tibet.

609

The Pantheon of Rome consecrated as the Church of Sante Maria Rotonda.

610

Mohammed's vision on Mount Hira.

First record of the use of episcopal rings.

The Aztecs of the North

500

The Hohokam culture was an agricultural, technologically-advanced society that flourished in the American Southwest from about 300 to 1400. The Hohokam appear to represent the interface between the Mesoamerican civilization and the tribal cultures of North America.

Hohokam dress, ornamentation and construction is strongly influenced by the Indian civilizations of Mexico. Some modern archaeologists are so impressed with the correspondences between the Hohokam and the Mexican Indian cultures that they suggest that the ancestors of the Hohokam immigrated from Mexico about 300 AD.

The Hohokam settled in the Valleys of the Salt and Gila rivers in what is now Arizona. This area lies in one of the most arid deserts on the American continent, yet the Hohokam were an agricultural people. They fed themselves by constructing elaborate and durable networks of irrigation canals. Their irrigation network was in place by 500 AD. They were also metal workers – they cast copper bells in wax.

Like their more-civilized neighbors to the south, the Hohokam built sunken courts for the traditional ball game of the American Indians. This game was a sort of cross between basketball, soccer and a street fight. Sometimes the losers were executed after a match; other times the winners were permitted to loot the spectators' clothing and possessions.

The Hohokam, however, show little evidence of the bloody-mindedness of the more "civilized" Mesoamerican cultures – they probably simply didn't have enough excess population to squander citizens on death sports or human sacrifice. Instead, they seem to have had a quiet, tribal culture with little centralized authority, other than the cooperative maintenance of the irrigation system – a duty which all the villages shared.

Despite this, there was apparently a healthy trade between Mexico and the Hohokams, particularly from 900 to 1200. The Hohokam obtained textiles, pyrite mirrors and even parrots and macaws from the southerners.

The Hohokam culture reached its zenith around the beginning

of the 14th century, when the Salado Indians were peacefully incorporated into the Hohokam culture. The Salado were pueblo-builders, and together with the Hohokam engineers, the traditional Hohokam pit-house was soon replaced by elaborate three-story community buildings. The Salado also introduced numerous new foods into the Hohokam diet.

For unknown reasons, the Hohokam culture declined rapidly in the early 15th century. Their degenerate descendants eventually forgot the achievements of their ancestors, giving them the name Hohokam, or "those who have vanished."

Time-traveling historians or sociologists might find the Hohokam culture a safe and convenient place to headquarter investigations of the Mesoamerican civilizations, the plains Indians of the Midwest, or the pueblo Indians of the Southwest, any time between 500 and 1500.

Legendary Voyages

540

The early European saints are a fascinating lot, but perhaps the most adventurous saint of them all was Brendan the Navigator, born about 485.

An Irish monk, Brendan rose rapidly in the church hierarchy. He was the abbot of Ardfert, and subsequently established new monasteries in Ireland and Scotland. His most important abbey was founded at Clonfert, and he is often known as Brendan of Clonfert.

Brendan was known as a great traveler. In addition to his missions to Scotland, he is known to have visited the Hebrides, and perhaps Wales and Brittany. He lived to a ripe old age, dying about 578.

Within a couple hundred years of his death, Brendan was immortalized as the hero of the *Navigatio Brendani* ("Voyage of Brendan"). This theological epic is considered a masterpiece of early Irish literature. The tale records Brendan's voyage, with a crew of Irish monks, to the western "Promised Land of the Saints."

It is far from clear whether the *Navigatio* is based on any sort of historical voyage. Certainly its extravagant elements of alle-

613 to 627

613

Northumbrians under Ethelfrit defeat Britons near Chester.

614

The Persians take Damascus and Jerusalem, and take as booty the putative Cross of Christ.

615

Turks invade China but are turned back through intrigue. Subsequently, an alliance between the empires is signed.

Earliest records of Mohammed's teaching.

616

Persians overrun Egypt.
Wessex gains control of Kent.

618

Li Shihmin founds the T'ang dynasty in China.

619

The Persians in Egypt, Jerusalem and Damascus, and at the Hellespont.



620

The Northmen invade Ireland.
Production of porcelain in China.

622

The Hegira, Mohammed's flight from Mecca to Medina.
Year one in the Moslem calendar.

623

Samo, a Frankish merchant from Sens, encountering Slav tribes in Carinthia, frees them from the Avars and founds an empire.

625

Double attack of the Avars and Persians on Constantinople repelled by Emperor Heraclius.
Mohammed begins to dictate the Koran.

626

Edwin of Northumbria founds Edinburgh and begins Christianizing his country.

627

The Persians decisively defeated by the Byzantines at Nineveh.



gorical fantasy argue against its historicity (although some equally-fantastic epics – notably the *Song of Roland* – are based on historical events). For centuries, historians have been mulling over the problem: *if* the poem is based on a real voyage, *where* exactly did the saint end up?

Some scholars have suggested the Canary Islands, off the northwest coast of Africa, and others have guessed the Azores in the mid-Atlantic, but other, less-restrained critics have argued that Brendan's great voyage took him down and back up the entire Eastern seaboard of North America, from Canada to the tip of Florida.

The geographical evidence in the *Navigatio* used to support this theory is interesting, but far from conclusive. It remains the GM's choice whether he wants his time travelers to accompany Brendan on a less dramatic, more probable voyage to an island in the Atlantic, or on a less likely, though still possible voyage of discovery to the American continent.

Fusang

While Brendan and his Christian monks were making their mysterious voyage to the West, a group of seafaring Buddhist monks from China were making an equally enigmatic voyage eastward.

Chinese history records that, about 500, a group of monks undertook to sail east. They returned with the tale of a land they called "Fusang." The monks apparently sailed eastward from China, by way of Alaska and down the west coast of the American continent, perhaps getting as far as Mexico, based on a description in the chronicles of a plant that sounds much like the Mexican cactus. The monk who reported this remarkable voyage is identified in the annals of the Chinese empire as Hwei-shin.

Unlike the *Navigatio*, the Chinese account is not in the least fantastic. It's found in otherwise sober historical chronicles. However it's also very short and sketchy, and the identification of Fusang with North America is extremely speculative.

Madoc

Price Madoc of Wales is a latecomer to the pre-Columbian voyages derby, since his adventure happened in 1170, almost two centuries after Lief Erikson's confirmed voyage to the New World.

Madoc (or Madog) ab Owain Gwynedd was the son of Owain Gwynedd, the prince of Gwynedd in North Wales. On his father's death, the quarrels between the sons over the disposition of their father's estate led Madoc to seek his fortune across the western ocean. About a year after his departure, he returned to Wales to gather colonists for the New Land he discovered. He departed with 10 ships, and was never heard from again.

627 to 639

627 Continued

Upon capturing the Persian castle of Dastagerd, the Byzantines find Indian sugar.

Mohammed's enemies from Mecca besiege Medina and slaughter 700 Jews.

Emperor Tai Tsung takes the throne of China, founding the T'ang Dynasty.

Northumbria becomes Christian.

628

The Cross of Christ recovered by the Byzantines.

Mohammed captures Mecca and writes letters to all the rulers of the world, explaining the principles of the Moslem faith.

629

Heraclius recovers Jerusalem.

Hsuan Tsang, the Chinese Buddhist, travels to Cambodia to study Buddhism at its source.

630

Olaf Trætela, expelled from his native Sweden, founds a colony in Vermeland (Norway).

632

Buddhism becomes state religion in Tibet.

Christianization of East Anglia.

633

The Arabs invade Persia, conquer Syria and Iraq.

The churches of Jerusalem, Antioch and Alexandria are taken by Moslems and lost to the Christian faith.

Spain becomes an elective kingdom of the Visigoths.

634 to 644

Omar I, advisor to Mohammed and successor to Abu Bekr, conquers Syria, Persia and Egypt, and defeats Byzantines.

635

Damascus becomes the capital of the caliphs.

Mohammedans capture Gaza.

Emperor T'ai-Tsung receives Christian missionaries.

Christianization of Wesssex.

636

Rise of feudal nobility in Japan.

In the Frankish empire, differentiation between French and German languages appears.

Persian fire worshippers settle in central India.

Southern Irish Church submits to Roman Catholicism.

Isidore of Seville, scholar who was influential in preserving some Greek writings and in keeping astrology popular despite Biblical prohibitions, dies April 4.

637

Jerusalem conquered by Arabs.

638

Persia appeals to China for help against Moslems.

639

China conquers Turkestan, after the Turks break the alliance between the Empires.

Muslims begin the conquest of Egypt.

There is considerable doubt that Madoc of Gwynedd ever existed at all (he first appears in histories in the 16th century, well after Columbus). However, his legendary voyage has provoked considerable speculation, particularly in the early 19th century. One theory suggested that the Mandan Indians of the Missouri River Valley were Madoc's descendants, and there were persistent rumors of encounters between frontiersmen and Welsh-speaking Indians, or even whole villages of "white Indians."

Justinian's Worms

552

For the 3,000 years before Christ, silk production was an exclusive secret of the Chinese Empire. About 150, the Indians acquired silkworms, but they guarded the secret as jealously as the Chinese. Europe and Persia were completely dependent on the Far East for their supply of raw silk.

Faced with an ever-growing demand for silk, the Emperor Justinian the Great of Constantinople persuaded two Persian monks who had lived in China to return and smuggle silkworms to Constantinople. The plan succeeded. Several live worms were smuggled out of China hidden in the monks' hollowed-out bamboo staves, and the European silk industry for the next 1,500 years was based entirely on the descendants of the few hardy worms that survived the long journey.

As a major turning point in the economic balance of power of the Dark Ages, the details of the extraction of the silkworms would be of great interest to historians. The time travelers could be assigned to attach themselves to the mission, as guards or servants, and accompany the monks on their adventure.

If the GM is not adverse to playing with history a bit, he could throw the PCs for a loop by killing off the Persian monks shortly into the trip, due to some sort of natural disaster (avalanche, wild animals, bandits) beyond the adventurers' control. This would represent a major quandary for the time travelers — history clearly records that the mission succeeded. If the worms are not delivered to Constantinople on schedule, the long-term ramifications on history would be incalculable.

This scenario does require taking a few liberties with history. Most notably, for the impersonation to succeed, it must be assumed that the monks never came into direct contact with the emperor or any member of his court directly involved with planning the operation. However, given the size and nature of the Byzantine bureaucracy, and the chancy relations between Constantinople and Persia, this is not such an incredible assumption. And, of course, the GM is always free to allow the time travelers to use high-tech cosmetic techniques to change their appearance to resemble the monks.

Persians Again

619

The Parthian Empire, in what had been the heart of old Persia, proved to be by far the most durable of the remnants of Alexander's old Empire. Except for a brief conquest by Trajan in 114, Persia remained autonomous and potent for over 800 years, from 171 BC to 651 AD. Although it was never again to be a serious contender for world domination, Persia was a constant thorn in the side of Rome, and later Constantinople. It is likely that no other empire has ever changed its borders as frequently and radi-

641 to 650

641

Arabs under Omar conquer Persian Empire; Islam begins to replace the religion of Zoroaster.

Arabs destroy book-copying industry at Alexandria and end the Alexandrian school.

642

Arabs conquer Egypt, Mesopotamia and Syria.

643

Moslems conquer Tripoli.

Building begins on the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.

Death of Chinese physician Chen Ch'uan, the first man to note the symptoms of diabetes mellitus.

644

Chinese move into Korea.

Ornaments on Swedish helmets show Odin on his eight-legged horse.

645

Taikwa reform completes the rebuilding of the central Japanese state, limiting powers of the nobility.

Yen Li-pen, greatest of the artists of the Tang period in China, at work.

646

Byzantine fleet recaptures Alexandria.

647

Emperor Harsha's death breaks up his northern Indian empire.

648

Song-Tsen of Tibet conquers Nepal.

649

Arabs conquer Cyprus.

First naval engagement between Arabs and Byzantines.

650 to 659

Callincus invents Greek fire, a substance that will burn in water and set fire to wooden ships.

650

Hindu empire in Sumatra.

The Khazars conquer the Great Bulgarian Empire in southern Russia.

Caliph Othman puts the Koran into 114 chapters.

The Caliphs introduce the first organized news service.

The Chinese monk Shan-tao fights Chikai's mystic Buddhism and popularizes Amida Buddhism.

Byzantines develop the art of weaving.





cally as Persia, and still retained its essential independence for as long.

Although Persia never completely fell to foreigners (other than Trajan), the Hellenistic Parthian empire fell in 224 to the Sasanids, a noble family that ruled the city of Istakhr. The Sasanids were named after their ancestor Sasan, an ambiguous figure whose one reasonably certain accomplishment was to marry into the Imperial family sometime during the 1st century A.D.

The Sasanids were a remarkably stable dynasty. The people were more loyal to the royal line than to the person of the king, so a usurper from outside the royal family would find it difficult to capture popular support. Within the family, intrigue was controlled by the custom of giving the heirs to the throne considerable power, in the form of governorships over important regions of the empire, as soon as they were old enough to exercise that power.

The Sasanids were strongly Zoroastrian. Christians were alternately persecuted and grudgingly tolerated by the throne. An important religious figure of the time was Mani, who attempted to create a new religion synthesized from Zoroastrianism, Christianity and Gnosticism. Mani taught in the middle of the 3rd century (anticipating the next great prophet of a new, ecumenical religion – Muhammad – by more than 300 years). His teachings found favor in the courts of Shapur, the first Sasanid ruler, and his successor, Hormizd I, but Hormizd's son, Bahram I, yielded to pressure from the Zoroastrian establishment and had Mani executed. Nonetheless, Manichaenism remained an important religion in the region for several centuries.

652 to 700

652

Arabs and Nubians agree to make Aswan the southern limit of Arab expansion.

654

Penda, heathen king of Mercia, overthrown and killed by Oswiu.

655

Moslem fleet destroys Byzantine fleet at Lycia.

660

China begins a campaign to conquer Korea.

663

Last visit to Rome by a Byzantine Emperor (Constans II).

Synod of Whitby, England, adopts Roman Catholic faith.

664

Plague outbreak in Saxon England. Many clergy are killed, and in places the populace returns to their pagan gods for supernatural aid.

665

Essex becomes Christian.

668 to 749

Buddhist priest Gyogi of Korea, who unites Buddhism and Shintoism in Japan.

670

The Arabs attack in north Africa.

671

Birth of Caedmon, the earliest English Christian poet.

The Chinese Buddhist monk I-Tsing travels to India and Malaya.

672 to 735

The Venerable Bede, English monk and historian.

672

First synod of the English Church held at Hertford.

673

First Arab attack on the city of Constantinople.

674

Arabs arrive at the Indus river.

677

St. Wilfrid begins to convert the Saxons of North Germany.

679

Assassination of Dagobert, last Merovingian king of the Franks.

680 to 689

First uses of a "goose-egg" sign for zero in Cambodia and Sumatra.

685

Battle of Nechtansmere; victory of the Picts prevents Northumbrians gaining control over Scotland.

Founding of Winchester Cathedral.

686

Sussex, the last heathen kingdom in England, converted to Christianity.

687

Victory of Pepin the Younger at Testry unites the Frankish kingdom.

688 to 741

Charles Martel, the "Hammer."

688

Ine, king of Wessex, subdues Essex and part of Kent.

693

Arabs defeat Justinian II at Sebastopolis, Cilicia.

694

Arabs overrun Armenia.

695

Persecution of the Jews in Spain.

697

The Arabs destroy Carthage, ending Byzantine power in North Africa.

Northern Irish Church submits to Roman Catholicism.

698 to 759

Wing Wei, Chinese poet and painter.

700

Arabs conquer Algiers – Christianity in northern Africa almost exterminated.

The next great Persian ruler was Kavadh I, who reigned at the turn of the 5th century. He was a great military leader, who managed to capture the city of Amida from the Eastern Roman Empire. His son, Khosrow, was as great a political success as his father was a military success. He had a reputation as an enlightened and just ruler; one of his greatest achievements was the negotiation of a 50-year peace with Constantinople.

Khosrow's son, Hormizd, was an unremarkable leader whose rule was usurped by two pretenders to the throne. Hormizd's son, Khosrow II, was set up as a puppet and forced to agree to his own father's execution. Khosrow, however, fled to Byzantium during the general unrest that followed. He forged an alliance with the Eastern Empire and returned to take the Persian throne. Khosrow II was assassinated by his son during a revolution. By 642, the ancient Persian empire had ceased to exist.

Time travelers will find many interesting scenarios in the ancient Persian empire. But for sheer adventure, few milieus can approach the long career of Khosrow II, the ruler of Persia in the late 6th century. His rule was marked by many betrayals, escapes and reversals. A time meddler might be tempted to sway history by preventing Khosrow's return to power. An assassination during his flight to Constantinople, in the late 580s, is an attractive plan. The premature death of Khosrow would certainly leave Persia wide open to Roman conquest.

Muhammad's Successor

656

The death of Muhammad (June 8, 632) left his nascent community of Islam in a fragile state. On the surface the Islamic nation was strong, incorporating most of Arabia in a coalition devoted to the prophet and his teachings, even to the point of death.

Beneath this formidable exterior, however, powerful tensions roiled. The tribes and nations that now marched beneath the banner of the Prophet had formerly been rivals, and many had been deadly enemies. With the moderating influence of Muhammad (one of history's great consensus builders) removed, and his teachings not even fully codified or standardized yet, Islam was in tremendous danger of disintegration due to ethnic prejudice and theological extremism.

The elders of Mecca knew that a strong individual was needed to take up the reigns of political power. They chose Muhammad's father-in-law, Abu Bakr, disregarding, in the process, what many perceived as the Prophet's wishes that his son-in-law 'Ali succeed him. And although Abu Bakr was probably the best man for the job, and 'Ali was to get his chance at the Caliphate eventually, this choice was to have long-range negative ramifications.

Abu Bakr took the title of *khalifah*, or caliph, meaning deputy or successor. He managed to strengthen the Islamic nation by

700 to 740

700 Continued

Easter eggs come into use among Christians.

Population explosion in China. The first large urban developments.

Anasazi culture in the American Southwest begins to construct cliff dwellings, as a response to changing climate conditions.

Adena culture becomes extinct in North America.

701 to 1192

Codification of Japanese political law. The Mikado becomes the sole proprietor of all land.

701 to 762

Li Po, great Chinese poet.

705 to 715

Reign of Caliph Walid, the most brilliant period of the Caliphate.

705

Empress Wou-Hou succeeds to the Chinese throne, but is forced to abdicate.

710

The Bulgarians advance toward Constantinople.

Nara, after Fujiwara, becomes the capital of Japan.

China refuses to help the Kashgarians against the Arabs.

Ine's wars with the Britons of Cornwall. Buddhist monasteries in Japan become centers of civilization.

711

Arab general Tarik defeats Roderic, last king of the Visigoths, at Xeres de la Frontera, and Spain, with the exception of Asturias, becomes an Arab state.

Spanish Jews, freed by the Arabs, begin their cultural development.

712

Height of the Lombard kingdom in northern Italy, under King Liutprand.

The Arabs occupy Samarkand and make it a center of Islamic culture; here they learn to make paper.

Seville conquered by Arabs.

Moslem state established in Sind (India) by Muhammad ibn Kasim.

713 to 756

Ming Huang, Emperor of China; his court becomes a center of art and learning.

716

The Arabs conquer Lisbon.

717

Caliph Omar II grants tax exemption to all believers.

718

Leo III defends Constantinople for 13 months against the Arabs and destroys their fleet.

720

The Moslems settle in Sardinia; their army crosses the Pyrenees into France, seizing Narbonne.

First Shoguns appointed in Japan to subdue the Northern Aizu people.

Opposition to the use of images in Byzantium churches - iconoclasm - becomes official policy.

Abu Masa Dshaffar, famous Arab chemist said to have invented sulfuric acid, nitric acid, aqua regia and nitrate of silver.

c. 725

Beowulf written.

725

Flower of Buddhist civilization in China. Chinese capitol Ch'ang-an is the largest city in the world, Constantinople the second largest.

Charles Martel crosses the Rhine and conquers Bavaria. He seizes church lands to pay his soldiers.

St. Boniface fells the famous Donar oak tree near Fritzlar, Hesse, symbolically destroying the old Germanic religion.

730

Pope Gregory II excommunicates the Byzantine emperor over the question of image worship.

731

Bede completes *History of the English Church and People*.

732

Charles Martel's victory over the Arabs in the Battle of Tours and Poitiers stems the tide of westward Arab advance.

735

Charles Martel conquers Burgundy.

738

By this date, a Moslem trading colony exists at Canton, China.

739

Pope Gregory II asks Charles Martel for help against Lombards, Greeks and Arabs.

740

Earthquake in Asia Minor.

declaring Muhammad's status as prophet and reinforcing the complete and unalterable nature of his teachings, codified in the Qu'ran (Koran). When Abu Bakr died, he left the caliphate to his hand-picked successor, 'Umar.

'Umar was an stern man of uncompromising justice. He focused his attention on expanding the Islamic community. Within ten years, Islam was transformed from a local alliance to a world power. He may have expanded the nation even further if he hadn't been murdered by a slave in 644.

'Umar's successor, 'Uthman, had been Muhammad's first convert from the wealthy Meccan aristocracy. He had married one of the Prophet's daughters. However, he had never been active in politics. His appointment as Caliph was a compromise – stronger candidates canceled each other out.

In general, 'Uthman ruled competently, continuing to expand the empire. But at this crucial juncture in the history of Islam mere competence was not sufficient. Lacking either Abu Bakr's genius or 'Umar's iron will, he began to allow cracks to show in the ever-expanding hegemony. This lost him much goodwill among the people. He was assassinated by rebels in June of 656.

With 'Uthman's death, the Caliphate at last fell to 'Ali, Muhammad's cousin, son-in-law and favorite. 'Ali, however, was ill-prepared to rule an empire of such size and power, particularly one already weakened by 'Uthman's reign. He had been alienated

by the election of Abu Bakr as the Prophet's successor. 'Ali was unable to quell the rebellious forces that were springing up across the Islamic lands. He too was assassinated by rebels, with a poisoned blade while he was praying.

Though Islam would never again be a unified political entity, the first four Caliphs had succeeded in establishing a foundation that would insure that it would remain an enduring world power for the next 1,500 years.

If the GM's world includes a political milieu where orthodox Islam remains a significant force, the question of time intervention in the early days of Muhammad and his successors becomes extremely touchy.

Most likely the Moslems would be violently opposed to any time visits to the prophet's lifetime, particularly in his immediate vicinity or during his active ministry. Even passive observation might well be forbidden – after all, the revelation of the Qu'ran is complete and eternal – any search for further facts or verification is at best idle and at worst blasphemous.

Of course, the enemies of the Islam might attempt a direct strike against the Prophet. If such a plot became known, time-traveling Moslems might be tempted to send back a temporal bodyguard, to protect the Prophet and his mission from interference from satanically-inspired time-traveling infidels. Such a

742 to 814

742 to 814

Charlemagne, grandson of Charles Martel.

745

Emperor Constantine V defeats the Arabs.

Pepin the Short, son of Charles Martel, fights the growing political influence of St. Boniface.

748

Arab fleet destroyed during an attack on Cyprus.

First printed newspaper appears in Beijing, China.

750 to 800

A time of darkness, profligacy and misery preceding the age of Charlemagne.

The succession to the Byzantine throne is generally determined by violence and treachery.

"Donation of Constantine" composed. This forged document, purportedly written by Emperor Constantine, grants the Pope both spiritual and physical dominion over Rome and the entire Western Roman Empire.

Old High German is the prevalent language in Germany until the 11th century.

Gregorian church music is written in Germany, France and England.

Medicine, optics, mathematics and chemistry flourish in Arab Spain.

Founding of Hanlin Academy for the encouragement of Chinese arts and sciences – remains active until the 20th century.

Kiev becomes well-known as fortress and trading center.

Chinese royal stables contain about 40,000 horses, serving mostly for the game of polo.

Founding of Granada.

Decline of the Hopewell culture in North America.

St. Vitus' Dance epidemic in Germany.

Beds become popular in France and Germany.

Hops used for the first time as beer wort in Bavaria.



751

In the battle of Samarkand, China loses western Asian domination to the Arabs.

Chinese paper makers, captured at Samarkand, teach paper manufacture to the Arabs.

751

Aistulf takes Ravenna from Byzantium.

Islam divides into four sects: Sunnites, Hafenites, Shafites and Malikites.

754

Pope Stephen III journeys to Pepin to ask for protection from the Lombards; Pepin helps with a large army.

Constantine V begins dissolution of monasteries.

St. Boniface murdered.

755

Turkish General An Lu-shan usurps the throne of China.

War between Byzantine empire and the Bulgarians.

756

Emperor Ming Huang of China resigns.

Caliph al-Mansur sends military aid to Hsüan Tsung to crush rebellion.

Muslim Emirate of Cordoba founded in Spain.

Pepin reduces Lombardy to vassal state.

760

Arabic numerals of Indian origin known in Baghdad.

763

Caliph al-Mansur moves his capital from Damascus to Baghdad.

765

Tibetan army invades China.

Frankish royal court established at Aix-la-Chapelle.

768

Pepin the Short dies; his kingdom is inherited by his two sons Charles (Charlemagne) and Carloman.

Maga dynasty of Ghana empire in Africa expelled by the Soninke dynasty.

force would likely be smart, extremely tough and completely devoted to Islam – in general, not a group to cross.

A more pragmatic time meddler – one interested in the propagation of Islam in general, rather than in promoting a certain faction – would likely try to prevent the murder of 'Umar. This was a random, non-political act that could be stopped by slipping a quiet knife between the killer's ribs. Preventing 'Umar's murder would allow him time to pursue further conquests, consolidate the government and insure the succession. An extended reign by 'Umar would be quite likely to eliminate the Caliphate of 'Uthman entirely. On a larger scale, extending 'Umar's reign could lead to the rapid downfall of Constantinople, thereby giving the Moslems a strong bridgehead for the conquest of Europe.

Emperor Irene

802

For several centuries the Eastern Roman Empire had been falling into decadence, intrigue, superstition and general irrelevance on the world political scene.

The rise of Islam, however, put the Byzantines in a "sink or swim" position. If they could not somehow stiffen their national resolve and regain their military efficiency, they could not stand against the vigorous Moslems.

Surprisingly, the Empire *did* stand. In 673, Constantinople withstood an 18-month siege. The Moslems returned in 677 with a naval attack, but were decisively beaten, due mostly to a horrifying new Byzantine invention, "Greek fire," a chemical substance that could burn on the water. The Moslems found their war fleet burned out from under them.

The Moslems waited 40 years before their next assault on the Empire. As Caliph Sulayman prepared what he believed would be the final blow against the Byzantines, a strong emperor, Leo III, came to the throne. Leo reorganized the Empire and drove off the Moslems in a war lasting less than a year.

As part of his reorganization, Leo forbade the selling of religious images – "icons" – citing the Biblical prohibition against idol worship. This anti-icon stance was dubbed "iconoclasm." Leo's successors and descendants, Constantine V and Leo IV, adhered to his program, and the empire advanced. Leo IV, however, died when his son, Constantine VI, was only 10. Therefore the throne passed jointly to Constantine and his mother, Irene, in 780.

Irene was strongly – in fact, fanatically – pro-icon. Within her first year on the throne she had to quell an Iconoclastic plot to put her husband's half-brother, Nicephorus, on the throne.

As Constantine grew, he became more and more resentful of his mother's domination of the Empire. His first attempt to seize power was crushed by his mother, who successfully demanded that the military oath of fidelity recognize her as senior ruler.

This tactic backfired, however. It so angered the themes (administrative divisions) of Asia Minor that they revolted in 790. Constantine was named sole ruler of the Empire and Irene was banished from court.

In 792, Constantine allowed his mother to return to court, and even permitted her to resume her office as co-Emperor. Immediately Irene began to conspire with church and court officials, and in 797 Constantine was arrested and blinded on his mother's

771 to 792

771

Death of Carloman. Charlemagne becomes sole ruler of the Frankish kingdom (until 814).

772 to 804

Charlemagne subdues Saxony and converts it to Christianity; imposes tithes for the support of clergy, churches, schools and the poor.

Pope Hadrian I appeals to Charlemagne for help against the Lombards.

773

Charlemagne annexes Lombard kingdom.

774

Offa subdues Kent and Wessex.

775

Tibet subdues Himalayan countries and concludes a boundary agreement with China.

Byzantine victory over the Bulgarians at Litosoria.

777

Charlemagne, after his victory over the Saxons, holds his first Diet.

778

Charlemagne defeated by the Basques at Roncesvalles in the Pyrenees; this battle later becomes the subject of the *Song of Roland*.

779

Offa of Mercia becomes king of all England.

Earliest extant Japanese prints.

780 to 802

Empress Irene becomes the virtual ruler of the Byzantine Empire and restores image worship.

780 to 790

Arabic alchemist Abu Musa Jabir ibn Hayyan, an Iraqi, describes how to prepare aluminum chloride, white lead, nitric acid and acetic acid.

Mathematician Muhammed ibn Musa Al-Khwarizmi, from Khwarizm (in what is now the Uzbek region), pens works that will, when translated, introduce Hindu-Arabic notation to Europe; one of his works originates the word "algebra"; Al-Khwarizmi's own name is the source of the words "algorism" and "algorithm."

781

The Nestorians, settled in China since 645, develop missionary activities and build Christian monasteries.

782

Charlemagne executes 4,500 Saxon hostages at Verden.

Construction of Offa's Dyke against Welsh attacks on Mercia.

Charlemagne calls on Alcuin of York to organize education in his kingdom.

Alcuin establishes schools associated with important cathedrals and also teaches Charlemagne to read.

787

First Danish invasion of Britain.

Charlemagne annexes Lombard duchy of Beneventum.

Seventh Council of Nicaea regulates image worship.

788

Charlemagne deposes Tassilo of Bavaria and annexes his country.

Idris establishes a Shiite kingdom in Morocco.

789

Charlemagne introduces the royal foot as the unit of length and the "Karlsfund" (about 13 oz.) as a unit of weight.

790

Ghana empire expands under Kaya Maghan Sisse.

791

Emperor Constantine imprisons his mother Irene for cruelty.

792

Irene regains power.

Beginning of Viking era in Britain: Vikings attack the English island monastery of Lindisfarne.



orders. She then had herself proclaimed sole emperor (*not* empress).

In 802, Irene was finally deposed by a conspiracy of officials and generals, who placed her minister of finance, Nicephorus, on the throne (this Nicephorus is not to be confused with the brother-in-law who opposed her in 780). Irene was sent into exile, first to the island of Prinkipo, then to the island of Lesbos. She died August 9, 803. For her devotion to icon worship and her support of monasteries, she was made a saint of the Greek Orthodox Church.

Irene was not a great ruler – if anything the vicious infighting of her reign significantly weakened the empire. She does, however, almost perfectly embody those qualities which made “Byzantine” a byword for intricate, conspiratorial intrigue.

The court of Constantinople at the end of the 8th century would be an ideal place to station a time mission, to observe both the Caliphate at its height, the incipient empire of Charlemagne, and their interrelationships. However, those agents would have to be constantly on their toes to avoid being sucked into Irene’s plots and intrigues.

The Mysterious Scotsman

843

Though he was one of the most important figures of the early middle ages, very little is known about the life and career of Kenneth MacAlpin, the man who unified Scotland.

The tribe of the Scots had come from Ireland, probably in the 5th century. They ruled a small kingdom in the western lowlands.

793 to 817

793

“Carolingian Renaissance” under Charlemagne leads to the preservation of many classical texts.

East Anglia annexed to Mercia by Offa.
Founding of Heian (later Kyoto) Japan.
Tea tax introduced in China.

794

Charlemagne condemns image worship at the Synod of Frankfurt.

795

Revolts in Egypt.
Northmen land in Ireland.

796

Charlemagne’s son Pepin defeats the Avars, founds the Avar march with an archbishopric at Salzburg.

797

Empress Irene overthrows her son Constantine, blinds him, assumes sole power and reportedly proposes to marry Charlemagne.
Flowering of Korean civilization.

798

Cenwulf of Mercia, son of Offa, subdues Kent.

799

Charlemagne conquers and destroys Adriatic port of Fiume.

800 to 889

End of the first Mayan empire. The Mayas relinquish their settlements in the lowlands of Mexico and emigrate to the Yucatan peninsula.

800 to 1400

Golden age of the Rajputana, chivalric Indian civilization.

800

Charlemagne crowned first Holy Roman Emperor by Pope Leo III at Rome, Dec. 25.
Rajputs occupy Kana Uj in northern India, setting up a kingdom that extends from Bihar to the Sutlej River.
Invasion of Bohemia by the Franks.
Caliph Harun al-Rashid sends an embassy to the court of Charlemagne.
Northmen invade Germany.

801

Bragi, earliest known Norwegian poet.
Charlemagne prohibits prostitution.

802

Irene dethroned by Nicephorus I.
Egbert, formerly an English refugee at the court of Charlemagne, establishes himself as king of Wessex.
The Vikings dominate Ireland.

803

Bulgarians free themselves from Tatar dominance.
Byzantine Empire recognizes independence of Venice.

804

Charlemagne’s last war against Saxons; his domain extends now to the Elbe.

806

Monastery of Iona sacked by Northmen.

807

War between the Franks and the Eastern empire.

809

Bulgarians conquer Sofia.

810

Krum, king of Bulgaria, defeats and kills the Emperor Nicephorus I.
The Welsh monk Nynniaw writes his *Historia Britonum*.

812

The Chinese government takes over the issuing of paper bank drafts, the ancestor of paper money.

814 to 840

On the death of Charlemagne, his son, Louis the Pious, reigns.
The Western Empire begins to decline in importance after Charlemagne’s death.
Arabs take over Indian numerals, including using zero to multiply by ten.

817

Louis the Pious divides France among his three sons, Lothar, Louis and Pepin.

However, the Scots kingdom was more powerful than its size would suggest, partly because it was made up of some of the best land in Scotland, and partly because the Scots retained firm and profitable ties with their kinsmen in the Irish kingdom of Dalraida.

The Picts were an indigenous people, who had ruled the vast, wild country of the Northern highlands, probably from the time that Britain was still connected to Europe by a land bridge.

Nothing is known of the early life of Kenneth MacAlpin, king of the Scots. Tradition says that his father, Alpin, won an important victory over the Picts about 834, but was killed by them a few months later.

Historians speculate that Kenneth's rule of the Picts must have begun with an advantageous marriage to the daughter of a powerful Pictish ruler. Since the Picts reckoned descent through the female line, and the Scots through the male, the resulting heir would be acceptable to both nations. The Picts may have also felt that an alliance with the Scots was wise due to the new threat of the Vikings along the East coast of Briton.

MacAlpin's rise to power was not completely peaceful, however. He probably had to invade Lothian and burn Dunbar and Melrose.

MacAlpin named his new unified kingdom Alma. It was somewhat smaller than modern Scotland – the south of Scotland was firmly part of the kingdom of Northumbria. Scotland would not reach its present size until the 11th century. MacAlpin declared the Pictish city of Dunkeld the religious capitol of the

kingdom, and about 850 transferred relics of St. Columba from Iona, which had been attacked several times by Vikings, to Dunkeld. He is also credited with bringing the Stone of Destiny, the coronation stone of the Scottish kings, to the Pictish capitol of Scone, giving the Stone of Scone the name by which it is best known today.

Kenneth MacAlpin died in 858, at Forteviot, near Scone, and was buried on the island of Iona.

Historians would be eager for a first-hand report on this vital but ambiguous era of British history. And 9th-century Scotland is a perfect setting for the intrigues, escapes, battles and other adventures the were almost certainly a part of the mysterious Scotsman's life.

The Fall of the Maya

850

As early as 1500 BC the village-dwelling, agricultural ancestors of the Maya were flourishing in Central America. By 550 BC, they were constructing small pyramids and civic buildings at ceremonial sites like Chiapa de Corzo. About the 3rd century BC, they became the first human civilization to discover the vital mathematical concept of zero.

But the golden age of the Maya didn't begin until 600 years later, in the 3rd century AD. Some historians believe that the sudden rise in Mayan culture in this century was triggered by mass migrations brought on by the eruption of Mt. Ilopango in El Salvador. But for whatever reason, this century marked the birth

824 to 842

824

Egbert subdues and unites much of England.

825

Battle of Ellandum. Mercia defeated by Egbert.

Muslims begin their conquest of Sicily.

826

The Arabs conquer Crete and plunder from there to the Greek islands.

King Harold of Denmark, baptized at Mainz, returns to his country with missionary monk Ansgar, who spreads Christianity in Scandinavia.

827

Arab conquest of Sicily and Sardinia begins.

828

Egbert of Wessex recognized as overlord of the "Seven Kingdoms of the Heptarchy."

829

Louis the Pious invests his six-year-old son Charles (the Bald) with the dukedom of Swabia.

830

Louis the Pious destroys the collection of German epics started by his father, Charlemagne.

832

Caliph Mamun invades Egypt. Image worshipers persecuted in the Eastern empire.

833

King Louis defeated by his three sons at Colmar and deposed.

834

King Louis restored to the throne. The Danes raid England.



835

The Danes establish winter bases in the Thames estuary to raid England and France.

837

Frankish Empire redivided between King Louis the Pious and his son Lothar.

838

Arabs sack Marseilles and settle in southern Italy; in battle at Amorion, Asia Minor, they defeat the Byzantine army.

840 to 849

Suleiman travels to China, providing the first account of China in the Arab world.

840

Danish settlers found Dublin and Limerick.

Danes and Norwegians begin to sweep across France.

841

King Lothar I defeated by his two brothers Louis and Charles in the battle of Fontenoy.

The Northmen plunder Rouen and advance to Paris.

Halfdan of Norway subdues the nobles and founds the monarchy.

842

Image worship reestablished in Byzantium.

The Oaths of Strasbourg begin separation of French and Latin languages.

Turkish mercenaries join Arab armies.



of a glorious civilization that was to flourish for more than 500 years.

Like the Olmec before them, the Maya were a civilization without cities. Mayan society was based around huge ceremonial centers, but the people actually lived in numerous small agricultural villages – all within a day's walk of the center – that surrounded and supported the ceremonial centers.

Earlier in this century, certain archaeologists held the romantic idea that the Maya were a peaceful and enlightened civilization, dedicated to scholarship and cultural pursuits. Sadly, the facts no longer support this view. The Maya are now known to be every bit as sanguinary as any of the great American empires. Human blood was viewed as the sustenance of the gods, and the means by which man could contact the gods. Not only did the Mayans torture and sacrifice prisoners, but the rulers were also required to undergo ritual bloodletting and self-torture, as the intermediaries between the people and the gods.

The attitude of the Mayan rulers toward their subjects can be gaged by the Mayan practice of engraving images of peasants and prisoners on the stairs of the ceremonial pyramids, where they could be trod upon by their rulers during ceremonial processions.

The daily life of the Mayan people was dominated by astrological and numerical conventions, as might be expected from such a mathematically astute race. The intricate workings of the Mayan calendar are fascinating, involving interlocking cycles of 13 numbered days and 20 named days. This 260-day cycle in turn interlocked with a 365-day year of 18 20-day months (the left-

843 to 871

843

Treaty of Verdun, division of the Frankish empire. Lothar receives Italy and Lorraine and remains emperor. France goes to Charles II, the Bald; Germany, to Louis I, the German.

844 to 860

Kenneth MacAlpin, king of the Scots, defeats the Picts and becomes sole monarch. See pp. 49-50.

845

Northmen destroy Hamburg and penetrate into Germany. A separate force of Northmen capture Paris.

Buddhist persecution in China – over 44,000 monasteries closed, to make the monks available for conscription and taxation.

Paper money in China leads to inflation and state bankruptcy.

846

The Arabs sack Rome and damage the Vatican.

Venetian fleet destroyed by the Arabs.

848

Pope Leo IV builds Leonine Wall around the Vatican hill, to protect it from attack.

850

Rurik, a Northman, becomes ruler of Kiev; his compatriots begin, along the waterways of Russia, to trade with Constantinople and the Khazars.

Tibetan power collapses.

The Edda, Norse mythological poem, composed.

Groups of Jews settle in Germany and begin to develop Yiddish language.

The Arabian goatherd Kaldi credited with the discovery of coffee.

In China, a primitive form of gunpowder is described in a scholarly text.

851

Danish forces enter Thames estuary, land and march on Canterbury. After sacking the cathedral, they are defeated by Ethelwulf at Oakley.

Earthquake in Rome.

Crossbow comes into use in France.

853 to 855

Mythical reign of Pope Joan, the woman Pope, who reportedly dies after giving birth unexpectedly during a Papal procession. See p. 52.

855

Emperor Lothar divides his empire among his three sons.

856

Ethelbald rebels unsuccessfully against his father Ethelwulf in Wessex.

857

First reports of ergotism epidemics in western Europe, caused by poisoned grain.

858

The two sons of the Emperor Butoku wrestle for their father's throne. The victor, Koreshito, becomes ruler of Japan.

Vikings sack Algeciras, but are expelled by the Arabs.

859

Norse pirates enter the Mediterranean and sack the coast up to Asia Minor.

861

Iceland discovered by the Northmen.

Paris, Toulouse, Cologne, Aix-la-Chapelle and Worms sacked by the Northmen.

863

Cyril and Methodius – Christian missionaries sent from Byzantium to Moravia at the request of Rostislave, ruler of Moravia – invent the Cyrillic alphabet.

865

The Russian Northmen attack Constantinople.

The Danes occupy Northumbria, and the next year establish a kingdom in York.

867

Danes attack Mercia. Mercia pays Danegeld.

869

Malta captured by the Arabs.

870

The Danes occupy East Anglia, kill its king, St. Edmund, and destroy Peterborough Monastery.

871

Alfred the Great ascends the throne of Wessex, pays the Danegeld to buy time. Danes winter in London.

over five days fell at the end of the year, and were considered extremely unlucky). It took about 52 years for the 260-day cycles and the 365-day years to return to the same position relative to each other. This 52-year period is referred to as a "calendar round."

The calendar controlled all aspects of Mayan life, from agriculture, to religion to family life. As one example of how integral calendar concerns were to Mayan life, the Maya eventually took to naming their children after their birthday in the 260-day cycle, and individuals were forbidden to marry those with the same numerical designator. That is, 11 Deer could not marry 11 Flower.

In addition to their mathematical system, the Maya also possessed a versatile system of phonetic writing.

The Mayan civilization ended, rather abruptly, in the 800s (though a few cities, like Chichen Itza and Mayapan, continued to flourish until the arrival of the Europeans). The reason for this sudden decline is a matter of great speculation. It is known that the 9th century Mayans were not overpopulated, nor were they invaded by foreigners. Some scholars believe that the end of the Maya was due to a flurry of unrelated disasters – earthquakes, droughts, disease, floods, warfare – any one of which the empire might have been able to shrug off, except, through sheer statistical perversity, in the 9th century they *all happened at once*.

Another school holds that the peasantry finally had enough of their bloody, autocratic rulers and rose up in a good, old-fashioned proletarian revolution, after which they abandoned the ceremonial centers to concentrate on a agrarian village economy. It

should be noted that these two explanations are not mutually exclusive.

The Maya did not become extinct with the end of their civilization, however. As has been mentioned, certain Mayan "cities" remained significant population centers until the 16th century, and even today there remain Mayan villages in Central America, where the natives speak the Mayan language, dress in Mayan fashions and practice a form of Catholicism heavily tinged by the religion of their Mayan ancestors.

The most attractive periods of Mayan history for the time traveler are their abrupt cultural ascent in the late 3rd century (was there really a connection to the eruption of Mt. Ilopongo?), and their unexplained decline in the 9th.

Pope Joan

855

From the 10th century until the 17th, both Protestant and Catholic historians believed that a woman, disguised as a man, reigned as pope from 853 to 855.

The story goes that Joanna, a German-born woman of English ancestry, eloped with a monk she had fallen in love with, and took to wearing man's clothing. The two traveled across Europe, and Joan, a handsome woman of uncommon intellect, trained herself as a notable scholar, and soon made a name for herself within the church with her brilliant mind. According to some accounts, her lover died while the two were in Athens. According to others, he remained with her throughout her papacy.

874 to 905

874

The Northmen settle in Iceland.

875

Revolt in China under the merchant Huang Ch'ao; order only restored with Turkish assistance.

876

Danes attack Wessex from Cambridge. Alfred forced into hiding.

878

The Arabs conquer Sicily and make Palermo the capital.

King Alfred defeats the Danes at Edgington. Treaty of Chippenham secures the border between England and the Danelaw.

879

The Pope and the Patriarch of Constantinople excommunicate each other.

880

Emperor Basil reconquers Italy from the Arabs.

881

Constantine II of Scotland defeated and killed by Danes.

Louis III defeats Northmen at Saucourt.

884 to 887

Emperor Charles III (youngest son of Louis the Pious) becomes king of France and once more unites the empire of Charlemagne.

885

Northmen besiege Paris.

886

Alfred liberates London from the Danes.

887

Charles II deposed, succeeded by Arnulf of Carinthia.

888

Final separation of Germany and France at the death of Charles the Fat.

The Arabs occupy Garde-Fineet on the coast of Provence.

890

Alfred the Great of England establishes a regular militia and navy, extends the power of the King's courts and institutes fairs and markets.

891 to 1154

Anglo-Saxon Chronicle written.

891

Emperor Arnulf defeats Northmen at Louvain.

893

The Danes renew their attacks on England but are defeated.

894

Gradual ending of the close political and cultural ties between Japan and China.

895

Expelled from southern Russia, the Magyars under Arpad settle in Hungary.

897

War between the Bulgarians and the Saracens.

899

Alfred the Great dies.
Germany invaded by the Hungarians.

900

Alfonso II, the Great, of Castile begins the Christian reconquest of Spain.

England divided into Shires, with country courts as the safeguard of the civil rights of the inhabitants.

Vikings discover Greenland.

Mississippian culture in North America reaches its full geographical distribution. Major population centers are located at Cahokia in Illinois and Moundville in Alabama.

True paper money in use in Szechuan China.

Second Pueblo period in Southwestern America produces houses built entirely above the ground.

904

Salonika sacked by Moslem pirates.

Russians again attack Constantinople.

With Pope Sergius III (904 to 911) begins the era of pornocracy (government by prostitutes), the darkest period in the history of the papacy. His mistress Marozia becomes the mother of Pope John XI (931 to 936), the aunt of John XII (965 to 972) and the grandmother of Benedict VI (973 to 974).

905

Tulunid dynasty of Egypt deposed.

When Pope Leo IV died, in 853, Joan was chosen Pope, as John VIII. For two years she was a successful pope, until, during a ceremonial procession from the Coliseum to the Church of St. Clemens, she suddenly gave birth to a child. At that point she either died of shame and the rigors of childbirth, or was stoned to death by the angry people of Rome.

The first account of Pope Joan's career appears in a book by Anastatus from 886 – less than 30 years after her purported reign. For centuries it was unquestionably accepted by most knowledgeable historians of the Papacy. A certain street in Rome was avoided by papal processions, and it was popularly believed that this was the street on which the shameful birth occurred. In the middle ages a miracle play called *The Canonization of Pope Joan* was popular, and a bust of the woman pope stood in the Cathedral of Siena from the 14th until the 17th century, labeled "John VIII, a Woman from England."

We now know that the story of Pope Joan is pure fabrication. It has been conclusively shown that Pope Leo died in 855, not 853, and that Benedict III was rapidly chosen to replace him – there is no time in the Papal chronology for the reign of the woman pope.

Curiously, the evidence debunking the story of Pope Joan also comes from Anastatus, the same authority whose name appears on the earliest account of the woman pope's reign. Anastatus died in 855, only a few months after the election of Pope Benedict – obviously, somebody tampered with his work between his death and 886, inserting the story of Joan.



907 to 939

907

The Magyars destroy the Moavian empire and undertake raids into Germany and Italy.

Commercial treaties between Kiev and Constantinople.

China splintered into ten kingdoms. Khitan tribes begin conquest of much of northern China and declare themselves the Liao dynasty.

910

The Byzantine Emperor pays tribute to the Magyars.

911

With the descendants of Charlemagne dying out, the empire becomes elective, with Conrad I as king.

912 to 961

Reign of Abd-al-Rahman III of Córdoba, greatest of the Arab Caliphs of Spain.

913

Edward the Elder recaptures Essex from the Danes.

Symeon of Bulgaria invades Thrace and Macedonia, but fails to take Constantinople.

Pope Lando (913 to 914) is the last Pope to take a name not used by one of his predecessors.

915

Fatimid armies from Tunisia invade Egypt.

916

Renewed Danish attacks on Ireland. Arabs expelled from central Italy.

917

Bulgarian Church separates from Rome and Constantinople.

Symeon I assumes the title "Czar of the Bulgarians and the Greeks."

919

Byzantine Empire extended to the Euphrates and Tigris.

920 to 1050

Golden age of African Ghana Empire.

921

Reign of Wenceslas of Bohemia begins. He is 14 years old.

923

Robert, Duke of Francia, antiking in France, defeated and killed at Soissons.

924

Symeon devastates Greece and again threatens Constantinople.

925

King Henry I of Germany conquers Lorraine.

926

Athelstan drives Guthfrith out of Northumbria and annexes his realm; the kings of Wales, Strathclyde and the Picts and Scots submit to him.

Magyars from Asia raid France.

928

King Henry I conquers the Slav province of Brennabor (Brandenburg).

929

Henry subdues Bohemia and the Slavs east of the Elbe.

Wenceslas of Bohemia murdered by reactionaries led by his brother Boleslav I.

933

Henry defeats Hungarians at Merseburg.

934

Cruelty of King Eric Blodöxe of Norway leads to revolts.

937

Battle of Brunanburh. Athelstan defeats Danes, Scots and Strathclyde Britons, and proclaims himself king of all Britons.

938

Yenching, later called Peking, established as capital of China.

Louis IV tries in vain to invade Lorraine. Rebellions in Franconia and Bavaria against Otto I.

939 to 1185

Revolts against imperial rule set off a period of civil war in Japan.

939

The Arabs lose Madrid to the kingdom of León.

Abd-al-Rahman defeated by Ramiro II in the Battle of Simancas.

For the historian, the whole legend of Pope Joan is a minor but baffling unsolved mystery. Who originated this remarkable story, and inserted it into Anastatius' history? More importantly, why did they do this? And why didn't the authorities immediately squelch the scandalous lie?

Was the story of Pope Joan fabricated out of the whole cloth, or was it based on some real person? Perhaps a brilliant woman, frustrated with the suppression of her intellect by Dark Ages prejudice, disguised herself as a man and entered the Church, attaining high office – cardinal, abbot or bishop, if not pope – before being revealed. Time travelers might well be asked to find the answers to these questions.

Or perhaps the 886 book by Anastatius somehow “fell through” from a close parallel timeline – one in which the woman pope really did reign as described.

Mound Builders III: The Mississippians 900

The normal view of pre-Columbian America holds that Central and South America were dominated by mighty, if decadent, civilizations, while North America was the preserve of scattered, nomadic stone-age tribes.

This is a gross oversimplification. While the North Americans never quite reached the level of true civilization, cultures like the Adena, the Hopewell and the Hohokam were much more widespread, complex and advanced than the stereotypical image presented by movies and books in the “cowboys and Indians” genre.

The most advanced of the indigenous North American cultures was the Mississippian, a sedentary, agricultural culture that flourished from about 800 AD until its virtual extinction due to Euro-

pean diseases brought to the Americas by white settlers in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The Mississippian people originated in the valley of the Mississippi river (hence the name), and spread throughout modern Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, with some excursions as far north as Wisconsin and Minnesota and as far west as the Great Plains. The secret of the Mississippian culture was maize, which they developed from a hard-to-grow dietary supplement into a primary food staple.

The largest Mississippian settlement – and the largest concentration of humanity north of Mexico – was at Cahokia, on the site of modern-day East St. Louis. There is evidence of Proto-Mississippian settlement at Cahokia as far back as 600 AD, and by 1200, 30,000 to 40,000 people lived in Cahokia and its environs.

Cahokia was dominated by Monks Mound, an earthen mound over 100 feet tall, with a base area greater than the Great Pyramid's. By 1250, there were over 100 mounds within 10 miles of the center of Cahokia.

Another major Mississippian site is Moundville, in Alabama. Though not as large as Cahokia, Moundville shows evidence of even greater technology and cultural sophistication.

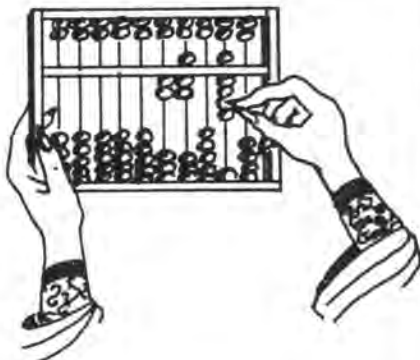
There is strong evidence that the Mississippian culture was shaped in part by the Mesoamerican civilizations in the Olmec/Maya tradition. As in Central America, the people of the Mississippian culture tended to congregate around a ceremonial center, dominated by a great mound or structure with a temple or chief's house at the top. The ceremonial center was supported by outly-

941 to 974

941

Russian fleet attack on Constantinople repulsed.

The Danes in England make war on Edmund I.



945

Cumberland and Westmorland annexed by Scots.

Romanus I Lecapenus, co-regent of Byzantium since 919, overthrown. Constantine VII reigns alone.

Gerbert, a French churchman (later Pope Sylvester II), introduces the abacus and Hindu-Arabic numerals to Europe; the new method fails to catch on. Gerbert seems to have been unaware of zero.

950

Europe in the “Dark Ages.” The Lapps enter Norway.

Footbinding for girls becomes fashionable in China.

954

Eric Blodöxe, last Danish king of York, expelled.

955

Otto defeats the Magyars at the Lechfeld, near Augsburg, and the Slavs at the Battle of Recknitz.

957

Mercians and Northumbrians rebel against Edwy.

960

Tai Tsoo, founder of the Sung dynasty, defeats Tatars.

961

The Byzantines reconquer Crete from the Arabs.

General Chao Kuang-yin forced by his officers to take the imperial throne of China and founds the Sung dynasty.

962

Founding of the Hospice of St. Bernard at St. Bernard's Pass, Switzerland.

963

First record of the existence of a London bridge.

964 to 1194

New Mayan empire.

965

The English invade the Celtic kingdom of Gwynedd.

Revival of English monasticism after Danish wars.

St. Dunstan enforces celibacy for English clerics.

968

Russians ravage eastern Bulgaria.

Toltecs, from the city of Tula in the Valley of Mexico, establish a military empire among the former cities of the Mayan empire.

Byzantines take Antioch.

970

Russians driven out of Balkans.

971

Russians defeated by Tzimisces at Præsthlava and Dorystolum.

972

Saracen pirates kidnap the Bishop of Chuny; French nobles destroy the Saracens' base on the Riviera, which had existed for almost 60 years.

Eastern Slav tribes in Russia unified.

North Africa freed from Egypt.

974

Earliest authenticated earthquake in Great Britain.

ing agricultural towns and villages. There are also strong similarities in the artistic motifs used by both cultures. Exactly how the two cultures were connected is unknown, and would be of great interest to time-traveling anthropologists.

The Mississippian people were a highly stratified, class-conscious society. They had their priest/rulers, their craft guilds and their peasantry. There is evidence that the nobility ruthlessly exploited or persecuted the peasants.

There is no doubt about when or how the Mississippian culture ended. Although it was well past its prime when the white man came, it was the diseases the Europeans brought with them to the New World that savagely and suddenly destroyed the Mississippian cultures. From smallpox to the common cold, the Indians had no natural defenses against these diseases, and succumbed by the hundreds of thousands. In only a few generations, the Mississippian culture ceased to exist. The diseases traveled inland faster than white civilization did, so the settlers often never even encountered the nations their plagues had destroyed.

One Mississippian culture that was encountered by the Europeans was the Natchez Indians of the lower Mississippi, who were observed (and eventually destroyed) by the French between 1698 and 1731. Some Natchez descendants still live in Oklahoma, where a remnant fled after the final war with the French and their Choctaw allies.

The Natchez provide a valuable first-hand look into the Mississippian culture. They were mostly agricultural, and made their clothes by weaving a fabric from the bark of the mulberry tree. They were excellent potters, and built elaborate temples upon eight-foot mounds.

They were sun worshippers, and their king was called the Great Sun. The king and the village chiefs claimed descent from the Sun. The king had several wives, and his household was supported by volunteers, who worked and hunted for him. The devotion of these volunteers can be gauged from the fact that all

were killed at the king's death. In fact, at the Great Sun's death, a general invitation was issued for any of the population who wished to join their king in the afterlife to step forward for execution.

The central element of the Natchez religion was a sacred flame, which was allowed to die only once a year, on midsummer's eve. At dawn, the sacred fire would be relit, and all the people would rekindle their household fires from the sacred fire.

The Natchez social structure was strange and distinctive. They had four classes – suns (those who claimed direct descent from the Sun), nobles, honored people and commoners. Members of the sun caste could not intermarry, but were required to take their mates from among the commoners (the noble member of the family could, however, abandon or abuse the common member with impunity). Children of female suns were suns, and children of male suns made up the caste of honored people.

15,000 Blind Bulgarians

1014

The astonishing longevity of the Byzantine empire was due mostly to two factors: its fantastic wealth and its ability to somehow produce a strong leader whenever the situation looked darkest.

Constantinople (modern Istanbul), the capitol of the Byzantine empire, was established on a hilly peninsula at the entrance to the Black Sea. The city literally sits on the border between Europe and Asia – the Bosphorus Straits. Because of its strategic position, the city virtually monopolized the vital trade between the two continents during the Dark and Middle Ages. This made it the richest and most populated city of its time.

In 980, Samuel, a Macedonian who had conquered Bulgaria and made it his center of government, defeated the Byzantine emperor Basil II near Sofia. It was to prove one of the costliest victories in history.

975 to 1000

975

The present arithmetical notation brought into Europe by the Arabs.

976

Henry the Quarrelsome of Bavaria defeated and dethroned by Otto II, who takes Carinthia and Verona from Bavaria.

978 to 984

Chinese encyclopedia of 1,000 volumes composed.

979

King Edward of England murdered at Corfe Castle, succeeded by Ethelred II, the Unready (more exactly, Ethelred the Clueless).

Northmen in Ireland defeated by Malachi at Tara.

980

Danish renew raids on England, attacking Chester, Southampton and Thanet.

982

Otto II defeated by Saracens in southern Italy.

Viking raids on coasts of Dorset, Portland and South Wales.

Eric the Red establishes Viking colonies in Greenland.

983

Slavs east of the Elbe rebel against German rule.

984

Ch'iao Wei-Yo invents the lock for canals as a safeguard against theft; previously, boats frequently broke up while being hauled over spillways, whereupon people waiting for just such a moment would dash into the wreckage and steal as much cargo as possible.

988

Vladimir of Kiev marries Anne, sister of the Emperor Basil II, and introduces Eastern Christianity to his domains.

991

The Battle of Maldon; Byrthoth of Essex is defeated by the Danes.

992

Lief Ericsson, son of Eric the Red, discovers America.

993

Vikings ravage Yorkshire.
First canonization of saints.

994

Olaf of Norway and Sweyn of Denmark besiege London.

995

The Germans subdue the Slavnicí, last independent tribe of Bohemia.

996

Civil war in Rome.

998

Isle of Wight attacked by Danes.

999 to 1003

Gerbert of Aurillac becomes Pope Sylvester II, the first French Pope.

999

The Poles conquer Silesia.
Basil II's last expedition against the Fatimid in Syria.

1000

Widespread fear of the End of the World and the Last Judgment.

Chinese perfect their invention of gunpowder.

Christianity reaches Iceland and Greenland.

Basil II was one of the most dynamic Byzantine emperors. He was a small, well-built man of tremendous energy. In contrast to the Byzantine reputation for extravagant decadence, Basil had no taste nor time for fine speech or frivolity. Even when he wore the imperial purple, his robes were dyed so dark as to be somber.

The war dragged on, intermittently, for more than three decades, and from 997 it went consistently against Samuel. In 1014, Basil took Samuel's capital, Ochrida, in a crushing defeat that earned Basil the byname *Bulgaroctonus* – slayer of the Bulgars.

Basil then executed a ruthlessly pragmatic plan to break the military power of Bulgaria decisively. He ordered all surviving members of the Bulgarian army – as many as 15,000 prisoners of war – blinded. He left one eye to every 100th soldier, so the survivors could be led back to the tsar. When Samuel was confronted with this ghastly end to his dreams of empire, he fainted at the sight, and died shortly thereafter.

Basil II stabilized his empire's internal affairs with the same ruthless pragmatism he displayed towards the Bulgars. All of his reforms proved futile, however, because he forgot one all-important consideration. Basil never married, nor did he make any provisions for the succession. When he died, in 1025, the court immediately fell back into the chaos of intrigue and hedonism that was its normal state.

St. Vitus' Dance

1021

Two different afflictions plagued Europe under the name "St. Vitus' Dance." Though unrelated to each other pathologically, they were equally tragic and macabre.

St. Vitus' Dance proper is a synonym for the disease Sydenham's Chorea. St. Vitus' Dance causes irregular, involuntary, purposeless and sometimes violent muscle spasms in the victim. About 70% of cases of St. Vitus' Dance are associated with rheumatic fever. Most of the victims of rheumatic fever are children between the ages of 5 and 15, and it is estimated that, if left untreated, about 50% of children with rheumatic fever will develop St. Vitus' Dance. Young adults and pregnant women can also develop St. Vitus' Dance, though this is less common.

In addition to muscle spasms, the disease also causes emotional instability, particularly severe crying over small provocations.

The disease acquired its name in the Middle Ages, when the afflicted would gather at chapels of St. Vitus, who was believed to have powers of healing.

A much more bizarre manifestation, from the 11th century, also went by the name St. Vitus' Dance. This was a form of mass hysteria that caused people to assemble in churchyards, singing and dancing wild, ecstatic dances. People would scream and

1000 to 1018

1000 Continued

Spain becomes the spiritual center of Judaism.

Beowulf epic written in Old English.

Makurano Soshi (*The Pillow Book*), diary of a woman writer's thoughts and experiences in the Imperial Japanese Court, written by Sei Shonagan.

Bohemia and Moravia united.

King Olaf I of Norway killed in the Battle of Svolder; Norway becomes Danish.

Ethelred II ravages Cumberland and Anglesey.

1002

Massacre of St. Brice's Day; Danish settlers in England murdered by order of Ethelred II.

1003

War between Germany and Poland.

Sweyn, king of Denmark, lands with his Army in England.

1004

King Henry of Germany takes Lombardy in his first Italian campaign.

Arabs sack Pisa.

1006

Moslems settle in Northwest India.

A supernova is observed in China, Japan, Europe and the Arab lands, and remains visible for several years.

1007

Ethelred II pays 30,000 pounds to the Danes to gain two years' freedom from attacks.

1008

Mahmud of Ghazni defeats Hindus at Peshawar.

1009

Moslems sack the church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem.

1010

Middle Niger region of Africa converted to Islam.

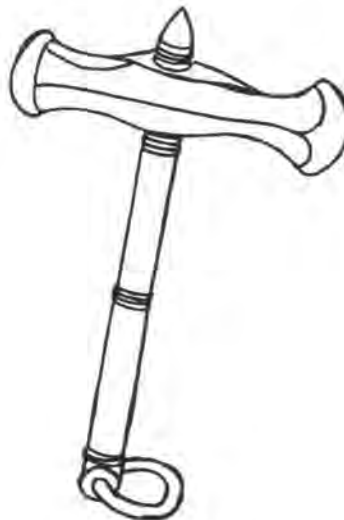
1011

Ethelred invades South Wales, and the Danes take Canterbury.

1012

Ethelred pays an additional 48,000 pounds to the Danes.

War in Ireland between supreme ruler Brian Boru and the king of Leinster, who turns to the Norwegians of Dublin for help.



First persecution of heretics in Germany.

1013

Ethelred flees to Normandy, leaving Danes masters of England. London holds out against the Danish incursion.

1014

Henry's second Italian campaign; he is crowned emperor in Rome.

Battle of Clontarf ends Norse rule in Ireland. Brian Boru killed.

Byzantium gains Western part of Bulgaria; Basil II has an entire Bulgarian army blinded.

Ethelred returns.

1015

Wessex submits to Canute of Denmark.

Arabs conquer Sardinia.

Olaf II, the Saint, restores Norwegian independence and Christianity.

1016

On the death of Ethelred, Canute ascends to English throne.

Norman knights in southern Italy.

1017

Canute divides England into four earldoms.

1018

End of the war between Germany and Poland.

Union of southern and northern Scotland.

Byzantium regains Macedonia; Bulgarians submit.

Mahmud pillages sacred Indian city of Muttra.

foam at the mouth, jerking and convulsing as though possessed. The gatherings could easily become physically dangerous. Church efforts to halt the dances were usually fruitless. Historians and psychologists can only guess at the reasons for this hysteria, but presumably its origins are rooted in the epileptic-like seizures experienced by some victims of the black death, as well as the affliction of persons really subject to Sydenham's Chorea.

St. Vitus' Dance reappeared in Italy in the 14th and 15th centuries, along with a similar phenomenon: tarantism. Physicians of the time believed that tarantism was a disease spread by the bite of the European tarantula spider (an arachnid which is a good deal smaller than the American tarantula, and which is not, in fact, poisonous). Persons believed to be afflicted with tarantism were told that in order to survive, they must increase their circulation to spread the poison throughout the body, and "sweat it out" through exertion. Doctors told them to dance vigorously to a special kind of rhythmic music – the tarantella. In time, the tarantella evolved from its macabre origins into a delicate and flirtatious couple dance.

El Cid

1094

El Cid, the national hero of Spain, was a brilliant general who was never defeated in battle. Other than that, he was a very different man than his myth has made him out to be.

El Cid's real name was Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar. His sobriquet comes from the Arabic *as-sid*, or lord. He was born about 1043, the son of a minor nobleman of Castile. Much has been made of El Cid's humble origins, but in fact he was connected on his

mother's side to some of the powerful families in Spain, and he grew up at court, in the household of Sancho, the youngest son of the King of Castile.

When El Cid's patron took the throne as Sancho II, he made the 22-year-old Cid his standard bearer, the commander of the royal troops. In 1067, El Cid rode with Sancho against the Moslem kingdom of Saragossa, and demonstrated his genius for diplomacy as well as strategy, playing a leading role in the negotiations that made Saragossa a tributary of Castile.

Over the next 30 years, El Cid fought battles for Spain, delved into court intrigue and even set himself up a ruler of the Moorish kingdom of Valencia. He was often considered a brutal schemer, and even had one of his enemies burned alive – something that is not recounted in the romantic legends.

While El Cid's uncanny string of military victories and diplomatic coups had little lasting effect on Spanish politics, his impact on the Spanish spirit was incalculable. A 12th-century poem of his exploits, *El cantar de mio Cid*, is the most important work of early Spanish literature. He died of natural causes on July 10, 1099.

The White Ship

1120

On November 25, 1120, the ship carrying Prince William the Aethling, heir to the throne of England, foundered and sank as it left the port of Barfleur, France. There was only one survivor.

In addition to the prince, the wreck also cost King Henry I of England two bastard sons and several earls and barons of the royal household. The effect of this on the government of the English empire was approximately equivalent to the loss of the vice-presi-

1020 to 1039

1020

Bernard II, Duke of Saxony, rebels. Faroes, Shetlands and Orkneys recognize Olaf II of Norway as King.

1021

Henry's third Italian campaign. Basil's campaign against Armenia. St. Vitus' Dance epidemics in Europe.

1022

Henry defeats the Greeks in southern Italy.

1024

Mahmud storms Somnath in Gujarat, India.

1025

Canute and Olaf battle one another to indecisive conclusion at Holy River, Sweden.

Byzantine power begins to decline.

1027 to 1123

Omar Khayyám, Persian mathematician and poet.

1028

Canute conquers Norway.

1030

Battle of Stiklestand. Canute defeats and kills the former Norwegian king Olaf.

1033 to 1109

Anselm of Canterbury, theologian.

1033

The Germans and Russians defeat Mieczyslav II of Poland, which becomes a fief of the German Empire.

1035

Canute dies, and his kingdom is divided between his three sons; Harold is given England, Sweyn Norway and Hardicanute Denmark.

1038

After the death of Stephen of Hungary, Abo usurps the throne and Peter, the legal heir, flees to Germany.

1039

Prince Gruffydd of Gwynedd and Powys defeats the English.



dent of the U.S. and the entire cabinet in a single accident. This event has become known as the disaster of the "White Ship."

Henry I was a strong king, however, and his realm could withstand the loss of so many important counselors. The death of his 17-year-old son, however, left him with an insoluble problem.

William was the king's only legitimate son. He had been accepted as the heir by the Norman barons in 1115, and by the Pope in 1119. His father had made him the ruler of the crucial French Province of Normandy, and he had been married to a daughter of an important French house. His unexpected death undid years of careful preparation.

Henry's queen, Matilda, had died in 1118. In 1121, he married Adelaide of Louvain, but the union was childless. In desperation in 1125, he summoned his daughter, Matilda, recent widow of the Holy Roman Emperor Henry V, back to England. Henry forced the Barons to acknowledge Matilda (also known as Maude) as his heir.

Matilda married Geoffrey Plantagenet, heir to the country of Anjou, in 1128, and in 1131 she bore him a son, her first, the future King Henry II. When Henry I died in 1135, however, his favorite nephew, Stephen of Blois, disregarded his cousin's right of succession and seized the throne of England. Matilda immediately launched an invasion which unleashed almost 20 years of bitter civil war, until 1154 when Stephen died and Henry II ascended to the throne unopposed.

If a time traveler could rescue the young heir from the disaster of the White Ship, and ensure he survived to take the throne and produce an heir of his own, it would not only eliminate the costly and bitter civil war after Henry I's death, but would also spare England the reigns of Henry II and his descendants. While Henry II was an often brilliant leader, his was a mercurial and unstable personality. His sons, including the rulers Richard the Lion-

hearted and Prince John, were even more so. There's no guarantee, of course, that William the Aethling would have proved to be any better a king than his nephew Henry, but he would have certainly entered his reign with a much stronger and more stable power base. There is a good chance that his rescue from the White Ship could lead to a lasting and stable English empire on the continent, including France and perhaps eventually Germany. Whether this is a goal the PCs wish to pursue or prevent is up to the GM.

The Assassins

1130

The legendary Islamic order of the Assassins literally defined the art of political murder.

The proper name for the order was *Nizari Isma'iliya*. Their enemies named them the *hashshashin* because they alleged that the Assassins smoked hashish before their missions, in order to conjure up ecstatic versions of paradise which would make them eager for martyrdom. From Marco Polo we have stories of the Assassins' "Gardens of Paradise," a park which the master of the Assassins maintained for his agents between missions. The fanatical assassins, once thoroughly stoned, would be admitted to the park where they would be able to enjoy all manner of fine delicacies and beverages, all served by beautiful girls imitating ministering angels. Once he sobered up, the agent would be told that he had been miraculously translated to Paradise, and that he could return there if he successfully completed his next mission – or died trying.

While hashish was a common vice among the early Moslems (it served as a substitute for alcohol, which the Qu'ran explicitly forbids), modern historians find little evidence for particularly widespread addiction among the Assassins, and generally regard Polo's account of the Gardens of Paradise as pure romantic inven-

1040 to 1066

1040 to 1057

Macbeth murders Duncan of Scotland and becomes king.

1041 to 1048

Sometime in this period Pi Sheng, an obscure commoner, invents movable type in China.

1045 to 1099

El Cid (Rodrigo Diaz), Spanish national hero.

1047

William of Normandy defeats rebellious nobles at Valdes-Dunes.

1050

Egypt collapses under military dictatorship.

Normans penetrate into England.

The Mabinogion, a collection of Welsh tales, being written.

Chinese minister Wang An-Shih prevents rebellion by instituting such social reforms as government hospitals, subsidized food and free brothels for soldiers.

1053

Robert Guiscard conquers southern Italy and founds a Norman empire there.

1054

Macbeth defeated by Malcolm and Siward of Northumbria, at Dunsinane.

Division between Roman and Eastern Churches becomes permanent.

The supernova that now forms the Crab Nebula is observed in China, Japan and the Arab lands on July 4, 1054, and remains visible for 22 months.

1056

Gruffydd does homage to Harold of Wessex and Leofric of Mercia.

1057

Macbeth murdered by Malcolm, and succeeded by his stepson Lulach; Lulach is in turn killed by Malcolm the next year, and Malcolm becomes king of Scotland.



1058

Battle of Varaville; William of Normandy defeats Geoffrey of Anjou.

1061

Malcolm invades Northumbria. Normans conquer Messina.

1062

Coup d'état of Kaiserswerth; Archbishop Anno II of Cologne seizes Henry IV.

1063

Harold and Tostig subdue Wales. Victorious German campaign against Hungary.

1064

Hungarians seize Belgrade from Byzantium.

The Seljuks conquer Armenia.

1066

Harold II of England crowned June 1. He defeats Norman invaders at Stamford Bridge Sept. 25. William of Normandy lands at Pevensey Sept. 28; Harold killed in Battle of Hastings Oct. 14. William I, the Conqueror, crowned Dec. 25.

Halley's Comet is sighted and taken as an omen.



tion (of course, the historians *could* be wrong, and the GM is free to use the Gardens of Paradise in his campaign, if he so desires).

The first important murder by the Assassins was probably the killing of Nizam al-Mulk, the brilliant vizier of the Seljuq sultans of Persia, in 1092. With the vizier removed, the Seljuq court fell into chaos, and the empire soon disintegrated.

In 1130, the Assassins brought about the downfall of the Fatimid dynasty with the murder of al-Amir, the son of al-Musta'li, the Caliph whose rise to the throne had spurred Hasan's split from the Isma'ili. This murder created a split between the Fatamids and their last major allies, the Yemenites, who refused to accept al-Amir's chosen successor. This broke the back of the Fatamid power structure. Though the Fatamid Caliphate lingered on, officially, until 1171, its days as a world, or even a regional power were over.

For the next century the Assassins continued to terrorize Persia, Iraq and Syria. They murdered numerous statesmen and generals, and even several caliphs. The *fida'is*, the agents of the Assassins, permeated society. Disguised as peddlers or itinerant tailors, they would work their way into a position of influence among the local artisans or weavers. They gained the trust of high-born ladies and children with gifts of toys or finery. When the time was right, they would use these contacts and alliances as a means of access to their targets.

The most feared Assassin was probably Rashid al-Din, the legendary "Old Man of the Mountain," and the leader of the Syrian branch of the Assassins. Rashid was virtually autonomous from Alamut. He made several attempts on the life of Saladin (see p. 60), none of which were successful.

1067 to 1095



1067

Work begins on Bayeux Tapestry.

1071

Normans conquer last Byzantine possessions in Italy.

Turkish Chieftain Alp Arslan defeats Byzantines in Armenia, founding Turkish empire.

Emperor Romanus IV defeated and captured by Seljuks at Manzikert; Michael VII becomes emperor.

Philip I, co-regent of France, defeated near Cassel by Robert of Flanders.

1074

Excommunication of married priests.

1075

Syria and Palestine subdued by Seljuk leader Malik Shah.

1076

Pope Gregory VII, challenged by German bishops at the Synod of Worms, de-thrones and excommunicates Henry IV; Henry absolved the next year.

1078 to 1300

Building of the Tower of London.

1079 to 1142

Abelard, poet and theologian; wrote *Sic et Non* ("Yes and No") in 1122. A collection of contradictory statements found in the writings of various authorities, it demonstrates that authority is of no use and that reason and logic are needed to solve problems. Abelard is also famous for his romance with Heloise, a young married woman.

1080

Henry IV again deposed and excommunicated.

1081

Henry IV marches into Italy.

1083

Henry IV storms Rome, imprisons Gregory.

1086

Domesday Book (British survey of assessment for tax) compiled.

Chinese scientist Shen Kua describes a magnetic compass used for navigation.

1090

Hasan ibn al-Sabbah, the first "Old Man of the Mountain," founds the Assassin sect; the Assassins will eventually bring about the fall of the Seljuk Empire.

1092

William II of England conquers Cumberland.

1093

Malcolm of Scotland killed during invasion of England.

1094

The Cid takes Valencia from the Moors. First record of gondolas in Venice.

1095

Council of Clermont; Pope Urban II proclaims the first Crusade (1096 to 1099), led by Godfrey of Bouillon, Duke of Lorraine, and Tancred.

The power of the Assassins was finally broken by the Mongols, who overran their major Persian strongholds one by one, finally taking Alamut itself in 1256. The death-blow was administered by Baybars I, the great sultan of Syria, who wiped out the Assassin's Syrian strongholds between 1271-1273.

While a remnant clung stubbornly to the teachings of Hasan-e Sabbah, the Assassins would never again become a major political force. Nonetheless, the ideological descendants of the Assassins can still be found in the Islamic world.

Saladin

1187

Saladin (the Europeanization of Salah ad-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub) was the great Moslem ruler who recaptured Jerusalem from the Christian Crusaders. He was respected even by his enemies for his brilliance and fairness.

Saladin was born about 1137. As a boy he showed more aptitude for theology than warfare, but his military training began in earnest when he was attached to the staff of his uncle, Asad ad-Din Ayyub, an important military commander in the service of Nureddin, emir of Syria. Asad's campaigns were mostly concerned with keeping the European Christians of the Kingdom of Jerusalem out of Egypt.

When his uncle died in 1169, Saladin was appointed both commander of the Syrian troops and vizier of Egypt. Although this entitled him to the rank of king (*malik*), he preferred the title sultan. In 1171, he formally abolished the Fatamid dynasty and took sole control of Egypt. When Nureddin died in 1174, Saladin abandoned the pretense of vassalage to Syria.

For the next decade, Saladin carefully expanded his authority

to cover Syria, northern Mesopotamia and Palestine. He relied mostly on diplomacy, resorting to military force only when absolutely necessary. He firmly established his reputation as a ruler above pretense, immorality or cruelty. He inspired the fractious Moslems to unite behind his powerful sense of purpose.

When he felt he had a sufficient power base, he moved against the Christians who had held Jerusalem since the second crusade of 1099. He was given an excuse to act by Reginald of Chatillon, Prince of Antioch, a rash and violent knight who raided Moslem caravans during truces. After one episode in 1181, Saladin demanded that the king of Jerusalem make Reginald restore the plunder from the caravan. Reginald refused. In 1186, Reginald broke another truce; this time the caravan included a sister of Saladin. Again the king of Jerusalem demanded the return of the plunder, and again Reginald refused. Saladin went to war.

At the battle of Hattin, Saladin destroyed the Christian army by cutting them off from their water supply. Most of the common soldiers were slaughtered, and most of the Christian lords (including the King of Jerusalem) were taken prisoner. Saladin generously released the king and most of the nobles, one exception being Reginald of Chatillon. Saladin had Reginald brought to his tent, where he upbraided the knight for his lack of honor, then offered him a chance to convert to Islam. When Reginald refused, he was immediately beheaded, some say by Saladin himself.

With the back of the Christian military broken, the Christian cities rapidly fell to Saladin's armies, including Jerusalem itself, on October 2, 1187. Saladin made a serious error, however, when he neglected to take the almost-impregnable fortress of Tyre, where most of the Christian lords had gone to wait for relief.

1097 to 1136

1097

The Crusaders defeat the Turks at Dorylaeum, conquer Nicaea.

1098

Magnus II of Norway seizes Orkneys, Hebrides and Isle of Man.

Crusaders defeat Turks at Antioch.

1099

Crusaders take Jerusalem.

Godfrey, appointed Defender of the Holy Sepulcher, defeats Egyptians at Ascalon.

1100 to 1400

Hanseatic League of German traders dominates trade in Denmark, Norway and Sweden, and greatly influences London.

1100

William II killed accidentally (??) by Sir Walter Tyrel in the New Forest; succeeded by Henry I.

Islamic science begins to decline.

Middle English supersedes old English.

Probable colonization of Polynesia from South America.

1101

Treaty of Alton; Robert of Normandy is bought off after invading England.

1103

Magnus II of Norway invades Ireland and is killed.

1104

Acre taken by Crusaders.

1107

The Chinese invent multicolor printing, mainly to make paper money harder to counterfeit.

1109 to 1113

Anglo-French war.

1113

Order of Knights Hospitallers of St. John, Jerusalem, founded.

1115

Florence becomes a free republic.

1118

China forms an alliance with the Jurchen tribes to conquer the Liao, under the condition that all taxes from the reconquered territories go to the Jurchen.

1120

Disaster of the "White Ship": the only legitimate son of Henry I of England, and many other nobles, are drowned off Barfleur.

1122

The Byzantines exterminate Patzinak Turks.

1125

Chinese renege on tribute to their Jurchen allies. In retaliation, the Jurchen seize most of north China outright.

Beginning of troubadour music in France.

1126

English barons accept Matilda, widow of Emperor Henry V and daughter of Henry I of England, as successor to Henry I.

1128

Order of Knights Templars recognized by the Pope.

1130

Innocent II becomes Pope, Anacletus II becomes antipope. Though Anacletus, a distinguished scholar and diplomat, is canonically more acceptable than Innocent, he fails to get secular backing because he is the son of a rich, converted Jew.

1135

King Henry I of England dies and is succeeded by his nephew, Stephen of Boulogne, a grandson of William the Conqueror.

1136

Matilda asserts her right to the English throne.

German Emperor Lothar III invades southern Italy, conquers Apulia.

The fall of Jerusalem galvanized Europe, and soon the massive Third Crusade was organized, under the leadership of Richard the Lionhearted of England. The long and brutal war that followed was one of the great military contests of history, with Richard's erratic brilliance matched against Saladin's uninspired but unrelenting thoroughness. Richard and his troops returned to Europe in October of 1192, leaving Saladin the undisputed sole master of the Holy Land. Saladin returned to his capitol at Damascus, weak and exhausted from years of continuous campaigning. He divided his realm among his relatives, who immediately began fighting each other, and died soon after, on March 4, 1193. On his death, his friends discovered that Saladin had not left himself enough personal wealth even to purchase a tomb.

To an anti-Islamic time terrorist, only Muhammad himself would be a more attractive target than Saladin. It seems almost certain that without Saladin the Christians would have been able to retain their hold on the Kingdom of Jerusalem for decades – perhaps centuries – longer. Furthermore, without Saladin to unify the Moslem factions, the Christians would have been in an excellent position to conquer all of Egypt and the near East, dividing the Islamic world in half and greatly weakening the military power of Islam throughout the Middle Ages.

The Serpent God

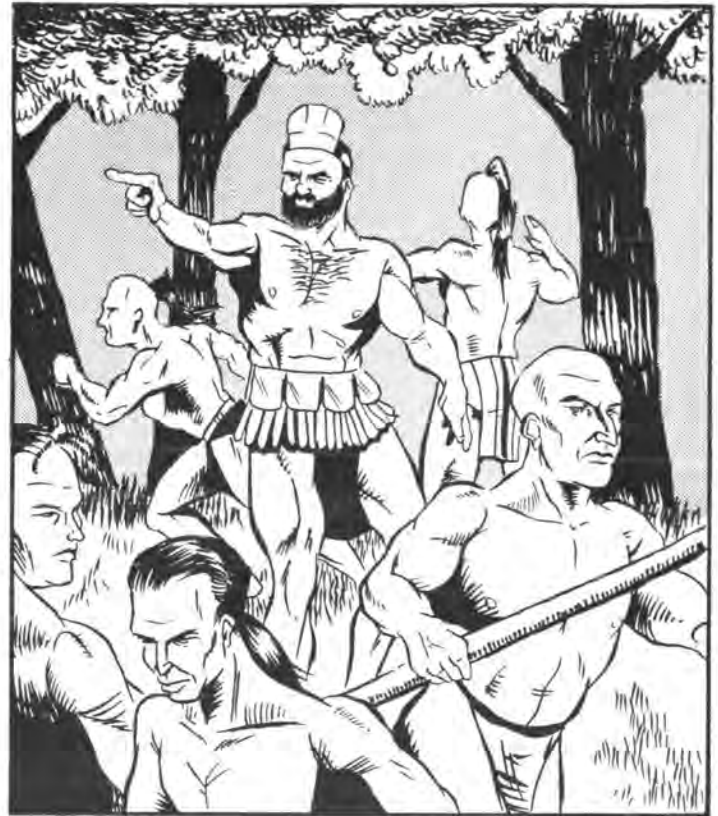
1194

Quetzalcoatl was the feathered serpent, a Mesoamerican rain god worshipped by the late Maya, the Toltecs and the Aztecs. He may also have been something more.

Mayan tradition held that they had originally come to Mexico from the west, under the leadership of Quetzalcoatl, or Kukulcan, who founded or conquered the city of Chichen Itza, beginning the Maya empire.

The Aztecs believed that Quetzalcoatl had reigned in human form as Topiltzin, king of the Toltec capitol of Tula (the precise

location of Tula is unknown, and the Toltec remain a rather mysterious people). It is said that Quetzalcoatl was known for his military might, his mercy and his piety. He sacrificed only animals to the gods. Eventually, he was overthrown by Tezcatlipoca, a cruel monarch who instituted human sacrifice in the empire.



1138 to 1163

1138

David I of Scotland invades England on behalf of Matilda and is defeated at the Battle of the Standards.

Pretend Messiah appears in France and Persia.

1139

Matilda lands at Arundel; civil war in England.

Bavaria falls to Austria.

1141 to 1148

Minamoto Yoshiie, great Japanese general and ancestor of Shoguns.

1141

Matilda proclaimed queen at Winchester.

1143

The Spanish Jew Benjamin of Tudela travels via Constantinople to India and returns via Egypt.

1144

Arnold of Brescia establishes republican regime in Rome.

1145

Pope Eugene III proclaims the Second Crusade.

1147

Crusaders perish in Asia Minor – failure of the Second Crusade.

Matilda leaves England.

Geoffrey of Monmouth writes *Historia regum Britanniae*.

Moscow mentioned for the first time.

1150 to 1159

Chinese develop the first rockets.

1150

Founding of Paris University.

Troubadour music in southern France becomes organized.

Arabs in Spain manufacture paper.

1151

End of the Toltec Empire in Mexico.

First fire and plague insurance (in Iceland).

The game of chess arrives in England.

Chinese use explosives in warfare.

1154 to 1485

The house of Plantagenet rules England, beginning with Henry II.

1154 to 1159

Pope Hadrian IV, the only English Pope.

1155 to 1227

Genghis Khan, founder of the Mongol empire.

1155

Arnold of Brescia hanged.

Carmelite order founded.

1156-1160

War of the Japanese clans Taira and Minamoto.

1156

Tula, home of the Toltecs in Mexico, destroyed by invaders.

1157

Eric of Sweden conquers Finland.

1160

Normans expelled from North Africa.

1162

Thomas à Becket elected Archbishop of Canterbury.

1163 to 1235

Building of Notre Dame Cathedral, in Paris.

1163

Henry II and Thomas à Becket quarrel.

Defeated, Quetzalcoatl either left the country of the Toltecs with his closest followers, sailing eastward on a "raft of serpents," or immolated himself on a pyre, becoming the planet Venus.

Historians today see the conflict between Quetzalcoatl and Tezcatlipoca (also deified by the Aztecs) as a metaphorical representation of the overthrowing of the peaceful and socially enlightened Teotihuacan culture by the more primitive and warlike Toltecs from the north. It also closely parallels a cosmological myth of a mystical battle between Quetzalcoatl the Feathered Serpent and Tezcatlipoca, god of the night.

The most interesting thing about Quetzalcoatl, to time travelers, is that when represented in human form he is usually portrayed with a beard, and sometimes with distinctly European features. It is a matter of historical record that when Cortez arrived in Mexico, Montezuma, king of the Aztecs, immediately decided that this bearded conqueror in his shining armor scales was Quetzalcoatl returned. Montezuma tried several times to dissuade Cortez from coming to the capitol by offering rich gifts, and when the Spaniard arrived anyway Montezuma greeted him personally at the gates, as the rightful ruler returned. Cortez's masquerade was helped by the fact that King Quetzalcoatl's calendar name (see p. 61) was One Reed, and Cortez arrived in Mexico in a One Reed year.

Was Quetzalcoatl a European stranded or exiled to Mexico? Or was he perhaps a stranded or renegade time traveler, with a time machine covered by tubes and wires so it looked like a raft of serpents? These are questions which would bear investigation by time travelers, and which the GM may answer as he will.

The Children's Crusade

1212

The so-called "Children's Crusade" was one of the most tragic episodes in the history of medieval Europe.

When the Pope called the Third Crusade, in 1190, it set off a tremendous wave of pro-crusader sentiment all across the continent. By 1212, after the failure of the Third Crusade to retake Jerusalem, and the shameful 4th crusade, whose sole accomplishment was to sack the Christian city of Constantinople, the nobles were becoming markedly disillusioned with the whole idea of crusading. Among the common people, however, faith in the inevitable victory of Christianity over the "heathen" remained strong to the point of fanaticism.

The original impetus behind the crusade was a French shepherd boy named Stephen, from the town of Cloyes-sur-le-Loir, near Vendome. Stephen believed that Jesus had appeared to him in the form of a pilgrim, and gave him a letter for the French King. Stephen set out to deliver his letter, along the way attracting young followers. Somehow, some of these young pilgrims decided that they should go to the Holy Land, to reconquer Jerusalem through love, rather than war.

By the time the band reached Marseilles, it numbered over 30,000. There the children fell victim to dishonest merchants who, in an act of almost unbelievable callousness, shipped them by the thousands to the slave markets of North Africa.

A second group formed around a 10-year-old boy named Nicholas, who preached the Children's Crusade in the Rhineland, gathering a force of about 20,000. The children crossed the Alps into Italy, after which they split into numerous groups. Many —

1164 to 1191

1164

Becket flees to France.

1167

Oxford University founded.

Venice organizes North Italian cities into the Lombard League.

1168

Bogolubsky sacks Kiev and assumes the title of Grand Prince.

1170

Henry II and Becket formally reconcile, but upon his return to Canterbury Becket is murdered by four Norman knights.

According to legend, Prince Madoc of Wales establishes a colony in a western land, which some believe may have been America.

1172

Queen Eleanor raises Aquitaine against Henry II.

1173 to 1185

Queen Eleanor imprisoned.

Becket canonized.

First authenticated influenza epidemics.

1173

Henry's sons rebel, backed by the kings of Scotland and France.

1174

Henry II does penance at Canterbury for the murder of Becket.

Earliest horse races in England.

1175

Gerard of Cremona translates many important works by Arab scientists and Greek philosophers from Arabic to Latin.

1176

Saladin conquers Syria.

Earliest Reynard the Fox fables written in French.

1177

"In this year Dragons were seen of many in England," according to the *Annals of Winchester*.

1178 to 1241

Snorri Sturluson, Icelandic poet and historian.

1180

Glass windows appear in English private homes.

1182 to 1226

St. Francis of Assisi.

1182

The Jews are banished from France.

1183

Saladin takes Aleppo.

Minamotos decisively break the power of the Taira at the Japanese naval battle of Dan no Ura.

1185

Knights Templars established in London.

Prince John becomes king of Ireland. He is expelled in disgrace the next year.

1187

Saladin defeats Christians at Hittin and takes Jerusalem.

Punjab conquered by Mohammed of Ghor.

Japanese Buddhist Eisai returns from China for the last time with the philosophy that will become Zen Buddhism.

1189 to 1199

Richard Coeur-de-Lion, King of England.

1189 to 1193

Third Crusade, led by Richard Coeur-de-Lion, fails to conquer Jerusalem, but Richard negotiates a treaty guaranteeing access to pilgrims.

1189

Jews massacred at Richard's coronation.

First paper mill in Europe established in France.

1191 to c. 1204

The *Nibelungenlied*, Norse epic cycle, being composed.

perhaps the most fortunate – ended up settled in various Lombard towns. One large band reached Genoa, where they were refused transport across the Mediterranean. A remnant then continued on to Rome, where Pope Innocent took pity on them and released them from their crusader's vows. Although the second crusade



was not as unrelentingly tragic as the first, it is certain that many of the children from the second group also ended up kidnapped into slavery in North Africa. The final fate of Nicholas is unknown.

Historians now regard the Children's Crusade as an important motivating factor that helped the church gain popular support for the Fifth Crusade.

In addition to being a fascinating study in mass hysteria, the Children's Crusade also offers time travelers an excellent chance for recruitment. Many, perhaps most, of the children who followed Stephen and Nicholas must have been imaginative, adaptable and healthy. Furthermore, they were young enough not to be totally locked into their medieval worldview – they would be open to education on science, technology and the ideals of a futuristic society. Most important, they are untraceable. A medieval peasant child who vanished during the Children's Crusade would be assumed to have been sold into slavery.

Of course, if the merchants who were planning on kidnapping the children became aware that the PCs were selectively siphoning off the best specimens before they could be taken to market, they would certainly try to shut down this competing operation, and since these are people who'll obviously do absolutely anything for a profit, their response would probably be as deadly as possible.

On the other hand, while it might be a bit risky, temporally, any reasonably compassionate time agent would take great satisfaction in identifying the merchants who exploited the children, and arranging things so that they meet the fate they deserve.

Mali

1325

The trading empire of Mali, in the southern Sahara, was by far the most important African state of the middle ages.

Mali was founded by Sundiata, a Mandingo and the headman of a village in the small kingdom of Kangaba. The Mandingo

1191 to 1209

1191

Richard I conquers Cyprus and sells it to the Templars.
Tea arrives in Japan from China.

1192

Saladin and Richard sign a truce.
Richard I returns from the Crusade and is captured by Leopold, Duke of Austria.
Shogun given authority over all military families of Japan.

1193

Richard is handed over to Henry VI and imprisoned.
English holdings on the continent are recaptured by the French.
Saladin dies.

1194-1234

Quetzalcoatl conquers Chichen Itza.
Mayas form League of Mayapan for self-protection.

1194

Richard released and crowned for the second time.

1199

Richard killed at a siege in France, after recovering much of England's continental holdings.

1200

Development of Jewish cabalistic philosophy in southern Europe.
Islam begins to replace Indian religion.
Hohokam culture extinct in North American Southwest.
Early Gothic art in England.
Professional "bards" in Ireland.
Engagement rings come into fashion.

1202 to 1204

Fourth Crusade; the crusaders, unable to pay the Venetians for shipping, agree to conquer in Venice's behalf. Crusaders conquer Constantinople and establish a short-lived Latin empire in Byzantine territory.

1202

John of England goes to war with France.
First court jesters at European courts.
Leonardo Fibonacci introduces zero to Europe; about the same time the Chinese develop a symbol for zero.

1203

Genghis Khan defeats his rival Ongkhan.

1204

John defeated by Phillip II, and forced to relinquish some of England's continental holdings. The remainder will be taken by Phillip the next year.
Crusaders take Constantinople and establish Latin Empire.

1205 to 1270

Tannhäuser, German poet.

1206

Genghis Khan declared chief prince of the Mongols.

1208 to 1229

Albigensian Crusade against Cathar heretics in southern France. French king is strengthened by ruining southern nobles.

1209

King John invades Scotland and is excommunicated.
Francis of Assisi issues first rules of Franciscan brotherhood.
Cambridge University founded.

were a merchant people, who had served as middlemen in the gold trade during the final days of the Ghana empire.

According to the oral traditions of the Mandingo, Sundiata was one of 12 brothers who were heir to the throne of Kangaba. His brothers were killed by Sumanguru, the king of the neighboring state of Kaniaga, but Sundiata was spared because he was small and sickly, and expected to die soon anyway.

Tradition and history agree that upon reaching adulthood, Sundiata organized a private army and, with the support of his fellow Mandingo, defeated Sumanguru decisively at the battle of Kirina about 1235. About 1240, he took Kumbi, the former capitol of the Ghana Empire (see p. 32), thereby simultaneously establishing his own empire and obliterating the last traces of Ghana.

After the conquest of Kirina, Sundiata no longer led his armies in person, but his generals continued to expand the empire. Important conquests include the important trading center of Walata in the south Sahara, and the gold fields of Wangara. (History does not record the exact location of Wangara – information that would no doubt be of great interest to unscrupulous or mercenary time travelers.)

The greatest emperor, or *mansa*, of Mali was without a doubt Musa, who was either the grandson or grandnephew of Sudiata, and who reigned from 1312 to 1332.

Mansa Musa is best remembered for his pilgrimage to Mecca in 1324. While every good Moslem is expected to make such a pilgrimage, or *hajj*, at least once in his lifetime, if possible, Mansa Musa's journey was much more than just an act of piety. He traveled with a caravan of 60,000 subjects, including 12,000 slaves, all wearing finery of brocade and silk. Musa himself rode on horseback, preceded by 500 slaves, each carrying a staff decorated with gold. He was further accompanied by 80 camels, each carrying 300 pounds of gold.

His first stop was Cairo, where he made a lasting impression. For all their ostentation, his followers behaved themselves in an

exemplary fashion, and the emperor's generosity was extravagant. He single-handedly flooded the economy of Cairo (a city of about 1,000,000) with so much wealth that gold was devalued there for more than a decade. The piety of the black King also impressed his Arab hosts (though it nearly caused a diplomatic incident, when Musa became so rapt in his devotional pursuits that he almost neglected to pay a state visit on the Sultan of Cairo).

Because of the favorable impression Musa had made on his hajj, for the rest of his reign Mali was a magnet for scholars and diplomats from all over the Islamic world. The new mosque of Sankore, at Timbuktu, was to be in particular a major center of Islamic theology, and formed the core of the future University of Sankore.

During the 15th century, Mali traders (mostly, by this time, from the Dyula people) were still active throughout Western Africa, but the empire was beginning to crumble. Between 1464 and 1492, Sonni'Ali, a king of Gao (which had slipped out from under the imperial thumb since the time of Musa) and a non-Muslim, destroyed the Mali empire and established a new Songhai empire with the capitol at Gao. After Sonni'Ali's death the control of the new empire reverted to Moslem, Mandingo rulers and the Songhai empire continued to control the Sahara trade routes much as the Mali empire had, though it was never as rich or extensive as its predecessor. It lasted about a century, until it was conquered by Morocco.

The Black Death

1350

The single greatest human disaster of all time remains the Black Death of the 14th century. By 1400, 25,000,000 people had died in Europe. Statistics are unavailable for Asia and Africa, but there is cause to believe they were equally affected.

Plague is normally a disease of rats, carried from rat to rat by fleas. Plague is always present among rodents, but it's usually not

1211 to 1229

1211 to 1215

Genghis Khan invades China, overwhelming the Jurchen. Holding the rest of China in contempt, he refuses to conquer more territory.

1212

Children's Crusade; 30,000 to 50,000 French and German children set off for the Holy Land. The German contingent is turned back, but the French are sold into slavery at Marseilles.

Venice conquers Crete.

1213

King John of England submits to Pope, making England and Ireland papal fiefs.

Council of St. Albans, precursor of British Parliament.

1214 to 1294

Roger Bacon, greatest scientist of his time. First European to describe in detail the process of making gunpowder.

1214

Peking captured by Genghis Khan.

Battle of Bouvines; Philip II of France defeats Otto IV and the English.

1215

King John seals Magna Carta at Runnymede. Civil war in England.

Fourth Lateran Council prohibits trial by ordeal.

St. Dominic founds Dominican Friars.

1216

A French force lands in England.

1217

French, defeated at Lincoln and Sandwich, leave England.

Crusade against sultanate of Egypt fails.

1218

Genghis Khan conquers Persia.

Danneborg, the oldest national flag in the world, adopted by Denmark.

1220

The first giraffes are shown in Europe.

1221

Chinese use bombs with shrapnel that cause considerable damage (earlier efforts relied mostly on the frightening effect of the loud explosions).

Italians develop the sonnet form in poetry.

1223

Mongols invade Russia, battle at Kalka River.

1224 to 1227

Anglo-French war.

1225 to 1274

Thomas Aquinas, philosopher and theologian.

1227

Japanese porcelain industry begun by Toshiro, a potter who traveled for four years in China.

1228

Sixth Crusade, led by Emperor Frederick II. A military failure, the crusade does regain access for pilgrims to Jerusalem, Nazareth and Bethlehem.

Francis of Assisi canonized.

1229

Frederick II crowned King of Jerusalem, signs treaty with the Sultan of Egypt.

The Inquisition of Toulouse forbids Bible reading by all laymen.

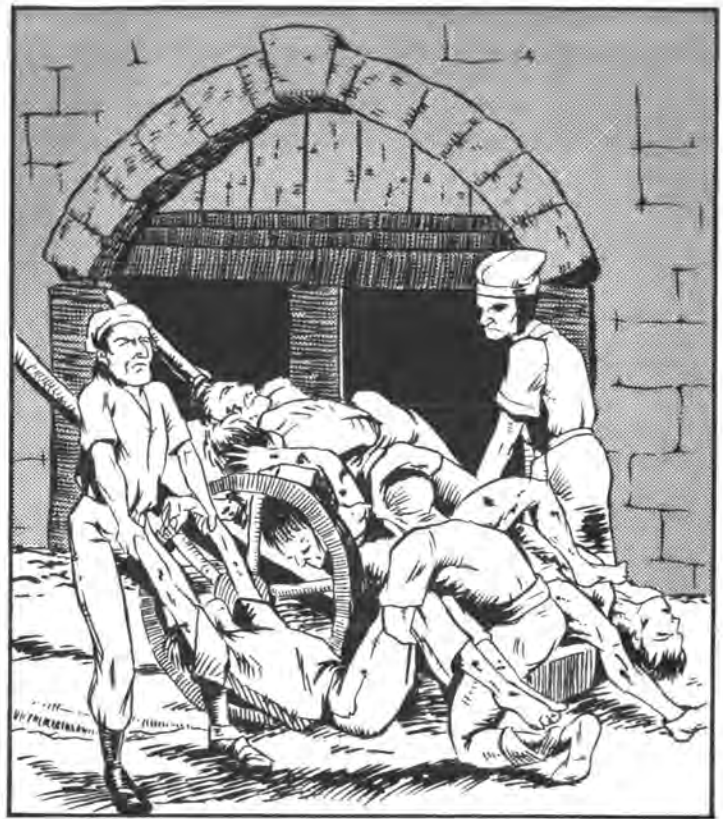
a major danger to the rodent population at large. Under the proper environmental conditions, however, the plague can decimate rodent populations. When this happens, the fleas which carry the disease go looking for other hosts – including humans. There are three kinds of plague, two of which – bubonic and pneumonic – were part of the Black Death epidemic. Humans can only be infected with bubonic plague by fleas, but pneumonic plague is highly contagious between humans, particularly later in the disease's progression. Plague can kill within 24-hours of infection.

It is believed that the Black Death originated in China or central Asia. Europeans were probably first exposed in 1347, when Kipchek tribesmen, besieging a Genoese trading post in the Crimea, catapulted plague-infested corpses over the walls.

The disease spread rapidly. Sicily and the Mediterranean ports were hit in 1347, North Africa, Italy, Spain, England and France in 1348, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland and Germany in 1349, and Scandinavia and the Baltics in 1350. There were new outbreaks of the plague in 1361-63, 1369-71, 1374-75, 1390 and 1400.

Mortality varied widely from place to place. Milan, Flanders and Bearn escaped rather lightly, while Tuscany, Aragon and Catalonia were almost depopulated. Depending on the area, mortality could range from 1/8 to 2/3 the population. England's population in 1400 is estimated at half what it had been a century earlier. Many whole communities or families were wiped out.

The plague made little distinction between the powerful and the humble. The queen of Aragon and the King of Castile succumbed; Joan, daughter of the king of England, died on her way to marry the heir to the throne of Castile. Canterbury lost two



1230 to 1265

1230

Peace of San Germano between the emperor and the pope; Frederick II is absolved from excommunication.

Leprosy imported to Europe by the Crusaders.

Founding of Berlin.

1232

During a Mongol siege, the Chinese use kites to send messages behind enemy lines.

1235

Henry VII rebels against his father Frederick II; Henry imprisoned.

1236 to 1263

Alexander Nevski, Grand Duke of Novgorod.

1236

Arabs lose Córdoba to Castile.
Kublai Khan conquers China proper.

1237 to 1240

Mongols conquer Russia, take Moscow.

1240

Crusade of Richard of Cornwall and Simon de Montfort to Jaffa.

End of the Ghana Empire in Africa. Empire overrun by Mali.

Border fixed between England and Scotland.

1241

Battle of Liegnitz, Silesia; Mongols defeat Germans, invade Poland and Hungary until the death of their ruler Ughetai forces them to withdraw from Europe.

1244

Egyptian Khwarazmi takes Jerusalem.

1245

Monk John of Plano Carpini and a companion, commissioned by Pope Innocent IV in 1245, explore south Russia and reach the Mongol empire at Karakorum (Mongolia), where they deliver a message from the Pope to the Great Khan.

1248

Lombards defeat Frederick II at Parma.
Genoese take Rhodes.
Seventh Crusade, led by Louis IX, again fails to take Egypt.

1249

Louis IX lands in Egypt.

1250

The Saracens capture Louis IX.
Hats come into fashion.
Goose quill used for writing.

1252

The Inquisition begins to use instruments of torture.

1253

Friar William of Rubrouck visits Karakorum in Mongolia.

1254 to 1324

Marco Polo, Venetian traveler.

1254

Founding of Paris School of Theology (to be called the Sorbonne).

1256

"Hundred Years War" between Venice and Genoa.

1258

Mongols take Baghdad and overthrow Caliphate.

English Barons revolt in response to the growing power of the royal household.

Provisions of Oxford establish the House of Commons.

1260 to 1269

Nicolo and Maffeo Polo travel to China and back.

1260

First flagellant movements in southern Germany and northern Italy – Christian monks beat and mutilate themselves to free themselves of fleshly desires.

1264

King Henry captured by rebellious barons led by Simon de Montfort.

1265 to 1321

Dante Alighieri, Italian poet.

successive bishops. The papal court (at that time located in Avignon, in France) was reduced by 25%.

Although some wars ceased and trade slumped due to the plague, these obvious effects were only temporary. The most profound changes in Europe due to the Black Death were more subtle.

Perhaps the most important effect was that the chronic labor shortage after the Black Death sent many landholders to ruin. Those who survived (physically and financially) were often forced to abandon serfdom and instead hire laborers or rent to tenants. This was a lasting change to the economic face of Europe, and a fatal blow to the feudal system.

In the terror of the plague years, the people understandably turned to more and more extravagant forms of superstition and mysticism. At the same time, the church, decimated by plague as much as any other segment of society, neglected recruiting and educational operations. The net result was a more superstitious populace, spiritually led by a clergy that was smaller per capita, less sophisticated and less educated than ever before. If it hadn't been for the plague, the witch hunts of the next 300 years, to pick one example among many, might never have happened.

But could it be stopped? For example, could the starting place of the plague be identified, and the people there cured (or, if necessary, destroyed) before they could spread the plague?

Probably not. Plague in humans is the result of specific conditions, like overpopulation and lack of sanitation (and there's no reason to believe that the different strains of plague didn't arise in totally different areas). There is no vaccination for plague – its spread can only be stopped by avoiding infection.

But suppose the time travelers had access to superscience that was capable of stopping the plague before it started? The most likely answer is that the plague would emerge anyway, somewhere else. Or if not the plague, some other devastating disease. Epidemic seems to be nature's automatic response to a certain population density among humans. Europe was overpopulated, which at that tech level made some sort of pandemic a practical certainty.

Ultimately, an attempt to study or forestall the Black Death can make a good adventure. Modern science might be able to suppress the symptoms or destroy the disease entirely, but what if someone accidentally brought a virulent strain to the future?

The Kensington Stone

1363

In 1898, a farmer, Olof Ohman, his son and a neighbor were pulling up stumps on Ohman's farm near Kensington, Minnesota. Six inches underground, in the roots of a 50-year-old aspen tree,

1265 to 1292

1265

Simon de Montfort calls what is generally regarded as the first English parliament.

Prince Edward defeats and kills de Montfort and restores King Henry.

1266 to 1308

Duns Scotus, Scottish theologian and philosopher.

1267

Fierce street battles between the goldsmiths' and tailors' guilds of London.

1271 to 1295

Marco Polo journeys to China.

1271

Last major crusade, the eighth.

1273

Death of Djelaleddin Rumi, Persian poet and founder of the Order of Dancing Dervishes.

1274

Kublai Khan fails to conquer Japan – his forces land, but his fleet is destroyed by unseasonal typhoon winds.

Earthquake on Dec. 5th recorded by British chroniclers, along with "the appearance of a fiery dragon."

1275 to 1292

Marco Polo in service of Kublai Khan.

1276

Four Popes sit in Rome this year.

1277 to 1292

Roger Bacon imprisoned for heresy.

1278

Emperor Rudolf defeats and kills Otto-kar, Duke of Austria.

278 Jews hanged in London for clipping coin; Christians found guilty of the same offense are fined.

Invention of the glass mirror.

1280

Textile workers in Flanders rebel against their exploiters.

1281

The Mongols again fail to invade Japan (see 1274) due to unseasonal typhoons destroying their ships; the Japanese call these winds *kamikaze* or divine winds, and several Buddhist sects take credit for them, demanding tribute from the emperor.

1282

French massacred in Sicily.
Florence dominates Europe in commerce and finance.

1283

The Teutonic order completes its subjection of Prussia.

A false "Emperor Frederick II" appears in Germany.

1284

Genoa defeats Pisa.

1285

Lohengrin, German epic, written by unknown author.

1287

Mongols invade Burma.

1288

First known gun, a small cannon, made in China.

1289

Block printing practiced in Ravenna.

1290

Spectacles invented in Northern Italy. They can correct only farsightedness.

1291

Mamelukes conquer Acre, ending Christian rule in the East.

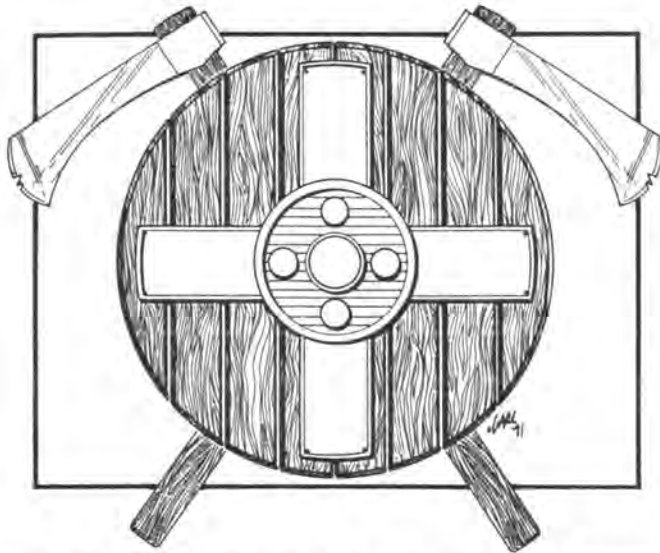


1292

Marco, Maffeo and Niccolo Polo leave China on a mission to deliver the Mongol noblewoman Kukachin to her promised husband, the Khan of Persia. From Persia, they plan to return to Venice. Marco Polo discovers a Muslim kingdom on the island of Sumatra.

they found a stone 36" × 15" × 5½", covered with inscriptions on two sides. Olof took the stone to Kensington and displayed it in the window of the bank. Eventually, it was sent to archaeologists at the University of Minnesota, who declared it a fake. Disgusted, Olof used it as a stepping stone for his corn crib (luckily, he kept the inscribed side down).

In 1907, Olof was visited by Hjalmar Rued Holand, an archaeologist, who asked to see the stone. Holand pronounced it an authentic Viking relic.



The story that Holand read in Viking runes tells of a group of 30 Swedes and Norwegians from Vinland in 1363 (more than three centuries after Leif Erikson discovered that country), who had been camped near Kensington. A group of the Northmen returned from fishing and found 10 of their party massacred by Indians. The stone notes that 10 more of the 30 had remained with their ship, which was docked by the sea, 14 days journey from the site of the massacre.

The first difficulty with this account is that it is obviously impossible to walk to Minnesota from any reasonable anchorage in Hudson Bay, the Great Lakes or the Mississippi river in 14 days. Proponents respond that a "day's journey" should be taken as a measure of distance, not time (like a "light year"). It is the distance a Viking ship can sail in one day, or about 75 miles, which makes the reported distance reasonable.

In the stone's favor, there have been other purportedly Norse artifacts found in the region – mooring holes bored in lakeside rocks, axe or halberd heads, fire-steels.

Graphic evidence is even available in the form of an account of a royal expedition sent to Norway in 1349, under the command of a Paul Knutson, to search for lost colonists in Western Greenland. The stone's defenders suggest that finding the Greenland settlements abandoned, the expedition continued up Hudson Bay, then overland at least as far as Kensington. It is notable that in the mid-1400s, the political situation would make a joint expedition of Swedes and Vikings, like that described on the stone, not only possible, but likely.

Seemingly-Norse graves have been found in Ontario, and the Mandan Indians of North Dakota (who became extinct in 1841), near Minnesota, are said to have had certain European features.

There are other reports of mysterious carved stones in the area. A large stone is said to lie submerged in the Mississippi, becoming visible only in severe droughts.

The best argument against the stone is entirely circumstantial. It seems most suspicious that these intrepid Vikings would come to be massacred at a spot that would later be populated by so many of their descendants – a region where the Viking legend was revered, and even people of unremarkable education would be likely to be conversant in early runes. Skeptics note that one Svend Fogelblad, who had studied Runic writing at Upsala University, stayed with Ohman several years before the stone was found. It is also considered unlikely that men in such grave danger would stop to carve such an elaborate memorial. But if they did, being Vikings, they would be likely to carve more than one.

1295 to 1314

1295

Polo family returns to Venice.
Edward I holds "Model Parliament" – the first full English parliament.

1296

"Stone of Scone," Scottish coronation stone, moved from Scone to Westminster.

1297

Scots defeat English at Stirling Bridge.
Marco Polo, imprisoned in Genoa as a prisoner of war, relates his adventures to his cellmate, Rusticano of Pisa.
Moas die out in New Zealand.

1298

Marco Polo's account of his travels published.

1300

Edward I invades Scotland.
"Jongleurs," professional musical entertainers in France.
Temporary end of European slave trade.
Anasazi culture in the North American Southwest abandons the great cliff dwellings.

Mogollon culture extinct in the American Southwest.

1302

Anglo-Scottish truce.
Dante exiled from Florence.
Philip IV calls first "estates general" in France, where all three estates – nobles, clergy and commons – are represented.

1303

Pope Boniface VIII quarrels with Philip IV of France and dies a prisoner in the Vatican.

1305

Edward I standardizes the yard and the acre.
Papacy moved to Avignon.

1306

Robert Bruce crowned King of Scots and defeated by the English at Methuen and Dalry.
Philip IV expels the Jews from France.

1307 to 1321

Dante composes his *Divina Commedia*.

1307

Archbishopric of Peking established.
Purported date of William Tell shooting the apple off his son's head.

1309

Clement V (a Frenchman) moves the Papal residence from Rome to Avignon.

1312

Templars destroyed by Philip IV of France and Pope Clement.
The Canary Islands rediscovered by Genoa.

1313

The German Grey Friar Berthold Schwarz invents gunpowder.

1314

Battle of Bannockburn; Robert Bruce's Scots rout the English under Edward II.
Jacques de Molay, Grand Master of the Knights Templar, burned at the stake in Paris for heresy.

Of course, for every linguist who finds the runes on the stone genuine, another will declare them fakes.

If there is a hoaxster involved, it must be Ohman himself, because if he did find the rock beneath the roots of a 50-year-old tree, that puts the burying of the stone back well into the pioneer days, when runic scholars were much more scarce in Minnesota. It seems unlikely that a dour Minnesota farmer like Olof would perpetuate such a hoax, and it is strange that he'd relegate his carefully-researched creation to the corn bin at the first setback.

Time travelers, of course, are in excellent position to discover the facts behind the Kensington stone. Even if the Vikings arrived in Minnesota well after the 14th century, the searchers might well find other, stranger things in the wilds of pre-Columbian Minnesota.

Tamerlane

1336-1405

Although Timur the Lame was a Moslem conqueror, he has less in common with the stern and resolute 'Umar or the chivalrous Saladin than with Genghis Khan and Attila the Hun. Like Genghis and Attila he was the leader of a tribe of nomadic horsemen in central Asia, who forged his people into an unstoppable fighting force that swept through more civilized countries leaving them broken, bloody and conquered. Like Genghis, he was never beaten in battle and only death could stop his career of conquest. His genius was to take every advantage and exploit every weakness of his foes, be it military, economic or political. To Timur, alliance and betrayal were both just tools to be used. Tamerlane was to lead the last of the great barbarian hordes, before gunpowder broke their power forever.

Timur's European name, Tamerlane, comes from the Turkish "Timur Lenk" or "Timur the Lame." When Timur's tomb was opened in 1941, members of the Soviet Archaeological Commis-

sion discovered that Timur was indeed lame in both right limbs, but that he was also a powerfully-built man, tall for his race.

In 1380, he began his career of conquest in earnest, beginning with Persia, which was weak from 50 years of political and economic instability. He first took the city of Herat, in 1383, and by 1385 all of Eastern Persia was under his control. By 1394 he'd added to his conquests Fars, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Mesopotamia and Georgia.

In 1398 he invaded India, on the charming pretext that the Moslem Sultans were excessively tolerant of their Hindu subjects. At the time, Timur was more than 60 years old. He crossed the Indus on September 24, destroyed the Sultan's army on December 17, and laid waste to the city of Delhi, reducing it to ruins. By April the next year he was back in Samarkand with his spoil. It's recorded that he employed 90 captured elephants to carry stones from India to erect a mosque in Samarkand.

In 1402, Timur invaded Anatolia and destroyed the army of the Ottoman Sultan, then captured Smyrna from the European crusaders who held it. After receiving offers of submission from the Sultan of Egypt and the Emperor of Constantinople in 1404, Timur called off the campaign to return to Samarkand and begin plans for the conquest of China.

He set out for China in 1405, but fell ill and died shortly after starting the expedition. He was buried in a magnificent tomb called Gur-e Amir in Samarkand. His heirs immediately began struggling over his territories, the lion's share eventually going to his youngest son, Shah Rokh.

For time travelers, the best plan for using Timur to change history is to get him to start his conquests earlier, or allow him to pursue them longer. Starting his career earlier seems risky since there is no guarantee that the 40-year-old Timur would be as effective a conqueror as the 50-year-old Timur was.

1317 to 1346

1317

France adopts Salic Law, excluding women from succession to throne.

Pope John XXII issues a prohibition against the practice of alchemy.

1318

Edward Bruce, king of Ireland, killed in Battle of Faughart, near Dundalk.

1322

Battle of Mühldorf.

Frederick of Austria defeated and taken prisoner by Louis of Bavaria.

1323

Thomas Aquinas canonized.

1324

Mansa Musa, ruler of the African Mali Empire, makes a pilgrimage to Mecca, spreading the fame of Mali's wealth throughout the Moslem world, and attracting scholars and diplomats to his kingdom.

1325

Noh plays develop in Japan.

1325 to 1353

Ibn Battutah begins his travels in India, Ceylon and the Far East, which will make him the most travelled person of his time.

1326

Isabella, wife of Edward II, and her lover Roger Mortimer invade England and capture the king.

1327

Edward II deposed by Parliament and murdered at Berkeley Castle.

The great fire of Munich.

In China, the Grand Canal (1,100 miles long, begun in 70 A.D.) is completed.

1328 to 1384

John Wycliff, English church reformer.

1328

Louis IV of Bavaria crowned emperor in Rome, Jan. 17; declares Pope John XXII deposed for heresy.

1330

Roger Mortimer deposed and executed. Edward III takes power.

1331

Disputed imperial succession in Japan leads to civil war against Hojo regents.

1333

Emperor Go-Daigo of Japan rebels against the shogunate but is deposed.

Edward III defeats David Bruce at Halidon Hill and reconquers Scotland; Bruce exiled.

1337

Hundred Years' War between England and France begins. Naval battle of Sluys won by England.

David Bruce returns to Scotland and takes the throne while England is distracted by French war.

1338

The French burn Portsmouth.

c. 1340 to 1400

Geoffrey Chaucer, English poet.

1340

English defeat French off Sluys; French occupy Guienne.

1341 to 1360

Mali Empire re-established by Sulaiman, after being overrun by Mossi.

1345

Great Florentine banking houses of Bardi and Peruzzi bankrupt.

1346

The French defeated at Crécy.

Prolonging Timur's life and conquests seems a better bet. Although Timur lived to be a very old man by the standards of his time, it seems a reasonable possibility that a good TL8 geriatricist introduced to Timur's court during his major conquests could keep him alive and active for another 5-10 years. Given the speed with which Timur customarily effected his conquests, this is enough time for him to conquer all of Europe, Asia and civilized Africa.

It seems likely that if Timur had lived long enough to conquer China (and there seems little doubt that he could have), that country would have been converted at sword's point to Islam. If China stayed Moslem (as most Islamic countries, with the exception of Spain, tended to do), it would have countless ramifications for the present.

Timur also represents probably the last realistic chance for a Moslem Europe, although Europe in 1400 – rapidly moving toward the Renaissance and world domination – might have proved too tough a nut for even the invincible Timur to crack. Certainly a war between Timur and a European coalition (led, perhaps by Henry V of England) would be an epic struggle.

The Medicis

1400

Some individuals have an absolutely unique niche in history. Alexander the Great changed forever the face of Western society. If the Third Reich had been led by somebody besides Adolph Hitler, with his peculiar insanity, World War II would still have occurred, but 6 million Jews would not have been slaughtered.

The Medici family of Florence offers perhaps the best chance to permanently and irrevocably change the course of human history with a single assassination. If an ambitious time meddler could kill any of the direct ancestors of Lorenzo and Cosimo Medici, he would simultaneously annihilate four popes, two of France's greatest queens, and a double handful of the most impor-

tant rulers of the Renaissance. And that's the *minor* consequence of his action. The *major* effect of the elimination of the Medici line would be to destroy the Renaissance itself! Without the Medicis, particularly Lorenzo the Magnificent and his immediate family, it seems virtually certain the Middle Ages would have lingered for many decades – perhaps for centuries – longer than history presently records. (One group that might find such a state of affairs desirable is the Prieuré de Sion – see p. 41.)



The First Line

Sometime in the 12th century, the Tuscan peasant family of Medici moved from the village of Cafaggiolo in the Mugello, to the greater opportunities offered in Florence. They thrived in the city, and within a century they were counted among the city's wealthiest families. The first recorded Medici is Chiarissimo 1, who lived about 1200. We know only the name of Chiarissimo's father – Giambuono – and nothing at all about any specific earlier Medicis. A time assassin who wanted to pick a known name and get all of the Medicis recorded to history would have to target Chiarissimo, his mysterious father, or his son, Filippo.

1347 to 1350

1347 to 1350

Black Death devastates Europe; 75 million people – a third of the population – die.

Plague is brought to Europe on Italian ships carrying rats with infected fleas; the plague will appear over and over during the next 80 years, reducing the population of Europe by 75%.

1347

Calais surrenders to Edward III.

The first evidence of a gun in Europe, a drawing of a small cannon that shoots arrows.

1348 to 1350

Edward III founds the Order of the Garter.

The "false Valdemar" gains rule of Brandenburg, until he is exposed as a swindler.

1349

Jews persecuted in Germany.

Black Death kills a third of the population of England.

1350

Till Eulenspiegel, German folk hero, dies.

1351

Tennis becomes an open-air game in England.

1355

Scots defeat English at Nesbit.

1356

The Black Prince defeats French at Poitiers. John II and his son Philip are taken prisoner and held for ransom.

Red Turbans secret society seizes Nanking.

1357

Revolution in Paris against the Dauphin, led by Marcel and Robert le Coq.

1358

Bloody revolt by French peasants (the Jacquerie) against the nobility; peasants say nobles who can't beat the English aren't fit to rule.

1358

The Hapsburgs, twice defeated at Zurich, sign peace treaty with Swiss League.

1359

Chinese Red Turbans, together with local forces, drive the Mongols out of Korea.

1360

Chinese Red Turbans divide into three factions.

The first francs coined in France.

1361

Black Death reappears in England.

1363

Timur the Lame (Tamerlane) begins conquest of Asia.

Date on Kensington Stone inscription – carved rock which states that 30 Swedes from Vinland visited Minnesota. Stone commemorates death of 10 of the Swedes at the hands of natives. See p. 66.

1364

Aztecs build their capital, Tenochtitlan. Revolts in Crete against Venetian rule.

1366

English Parliament refuses to pay feudal dues to the Pope.

Red Turbans reunified by Chu Yuan-chang.

1368 to 1396

French avoid pitched battles, preferring to wear the English down with guerrilla warfare. Free companies of mercenaries arise in France.

1368

Mongol Yuan dynasty in China overthrown by national Ming dynasty, under the leadership of former peasant Chu Yuan-chang, who becomes emperor Hung-Wu.

Restoration of the Great Wall of China.

Timur ascends throne of Samarkand.

Cosimo

The founder of the second and greatest line of the Medici was Cosimo. The third great line, the Grand Dukes, was descended from Cosimo's brother, Lorenzo. Our time-traveling assassin's last chance to effectively erase the Medicis from history would come with Cosimo's father, Giovanni de Bicci, or one of the five direct ancestors between him and Chiarissimo. Once Giovanni de Bicci is allowed to reproduce, it becomes much harder to erase the line.

Cosimo, born about the time the first line was ending, was a financial genius, the richest man of his generation. He controlled the Medici bank and managed the Papacy's finances. His greatest coup was gaining a monopoly on the alum mines of Tolfa (alum was a vital component in Florence's famous textile industry).

One trait that all the Medicis shared was a passion for art, architecture and scholarship. Cosimo built numerous palaces and public buildings. He sponsored great artists like Donatello and Fra Angelico, inspiring them to their greatest works not only with his generosity, but also by treating them as honored equals, rather than as hired labor, as had been the custom of European nobility previously. Perhaps most important, he sponsored a worldwide search for ancient manuscripts, a move which directly led to the rebirth of Greek rationalism – which in turn triggered the Renaissance.

Despite all his achievements, Cosimo died an unhappy man. He was crushed by the premature death of his brother in 1440, and in 1463, near the end of his life, he lost his gifted and brilliant son, Giovanni, and was tormented by the thought of leaving the family in the hands of his invalid son Piero. He died in 1464, and the following year he was given the title of *Pater Patriae*, father of his country.

Lorenzo

Piero's son and heir, Lorenzo "the Magnificent" is almost certainly the greatest Medici of them all.

On Piero's death Lorenzo and his brother Giuliano jointly ruled the family and the city from 1469 to 1478. Lorenzo was only 20 when he took power, and Giuliano was four years younger. The joint reign of the Medici brothers was memorable mostly for the opulent festivals, carnivals, balls, tournaments, weddings and parties that kept the populace happy while the brothers consolidated more and more political power to themselves.

Lorenzo did not neglect the family's traditional patronage of the arts. Artists under his sponsorship included Botticelli, Verrocchio and Verrocchio's pupil, Leonardo da Vinci. Late in his life he founded a school of sculpture, the star pupil of which was a 15-year-old named Michelangelo.

After a three-year illness, Lorenzo died at the age of only 43, just six months before Christopher Columbus reached the New World.

Piero through Alessandro

Lorenzo's heir, Piero the Unfortunate, almost undid the house. During his reign, France was threatening to invade Italy, and Piero foolishly abandoned the traditional Medici alliance with France in favor of Naples. This provided the French with the excuse they were waiting for, and they poured into Italy. Like his father, Piero attempted to deal with the problem by riding alone to the field headquarters of the King of France. He succeeded in forestalling the invasion, but his deal with the King of France was popularly portrayed as a betrayal of Italy. Piero was forced to flee Venice after only two years in power, and was never able to return. His several attempts to restore his power proved fruitless.

1369 to 1386

1369

Venice repels Hungarian invasion.

1370

The Black Prince sacks Limoges.

Steel crossbow used as a weapon of war.

1371

English defeat Flemings at Bourgneuf.

1372

French defeat English, take Poitiers, Angoulême and La Rochelle.

Owen-ap-Thomas, self-styled Prince of Wales, aided by French, captures Guernsey.

1373

John of Gaunt invades France from Calais to Bordeaux.

1375

Truce of Bruges between England and France.

"Robin Hood" appears in English popular literature.

1377

Playing cards more popular than dice in Germany.

First quarantine station is set up in Yugoslavia; those suspected of the plague must stay there for 40 days.

1378 to 1417

The Great Schism begins after the death of Pope Gregory XI, with two popes elected – Urban VI at Rome, Clement VII at Avignon.

1378

Renewal of Anglo-French war.

1380

Timur begins his 35 successful campaigns to Persia, Georgia, Russia, Egypt, etc.

Rockets used for the first time in Europe in the battle of Chioggia between the Genoese and the Venetians.

1381

Anglo-French truce for six years.

Peasants' Revolt in England under Wat Tyler. Richard II promises reforms, but reneges when the peasant armies are dispersed.

Venice wins the "Hundred Years War" against Genoa; art, commerce, science flourish.

1382

Wycliff expelled from Oxford, his doctrines being condemned by London synod. Turks capture Sofia.

1384

Anglo-Scottish war renewed.



1386 to 1466

Donatello, Italian sculptor.

However, in 1512, Lorenzo's other son Giovanni, a cardinal, persuaded the pope to intervene militarily to restore the Medici to power in Florence. Giovanni's younger brother, Giuliano, became ruler of Florence. Giuliano ruled for only a year, handing Florence over to his nephew (Piero's son) Lorenzo II, in 1513.

Lorenzo was too ambitious. He persuaded his uncle, the Pope, to give him the Duchy of Urbino, expelling the rightful duke, Francesco Maria della Rovere, on a pretense. Francesco Maria soon returned to Urbino and was welcomed by the people. The war which followed was long and bloody, but eventually Lorenzo emerged the victor. The victory was hollow, however, because in 1519 he died without a male heir. The line of Lorenzo I was at an end. It was Lorenzo II to whom Niccolo Machiavelli addressed his famous treatise on political machinations, *The Prince*.

Upon Lorenzo's death, the rule of Florence passed to Cardinal Giulio de Medici, the illegitimate son of Lorenzo I's murdered brother Giuliano. Upon being elected Pope Clement VII in 1523, Giuliano passed Florence to Alessandro, who was publicly represented as the bastard son of Lorenzo II, but whose actual father was probably the Pope himself.

Alessandro was by no means one of the greatest Medicis. He had all of the Medici desire for absolute power, with none of the diplomatic genius of his ancestors. He taxed the people heavily and dealt with his enemies unmercifully.

When Clement VII died, in 1534, the opposition sought to have Alessandro ousted, but Alessandro employed the traditional family tactic and went to Emperor Charles V personally and won his support. In 1536, Alessandro was married to the Emperor's daughter.

At this point his political situation seemed at last secure. Alessandro was, however, a reprobate, given over to immoderate



1386 to 1413

1386

Leopold III of Austria defeated and killed by the Swiss at Sempach.
Heidelberg University founded.

1387 to 1400

Chaucer writes *Canterbury Tales*.

1388

Scots defeat English at the battle of Chevy Chase.

1389

Truce between England, Scotland and France.

Byzantines lose their last possessions in Asia Minor to the Turks

1391

Birth of the first Dalai Lama.

1392

Charles VI goes mad; his brother Louis becomes Duke of Orleans.

Succession dispute in Japan; the Ashikagas become shoguns of Muromachi.

Foreigners in England forbidden to retail goods.

1394

Richard II starts on expedition to Ireland.

1395

Irish rulers do homage to Richard II and receive amnesty.

c. 1396 to 1468

Johann Gutenberg, inventor of the printing press in Europe.

Richard II of England marries Isabella of France at Calais; Anglo-French truce extended to 28 years.

1397

Manuel Chrysoloras becomes first professor of Greek at Florence University, spurring interest in Classical philosophy which will trigger the Renaissance and Humanism.

1398

Timur conquers Delhi.

1399

Richard II deposed and eventually murdered.

Henry of Lancaster, son of John of Gaunt, succeeds to the throne as Henry IV.

1400

Henry IV suppresses rebellion of the barons.

Richard II murdered.

Ascent of the Medici in Florence.

1401

Timur conquers Delhi.

1402

Timur defeats Bajazet at Ankara and takes him prisoner.

1403

Henry IV subdues Northumberland.

Compilation of *Yung Lo Ta Tien*, Chinese encyclopedia in 22,937 volumes (only three copies are made).

1405

Death of Timur.

Cheng Ho, Chinese eunuch and admiral, sails a Chinese fleet from Japan to Zanzibar, to impress other lands with China's power.

1407

Louis, Duke of Orleans, murdered by Burgundians; start of civil war in France.

Bethlehem Hospital, London (Bedlam) becomes an institution for the insane.

1408

Cardinals of Rome and Avignon meet to end Great Schism.

First windmill used in Holland.

1412 to 1431

Joan of Arc.

1413

Great revivals of the Rosicrucians throughout Europe; the Ancient Mystic Order of Rosae Crucis may have come into existence 300 years or more before this date.

amusements of all sorts. His most frequent companion in his revels was a very distant cousin, Lorenzino Medici.

Lorenzino often acted as procurer for Alessandro's many illicit affairs. On January 5, 1537, Lorenzino took his cousin to his quarters, and told him to wait there while he fetched a lady Alessandro was interested in, the wife of one Leonardo Ginori. Alessandro fell asleep on his cousin's couch while waiting. Lorenzino returned with an accomplice named Scoronconcolo, and the two stabbed the duke to death, although Alessandro woke up in time to put up a vigorous struggle. Alessandro was the last acknowledged male descendent of Cosimo Medici.

The End of the House

With the extinction of Cosimo's line, control of Florence went to a new line descended from Cosimo's brother, Lorenzo. Lorenzo's great grandson, Giovanni della Bande Nere (Giovanni of the Black Bands) was the first great soldier of the Medici, serving with distinction first in the war between his cousin Pope Leo X against Francesco Maria della Rovere, then in the war between the French and the Holy Roman Empire (during which he switched sides several times). He died in battle in 1526. The "black bands" of his sobriquet referred to the mourning attire he wore into battle after the death of Leo X.

When Alessandro was killed, Giovanni's son Cosimo rushed to Florence and adroitly seized power. Soon, he gained the emperor's permission to use Alessandro's title of Duke of Florence.

Cosimo's reign was, in many ways, a return to the glories of

the first Cosimo and Lorenzo the Magnificent. He actively pursued the family passions for art and architecture, and added one of his own, archaeology. He unearthed numerous treasures from as far back as the time of the Etruscans.

In 1574, Cosimo died and his son Francis became the Grand Duke (although the Emperor did not officially recognize this papally-bestowed title until the next year). Francis was neither a great nor an inept ruler. He generally served the emperor faithfully but modestly. He twice refused to stand as a candidate for the crown of Poland.

Cosimo's other son Ferdinand was a cardinal when he became the Archduke on his brother's death, and he did not give up his robes until he married in 1589. He was another great diplomat and financier, supporting almost single-handedly Henry IV's rise to the throne of France.

Ferdinand's son, Cosimo II, checked the rise of Turkish naval power in the Mediterranean and appointed Galileo "first professor of philosophy and mathematics" at Pisa. He also abandoned all first-hand involvement with banking and commerce, finding it beneath his station.

This decision marked the beginning of the family's final decline. The last three Grand Dukes – Ferdinando II, Cosimo III and Gian Gastone – were weak and ineffectual. The Medicis became just another decaying noble house with shrinking territories and an increasingly meaningless title. Gian Gastone, the last Grand Duke, died childless in 1737, and his sister, Anna Maria Luisa, the last descendant of the great Medici line, died in 1743.

1414 to 1448

1414 to 1476

The Medici of Florence become bankers to the papacy.

1415

Henry V takes Harfleur and defeats the French at Agincourt.

1419 to 1436

War between German Empire and Bohemian Hussites.

1419

Rouen capitulates to Henry V.

1420 to 1498

Torquemada, Spanish Grand Inquisitor.

1420

Treaty of Troyes; Henry V, recognized by Charles VI as heir apparent to the French throne, marries Catherine of France and enters Paris.

The Hussites defeat Sigismund at Vysehrad.

1422

Henry V dies, succeeded by nine-month-old Henry VI.

Charles VI of France dies, succeeded by Charles VII.

Blind Hussite general John Ziska of Trocnov defeats the imperial army near Prague.

1427

Itzcoatl, King of the Aztecs, enlarges his empire. Most of Central Mexico falls under Aztec domination.

1428

Joan of Arc leads French armies against England.

1429

Joan of Arc raises the siege of Orleans.

1430

Joan of Arc captured by Burgundians at Compiègne.

Modern English develops from Middle English.

1431

Joan of Arc burned at the stake at Rouen.

First German peasant revolt at Worms.

1432

Portuguese sailor Gonzalo Cabral discovers the Azores.

1434

Normandy rebels against England.

Cosimo de Medici becomes ruler of Florence.

1436

English troops withdraw from Paris.

Scots defeat English near Berwick.

Compact of Iglau ends Hussite Wars; emperor acknowledged as King of Bohemia.

Woman claiming to be Joan of Arc emerges in France. She is recognized by the town of Orleans and by Joan's two brothers, but decried by others as a fraud.

1438

Pachacutec founds Inca rule in Peru.

1439

Portugal colonizes the Azores.

1440

Portugal begins to explore the west African coast.

1441

Portuguese navigators find the first black Africans near Cape Blanc, western Africa, and renew slave trade.

Mayan city of Mayapan sacked by invaders.

1443

János Hunyadi, Hungarian national hero, defeats the Turks at Nish.

English pass laws requiring quarantine and cleansing, to control the plague.

1444

Vladislav III of Poland and Hungary killed by the Turks at the Battle of Varna.

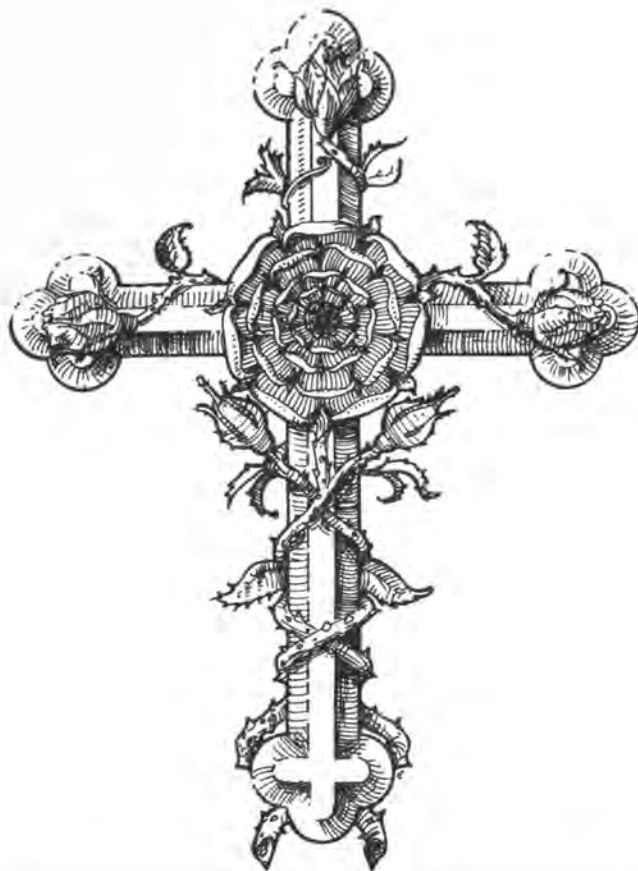
1447

Scanderbeg defeats Murad II, and gains independence for India, Persia and Afghanistan.

1448

War between Lancaster and York in England.

Murad II defeats János Hunyadi at Kossovo.



Rosicrucians

1409

The Rosicrucians, or, more formally, the Order of the Rosy Cross, is a European mystical brotherhood of ambiguous origins. As might be expected, the order's symbol is a rose superimposed on or intertwined with a cross.

The verifiable history of the order goes back to 1614 and 1615, when two anonymous pamphlets appeared mysteriously in Kassel, Germany. Some have suggested that the pamphlets were the work of one Johann Valentin Andreae, a young and radical Lutheran pastor. It is certain that the pamphlets do espouse numerous Protestant ideals, while simultaneously virulently attacking the papacy. Others have speculated that Rosicrucian ideals, if not the pamphlets themselves, can be traced to Paracelsus, a Swiss alchemist who died in 1541. The pamphlets offered no address, but promised that any published inquiries would be answered. Such inquiries were made, but there is no evidence that any subsequent contacts were ever accomplished.

The mythic history of the Rosicrucians, as found in the pamphlets *Fama Fraternitatis* and *Confessio Fraternitatis*, is much more interesting.

The pamphlets tell of a young German man named Christian Rosenkreutz, who was born in 1378. At the age of five, he was sent to a convent school, and at 16 went with one of his teachers to Damcar (probably Damascus) to continue his education. Three years later he went to Fez, in Morocco, stopping along the way in Egypt. After becoming a master magician through his studies, he went to Spain, where he expected to be welcomed by the learned

1449 to 1467

1449 to 1492

Lorenzo de Medici (The Magnificent).

1449

Mongols capture Chinese emperor Ying Tsung.

1450 to 1516

Hieronymus Bosch, Dutch painter.

1450

Jack Cade's rebellion in England.

The Incas subdue the Indians of Chimu in northern Peru.

Vatican Library founded.

Gutenberg prints the *Constance Mass Book*.

Guns firmly established as the dominant force in warfare.

1451 to 1506

Christopher Columbus, discoverer of America.

1452 to 1519

Leonardo da Vinci, genius.

1453

Turks capture Constantinople and kill Emperor Constantine XI; end of the East Roman Empire.

End of Hundred Years' War between England and France. England gives up all possessions except Calais.

Gutenberg prints the Bible at Mainz.

1454

Richard, Duke of York, named "Protector of England" during insanity of Henry VI.

1455 to 1462

Reign of Vlad IV, Voivode of Walachia, called Tepes - "The Impaler" - and Dracula - "Son of the Dragon." Known for his astonishing cruelty to his enemies, Vlad became the inspiration for the literary vampire Count Dracula.

1455

Duke of York, excluded from council, defeats royal forces at St. Albans in May and again becomes "Protector": beginning of the Wars of the Roses.

The Venetian navigator Cadamosto explores the Senegal River.

1456-1568

Ashikaga wars of succession in Japan.

1456

Turks conquer Athens.

János Hunyadi dies after repelling the Turks at Belgrade.

The trial of Joan of Arc annulled.

François Villon writes *Le Petit Testament*.

1457

Jeanne des Armoises, who claims to be Joan of Arc, is briefly imprisoned for imposture.

1459

Renewal of civil war in England.

1460

Richard of York defeats Henry VI at Northampton, but is defeated and killed by Queen Margaret at Wakefield.

James II of Scotland killed at Roxburgh.

Inca kings smash the rival kingdom of Chan-Chan.

1461

Leonardo da Vinci becomes a pupil of Verrocchio.

Edward IV proclaims himself king, even though Henry VI is still alive and free (though intermittently insane).

1463

François Villon, saved from the gallows, vanishes at the age of 32.

Turks conquer Bosnia.

1464 to 1492

Sonni'Ali, king of Gao, destroys the Mali empire.

1464

Edward IV captures and imprisons Henry VI.

Peace between England and Scotland.

1465

Edward IV passes edict forbidding "hustling of stones" and other bowling-like sports.

1466

Afanassi Nikitin reaches India via Persia and returns in 1472, publishing his experience in *The Voyage of Afanassi Nikitin Over Three Seas*.

1467

First ballad about Swiss national hero William Tell.

Moors, but was instead rebuffed. He then returned to Germany, where he gathered the disciples that were to become the Rosicrucian Fraternity.

In 1409, they built a headquarters, called the *Espiritus Sanctum* (House of the Holy Spirit), where they taught and practiced spiritual healing. One of the brothers is said to have healed the English Earl of Norfolk of leprosy. Rosenkreutz is said to have died in 1484, aged 106.

In 1604, the pamphlets continue, Rosicrucian brothers were making repairs on the headquarters, when they discovered a mysterious open vault beneath the building. An inscription on the door read, in Latin, "After 120 years I shall open." Inside was found a host of wonderful mystic symbols, books and magical paraphernalia. The room was lit by an artificial sun. The centerpiece of the room was an open coffin containing Rosenkreutz's body, completely untouched by decay.

A final pamphlet, from 1616, is called *The Chemical Marriage of Christian Rosenkreutz*. It tells of a royal wedding which Rosenkreutz attended (as a guest, not as the groom). It's a complex, allegorical work full of alchemical arcana. Among other things, it gives a formula for the creation of homonculi, or artificial humans.

Modern Rosicrucians accept all three pamphlets as spiritual allegories, and do not insist that Christian Rosenkreutz be accepted as a literal historical figure. The history they do claim for their origins, however, is equally fascinating.

The Rosicrucians trace their history back to Akhenaton (see p. 19), the religious reformer pharaoh of the Egyptian middle king-

dom. They claim that Akhenaton built a temple for the Brotherhood in the shape of a cross, Akhenaton is also said to have introduced the symbol of the rose and cross, and the ankh as a symbol of life.

After Akhenaton's death the order's leadership passed to Hermes Trimegistus (a primal magician figure who appears in numerous occult traditions), who lived for 146 years. The brotherhood wore linen surplices tied with a cord, and shaved a round spot on the top of their head – a style that would later be adopted by the Franciscan monks. On his death, Hermes was buried in a mystically sealed tomb, either in a mountainside or within the great pyramid.

The order flourished in secret, and passed its knowledge on to numerous pupils, including Solomon, Plato (recall that Plato claimed to have received the Atlantis legend from an ancient order of Egyptian wise men), several other important Greek thinkers, as well as Jesus Christ.

Modern Rosicrucian organizations mostly appeared between 1850 and 1930, with a couple more emerging in the early '70s. Rosicrucian symbols also play an important part in Freemasonry, and several Rosicrucian orders are restricted to Masons above the 32nd level. The Rosicrucians are adamant that their beliefs constitute a philosophy, not a religion. Reincarnation is taught, but it is not required that the member believe in it. The Rosicrucians are active in spiritual healing and astrology, though they do not cast horoscopes for those outside the order.

There are said to be 12 grades of Rosicrucian indoctrination, the last three of which are bestowed psychically. Members who

1467 to 1484

1467 Continued

Scottish Parliament decrees that "fute-ball and golfe not to be used."

The Turks conquer Herzegovina.

1469 to 1492

Lorenzo de Medici rules Florence.

1469 to 1524

Vasco da Gama, Portuguese navigator.

1469 to 1527

Niccolò Machiavelli, Italian political philosopher.

1470

Edward IV driven into exile, and Henry VI restored.

Portuguese navigators discover Gold Coast, West Africa.

Incas subdue widespread revolts throughout their empire.

1471 to 1528

Albrecht Dürer, artist.

1471

Edward IV, King of England, defeats and kills Richard, Earl of Warwick, at Barnet, defeats Queen Margaret and kills Prince Edward at Tewkesbury and enters London. Henry VI dies in the Tower – historians differ as to whether or not his death was due to natural causes.

1472

Danish navigator Deitrich Pining claims to have discovered Newfoundland.



1473 to 1543

Nicolaus Copernicus, European astronomer.

1475 to 1564

Michelangelo, painter and sculptor.

1476

Vlad the Impaler briefly returns to power in Wallachia.

1478

Spanish Inquisition begins.

1480

Ferdinand and Isabella appoint inquisitors against heresy among converted Jews.

Incas greatly expand their empire.

Smallpox decimates Mayan culture.

Leonardo da Vinci invents the parachute.

1483 to 1546

Martin Luther, German Reformation leader.

1483 to 1520

Raffaello Santi (Raphael), Italian painter.

1483

Edward IV of England dies, succeeded by his young son Edward V; Edward and his brother disappear, probably murdered by their uncle, Richard of Gloucester, who claims the throne as Richard III.

The Russians begin to explore Siberia.

King John of Portugal refuses to finance Columbus's voyage.

1484

Portuguese navigator Diego Cam discovers the mouth of the Congo River.

Richard III reforms law, trade and tax collection.

have mastered nine degrees of initiation are invited to join a higher organization within the order called – no fooling – the Illuminati.

The *Time Travel* GM can make of all this what he will. In a mystical campaign like the Order of the Hourglass or the Horatio Club (see *GURPS Time Travel*) he can go all-out – Akhenaton did found an order of white magicians and pass its leadership on to Hermes Trimegistus, and the teachings of that order were imparted to a 13th-century master named Christian Rosenkreutz, who created a European chapter of the order in Germany.

In an illuminated *Time Travel* campaign, the Rosicrucians can be significant background characters. As utopian mystics, they probably wouldn't often become directly involved in the power struggles of other illuminated groups, but they might pop in mysteriously every now and then, to impart a piece of gnostic, alchemical advice, or just to complicate the situation a little bit more.

Even in a purely science-fiction campaign, they might have their place. The central symbol of the Rosicrucian philosophy – even more so than the rosy cross itself – is the metaphor of opening the tomb to find the uncorrupted body within. The symbolic parallel to passing through a time machine to reach the past or future should be obvious. The Rosicrucians might be a group that sees time travel as a path to spiritual enlightenment.

If nothing else, a trip to the early 17th century to find the true identity of the mysterious pamphleteer who started the Rosicrucian movement would be a minor but interesting time mission, with potential for numerous exciting complications stemming

from the military/political/spiritual struggle between Protestant and Catholic that was splintering Germany at the time.

The Disappearing Poet

1463

François Villon, one of the greatest French poets, offers a unique opportunity to time travelers. Most often, time travelers have to content themselves with recovering the lost works of great artists. With Villon, time travelers can recover the poet himself, thanks to his complete disappearance in 1463, at the age of 32.

Villon's whole known life shows him caught between his great poetic genius and his complete inability to stay out of violent trouble.

An orphan, Villon was raised by the chaplain of Saint-Benoit-le-Bétourné. He graduated from the University of Paris in 1452, with the degree of master. In 1455, François became embroiled in a fight at Saint Benoit involving himself, some drinking companions and a priest. François killed the priest, Philippe Sermoise, with a sword thrust and was subsequently exiled from Paris. In 1456, he won a royal pardon, but had only been back in the city a short time when he was implicated in a theft from the Collège de Navarre, and again had to flee the city.

At this time he wrote his first great poem, now commonly known as *Le Petit Testament*, which takes the form of a series of ironic bequests to those he's leaving behind in Paris.

He came under the patronage of Charles, duc d'Orleans, but was eventually imprisoned by his patron. He was released by a general amnesty declared by Charles on the occasion of the birth

1485 to 1498

1485

Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, defeats and kills Richard III at Bosworth; succeeds as Henry VII, beginning Tudor dynasty.

Matthias Corvinus captures Vienna.

1486

The Portuguese discover Angola.

1487

Rebellion of Lambert Simnel defeated at Stoke-on-Trent.

Spaniards conquer Malaga from the Arabs.

1490

First beginnings of ballet at Italian courts.

1491 to 1556

Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuit Order.

1492

The Spanish conquer Granada, extinguishing the Moorish presence in Spain and consolidating the monarchy of Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile.

Columbus, financed by Ferdinand and Isabella, sails from Palos, Spain, Aug. 3, with three ships, discovers Watling Island, Bahamas, Oct. 12; Cuba Oct. 18; Haiti Dec. 6; *Santa Maria* wrecked off Haiti Dec. 25.

Henry VII of England invades France after French support Perkin Warbeck as claimant to the English throne.

France expels Warbeck and pays England an indemnity of 159,000 pounds.

Bajazet II of Turkey invades Hungary, defeating the Hungarians at the Save River.

By order of Torquemada, Spanish Jews are given three months to accept Christianity or leave the country.

1493

Columbus returns to Spain, leaves on second voyage (Sept. 25, 1493 to June 11, 1496), during which he discovers Puerto Rico, Dominica, and Jamaica.

Pope Alexander VI publishes a bull dividing the New World between Spain and Portugal.



Peasants revolt in Alsace and southwest Germany.

Turks invade Dalmatian and Croatia.

1495

Da Vinci begins work on *The Last Supper* (until 1498).

Charles VIII of France invades Italy, enters Florence, deposes Piero de Medici and enters Rome.

Syphilis epidemic spreads from Naples all over Europe through invading French soldiers; the epidemic most likely began with Columbus's sailors in the New World.

1496

James IV of Scotland invades Northumberland in support of Perkin Warbeck.

1497

Uprising in Cornwall; Lord Audley's rebellious army defeated by Henry VII at Blackheath.

Perkin Warbeck captured by royalist troops at Taunton.

Vasco da Gama rounds Cape of Good Hope Nov. 22, having left Lisbon on a voyage to India.

1498

Vasco da Gama arrives in India.

Perkin Warbeck confesses to treason and is imprisoned in the Tower of London.

Michelangelo sculpts the Pietà in St. Peter's, Rome.

Columbus, on third voyage, discovers Orinoco River.



of his daughter in 1457. He was in prison again in 1461 and was released when the prisons were emptied because of a visit by the king.

After this imprisonment, he wrote his masterpiece, *Le Grand Testament*, in which he vividly portrays the Parisian underworld and regrets the dissipation of his life.

In 1462, he was arrested for robbery and detained in Paris. He was freed late in the year, but arrested again the next year for his part in a street brawl. This time he was sentenced to hang. While under sentence of death he wrote some of his most profound shorter poems, including *L'Építaphe Villon*, in which he imagines himself rotting on a scaffold, and appeals to God against the justice of men.

He made an appeal to Parliament, and his sentence was mitigated in 1463 to banishment from Paris for ten years. Upon his release he vanishes completely from history.

The PCs could be sent to 1463 to retrieve Villon and bring him uptime, where he can live and work in peace and comfort. Scholars will certainly want to interview the great poet, and perhaps he can even be cured of his self-destructive behavior.

Villon never was one for peace and comfort, however, and it seems quite likely that he would prove to be as much a trial to the time travelers as he was to his noble 15th-century patrons. The mischief this brilliant and amoral reprobate could get into in a futuristic city or – even worse – a sensitive time mission, is left to the GM.

1499 to 1515

1499

War between Turks and Venice; defeat of Venetian fleet at Sapienza; Lapanto surrenders to the Sultan.

Perkin Warbeck finally tried for treason and executed, after a conspiracy to release him from Tower is discovered.

Francisco Jiménez de Cisneros introduces forced mass conversion of Moors, causing a great Moorish revolt in Granada.

Amerigo Vespucci and Alonso de Ojeda leave Spain on a voyage of discovery to South America.

1500

Lodovico Sforza recovers Milan from the French; two months later the town is reconquered, Sforza is captured and imprisoned in France.

Ferdinand of Aragon suppresses Moorish revolt in Granada.

Vespucci and De Ojeda return, having discovered the mouth of the Amazon.

Vincente Yañez Pinzón lands on Brazilian coast at Cape Santo Agostinho.

Columbus arrested and put in irons.

First black-lead pencils used in England.

Leonardo da Vinci draws a wheel-lock musket, the first known appearance of a handgun in the West.

Chinese scientist Wan Hu ties 47 gunpowder rockets to the back of a chair in an effort to build a flying machine; the device explodes during testing, killing Wan, who acted as pilot.



1501

Turks take Durazzo from Venice; Henry VII of England declines the pope's request to lead a crusade against the Turks.

French enter Rome; Emperor Maximilian I recognizes French conquests in Upper Italy.

Ismail I, Sheikh of Ardabil, conquers Persia.

Ivan III of Moscow invades Lithuania.

Burning of books against the authority of the church ordered by papal bull.

Michelangelo sculpts *David*.

First voyage of Anglo-Portuguese Syndicate to North America.

1502

Peasants' revolt in Speyer, Germany.

Columbus sails on his fourth and last voyage to Honduras and Panama.

Vasco da Gama founds Portuguese colony at Cochin, India.

Vespucci, after his second voyage, decides South America is a separate continent, not identical with India.

Peter Henlein constructs the first watch, the "Nuremberg Egg."

1503 to 1566

Nostradamus, French astrologer.

1505 to 1572

John Knox, leader of Scottish Reformation.

1507

The name America first applied to the New World, after Amerigo Vespucci.

1508 to 1512

Michelangelo paints the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

1509 to 1547

Henry VIII ascends to the throne of England at 18.

1509

Persecution of Jews in Germany. The converted Jew, Johanna Pfefferkorn, receives authority of Emperor Maximilian I to confiscate and destroy all Jewish books, especially the Talmud; the humanist Johann Reuchlin opposes the action.

Earthquake destroys Constantinople.

Beginnings of slave trade to New World.

1512

French defeat Spanish and papal forces at Ravenna.

1513

Vasco Nuñez de Balboa crosses the Isthmus of Panama and discovers the Pacific Ocean, Sept. 26.

Machiavelli writes *The Prince*.

1514

First European (Portuguese) vessels in Chinese waters.

Pineapples arrive in Europe.

In May, Copernicus writes the first version of his heliocentric theory, which he does not publish until 1543.

1515

Lateran Council forbids printing books without the permission of Roman Catholic authorities.

The Inquisition

1483

As the Catholic church consolidated its political power over Europe, its view toward non-Christians changed. Formerly the unconverted had been merely benighted wretches, waiting to hear the gospel and save their immortal souls. Now they became enemies of the state, sent by Satan to undermine the mother church and her appointed kings and princes.

To combat this perceived danger, in 1231, Pope Gregory IX created the papal Inquisition for the apprehension and trial of heretics. Two widespread heresies of the time were the Cathari (radical aesthetes who preached that good and evil were coequal, and all matter was evil) and the Waldenses (who anticipated many of the doctrines that would later lead to the Protestant reformation). The Church chose the name "Inquisition," from the Latin term *inquirō* or "inquiry," to emphasize that the inquisitors would actively seek out heretics, rather than waiting to investigate complaints.

The Inquisition followed a set procedure. If a person was suspected of heresy, he was given time to confess and absolve himself. If he failed to do so, he would be brought before the Inquisition, interrogated and tried, with testimony from witnesses. If he admitted or was convicted on the charge, he could be sentenced to penalties ranging from simple prayer and fasting to confiscation of property and imprisonment for any amount of time – even life. If a condemned heretic still refused to recant, or if he repented and then relapsed, he could be turned over to the secular arm, which could prescribe the death penalty. The use of torture to obtain confessions was originally rejected, but was authorized in 1252 by Pope Innocent IV.

This first Inquisition was most active in northern Italy and southern France.

The infamous Spanish Inquisition emerged in the 15th century, after the Moslems had been expelled from Spain. This Inquisition was designed less to combat Christian heretics (although some were active in Spain at the time, and did come under persecution from the Inquisition) than to ferret out the remaining Moslems and the Jews, who had prospered culturally and financially under the more tolerant Moslem regime.

The first inquisitors in Spain were so harsh that Pope Sixtus IV tried to intervene, but the rulers of Spain did not want a more moderate Inquisition – they considered it a valuable weapon in their struggle to rebuild their power base and unify Spain as a Christian country. The Pope was forced to allow the rulers to pick their own Grand Inquisitor. They chose Torquemada.

Tomás de Torquemada was a Dominican priest who had served as Prior of a monastery in Segovia for over 20 years. Ironically, Torquemada was of Jewish descent. He was confessor and advisor to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella.

Torquemada was named Grand Inquisitor in 1483, and rapidly established the reputation that would make his name synonymous with intolerance and cruelty for the next 500 years. Torquemada's deeds have been exaggerated over time, but most historians agree he burned at least 2,000 accused heretics at the stake.

The Spanish Inquisition differed from the earlier medieval Inquisition mostly in the degree of its harshness, although it also turned the auto-da-fé, the ceremony at which sentences were pronounced, into a celebration of macabre elaboration.

In 1492, Torquemada persuaded Ferdinand and Isabella to

1516 to 1531

1516

Sir Thomas More writes *Utopia*.

1517

Martin Luther, in protest against the sale of indulgences, posts his 95 theses on the door of Palast Church in Wittenberg (Oct. 31), beginning the Protestant Reformation in Germany.

Turks take Cairo.

"Evil May Day" riots in London; 60 rioters hanged.

Coffee is first sold in Europe.

1519

Ferdinand Magellan, Portuguese navigator in the service of Spain, leaves Europe on Sept. 20 to circumnavigate the globe.

Cortes brings Arabian horses from Spain to North American continent.

1520

Christian II of Denmark defeats Swedes at Lake Asunden and is crowned King of Sweden in Stockholm; four days later, in spite of his grant of an amnesty, he massacres leading Swedish bishops and nobles.

Babar re-establishes Mongol empire in India.

Pope Leo X excommunicates Luther; Luther publicly burns the bull of excommunication.

Chocolate brought from Mexico to Spain.

Turkeys imported to Europe from America, oranges from south China and corn from West Indies.

1521

Hernando Cortes destroys Aztec state – demoralized by smallpox epidemic from Europe – and assumes control of Mexico.

Swedish resistance to Danish rule.

Sultan Suleiman I conquers Belgrade, begins to invade Hungary.

Luther imprisoned in Wartburg after Diet of Worms.

Magellan killed in the Philippines by natives; his expedition continues under Juan Sebastiano del Cano.

1522

Suleiman I takes Rhodes from Knights of St. John.

Spanish forces conquer Guatemala.

Pascuel de Andagoya leads land expedition from Panama to discover Peru.

1523

Town of Jamaica founded by the Spanish.

1524

French driven out of Italy.

Spanish hang last Aztec king.

1525

Germans and Spanish defeat French and Swiss at Pavia; first use of muskets by Spanish infantry.

Smallpox reaches Inca empire, killing the ruler, Huayna Capac.

William Tyndale's English translation of the New Testament printed.

1526

Turks defeat Hungarians at Battle of Mohacs; Sultan Suleiman I takes Buda.

Persecution of Jews in Hungary.

1527 to 1535

Spaniards conquer the Maya.

1527

Sack of Rome; troops of the German Empire pillage the city, killing 4,000 inhabitants and looting art treasures. The Pope is imprisoned. This has been called the "End of the Renaissance."

1528

Severe outbreaks of plague in England.

Reformation begins in Scotland.

1529

Turks attack Austria and lay siege to Vienna, but are forced to abandon it.

At Second Diet of Speyer, Lutheran minority's protests against the Catholic majority gives rise to the term "Protestants."

1530

Portuguese colonize Brazil.

Spinning wheel and matches in general use in Europe.

1531

Henry VIII recognized as supreme head of the Church in England.

Halley's Comet appears, arousing a wave of superstition.

expel from Spain all Jews who refused to be baptized, resulting in the exile of 170,000 Jews.

In 1494 Pope Alexander VI appointed four assistant inquisitors for Torquemada. Ostensibly this was due to the Grand Inquisitor's age (he was 74) and failing health, but the pope was also once again trying to restrain the Spanish Inquisition.

Torquemada died in 1598, but even after his death, the Inquisition continued to be uncompromising in its mission. Several attempts were made in the 16th century to establish offices of the Spanish Inquisition outside Spain, but they met with little success. In the early 19th century, the Inquisition became a political football. When Joseph Bonaparte conquered Spain, he abolished the Inquisition. When Ferdinand VII recovered Spain, he restored it. This happened several times until the Spanish Inquisition was finally permanently abolished in 1834.

A third Inquisition, called the Roman Inquisition, was formed in 1542 to combat Protestantism. Designed as a more moderate alternative to the Spanish Inquisition, the Roman Inquisition only succeeded in offending everybody, being too lenient to suit the Catholics, and too repressive to be tolerated by the Protestants. It never achieved any political power outside Italy.



When the initial discord of the reformation finally died down, and Italy remained solidly Catholic, the Roman Inquisition was modified to become a more benevolent agency devoted to preserving the purity of Catholic doctrine within the Church. Although its name has been changed several times, the Inquisition still exists today, as the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Time Travel GMs will probably be most interested in the Spanish Inquisition under Torquemada. In addition to its horror

1531 to 1541

1531 Continued

War between Protestant and Catholic nobles in Switzerland; Protestants win.

Apparition of the Virgin Mary reported in Guadalupe, Mexico.

1532

Suleiman I invades Hungary, but his attacks are expelled.

Francisco Pizarro leads an expedition from Panama to Peru, where he subjugates the Inca – already devastated by smallpox and civil war – and puts to death their leader, Atahualpa.

Machiavelli's *The Prince* published posthumously.

Reformation in France under John Calvin.

Sugar cane first cultivated in Brazil.

1533

First madrigals.

First lunatic asylums (without medical attention).

1534

Ignatius Loyola founds Jesuit order.

Jacques Cartier sights coast of Labrador.

Final rift between England and Rome.

Anabaptists form "Communist state" at Münster.



1535

Münster capitulates to the Hessian army. Catholicism restored. Anabaptist leader John of Leiden tortured to death.

Charles V conquers Tunis and frees 20,000 Christian slaves.

Thomas More, English statesman and author of *Utopia*, beheaded by order of Henry VIII for refusing to swear allegiance to the newly-formed Church of England (More canonized 1935).

Diving bells invented.

1536

William Tyndale, English reformer, burned at the stake.

India rubber mentioned for the first time.

1539

Spain annexes Cuba.

Hernando de Soto explores Florida.

First Christmas tree, at Strasbourg.

1540

G.L. de Cardenas discovers the Grand Canyon, Arizona.

1541

Henry VIII assumes titles King of Ireland and Head of the Irish Church.

Coronado explores New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma and eastern Kansas.

Hernando de Soto discovers the Mississippi river.

Francisco de Orellana descends the Amazon River.

and excess, the Spanish Inquisition also marks a bona fide turning point in European history.

For all the inhumanity of its methods, it worked. Torquemada effectively exterminated the potentially-incendiary Moslem remnant in Spain, and swelled the royal coffers with funds commandeered from wealthy Jews. If Torquemada had been any more tolerant or moderate in his mission, Spain would have been much less likely to have gone from a backwater state recovering from a long and crippling occupation in the 15th century, to the dominant world power of the 16th century.

Perhaps Torquemada was himself a time traveler, ruthlessly seeking to preserve a strongly Catholic, royalist presence in Europe for as long as possible. One group that might support this goal is the Merovingians (see p. 40).

The Diet of Worms

1521

This is not what it sounds like.

A "diet" was an assembly of feudal rulers called to deliberate questions of common importance. Worms is a city in Germany. In this case, the Diet of Worms was a gathering of rulers of the Holy Roman Empire which met in 1521 to consider the charges against Martin Luther, the radical monk who led the Protestant reformation.

In 1520 Pope Leo X (see p. 72) had condemned 41 of Luther's famous 95 theses that laid the groundwork for Protestantism. Luther continued to publish works critical of the church, and Leo excommunicated him in January of 1521. Luther's prince, Frederick III of Saxony, refused to take any direct action against the rebellious monk, but as a compromise he agreed that Luther would appear for a hearing before the Diet. Emperor Charles V granted Luther safe conduct.

On April 17, Luther appeared before the Diet. He admitted to writing the books which had earned him papal condemnation. The Diet asked Luther to repudiate his views, and Luther asked for time to consider his response.

The next day he again came before the assembly and refused to repudiate any of his works, unless they could be contradicted by scripture or rational argument (something the politicians that made up the diet were completely unequipped to do). He concluded with his famous affirmation, "Here I stand, I can do no other." Luther's refusal to recant sent the Diet into such disorder that the emperor dismissed the assembly for the day.

Luther's defiance of papal authority had made him a hero to the German contingent, but the rest of the rulers regarded him as a heretic. He went into hiding for a year, in the town of Warburg. In May the Diet passed the Edict of Worms, which formally declared Luther a heretic, who was to be captured and turned over to the Emperor, and whose writings were forbidden. The edict was never enforced, but it did limit Luther's travels and make him dependent on the protection of Frederick.

The Diet of Worms was a major turning point in European history. Had the Diet supported Luther, they could well have pressured the Pope into a compromise, which could have resulted in a reformed Catholic church (like the one which did appear, under the counter-reformation of Pius IV, a few decades later), and made the Protestant schism unnecessary. On the other hand, had the Diet turned more forcibly against Luther, Frederick might have been forced to turn him over to the emperor for imprisonment or execution, either suppressing the Protestant movement altogether, or giving it a popular martyr and even more radical fervor. Any of the above alterations might be tried by a clever, politically-minded time traveler, for any number of reasons.

1542 to 1558

1542

Antonia da Mota is the first European to enter Japan.

Francis Xavier establishes Jesuit Asian headquarters at Goa, on India's west coast.

1543

Spanish Inquisition burns first Protestants at the stake.

Portuguese land in Japan, bringing firearms.

Copernicus's *On the Revolutions of the Celestial Bodies* is published a few months before his death.

1545

Portuguese attempt to colonize Canton and Ningpo in China.

Ars Magna, by Girolamo Cardano, the first book of modern mathematics.

1546 to 1601

Tycho Brahe, Danish astronomer.

1546

Abortive search for El Dorado in Venezuela.

1547 to 1616

Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, Spanish writer.

1547

First predictions of Nostradamus.

1549

Mongols seize Peking, force Chinese to buy annual quotas of Mongol goods at artificially-inflated prices.

Francis Xavier, Jesuit priest, visits Japan.

Court jesters appear in Europe.

1550

Billiards played for the first time in Italy. Sealing wax used for the first time.

First written reference to game of cricket (creag) in the wardrobe accounts of young Edward VI of England.

1551

Turks fail to capture Malta but take Tripoli.

Jews persecuted in Bavaria.

1552

Ivan IV of Russian begins conquest of Kazan and Astrakhan.

St. Andrew's Golf Club, Scotland, founded.

1553

Edward VI dies at age 16.

Lady Jane Grey proclaimed Queen of England; deposed nine days later.

Mary I, daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, becomes Queen of England.

The violin in its present form begins to develop.

1554 to 1618

Sir Walter Raleigh, English explorer, author and courtier.

1554

Lady Jane Grey executed.

Princess Elizabeth sent to the Tower for suspected participation in rebellion against Mary I.

Catholic restoration in England.

1555

Japanese pirates besiege Nanking.

Michelangelo sculpts Pietà in Florence.

Tobacco arrives in Europe.

1556

An earthquake strikes Shensi Province in China in late January or early February, killing perhaps 830,000 people.

1557

Influenza epidemic all over Europe.

First known reference to platinum, discovered about this time.

1558 to 1603

Reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

The End of the Inca

The Spanish conquest of the New World in the early 16th century brought to a sudden and hideous end two major indigenous American civilizations: the Aztecs of central Mexico and the Inca of Peru (for the end of Aztec civilization, see p. 61).

According to their own chronicles, the first Inca king was Manco Capac, who conquered the fertile lands around Cuzco. After the conquest, Manco Capac's people remained peacefully settled through the reigns of two more kings. But, by the reign of the fourth king, Mayta Capac, the Inca had grown to the point where the land could not produce enough food and water to support the population, so Mayta began the Inca policy of expansion by conquest. Mayta Capac appointed his second son, Capac Yupanqui, ruler.

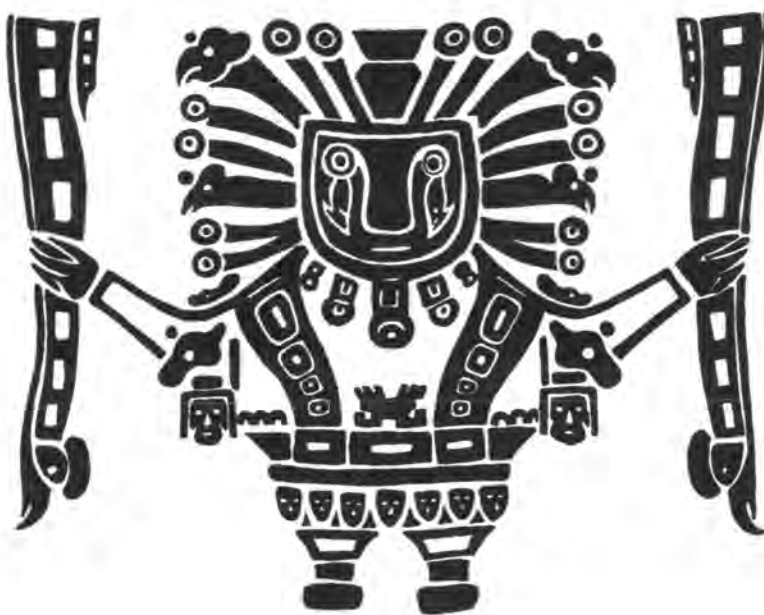
This expansion lasted for about 200 years and several generations of emperors. Many of the Incan rulers were brutal expansionists, but others put their domestic skills to use and organized and rebuilt the Incan capital at Cuzco. When not expanding, the rulers worked on running the large empire efficiently.

The beginning of the end came in 1525, when emperor Huayna Capac returned from a campaign in what is now northern Ecuador to deal with an epidemic in Cuzco. The epidemic was a plague of either smallpox or measles – one of the diseases brought to the new world by the Europeans – and Huayna succumbed to the disease and died. Several years before any Inca

1532

even saw a white man, Huayna Capac became the first Incan emperor to die in the European invasion.

As he lay on his deathbed, Huayna Capac named one of his sons heir, but the son contracted the plague and died shortly after his father. This left six more living claimants to the throne, virtu-



1560 to 1578

1560

Turkish galleys rout Spanish fleet off Tripoli.

Beginning of Puritanism in England.

1561 to 1626

Francis Bacon, English philosopher and statesman.

1561

Ruy López develops the modern technique of chess playing.

Earliest forerunners of hand grenades made.

Tulips come to Western Europe from Near East.

1562

Shane O'Neill rebels in Ireland.

Queen Elizabeth dangerously ill from smallpox.

Witchcraft made a capital offense in England.

Plague in Paris.

1563

20,000 die of plague in London.

1564 to 1593

Christopher Marlowe, English playwright.

Horse-drawn coach introduced into England from Holland.

1564 to 1616

William Shakespeare, English poet and playwright.

1564

Ivan IV of Russia forced to withdraw from Moscow during power struggle against boyars.

Spaniards occupy Philippines and build Manila.

1565

Turks besiege Knights of St. John on Malta from May to Sept.; with the arrival of Spanish troops the Turks are obliged to abandon the siege.

First potatoes arrive in Europe.

1566

Calvinist riots in the Netherlands.

Turko-Hungarian war renewed in spite of truce of 1562.

1567

Irish rebel Shane O'Neill assassinated.

In Japan, Nobunaga deposes shogunate and centralizes government.

Two million Indians die in South America of typhoid fever.

1568

Jesuit missionaries welcomed in Japan.

Flemish geographer Gerardus Mercator introduces the map projection that bears his name.

1569

Rebellion in northern England; sacking of Durham Cathedral.

40,000 inhabitants of Lisbon die in carbuncular fever epidemic.

1570

Japan opens port of Nagasaki to overseas trade.

Turks sack Nicosia, Cyprus, declare war on Venice.

1571 to 1630

Johann Kepler, German astronomer.

1571

Turks take Famagusta, Cyprus, and massacre its inhabitants.

Don John of Austria defeats Turkish fleet off Lepanto.

1572 to 1631

John Donne, English poet.

1572 to 1637

Ben Jonson, English dramatist.

1572

Dutch War of Independence begins.

Massacre on St. Bartholomew's Day in Paris; 2,000 Huguenots murdered there.

Dutch use carrier pigeons during Spanish siege of Haarlem.

1573

Japan unified under Oda Nobunaga.

1575

Outbreaks of plague in Sicily, spreading through Italy up to Milan.

1578

Otomo Yoshishige, one of the chief rulers of Japan, converted to Christianity.

Catacombs of Rome discovered.

ally insuring chaos. The wars of succession lasted until 1532. Atahualpa took the capital just as the Spaniards arrived in the Inca empire.

The Spaniards under Pizarro knew from intelligence about the succession wars, and masterfully and mercilessly played the factions against one another. By 1535, Pizarro, with a force of less than 200 men, had effectively conquered the Inca empire. Atahualpa and some followers managed to flee into the mountains, where they established a small independent Inca state that held on until 1572.

The Inca occupy a unique place among the great civilizations of humanity, in that they never developed a written language. The vital administrative function of record keeping was fulfilled by a hereditary class of memorizers, along with the *quipu*, a record made of knotted strings. The art of the *quipu* has only been partially deciphered.

The complex Incan religion was dominated by the worship of Viracocha, the patron deity of the Inca, and Inti, the sun god. Although not as sanguinary as the Aztec religion, the Incas did sometimes practice human sacrifice. In times of greatest crisis, the Inca would sacrifice as many as 200 children through immolation. As with the Maya and the Aztec, most Inca sacrifices were captives taken in war.

The fall of the Inca and the Aztec was mostly due to the introduction of catastrophic European diseases into the population. It might have been possible, therefore, for a group of careful time meddlers to immunize the ancestors of the Inca to European

diseases, perhaps by introducing the diseases (or more benign immunizing vectors) to the population a little at a time.

The effects of an Inca population immune to European plagues are far-reaching. Not only would Pizarro have found a much more populous civilization, Huayna Capac would have survived to ensure the succession or even to meet the white man himself, throwing the Spaniards against an organized and efficient Inca military, instead of an empire weakened by almost a decade of dynastic struggle.

Eventually, of course, European firearms would have brought about the domination and at least partial Christianization of the Inca Empire. The conquerors, however, might not have been Spanish. If the Inca could hold out for a few decades their eventual conquerors would likely be the French or English.

Even today, pockets of Incan culture remain in the Andes. If the rapid disintegration of the empire could be slowed down significantly, the Inca might well have endured as a people long enough to throw off European rule and reestablish a native nation on the American continent, much as India eventually threw off British rule. The 20th century might well see an Inca nation thriving in Peru, or even most of South America.

Nostradamus

1558

One of the most fascinating and enigmatic figures of the Renaissance is Michel de Nostradame, known as Nostradamus, the purported prophet and clairvoyant who is said to have predicted the French revolution, Napoleon's conquests, the world wars, the

1580 to 1598

1580

Ivan IV, the Terrible, kills his son and heir with his own hands.

Earthquake in London.

First glass eyes made.

1581 to 1656

Bishop James Ussher, Christian theologian who computed that the year 4004 BC was the date of the creation of the Earth, according to the Bible.

1581

Cossack commander Yermak Timofeyev captures Sibir, an outpost of the Mongol empire.

1582

Nobunaga of Japan commits suicide; Toyotomi Hideyoshi – a commoner who could not become Shogun – takes power.

Pope Gregory reforms the Calendar, dropping 11 days between Oct. 4 and Oct. 15, making 1582 the shortest year on record.

1583

Jesuit priest Matteo Ricci infiltrates China.

1584

Sir Walter Raleigh discovers and annexes Virginia.

1585

Sir Francis Drake attacks Vigo and Santo Domingo on Elizabeth's orders.

Hideyoshi sets up dictatorship in Japan.

Shakespeare leaves Stratford on Avon for London.

First English colony in the New World established at Roanoke Island, Virginia.

Yermak defeated by Tartars, drowns trying to escape.

1587

Mary, Queen of Scots, executed at Fotheringay.

Virginia Dare, the first child of English parents born in the New World, is born this year at Roanoke Island.

John White, leader of the Roanoke Island colony, returns to England for men and supplies.

1588

Spanish Armada defeated by English Navy.

Marlowe writes *Doctor Faustus*.

1589

Forks used for the first time at French court.

1590

John White returns to Roanoke Island to find the settlement completely abandoned; only the word "CROATOAN" remains to mark the mystery. See p. 84.

Shakespeare writes his first plays. Edmund Spenser begins *The Faerie Queene*.

1591

Dmitri, son of Ivan the Terrible, assassinated on instigation of Boris Godunov, regent under Czar Fyodor.

1592

Hideyoshi of Japan fails in invasion of Korea.

Plague kills 15,000 people in London.

Windmills used to drive mechanical saws in Holland.

1593

Christopher Marlowe killed in tavern brawl.

1595

Spanish land in Cornwall, burning Penzance and Mousehole.

Dutch begin to colonize East Indies.

English army abandons bow as weapon of war.

First appearance of heels on shoes.

1596

Galileo invents thermometer.

First water closets installed at the Queen's Palace in England.

1597

Second Spanish Armada scattered by storms.

Hideyoshi of Japan resumes Korean campaign.

Upper Austria re-Catholicized by force.

English Act of Parliament prescribes sentences of transportation to colonies for convicted criminals.

1598

Hideyoshi of Japan dies; his successor, Ieyasu Tokugawa, restores the shogunate.



atomic bomb and the assassinations of Abraham Lincoln and the Kennedys.

Nostradamus was born in 1503 in St. Remy de Provence, the eldest son of a family of converted Jews. Despite his parents' conversion, it has been suggested that he received an early education in the Kabbalah, the medieval text of Jewish mysticism.

In 1522, he began to study medicine at Montpellier University. Upon graduation, he went to work treating plague victims in the south of France. His successes were remarkable, though his colleagues found his methods bizarre and unconventional. His success as a healer may have been due in part to mystical or psychic powers, but it certainly also had something to do with his refusal to bleed his patients. He is also said to have made his own medicines, the recipes for which are now lost.

About 1534, he settled down in the town of Agen, married and rapidly fathered two children. There he met Julius Caesar Scaliger, a philosopher and astrologer. Scaliger may have introduced him to the arts of divination. Soon tragedy struck – Nostradamus' entire family died of plague, and the Inquisition was seeking him for questioning regarding Scaliger's associates. He left Agen and wandered for several years.

Around 1540, he settled in Salon en Craux de Provence, where he remarried to a wealthy widow, who bore him six children. About 1550, he began to record his prophetic visions.

Nostradamus said they came to him by "the subtle spirit of fire," and were pronounced by a voice he called the "Divine Presence." He summoned the visions by gazing into a bowl of water on a brass tripod. His sessions always began with the same ritual – he touched the tripod with a wand, then dipped the wand into the water and touched the water to his robe.

Nostradamus never claimed to understand all the visions he recorded. He recorded his prophecies in rhymed quatrains and grouped the quatrains in sets of 100 which he called "centuries," in no particular chronological order. Nostradamus wrote in a bewildering combination of Greek, French, Provençal, Latin and Hebrew. Some words were anagrams. His followers suggest that he deliberately obscured his prophecies to avoid the wrath of the Inquisition.

1599 to 1606

1599 to 1641

Anthony Van Dyck, artist.

1599 to 1658

Oliver Cromwell, English general and statesman.

1599

Shakespeare's Globe Theatre built in London.

Outbreak of plague in Spain.

1600

Ieyasu sets himself up as unquestioned ruler in Japan at battle of Sekigahara; moves capital from Kyoto to Yedo (Tokyo); English navigator William Adams, first Englishman to visit Japan, becomes his advisor on shipbuilding.

Italian philosopher Giordano Bruno burned at the stake for heresy, for asserting that Earth revolves around the sun.

Shakespeare writes *Hamlet*.

Catholics persecuted in Sweden.

East India Company founded in England.

Wigs and dress trains become fashionable.

1601

The Earl of Essex leads a revolt against Elizabeth I, is tried and executed.

The "False Dmitri," claiming to be the son of Czar Ivan IV, appears in Poland, winning support for an invasion of Russia.

Spanish Army lands in Ireland in September, but surrenders to English at Kinsala by January.

Kepler becomes astronomer and astrologer to Emperor Rudolf II.

Many German "Badestuben" (a sort of brothel) closed by authorities due to the spread of venereal disease.

1602 to 1607

War between Persia and Turkey.

1603

Queen Elizabeth dies; Sir Walter Raleigh, suspected of plotting to dethrone King James I, is tried for high treason and sentenced to imprisonment.

Revolts in Transylvania.

Heavy outbreak of plague in England.

1604

"False Dmitri," claimant to Russian throne, defeated by Czar Boris Godunov.

Spanish capture Ostend from Dutch after siege of 3½ years.

International conference of Rosicrucians held in England.

1605

Guy Fawkes arrested in the cellars of Parliament, accused of trying to blow up House of Lords during James I's state opening of Parliament – the Gunpowder Plot.

Czar Boris Godunov dies, succeeded by his son, Fyodor II. On entry of "False Dmitri" into Moscow, Fyodor is assassinated and Dmitri crowned Czar.

Barbados, West Indies, claimed as English colony.

Cervantes publishes Part 1 of *Don Quixote*. Shakespeare writes *King Lear*, begins *Macbeth*.

1606 to 1669

Rembrandt van Rijn, Dutch painter.

He first published his prophecies in 1555, and they immediately attracted the attention of Catherine de Medici. He published an expanded edition of his prophecies in 1558. In all, he wrote 10 centuries, although the 7th century is enigmatically left unfinished. He was said to be planning the 11th and 12th centuries at the time of his death. He died of gout and dropsy in 1566 and was buried upright in a wall at of the Church of the Cordeliers in Salon. In 1791, a superstitious French soldier opened his tomb, and his bones were subsequently reburied in the Church of St. Laurent in the same town.

His prophecies are said to predict the future for more than 2,000 years, until the year 3793, which he claimed would be the end of the world. His students say that about half of them have already been fulfilled. Although there is plenty of room for skepticism about his powers, for all their linguistic trickery, the prophecies of Nostradamus do stand out from other attempts to predict the future in their objectivity and practicality.

Depending on the campaign, Nostradamus could be a magician or Illuminatus, a powerful self-trained psionic, a con-man of exceptional skill and restraint, or a mystic who genuinely but wrongly believes he has supernatural powers.

If he is some sort of wild psionic talent, the PCs would probably be assigned to study the man and his powers. If not, he could still be a fascinating supporting character in any adventure involving the French court during the time of Catherine de Medici.

Perhaps Nostradamus was really fed information about the future by a time-traveling prankster. Perhaps the bowl of water on the tripod was really a future machine that broadcast images of the future – it may have been something as simple as a television and a VCR with remote control (the "wand" the seer used). What effect, then, would the elimination of such a time meddler bring about? Could it be argued that some of his predictions actually help precipitate the events they described?

Queen Catherine

1560

One of the greatest queens of France, Catherine Medici was the daughter of Lorenzo, Duke of Urbano (see p. 71). In 1533, at

14, Catherine was married to Henry, duc d'Orleans, who inherited the throne of France as Henry II in 1547.

Catherine was a remarkable woman – popular, witty and brilliant (though physically unattractive). She was a skilled architect who designed several famous *chateaux*.

She bore the king ten children, of whom four boys and three girls survived. Three of her sons themselves became King. She was loyal to and fond of her husband, and ignored his passion for his favorite mistress with royal dignity.

Her political career did not begin in earnest, though, until her husband was accidentally killed in a tournament in 1559. Although personally shattered by her husband's premature death, she nonetheless managed to throw off the influence of the Guise brothers, radical Catholics who sought to undermine the reign of her son Francis II and turn France into a puppet-state under the joint control of the Pope and the king of Spain. She kept Spain and the pope at bay by making moderate overtures to the Protestant Huguenots, who her husband had persecuted unmercifully.

Francis died unexpectedly in 1560, at age 16, precipitating a new crisis. Catherine again won out, making herself regent for her son Charles IX.

During the next 10 years Catherine single-handedly held the realm together, during three separate civil wars between the Catholics and the Protestants. Her position was always one of moderation and reconciliation. In 1563, she declared the king of age, and shepherded him around the country to support her plans for a lasting peace. She married her daughter to Henry of Navarre, a leader of the Protestants.

August 23 and 24, 1572, probably were the lowest points in Catherine's political career. On these days several thousand followers of the Huguenot leader Admiral de Coligny were slaughtered by royal troops. Catherine has been unjustly accused of ordering "The Massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day." In fact, though she certainly approved of the execution of the rebellious admiral and his closest associates, there is no evidence that she or any other member of the court authorized or approved of the mass slaughter.

Charles IX died in 1574, and her son Henry took the throne.

1606 to 1612



1606

Guy Fawkes and fellow conspirators sentenced to death.

"False Dmitri" assassinated by boyar Vasili Shuisky, who becomes Czar.

Jamestown, Virginia, first permanent English settlement in the new world, founded.

1607

In late December, John Smith of Jamestown is captured by the Indian chief Powhatan and subsequently released. Legend has it that he is saved by the intervention of Powhatan's 13-year-old daughter Pocahontas.

1608 to 1674

John Milton, English poet.

1608

A second "False Dmitri" appears, defeats Czar and advances toward Moscow.

Galileo constructs astronomical telescope.

First checks in use in Netherlands.

1609

Henry Hudson explores Delaware Bay and Hudson River.

Dutch East India Company begins to ship tea to England from China.

1610

Henry Hudson sails through Hudson's Straits and discovers Hudson's Bay.

Galileo observes Jupiter's satellites.

Skirmishes between English and Dutch settlers in India.

Arabella Stuart, pretender to the English throne, imprisoned for marrying William Seymour.

1611

Dissolution of Parliament by James I.

Arabella Stuart escapes from Tower of London but is recaptured.

"King James" Bible published.

1612

Manhattan established as Dutch trading center.

Last recorded burning of heretics in England.

Henry was Catherine's favorite, and she never sought to control his policies as she had with Charles. She did, however, dissuade him from starting a potentially disastrous war with Spain.

The situation between the crown of France, Spain and the Huguenots remained tense, and in the 1580s it became critical. Catherine, in her late 60s and gravely ill, returned to active political life. She was forced to make concessions to the Guises in 1585, and to try to restore the balance she made a painful journey to Henry of Navarre in 1586, but he could make her no meaningful promises. Chaos seemed inevitable. Catherine died in 1589, and Henry III was murdered less than a year later.

Although her line was ended, Catherine had nonetheless saved France. Largely because of her efforts, the crown did not go to some Spanish puppet at Henry's death, but was instead taken by the strong hand of Henry of Navarre, who took the throne as Henry IV – a feat he accomplished largely through the financial backing of Catherine's cousin, the Grand Duke Ferdinand (see p. 72).

Catherine represents probably the last chance to significantly and permanently alter human history through the assassination of a Medici. If she could be eliminated before the death of her husband, the Huguenot problem would certainly flare into open rebellion immediately upon the death of Henry II. Without Catherine's moderating presence, the young king (whether Francis or Charles) would have little choice but to sell himself to Spain body and soul. France would become a Spanish puppet.

If Spain could maintain its control of France (and according to all available evidence, it could have), history would be dramatically different. The English would probably not be able to wrest control of the seas from Spain, and with the French under their

control and the English isolated on their own island, the complete Spanish domination of the New World becomes a virtual certainty. The American and French revolutions become impossible. An alliance with the powerful Spanish/French empire would give the Pope a second chance to eradicate the Protestant movement. The rest of the world could not stand before rapidly evolving European technology, and a worldwide Spanish/Catholic empire early in the 19th century becomes a very real possibility.

Roanoke

1587

One of the most enduring mysteries of American history is the fate of the lost colony of Roanoke Island, North Carolina, the first English attempt to colonize the New World.

In 1584, Sir Walter Raleigh, the great mariner and courtier, claimed the colony of Virginia for England, naming it after the queen. The next year he returned with a group of 108 colonists to Roanoke Island, in what is now North Carolina. After near starvation, the colonists returned to England the next year with Sir Francis Drake.

Disappointed, Raleigh tried again. In July of 1587, he left 121 people under the leadership of John White on the island. Virginia Dare, the governor's granddaughter, became the first child of British parents born in America.

Nine days after his granddaughter's birth, John White left for England to fetch supplies essential for the colony's survival. But while he was in England, the Spanish Armada struck, and he was unable to return to Roanoke until 1591.

All trace of the colonists had vanished. The only clues were the word CROATOAN carved in one tree, and the word CRO

1613 to 1623

1613

Pocahontas taken as a hostage to Jamestown.

1614

James I dissolves his second parliament after they refuse to discuss finance.

Ieyasu of Japan bans Christianity.
Pocahontas marries John Rolfe.

1615

English defeat defeats Portuguese off the coast of Bombay.

Cervantes publishes Part 2 of *Don Quixote*.

Galileo faces the Inquisition for the first time.

1616 to 1620

Tartars of Manchu invade China.

1616

Richelieu becomes minister of State for Foreign Affairs and War in France.

Ieyasu of Japan dies, succeeded by Hidetada, a militant enemy of Christianity.

James I, facing a serious cash shortage, sells peerages to raise money.

William Baffin discovers Baffin Bay.

Galileo prohibited by Catholic Church from further scientific work.

Pocahontas goes to England with her husband, becomes a darling of society.

1618

30 Years' War begins with Defenestration in Prague, when Regents Jaroslave von Martinitz and William Slavata are thrown down from windows in Hradcany Palace by rebels.

Sir Walter Raleigh returns to England and is executed.

Richelieu ordered into exile at Avignon for intriguing with Queen Mother Maria de Medici.

Pocahontas dies in England.

1619 to 1655

Savinien Cyrano de Bergerac, French poet and swordsman.

1619

Maria de Medici challenges power of her son Louis XIII; Louis recalls Richelieu from Avignon to prevent revolt, marches his army into Angers and defeats Maria's supporters; Treaty of Angoulême ends conflict.

Count von Thurn leads an army of Bohemian patriots towards Vienna, then withdraws.

Bethlan Gabor of Transylvania, after invading Hungary, allies himself with Count Thurn; he captures Pressburg, crosses the Danube and retreats from Vienna.

First black slaves in North America arrive at Jamestown.

1620

Mayflower leaves England, lands in Massachusetts to found Plymouth Colony.

1620

Turks defeat Polish army at Jassy.

Battle of White Mountain near Prague; Catholic League under Count Till defeats army of King Frederick of Bohemia. Bohemian revolt against the Emperor Ferdinand suppressed; leading rebels executed, Protestant clergy expelled.

1621

Francis Bacon, charged in Parliament with corruption, is fined £40,000, imprisoned, and declared incapable of holding office, then pardoned by the King.

Huguenots rebel in England.

War resumed between Holland and Spain.

English attempt to colonize Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.

Johann Kepler banned by the Roman Catholic Church.

1622 to 1673

Molière (Jean-Baptiste Poquelin), French dramatist.

1622

Richelieu created Cardinal.

Treaty of Montpellier ends rebellion of the Huguenots.

1623

First English settlement in New Hampshire.

Patent law in England.



carved in another. Croatoan was the name of a nearby island known to be inhabited by Indians, but White was unable to contact the natives on that voyage.

Many have suggested that the English colonists were massacred by the Croatoan Indians. If so, why did White find no evidence of battle? Others have suggested that the English were taken in by the Indians, and absorbed into their tribe. If so, no evidence of the English or their descendants ever appeared in subsequent contacts with the Indians of the region.

Time travel opens up numerous stranger possibilities, of course. Perhaps the entire colony fell *en masse* through a time distortion, ending up in the 35th century, or the early Jurassic. Even if such extravagant possibilities are rejected, the PCs could certainly be assigned to infiltrate the Roanoke colony and discover first hand what the fate of the colonists was – without sharing that fate.

The Dalai Lama

1642

Among all the various spiritual and temporal leaders of humanity, the Dalai Lama of Tibet is of special interest to time travelers, because his people believe him to be a sort of time traveler himself.

The line of the Dalai Lamas is continued not by heredity, but by *reincarnation*. When a Dalai Lama dies, his ministers undertake a search for the newborn child into which his soul has been reborn. This boy is then enthroned as the head of both the Tibetan state and the Tibetan religion.

The Tibetan school of Buddhism, called “Yellow Hat Buddhism,” was founded by Tsongkhapa, a Buddhist missionary

1623 to 1632

1623 Continued

First Folio of Shakespeare's work published.

1624

England declares war on Spain.
First English settlement in eastern India.

1625

Wallenstein made general of the imperial forces by the Emperor Ferdinand II, and created Duke of Friedland.

First Parliament of Charles I adjourned to Oxford because of plague in London.

1626

Richelieu suppresses Chalais conspiracy, concentrating all political power in France in his own hands.

To increase the King's revenue, Knight-hoods are granted to all Englishmen with property over £40 per year.

Royal edict condemns to death anyone who kills his adversary in a duel in France.

Dutch colony of New Amsterdam (New York) founded, after Dutch West India Company buys island of Manhattan from Indians for merchandise valued at \$24.

1627

Wallenstein conquers Silesia, Tilly conquers Brunswick; Christian V withdraws to Denmark.

Korea becomes a tributary state of China.

Huguenots rise again in France; George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, sails from Portsmouth with a fleet to aid them in the defense of La Rochelle; failing to relieve them, he retires.

Aurochs, the wild ancestors of domestic cattle, become extinct.

1628 to 1650

Taj Mahal built.



1628

Wallenstein begins siege of Stralsund, which is raised.

Duke of Buckingham assassinated embarking at Portsmouth with another expedition to La Rochelle.

La Rochelle capitulates to French crown.

1630

Wallenstein dismissed, Tilly new commander.

John Winthrop, English Puritan, founds Boston.

Richelieu overthrows conspiracy of Maria de Medici.

Buccaneers settle in Tortuga, off north-west coast of Hispaniola.

1631

Tilly destroys Swedish garrison at Neu Brandenburg, sacks Magneburg, burns Halle and invades Saxony, but Gustavus Adolphus sacks Frankfort-on-Oder, signs treaty with John George, Elector of Saxony, defeats Tilly at battle of Breitenfeld and occupies Würzburg and Mainz. Emperor dismisses Tilly, reappoints Wallenstein commander in chief.

1631

Maria de Medici exiled to Brussels, joint forces with her son Gaston, Duke of Orleans, to bring about Richelieu's fall.

Earthquake in Naples, eruption of Vesuvius.

1632 to 1723

Christopher Wren, English architect.

1632 to 1705

Jan Vermeer, Dutch painter.

1632 to 1704

John Locke, English philosopher.

1632 to 1677

Baruch Spinoza, Dutch philosopher.

1632

Gustavus Adolphus takes Nuremberg and defeats Tilly at the Lech; Tilly mortally wounded. Gustavus enters Munich, attacks Wallenstein at Nuremberg, defeats Wallenstein at battle of Lützen, and is killed in action.

born about 1357. Tsongkhapa replaced the more magical and superstitious "Red Hat Buddhism" of the Tibetans with a new, reformed religion.

In 1391, the first Dalai Lama, Gendun Drub, was born and declared to be an incarnation of Chenresi, the Buddha of compassion.

The most famous Dalai Lama was the fifth, generally referred to as the "Great Fifth." He traveled to Peking in 1642, where the Manchu emperor declared him King of Tibet and the supreme ruler of the Buddhist faith. The Great Fifth also enlarged the Potala, the center of the Tibetan religion, into a 13-story palace. The Great Fifth was afraid that if he died before the Potala was finished, the project would be abandoned. He died while the workers were still on the second story, but his closest followers kept his death a secret for 13 years. A monk who looked like the late Lama took his place at public appearances. In 1697, with the Potala complete, the teenage sixth Dalai Lama was revealed.

The sixth Dalai Lama, Melodious Purity, was almost as famous as his predecessor, for entirely different reasons. He was notorious for his habit of practicing Tantric sexual rites with numerous women, and his love poetry is still admired today. Perhaps after the exertions of his fifth incarnation, the Dalai Lama decided he deserved some time off in his sixth. The vacation was cut short, however, when Melodious Purity was murdered by agents of the Chinese Emperor while on his way to court.

The ninth through twelfth Dalai Lamas were also murdered young by the Chinese emperor. This way, the emperor was able to keep his regents in political control of the country.

When the Chinese empire fell into revolutionary chaos at the

dawn of the 20th century, the 13th Dalai Lama, Thupten Gyatso, was at last able to come to maturity. He proved to be a capable leader, and between 1912 and 1950 Tibet was an autonomous country, completely free of Chinese influence.

The present Dalai Lama was born to a large peasant family in 1935, shortly after the death of the 13th in 1933. Several days after his death, the enthroned body of the 13th Dalai Lama turned his face to the North, and the leaders knew to search in that direction for his successor.

In 1950 the Communists invaded Tibet. The Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, led his people in a program of passive resistance. In 1959 a revolt in Eastern Tibet was crushed, and the Dalai Lama was forced into exile. The 14th Dalai Lama still lives in India, where he continues to campaign for Tibetan rights and autonomy. He has been quoted as saying that this is his hardest incarnation, and that he may be the last of his lineage.

In a campaign with some tolerance for the mystical, an encounter with the Dalai Lama (or any Tibetan lama for that matter – many of the lamas are regarded as being the latest in a long line of incarnations of one Buddha or another) could be an eye-opening experience. Perhaps the lama would recognize the characters as being out of their own time, or maybe even remember meeting one of them, several centuries in the past!

Until 1912, Tibet was a closed country, with no westerners permitted whatsoever. An attempt by the Englishman Col. Francis Younghusband to impose European relations on the Tibetans by leading an armed expedition into Lhasa ended in the tragic massacre of 700 Tibetans, following which Younghusband abandoned his mission. Alexandra David-Néel, a French woman and

1632 to 1654

1632 Continued

First coffee shop opens in London.

1633

Wallenstein invades Silesia, defeats Swedish army at Steinau.

Galileo forced by the Inquisition to abjure the theories of Copernicus.

Trial of Lancashire witches.

1634

Wallenstein declared a traitor and assassinated. Swedish army defeated at battle of Nördlingen. Würtenburg and Franconia reconquered by Imperial forces.

1636

Harvard College founded at Cambridge, Mass.

1638

Christian Shimbara Rebellion put down in Japan, with the aid of the Dutch.

1641

Massacre of the Ulster Protestants; Catholic rebellion in Ireland.

Galileo's son designs a clock with a pendulum, based on his father's theories.

1642 to 1727

Isaac Newton, mathematician and astronomer.

1642

English Civil War begins.

Puritans close all theaters in England.

1643

Many victories for Oliver Cromwell in England.

1644 to 1718

William Penn, English Quaker and colonizer.

1644

Rebel leader Li Tzu-ch'eng seizes Peking. News of this causes the last Ming Emperor to commit suicide. Li declares himself emperor, but is killed shortly thereafter. Manchu invaders take over the empire, installing 7-year-old Sheng Tsu as first emperor of the Ch'ing Dynasty.

René Descartes writes "I think, therefore I am" ("Cogito, ergo sum").

1646

English Civil War ends with Cromwell in power; Charles I tries to escape, but his plan fails.

1647

Charles I taken prisoner; army marches into London; the king escapes, is recaptured, and is imprisoned at Carisbrooke Castle.

1648

Scots begin second civil war and are defeated.

Parliament votes to bring Charles I to trial.

George Fox founds the Society of Friends (Quakers).

War, famine and plague has reduced the population of Germany by almost half in 40 years.

Peace of Westphalia ends Thirty Years' War.

1649

Charles I brought to trial Jan. 19, and beheaded Jan. 30.

England declared a commonwealth.

Cromwell invades Ireland.

English replaces Latin as language for official documents in Great Britain.

Free enterprise in England receives state support.

War of the Fronde in France; the court leaves Paris.

1651

Yetuna, new Shogun of Japan, overcomes two rebellions in Edo.

1652

English defeat Dutch at Battle of the Downs before they declare war.

Louis XIV comes to power and ends Fronde war.

Minuet comes into fashion at French court.

First opera house in Vienna.

1653

Cromwell named Lord Protector.

1654

War between Russia and Poland.



a Buddhist, became the first European to visit Lhasa, entering disguised as a Chinese pilgrim. Shortly thereafter the 13th Dalai Lama opened the country to Europeans, looking for allies against the Chinese. Prior to the 20th century, if a visitor to Tibet was recognized as not only from a strange country, but from a strange time as well, he could be in serious danger.

The Witch Hunts

1693

The Black Death (see p. 64) caused numerous changes in the Christian religion. One profound change was a growing horrified fascination with the devil and the occult. A major effect of this shift was a growing identification of the old, magical nature religions of Europe as "devil worship." Adherents to the old religions became known as witches, and were blamed for all sorts of physical and spiritual ills.

The Pope condemned witchcraft as heresy in the mid-1400s. Witchcraft was made a capital offense in England about a century later. It is estimated that as many as 200,000 persons were executed as witches throughout Europe, over the course of about 250 years. The most relentless persecution of witches took place in Germany.

To Americans, however, the most notorious witch hunt took place in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1692 and 1693. During this time 30 people were convicted of witchcraft, and 19 executed, under evidence that modern society finds ludicrous, at best. The Salem trials serve as an excellent portrait of mass hysteria in general, and witch hunts in particular.

The witch hunts began with a small group of teenage girls,

1655 to 1671

1655

English capture Jamaica.
Charles X of Sweden invades Poland and takes Warsaw and Cracow.
Cromwell readmits Jews into England.
Dalai Lama becomes ruler of Tibet.

1656

Rembrandt goes bankrupt.
Spinoza excommunicated.

1660

Parliament invites Charles II to return, after Richard Cromwell, Oliver Cromwell's son, resigns office of Lord Protector.
George Rákoczy II, Prince of Transylvania, dies in battle against Turks; Emperor Leopold I sends army to check Turkish advance.
London theaters reopened.

1661 to 1731

Daniel Defoe, English author.

1661

Famine in India, no rain since 1659.

1663

Turks declare war on Holy Roman Empire, invade Transylvania and Hungary.

1664

British obtain New Amsterdam and rename it New York.

1665

Allied British and Portuguese defeat Spanish army at Montes Claros and Villa Viciosa, securing independence of Portugal.

Isaac Newton experiments with gravitation; invents differential calculus.
Great plague of London (July to October) kills 68,596.

1666

French and Dutch declare war on England.
English privateers take Tobago.
Hungarian noblemen revolt against Emperor.
Great Fire of London, Feb. 2 through 9.
First Cheddar cheese.



1667 to 1745

Jonathan Swift, English author.

1667

Secret treaty between Louis XIV and Charles II against Spain.
French troops invade Netherlands.
Milton begins *Paradise Lost*.
French army uses hand grenades.

1668

British East India Company obtains control of Bombay.
In one of the first controlled scientific experiments, Francesco Redi disproves the idea that maggots arise spontaneously in rotten meat.

1669

Venetians lose Crete, their last colonial possession, to the Turks.
Aurangzeb bans Hindu religion in India.
Outbreak of cholera in China.

1670

Rebellion of Ukrainian Cossacks crushed.
First minute hands on watches.
Italian scientist Giovanni Borelli attempts to fly with artificial wings (the experiment is not fatal).

1671

Turks declare war on Poland.
Former buccaneer Sir Henry Morgan made deputy governor of Jamaica by Charles II.

who gathered secretly in the kitchen of the minister of Salem Village, Rev. Samuel Parris. There the girls would listen to stories told by the Reverend's West Indian slave, Tituba, and play fortune-telling games designed to show them their future husbands.

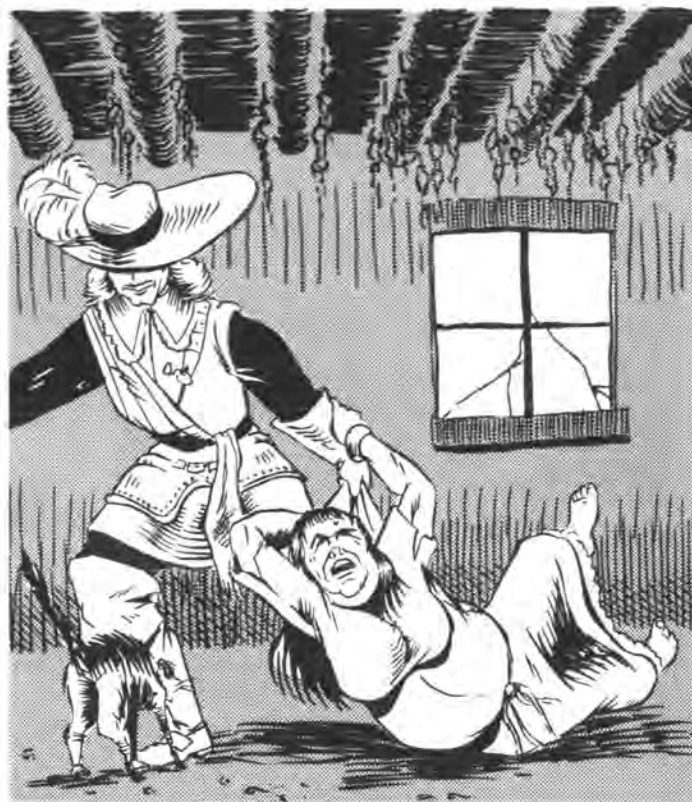
One by one, the girls began to be seized by fits. Modern psychologists suggest that these bouts of hysteria were brought on by guilt over their meetings with Tituba – childish games by modern standards, but dangerous and illicit experiments to properly-raised young Puritan women. The girls would fall into convulsions, and one would run around on all fours and bark.

The affliction was diagnosed as demonic possession. The girls were asked repeatedly, "Who torments you?" and finally they named three women – their friend Tituba, Sarah Good and Sarah Osborne.

The three were easy to condemn. Tituba was a slave and a pagan, Good was a poor beggar suffering from emotional disorders, and Osborne had lived with her second husband before they were married.

The three suspects were jailed, but the girls' fits only increased and the affliction spread to other girls in the village. Again, psychology suggests that in a society where children were to be seen, not heard, and females were almost completely powerless, the girls had discovered that hysteria was one way to get attention.

People were named, tried and executed. Perhaps the most notorious case was that of Rebecca Nurse, a 71-year-old widow of unimpeachable character, who was hanged in July, 1693. Dorcas Good, the five-year-old daughter of Sarah was imprisoned shortly after her mother's arrest. Several times a prisoner was released or



1672 to 1688

1672

Stop of English exchequer; cash payments suspended for 12 months.

Britain declares war on the Dutch; indecisive naval battle at Southwold Bay.

France declares war on the Dutch.

1673

Emperor Leopold I declares war on France.

Test Act excludes Roman Catholics from office in England.

French explorers Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet reach the headwaters of the Mississippi River and descend to Arkansas.

Christiaan Huygens builds a motor driven by the explosion of gunpowder.

1676

Influenza epidemic in England.

"Le Grand Vatel," famous chef, commits suicide because a dinner that his master, the Prince de Condé, gives in honor of Louis XIV does not come up to the king's expectations.

1678

"Popish Plot" in England revealed; trials of many leading Roman Catholics; Catholics in England excluded from both Houses of Parliament.

French army captures Ghent and Ypres.

Hungarian rebellion against Hapsburgs under Emeric Tökölyi.

Outbreak of war between Russia and Sweden.

John Bunyan writes *The Pilgrim's Progress*, Part I.

Import of all French goods to England prohibited.

1680

Dodo extinct.

Henry Purcell made organist of Westminster Abbey.

Stradivari makes his first known cello.

1681

Manchu barbarians overthrow the native rulers of China.

1682

La Salle claims Louisiana territory for France and takes possession of the Mississippi Valley.

Emeric Tökölyi proclaimed King of Hungary by Turks.

58,000 French Huguenots forced to convert to Catholicism.

Versailles becomes royal residence.

Edmund Halley observes the comet that will be named for him.

1683

Turks begin siege of Vienna in July, raised by King Jan Sobieski of Poland and Charles, Duke of Lorraine in September.

Spain declares war on France.

Manchus conquer Formosa.

Wild boars become extinct in Great Britain.

Anton van Leeuwenhoek uses a microscope to observe bacteria.

1685 to 1759

George Frederick Handel, German/English composer.

1685 to 1750

J.S. Bach, German composer.

1685

Duke of Monmouth's rebellion; Monmouth defeated at Sedgemoor and beheaded.

1686

Charles, Duke of Lorraine, takes Buda from Turks, who held it for 145 years.

Russia declares war on Turkey.

1687

Turks defeated at Battle of Mohacs.

Parthenon and Propylaea at the Acropolis, Athens, badly damaged by Venetian bombardment.

1688 to 1772

Emanuel Swedenborg, Swedish mystic and philosopher.

1688

The "Glorious Revolution." Seven English lords invite William of Orange to England on June 6. He accepts, and enters London in December.

King James II escapes to France.

War between France and the Empire

Louis XIV invades Palatinate and takes Heidelberg.

Smyrna destroyed by earthquake.

the jury would vote to acquit, and the girls went into fits of such intensity that the jury would reverse its decision.

Most of the trials revolved on "spectral evidence." An accuser would say that she saw the devil whispering in a defendant's ear, or that the defendant was pinching and biting her accuser, even though the attacks were invisible to the anyone else present.

Not everybody in Salem bought into the hysteria. The Porter family worked quietly but diligently for the accused, even circulating a petition for the benefit of the unfortunate Rebecca Nurse. On the other hand, there were the Putnams. Ann Putnam was a ringleader of the hysterical girls, and her parents lodged many of the formal complaints that led to trial and execution. It has been noticed that the Putnams were a formerly-affluent family that had fallen on hard times, and that most of the persons they accused were women property owners without male relatives to defend their rights. When a witch was executed, the Putnams could grab her property at bargain rates. (After the hysteria died down, Ann Putnam recanted her accusation against Rebecca Nurse as "a great delusion of Satan.")

The hysteria was finally squelched in October. Gossip was linking the governor's wife with the accused witches, and the governor responded by making spectral evidence inadmissible in witchcraft trials. With this legal loophole closed, there were no longer any grounds to accuse citizens of witchcraft, and the trials ceased.

A time traveler visiting Europe or New England in the 15th through 18th century might be caught up in a witch hunt. During such a time, the slightest anachronism or suspicious behavior could prove fatal, particularly for a stranger.

On the other hand, witch hunts might provide excellent hunting grounds for recruits. Most accused witches were the destitute, the antisocial and the mentally ill, but some were guilty of nothing more than an unacceptable level of imagination, intelligence and independence. Such young women would make excellent time agents.

Finally, there might be a core of strange truth behind some of the accusations against purported witches. Perhaps even if they weren't devil-worshippers, they were untrained mages or latent psis, around whom strange phenomena tended to occur. Perhaps the girls of Salem formed a telepathic gestalt, capable of recognizing the latent psychic abilities of others. Because of the repressive society they lived in, this recognition manifested itself as hysteria and visions of tormenting devils. Time travelers might well have an interest in locating such unusual individuals, and training them to use their gifts for the benefit of the organization.

Or who knows? Perhaps the modern view is wrong, and the girls saved Salem from the Devil's servants . . .

Charlatans of Europe

1780

Two men – the Comte de Saint Germain and Alessandro, Conte de Cagliostro – were two of the most extravagant charlatans of the 18th century . . . if they were charlatans.

The real name and origins of the Comte de Saint Germain remain completely mysterious. He is most frequently said to be a Portuguese Jew, but more extravagant rumors suggest that he was the third son of Prince Ferenc Rakoczy II of Hungary. He is believed to have been born around 1710 (he himself once claimed

1689 to 1705

1689

Parliament confirms abdication of James II; William and Mary proclaimed King and Queen of England and Scotland.

Louis XIV declares war on Great Britain.
Iroquois Indians massacre French settlers near Montreal in July.

1690

Turks reconquer Belgrade.
William III defeats James II (his father-in-law) at the Battle of the Boyne in Ireland, but fails to take Limerick and returns to England.
English in India found Calcutta.

1692

30 persons convicted of witchcraft in Salem, Mass.; 19 are hanged.
Massacre of Clan MacDonald at Glencoe.
William III defeated at Steinkirk.
Edict of Toleration for Christians in China.
Earthquake in Jamaica.

1693

French sack Heidelberg.
French defeat English merchant fleet at Battle of Lagos.
Secret society, Knights of the Apocalypse, founded in Italy to defend the church against the Antichrist.

1694 to 1778

Voltaire, French writer and philosopher.

1696

Peter the Great takes Asov from Turks.
Russia conquers Kamchatka.
Peter sends 50 young Russians to England, Holland and Venice to study ship-building and fortifications.

1697

Peter the Great, calling himself Peter Michalloff, travels in Europe for a year-and-a-half.
China conquers western Mongolia.
Spanish destroy last remnants of Maya civilization in the Yucatan.
Sedan chair a popular means of transportation.

1698

Peter the Great's Praetorian guard rebels in Moscow; leaders executed.
Tax on beards in Russia.
Mrs. White's Chocolate House, soon to become headquarters of the Tory party, opens in London.

1699

William Dampier explores northwest coast of Australia.

1700

Great northern war begins with Saxon invasion of Livonia.
The commode comes into vogue.
Francisco Romero becomes the first famous Spanish bull fighter.

1701

War of Spanish Succession begins.
William Kidd hanged for piracy.

1702

Charles XII takes Warsaw, Cracow.
Rebellion of Protestant peasants – "Camisards" – in Cévennes.

1703

Swedes defeat Russians at Rultusk.
Marlborough takes Bonn.
Work begun on Buckingham Palace, London.
Peter the Great lays the foundations of St. Petersburg.

1704

French and Indians massacre inhabitants of Deerfield, Conn.
Marlborough marches toward Danube, meets Prince Eugene near Mandelsheim; they defeat French and Bavarians at Blenheim.
"George Psalmanaazaar" regales European capitols with his tales of a mythical Formosa. He represents himself as a nobly-born Formosan cannibal converted to Christianity. "Psalmanaazaar" subsequently recants his story and admits his European origins, but his true identity is never revealed.

1705

Rebellion in Astrakhan against Czar Peter's westernization in Russia.
English navy takes Barcelona.

to have been already a mature man at the turn of the century), and the first firm record of his existence is in London in 1743, where according to Horace Walpole he was arrested as a Jacobite spy.

For all his mystical pretensions, Saint Germain's intellect and resourcefulness are not in doubt. He was a competent composer and violinist, who painted and played the harpsichord, and his alchemical claims – he is said to have removed flaws from diamonds and transmuted metals – appear to have been backed up with a thorough knowledge of the scientific chemistry of his time.

His career reached its zenith with his arrival at the French court in 1748. Though not a handsome man, the Comte cut a memorable figure at court. He dressed well and wore diamonds on every finger. He is said to have spoken Greek, Latin, Sanskrit, Arabic, Chinese, French, German, English, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish fluently and without an accent.

Saint Germain, known as "the Wonder Man," undertook various secret diplomatic missions for Louis XV. He also appears to have been working for Frederick the Great of Prussia while he was at the French court. He is said to have prophesied the French revolution, and attempted to warn the king and Marie Antoinette of the approaching danger.

Saint Germain eventually overreached himself, attempting to negotiate a peace between England and France without consulting anyone – even the king. This failure caused him to be banished from court. Rumor says he helped place Catherine the Great on the throne of Russia in 1762.

The rest of his life was spent in occult studies under the patronage of the Landgrave Karl of Hesse. He is believed to have died in 1784, although there were reports that he was seen in 1789, and even in 1822.

He was, of course, rumored to be associated with several secret societies. He is credited as the founder of a new occult order of Freemasonry, and it has been said that he was working toward the restoration of the Knights Templar.

Saint Germain's occult reputation has grown steadily since his death. Many modern mystics regard him as an immortal and an "ascended master" – one who has completed the cycle of reincarnation, but has returned to earthly form to teach humanity. He is said to reside in a secret refuge in Tibet. Helena P. Blavatsky, founder of the Theosophical Society, was only the first of several spiritualist leaders to claim that Saint Germain collaborated with them in the creation of their movement – she claimed to have met the Comte in Tibet in 1875.

Saint Germain's various incarnations are said to have begun 50,000 years ago, as the leader of a utopian civilization in the Sahara; he was high priest of the "Violet Flame Temple." He gave up that first earthly life when his followers began to turn away from spiritual knowledge in favor of earthly pleasures. His subsequent incarnations are said to include the Old Testament Prophet Samuel, Joseph, the husband of the Virgin Mary, St. Alban, the first Christian martyr in Britain, Proclus, head of Plato's Academy in Athens in the 5th century, Merlin the Magician, Roger Bacon, Christopher Columbus and Sir Francis Bacon.

Cagliostro is believed to have been born Giuseppe Balsamo in Palermo, Italy about 1873 (Balsamo is known to have existed, but some dispute his identification with Cagliostro). His early years were spent on the street, learning the arts of petty crime and fraud. He is said to have received his education in magic and alchemy in Malta, where he went at age 21. He borrowed the name Cagliostro from his godmother and invented a title to go along with it. He is said to have been initiated into the Order of the Knights of Malta, and to have become a Freemason in England.

Around 1776, he married Lorenza Feliciani, called Sarafina, an Italian woman who combined the beauty and demure charm of a fine lady with the skills and moral scruples of an experienced prostitute. The two traveled the capitals of Europe, England and Russia together, where between Cagliostro's mystical skills and

1706 to 1719

1706 to 1790

Benjamin Franklin, American statesman.

1706 to 1739

Dick Turpin, English highwayman.

1706

Marlborough conquers Spanish Netherlands.

1707

Union of England and Scotland under the name Great Britain.

Billiards introduced in Berlin coffee-houses.

Last eruption of Mount Fujiyama.

1708

Marlborough and Eugene defeat French at Oudenarde.

British capture Minorca and Sardinia.

1709

Peter the Great defeats Charles XII at Battle of Poltava.

Marlborough and Prince Eugene take Tournai, defeat French at Malplaquet and conquer Mons.

Invention of pianoforte.

Eue-de-cologne invented.

First Russian prisoner sent to Siberia.

1711 to 1776

David Hume, Scottish philosopher.

1711

War between Russia and Turkey.

Rio de Janeiro captured by French.

Tuscarora War in North Carolina; Indians massacre 200 settlers.

Alexander Pope writes *Essay on Criticism*.

Queen Anne establishes Ascot races.

1712 to 1778

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, French philosopher.

1712

Slave revolts in New York.

Last execution for witchcraft in England.

1713

Charles XII of Sweden taken prisoner by Turks at Bender, Moldavia; released the next year.

1714

Battle of Storkyro establishes Russian domination of Finland.

1715

Rising of Indian tribes in South Carolina.

Jacobite rebellion in Scotland under Earl of Mar; Jacobites defeated at Sheriffmuir and Preston.

1716

Emperor Charles VI declares war on Turkey.

Prince Eugene defeats Turks at Peterwardein; Tamesvar, last Turkish possession in Hungary, falls.

Christian religious teaching prohibited in China.

Peter the Great visits Europe for the second time.

1717

Price Eugene defeats Turks at Belgrade. Handel's *Water Music* first given on the Thames.

Inoculation against smallpox introduced in England by Lady Mary Wortley.

1718

Peter the Great has his son and heir, Alexis, murdered.

Charles XII of Sweden killed at Fredriksten during an expedition against Norway. England declares war on Spain.

1719

France declares war on Spain.



Sarafina's erotic favors they gained the gratitude of many of the great rulers of the time.

Cagliostro claimed to predict the future, speak to the dead and transmute metals through alchemy. He was known as "the Divine Cagliostro" for the accuracy of his prophecies. His supporters say he was known for his generosity to the poor.

In 1785, he moved to France, where he and his wife became embroiled in a famous swindle, the Queen's Necklace Affair, which ended the careers of a number of court favorites. The Countess de Lamotte had raised 1.6 million francs to buy a necklace for Marie Antoinette, and she claimed the Cagliostros had stolen the necklace. It is generally agreed by even Cagliostro's harshest critics that de Lamotte kept the money for herself, and set the Cagliostros up as patsies.

The Cagliostros were jailed and tried for the fraud. During the trial, Cagliostro gave an extravagant account of his life. He claimed he was raised in the Arabian city of Medina by a man named Althotas who taught him his occult secrets. He said his wealth came from the Cherif of Mecca, who mysteriously set up open bank accounts for him wherever he went. He pointedly denied being a 300-year-old Rosicrucian.

Upon his release and banishment, Cagliostro went to England, where he is said to have predicted the French Revolution. His success in England was cut short when a London newspaper published a scathing exposé of his origins as Giuseppe Balsamo, petty street thug. Humiliated, he returned to the continent.

He went to Italy, where he attempted to establish "Egyptian Freemasonry," which he claimed to have created along with Saint Germain. He was arrested by the Inquisition, and in 1791 was sentenced to death for attempting to introduce Freemasonry to Italy. His wife denounced him to the Inquisition. She is said to have died in a nunnery in 1794.

Cagliostro's death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment by the Pope. For several years he was kept in solitary con-

1719 to 1741

1719 Continued

Daniel Defoe writes *Robinson Crusoe*.
Jesuits expelled from Russia.

1720

Spain occupies Texas.
Tibet becomes Chinese protectorate.
Wallpaper becomes fashionable in England.

1721

China suppresses Formosa revolt.
J.S. Bach composes *The Brandenburg Concertos*.
Swiss immigrants introduce rifles into America.

1724 to 1804

Immanuel Kant, German philosopher.

1725 to 1798

Casanova, Italian adventurer and author.

1725

Peter the Great dies, is succeeded by his wife, Catherine.

1726

Jonathan Swift publishes *Gulliver's Travels*.

1727

Spanish siege of Gibraltar, war between England and Spain.
Coffee first planted in Brazil.
Quakers demand abolition of slavery.

1728

Spain raises siege of Gibraltar after 14 months.
Madrid Lodge of Freemasons founded; soon suppressed by Inquisition.

1731 to 1802

Erasmus Darwin, English scientist and poet.

1732

First publication of Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack*.

1733

France declares war against Emperor Charles VI.

1734

War breaks out between Turkey and Persia.

1736

War between Russia and Turkey.

1738

Turks take Orsova; Imperial troops driven back to Belgrade.
John Wesley's evangelical conversion.
First cuckoo clocks in Black Forest district.

1739

As Turks approach Belgrade, Emperor Charles VI signs peace treaty.
Sack of Delhi by Persians.

1740 to 1814

The Marquis de Sade, French author, philosopher and sexual deviant, who gave his name to the condition of sadism.

1740

Frederick the Great of Prussia begins First Silesian War against Maria Theresa.
Frederick the Great introduces freedom of the press and freedom of worship in Prussia.
Smallpox epidemic in Berlin.

1741

Victor Behring, after discovering Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, dies of hunger and cold.
Handel composes *The Messiah* in 18 days.

finement in an underground cell. In 1795, he was moved to new quarters above ground, and died shortly thereafter, of apoplexy. Rumors that he survived and escaped, perhaps to America, persisted for decades.

With their mysterious origins, questionable endings and inexplicable knowledge of the future, Saint Germain and Cagliostro are both excellent candidates for rogue time travelers, using their knowledge of the future to make a name for themselves in the past. Or perhaps they're genuine psychics whom the time service would be eager to investigate or recruit. In more mystical campaigns, some of Saint Germain's more extravagant claims might be taken seriously. He might be an immortal, aware of the intervention of time travelers throughout history. He might even be a senior member of the Order of the Hourglass or the Horatio Club.

Phrenology and Mesmerism 1800

The scientific revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries produced much of lasting value, but it also bore some strange fruit. One of the strangest of the pseudo-sciences of the 19th century was phrenology, invented by Franz-Joseph Gall, a Viennese doctor. Doctor Gall believed that an individual's personality could be analyzed by reading the bumps on his head.

Gall formed his conclusions by examining the skulls of per-

sons with a given strong personality trait. He looked for protrusions on the skull, and if multiple persons with the same trait had a bump in roughly the same place, Gall would declare that region the seat of that trait. Since much of his early research was conducted on the insane and criminals, Gall initially identified organs of murder, theft and other specific crimes.

Gall's followers expanded and refined the process. They made a grid of the whole outer surface of the brain, with each rough square representing traits ranging from "hope" and "parental love" to "conjugal love" and "alimentaryness."

Although phrenology had its adherents right up into the 20th century, it's now considered completely unscientific – a cranial equivalent of palm reading, dressed up in an impressive-sounding scientific terminology.

Another, equally suspect practice of the late 18th century was to bear unexpected scientific fruit, long after the creator was branded a charlatan.

Franz Anton Mesmer, a German physician, proposed in 1775 that human health was governed by what he called "animal magnetism," an invisible fluid that permeated the human body and all of nature. Disease was the result of "obstacles" to the fluid's flow through the body, and obstacles could be broken by the manipulation of magnetized objects by a trained person.

The practitioner sought to break up the obstacles to healthy

1741 to 1758

1741 Continued

Jonathan Edwards delivers the "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" sermon at Enfield, Mass.

Frederick the Great conquers Silesia.

1743 to 1795

Count Alessandro Cagliostro, Italian adventurer. See p. 90.

1743

French defeated by English at Dettingen.

Turko-Persian war resumes.

Pogroms in Russia.

French explorers reach Rocky Mountains.

1744

Second Silesian War; Frederick the Great takes Prague but is driven back to Saxony.

French troops occupy Annapolis, Nova Scotia, but withdraw.

1745

French defeat English at Fontenoy, England, after undertaking to subsidize Maria Theresa and provide her with troops, withdraws.

Charles Edward Stuart, the "Young Pretender," lands on Eriskay Island, Scotland, defeats the English army at Prestonpans, advances south toward Derby, and is forced to retreat.

1746

Charles Edward Stuart wins a victory at Falkirk, but is defeated finally at Culloden; with the help of Flora MacDonald he escapes to France.

1749 to 1832

Johann Wolfgang Goethe, the greatest German writer.

1750 to 1825

Antonio Salieri, Italian composer.

1751

China invades Tibet.

1752

Benjamin Franklin invents the lightning conductor.

1753

French troops from Canada seize the Ohio Valley.

English act of Parliament permits naturalization of Jews.

1754

Anglo-French war in America; discussion on boundaries.

University of Halle, Germany, graduates first female M.D.

St. Andrews Royal and Ancient Golf Club, Scotland, founded.

1755 to 1793

Marie Antoinette.

1755 to 1804

Alexander Hamilton, American statesman.

1755

British army defeated by French near Fort Duquesne (modern Pittsburgh).

British deport French settlers from Nova Scotia. These settlers will move to Louisiana and become the Cajuns of that region.

Samuel Johnson writes his *Dictionary of the English Language*.

Lisbon earthquake kills 30,000.

1756 to 1791

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart born Jan. 2.

1756 to 1836

Aaron Burr, U.S. statesman and adventurer.

1756

Britain declares war on France.

120 British soldiers imprisoned and die in India ("Black Hole of Calcutta").

Robert Clive sets out from Calcutta against Nawab of Bengal and relieves English fugitives at Fulta.

French drive Britain from Great Lakes in North America.

Outbreak of Seven Years War.

Battle of Lobosik, Bohemia; Saxon army capitulates to Frederick the Great at Pirna.

Casanova escapes from Piombi in Venice.

First chocolate factory in Germany.

1757 to 1827

William Blake, English poet and artist.

1757

Clive retakes Calcutta.

J.F. Damiens attempts to assassinate Louis XV, is executed.

Frederick the Great defeats Austrians at Prague, is defeated by them at Kolin; defeats them again at Rossbach and Leuthen.

1758 to 1805

Horatio Nelson, British admiral.

1758

East Prussia occupied by Russia.

Prussian blockade of Olmütz.

British take Louisberg.

Battle of Zorndorf between Prussians and Russians (undecided).

animal magnetism by bringing about a "crisis," which was a trance state, often ending in delirium or convulsions. Mesmer's crisis treatments were varied, and he played a forceful and dynamic part in bringing on the required trance state.

Mesmer was run out of Vienna by the medical establishment, and moved to France. There, he once again came under criticism from his fellow doctors, and in 1784, he was investigated by a royal commission which included Benjamin Franklin and the French chemist Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier. The commission reported that there was no scientific support for Mesmer's claims. The practice of mesmerism rapidly declined.

Mesmer's claims were not entirely forgotten, however, and in the 19th century, certain scientists became fascinated by the trance state Mesmer imposed on his subjects prior to a "crisis." This study grew into a whole new science – Mesmer had discovered the first practical application of hypnotism. His name forms the root for the word "mesmerize."

The Burr Plot

1806

One of the great mysteries of American history is the question of what, exactly, Aaron Burr, former vice-president of the United States, was planning in the year 1806.

Burr was one of the most fractious and unpredictable of the "founding fathers." During the revolution he had been dismissed from George Washington's staff for antagonizing the general.

In 1791, Burr made a lasting political enemy in Alexander Hamilton, when he defeated Hamilton's father-in-law, Gen. Philip Schuyler, for a seat in the U.S. Senate. In 1800, he ran for the presidency with Thomas Jefferson. According to the election laws of the time, the votes were cast for the ticket without preference for who should be president and who vice-president. It was

largely through Hamilton's influence that Jefferson rather than Burr was chosen for the presidency.

In 1804, Burr was frustrated in a bid for the governorship of New York and then removed from the presidential ticket. He blamed Hamilton for both these setbacks. When he heard that Hamilton had made disparaging remarks about him in public, he challenged Hamilton to a duel. Burr shot Hamilton to death in a duel on July 11, 1804, at Weehawken, New Jersey.

With a warrant for his arrest out in two states, Burr fled to Philadelphia, where he contacted his friend Gen. James Wilkinson. It is there that the mystery begins.

Wilkinson was an enigmatic figure. The governor and military commander of a large part of the Louisiana Purchase, he is now known to have been secretly in the pay of Spain. However, despite his secret ties to the Spaniards, he appears to have cherished the ambition of conquering Spanish Mexico, either for the U.S., or – more probably – as an independent nation. Burr became his co-conspirator in his plans against Mexico, and the two sent out Col. Zebulon Pike to spy out the most favorable route for the conquest of the Spanish provinces in North America.

Rumors state that the two conspirators also made plans to foment a secessionist movement in the western territories of the U.S., and set up an empire on the Napoleonic model.

For reasons that remain unknown, Wilkinson became uncertain about Burr, and betrayed his plans to President Jefferson. Burr tried to escape to Spanish territory, but was arrested and brought to trial in May, 1807, for treason.

The evidence, however, could only demonstrate that Burr had planned an illegal attack on Spanish territory, and he was acquitted. He went to Europe, where he failed to win Napoleon's support for a plan to conquer Florida. After four years of poverty and

1758 to 1770

1758 Continued

Austrians besiege Neisse; defeat Frederick the Great at Hochkirch.

George Washington and John Forbes take Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh).

China occupies eastern Turkestan.

1759

British gain Quebec from French; Louis Joseph Montcalm and James Wolfe, French and English generals, killed in action.

Austrian General Laudon defeats Frederick the Great at Kunersdorf.

Voltaire writes *Candide*.

Jesuits expelled from Portugal.

1760

Prussian army defeated at Landshut. Austrians take Glatz, but are defeated at Liegnitz and Torgau.

Russians occupy and burn Berlin.

Dutch explorer Jakobus Coetsee advances beyond Orange River, South Africa.

Joseph Wedgwood founds pottery works at Etruria, Staffordshire, England.

Portsmouth dockyard destroyed by fire.

Edmund Hoyle lays down the rules of the game whist.

1761

Danish expedition to explore Arabia under Castens Niebuhr.

Austrians take Schweidnitz.

1762

British capture Martinique, Grenada, Havana and Manila.

Mozart, age 6, tours Europe as a musical prodigy.

1763

Indian uprising begins near Detroit and spreads west.

Indian adventurer Hyder Ali conquers Kanara, Mysore.

Boswell meets Johnson for the first time.

1764

Sir Hector Munro defeats Nawab of Dudd at Buxar, Bengal.

Confiscation of Church lands in Russia.

Jesuits suppressed in France.

Mozart (at eight) writes his first symphony.

1765

British Parliament passes the Stamp Act to tax America, prompting Stamp Act Congress in New York to draw up a declaration of rights and liberties in protest.

1766

Britain repeals Stamp Act but reaffirms its right to tax the colonies.

Surveyors Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon draw the Mason-Dixon Line between Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Czarina Catherine the Great grants freedom of worship in Russia.

1767

Taxes on imports of tea, glass, paper and dyestuffs in American colonies.

Americans agree to embargo British imports.

Invasion of Siam by Burmese.

Chaos in India; Robert Clive leaves country.

First Mysore war.

Jesuits expelled from Spain.

Electrical machine with glass panels becomes a fashionable toy.

1768

Gurkhas conquer Nepal.

James Cook begins circumnavigation of the globe (until 1771).

German naturalist P. S. Pallis travels through Russia to Chinese frontier to observe transit of Venus.

1761 to 1821

Napoleon I, emperor of France.

1769

Austria occupies parts of Poland.

Russian troops occupy Moldavia, enter Bucharest.

1770 to 1831

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, German philosopher.



frustration in Europe, he returned to the U.S. in 1812, where he resumed his private law practice until his death, 20 years later.

Historians would be most interested in discovering what, exactly Burr was planning in 1806. Was he merely trying to win more territory for the U.S. in an unauthorized military adventure, or was he trying to set himself up as an American Napoleon?

And what if his plan had succeeded? Wilkinson was in an excellent position to lead the Louisiana territories in a successful secessionist movement from the U.S. The creation of an independent nation – republic or empire – in the Southern U.S. would certainly have a major impact on the future history of the U.S. Would Burr's nation and the U.S. have gone to war? Would Texas have ever joined the Union? How would the Civil War have been changed if the south had seceded, even briefly, 50 years earlier?

The Babies of 1809

1809

If you were a terrorist, and you had one chance to use a time machine, where would you go?

The answer to this question, of course, depends on the orientation of the fanatic in question. Communists might go to the Russian Revolution, or perhaps to assassinate Mikhail Gorbachev. Irish Catholics might try to interfere with the Tudor dynasty and restore a Catholic Britain. Moslem fanatics might try one of the gambits described on pp. 47-48. If you were an extremist of the white supremacist, anti-Semitic, fanatical Christian type you might well choose the year 1809, which offers the opportunity to destroy in earliest infancy at least four individuals radically opposed to your philosophy.

1770 to 1777

1770 to 1827

Ludwig van Beethoven, German composer.

1770

"Boston Massacre" on March 5. Ten British soldiers fire on civilian mob, killing 5. An American court subsequently acquits the soldiers of any wrongdoing.

1770

British Parliament repeals duties on paper, glass and dyestuffs in colonies, retaining tea duty.

James Cook discovers Botany Bay, Australia.

Birth of the industrial revolution in England.

Opal of nearly 3,000 carats found in Hungary.

1771

Russia completes conquest of Crimea. Damascus seized by troops of Ali Bey. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, first edition.

1772 to 1834

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, English poet and philosopher.

1772

James Bruce traces the Blue Nile to its confluence with the White Nile.

Judge William Murray decides in the Somerset case that a slave is free on landing in England.

1773

Boston Tea Party protest against tea duty.

The waltz becomes fashionable in Vienna.

1774

Virginia House of Burgesses calls first Continental Congress in Philadelphia; imposes nonimportation of British goods throughout the colonies.

Anne Lee settles in New York to begin Spiritualist revival.

Austrian physician F.A. Mesmer uses hypnosis for health purposes.

1775 to 1817

Jane Austen, English novelist.

1775

American Revolution: Paul Revere's ride (April 18), defeat of British at Lexington, Americans conquer Fort Ticonderoga, New York, and Crown Point. Second Continental Congress assembles in Philadelphia; George Washington made commander-in-chief of American forces.

British victory at Bunker Hill; Benedict Arnold's attack on Quebec fails.

White Lotus secret society revolts in China; Manchu rulers finally suppress rebellion by executing 20,000 suspected conspirators.

Peasants revolt in Bohemia.

James Watt perfects his invention of the steam engine.



1776

Washington forces British to abandon Boston; American troops forced out of Canada.

Declaration of Independence.

British General William Howe takes New York and Rhode Island.

Benedict Arnold defeated at Lake Champlain.

Fort Lee surrenders to British.

Washington retreats to Pennsylvania and defeats Hessian troops at Trenton.

1777

British defeated at Princeton, New Jersey and Bennington, Vermont.

Lafayette's French volunteers arrive in America.

American forces defeated at Brandywine, Pennsylvania and Germantown, Pennsylvania.



The four men in question, interestingly, were all born within a month of each other, between January 19 and February 12, 1809. They are, in order of probable priority as targets:

Abraham Lincoln, Born February 12, 1809, in Hodgenville, Kentucky. As the "Great Emancipator," the man who freed the slaves, Lincoln opened the door to racial equality in the U.S. Therefore, he is considered by most white supremacists perhaps the greatest villain of American history. Lincoln's assassination is probably the most dangerous to accomplish. It requires a dangerous journey, and the Kentucky frontiersmen of the area were an alert, tough and suspicious lot. On the other hand, the isolation of Lincoln's log cabin birthplace would help a would-be assassin get in and out unnoticed.

Charles Darwin, also born February 12, at The Mount, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England. Darwin, of course, originated the theory of evolution by natural selection, which would come to almost completely supplant the traditional Christian view of creation. To religious fanatics, Darwin is the originator of one of the great lies and heresies of all history. He might be the easiest of the targets, in his peaceful English countryside birthplace. Darwin was, however, born to a large, well-known upper-middle-class family; the assassin would have to exercise a good deal of discretion to get away clean.

Felix Mendelssohn, born February 3, 1809, Hamburg, Germany. One of the great Romantic composers, Mendelssohn was of Jewish ancestry. Although his family had converted to Christianity, the very fact of his heritage combined with his genius is enough to warrant a death sentence in the eyes of a certain breed of bigot. Mendelssohn's family was tightly-knit and middle-class.

1777 to 1787

1777 Continued

British secure control of Delaware.
General Burgoyne loses two battles at Bemis Heights, New York, and capitulates to Americans at Saratoga, New York.

The German general Von Steuben arrives to become inspector general of American forces.

1778 to 1840

Beau Brummell (George Bryan Brummell), English man of fashion and wit.

1778

Washington defeats British at Monmouth, New Jersey; British capture Savannah, Georgia.

Indian massacres at Wyoming, Pennsylvania and Cherry Valley, New York.

War of Bavarian Succession.

Warren Hastings takes Chandernagore, Bengal.

Act of Congress prohibits import of slaves into the United States.

1779

British attack French Senegal, West Africa, gain Goree.

British surrender to Americans at Vincennes.

French forces take St. Vincent and Grenada, West Indies.

Spain declares war on Britain; siege of Gibraltar.

U.S. Congress dispatches force into Wyoming Valley against Indians.

British war against Mahrattas in India.

1780

Charleston, South Carolina surrenders to British.

French troops arrive at Newport, Rhode Island.

Americans defeated at Camden.

British army defeated at King's Mountain, North Carolina.

Benedict Arnold's plot to surrender West Point is revealed.

Outbreak of second Mysore war.

Rebellion in Peru against Spanish rule.

Spanish dance "bolero" invented by dancer Sebastiano Carezo.

1781

British defeated at Cowpens, North Carolina and Eutaw, North Carolina; Americans defeated at Guilford, Connecticut.

End of all land operations with the British capitulation at Yorktown and evacuation of Charleston and Savannah.

Dutch settlement at Negapatam, Madras, captured by British.

Warren Hastings deposes Rajah of Benares, plunders treasure of the Nabob of Oudh.

Franciscan monks settle at Los Angeles.

Kant writes *Critique of Pure Reason*, the fundamental work of modern philosophy.

Herschel discovers the planet Uranus.

1782

Spanish capture Minorca from British.

Peace talks between America and Britain.

British Admiral Howe relieves Gibraltar, breaking Spanish siege.

Montgolfier brothers construct air balloon.

1783 to 1859

Washington Irving, American author.

1783 to 1830

Simón Bolívar, Latin-American soldier/statesman.

1783

Great Britain recognizes independence of the United States.

Famine in Japan.

Potemkin conquers the Crimea for Russia.

1785

Diamond Necklace Affair in Versailles. Marie Antoinette discredited, Cardinal de Rohan arrested.

Russians settle in Aleutian Isles.

Death of the Comte de St. Germain, famous occultist (born c. 1710). See p. 89.

The *London Times* founded under the name *Daily Universal Register*.

1786 to 1836

David Crockett, American frontiersman and politician.

1787

Constitution of U.S. framed and signed.

Turkey declares war on Russia.

Mozart's *Don Giovanni* produced in Prague.

The Napoleonic wars would provide plenty of obstacles and adventures for a time traveler trying to reach the infant Mendelssohn, to kill him or save him.

Edgar Allen Poe, born January 19, 1809, Boston, Massachusetts. Although perhaps a stretch, the great writer of weird, graphic fiction might be seen by some as "satanically" inspired, and a dangerous influence on the youth of America. The son of a theater family, the infant Poe might be difficult to track down, and tricky to get to unnoticed.

Unless the terrorists had a completely irrational anti-intellectual, or anti-aesthetic bias, they'd probably have no reason to go after the final famous infant of 1809 . . . Alfred, Lord Tennyson, born August 6, in Lincolnshire, England. In fact, radical militarists might be very kindly disposed towards the child who would one day write "The Charge of the Light Brigade."

If there was no time limit on their mission, however, the infanticides would be strongly tempted to lie low for a couple of years, until the birth of Harriet Beecher Stowe, born June 14, 1811, in Litchfield, Connecticut. Stowe, the author of the famous anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, was perhaps the strongest single voice of the American abolitionist movement, and to white supremacists, she'd be hated little less than Lincoln himself.

King Ludd

1811

Of all the many radical movements and would-be revolutions of human history, one of the strangest and most Quixotic was the Luddite movement of 19th-century England.

The Luddites were handicraftsman who would don hoods and



1787 to 1797

1787 Continued

English settlement founded for freed slaves in Sierra Leone.

1788 to 1824

Lord Byron, English poet.

1788

Austria declares war on Turkey.

First British penal colony established in Australia, at Sidney.

New York declared federal capital of the United States.

Bread riots in France.

1789

George Washington inaugurated as President of the United States.

Paris mob storms the Bastille.

Abolishment of the French feudal system.

Declaration of the Rights of Man.

Austrians take Belgrade.

William Blake, *Songs of Innocence*.

Mutineers of H.M.S. *Bounty* settle on Pitcairn Islands, East Pacific.

Death of "Eclipse," one of the most famous racehorses, unbeaten in his career.

1790

Louis XVI accepts the French constitution.

Austrians in Brussels suppress Belgian revolution.

Third Mysore war.

Philadelphia becomes federal capital of the United States.

1791

Louis XVI, trying to leave France with his family, is caught at Varennes and returned to Paris.

Massacre of the Champ de Mars, Paris.

First ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution (the Bill of Rights) adopted.

Negro slaves revolt in French Santo Domingo.

Boswell publishes his *Life of Johnson*.

1792 to 1822

Percy Bysshe Shelley, English poet.

1793

Louis XVI executed. Reign of Terror begins in France.

Queen Marie Antoinette executed.

Napoleon takes Toulon.

Holy Roman Empire declares war on France.

French troops driven out of Germany.

1794

Mass executions in France.

Rising of Polish patriots under T.A. Kosciusko suppressed by Russians.

"Whiskey Insurrection" in Pennsylvania.

U.S. Navy established.

William Blake publishes *Songs of Experience*.

First telegraph, Paris-Lille.

1795 to 1821

John Keats, English poet.

1795

Bread riots and White Terror in Paris.

Louis Capet, heir to the French throne, reported dead of neglect in prison. See p. 97.

Mungo Park explores the course of the Niger River.

Metric system adopted in France.

1796

Napoleon marries Josephine de Beauharnais; assumes command in Italy; defeats Austrians at Lodi; enters Milan; establishes Lombard Republic and Cispadane Republic and defeats Austrians at Arcol.

General J.B. Jourdan invades Germany, is defeated at Amberg and Würzburg, and resigns his command.

British capture Elba.

Spain declares war on Britain.

Agha Mohammed of Persia seizes Khurasan in Khuzistan, and makes Teheran his capital.

1797 to 1828

Franz Schubert, Austrian composer.

1797

Napoleon defeats Austrians at Rivoli; seizes Mantua and advances through the Tirol to Vienna.

Paul Barras prevents royalist reaction in coup d'état of 18 Fructidor (Sept. 4).

Nelson and Jervis defeat Spanish fleet at Cape St. Vincent; naval mutiny at Spithead.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge writes "Kubla Khan."

make nighttime commando raids to destroy the factory machinery that was taking their jobs. Luddites avoided violence against humans, and in many places they enjoyed great popular support. They took their name from their titular leader, Ned Ludd, or King Ludd, who is now believed to have been imaginary and symbolic.

The movement began near Nottingham in 1811, and in the next year spread to many neighboring shires. In 1812, a band of Luddites was shot down on the orders of an industrialist named Horsfall, who was later murdered in reprisal.

The movement was shut down by the Earl of Liverpool, who instituted repressive measures to stop and trace the Luddites. A mass trial of accused Luddites was held in May of 1813, followed by many hangings and transportations to Australia.

Luddism flared again, briefly, in 1816, in the depression following the Napoleonic wars. Once again the movement was vigorously repressed, and when the economy began to improve, the Luddites faded.

In a Timepiece/Stopwatch campaign (see *GURPS Time Travel*, p. 48), Stopwatch might seek to encourage the Luddites into an international movement, under the theory that a few years of a repressive anti-technological, anti-scientific regime would provoke an equally repressive scientific backlash, making the evolution of the Hive that much more likely.

They Won't Stay Dead

1846

Elvis Presley is not the first famous person to refuse to stay decently dead. History is full of sightings of notables well after their supposed demise.

In the 1400s, a lady named Jeanne des Armoises, a wife of a knight, claimed to be Joan of Arc, supposedly burned at the stake by the English in 1431. The lady's claim was recognized by Joan's home city of Orleans, and even by Joan's two surviving brothers, but neither the French crown nor history ever accepted Jeanne des Armoises as the true Maid of Orleans.

Rumors of John Wilkes Booth's survival persisted for decades after he was supposedly gunned down by U.S. soldiers. Several dying criminals claimed to be the infamous assassin. The rumors of Booth's survival can be traced back to the excessive degree of secrecy and security which surrounded his burial, supposedly to discourage unseemly public behavior. But the question remains – was the mishandling of Booth's funeral arrangements mere bureaucratic bungling, or did somebody really have something to hide?

Two of the most interesting such claims are those of Eliazar Williams and Peter Ney, two Americans who may – or may not – have been the lost Dauphin of France and Napoleon's most trusted commander.

The Disappearing Dauphin

Louis Charles Capet, the young heir to the throne of France, was not executed along with the King and Queen in 1793. Instead, he was confined in a tower cell. He was kept for a year under the care of cruel and neglectful jailers, in a filthy, tiny room. A year later, after the fall of Robespierre, he was given better accommodations, but he was by then emaciated, covered with sores and tumors, and had lost the power of speech.

1798 to 1806

1798

French capture Rome, proclaim Roman republic; Pope Pius VI leaves the city for Valence.

1798

Lemanic Republic proclaimed in Geneva, Helvetian Republic proclaimed in Bern.

France annexes left bank of Rhine.

France seizes Malta.

Alexandria occupied by French.

Battle of the Pyramids makes Napoleon master of Egypt.

Horatio Nelson destroys French fleet in Abukir Bay.

French force lands in Ireland but fails to invade the country.

King Ferdinand IV of Naples declares war on France and enters Rome.

French recapture the city and overrun Kingdom of Naples.

1799 to 1850

Honore de Balzac, French novelist.

1799

Napoleon advances into Syria; organizes Parthenopean Republic in Piedmont; begins siege of Acre, which he abandons two months later; defeats the Turks at Abukir; leaves Egypt, becomes Consul of France.

French defeat at Cassano ends Cisalpine Republic; Russians enter Turin.

Beethoven writes his first symphony.

Rosetta Stone found near Rosetta, Egypt, making the deciphering of hieroglyphics possible.

In Siberia, a perfectly-preserved mammoth is found.

1800

Napoleon's army crosses the Great St. Bernard pass, defeats Austrians at Marengo, and conquers Italy.

British capture Malta.

Washington, D.C. becomes capitol of the United States.

A plot to assassinate Napoleon is discovered in Paris.

German physician F.J. Gall founds the "science" of phrenology.

Alessandro Volta produces electricity from cell – first battery of zinc and copper plates.

Eli Whitney makes muskets with interchangeable parts.

Marquis de Sade imprisoned in an institution for the insane for the final time.

1801

Admiral Nelson defeats the Danes off Copenhagen.

Prussians march into Hanover.

English enter Cairo.

French troops leave Egypt, which the Turks recover.

Robert Fulton produces the first submarine, the *Nautilus*.

1802

France suppresses slave rebellion in Santo Domingo led by Toussaint-L'Ouverture.

1803

U.S. acquires the Louisiana Purchase from France.

Renewal of war between France and Britain.

Second Maharatta War against Sindhia of Gwalior, who submits to the British.

Robert Fulton propels a boat by steam power.

1804 to 1864

Nathaniel Hawthorne, American author.

1804

Napoleon crowned Emperor in Paris.

War breaks out between British East India Company and Holkar of Indore; ends with the defeat of Holkar's army.

Spain declares war on Britain.

Alexander Hamilton killed in a duel with Aaron Burr. See p. 93.

1805

Napoleon defeats Austro-Russian forces at Battle of Austerlitz.

Mungo Park's second expedition up the Niger River.

1806

England blockades French coast.

Prussia declares war on France.

Napoleon enters Berlin after victories at Jena and Auerstadt.

In 1795 a physician named P.J. Desault, who had served the royal family, was allowed to examine the child. Dr. Desault reported that with proper care, the boy might recover. Dr. Desault died soon after, under mysterious conditions. Two new physicians were assigned to see to the child, but three days after their visit, he was reported dead. A child's body was buried in Ste. Margaret Cemetery, with no marker on the grave. The two doctors had never met the Dauphin – they had only the jailers' word that the boy was who they claimed he was. It is recorded that on May 31, the day after Desault's last visit, a man named Bellanger spent the whole day with the Dauphin, and it has been suggested that it was he who arranged the boy's escape.

At least 30 claimants subsequently represented themselves as the Dauphin. One of the more intriguing is Eliazar Williams.

Williams was the adopted son of one Thomas Williams, of upstate New York. Eliazar was commonly regarded as a half-breed Indian of uncertain parentage (there was a certain resemblance to the Dauphin). He came to Williams as a boy, and in his childhood was considered to be almost retarded (as the Dauphin was said to have lost the power of speech during his imprisonment). The healthy outdoor lifestyle of the Williams family greatly improved his physical health, and when he was about 14 he was swimming at Lake George and struck his head on an underwater rock. After this blow, his mental capacity seemed remarkably improved. He remembered nothing of his childhood.

Williams was educated and became a lay missionary and teacher to the Iroquois Indians, eventually being named an honorary chief. He married another part-Indian and went with the Iroquois when the government moved them to Wisconsin in 1812. During this move he was in the pay of the U.S. government,

charged with keeping the move peaceful and efficient. He performed his duties admirably. In Wisconsin, he became a respected citizen and landowner in the Green Bay area.

The question of Williams' parentage came to the public's attention in 1853, when the Prince de Joinville, third son of Louis Philippe, King of France, arrived in New York and, according to contemporary accounts, began a diligent inquiry for Eliazar Williams. The two met at Mackinac, and there were long private conversations between Williams and the prince. Subsequently the Prince sent Williams a gift of books and the portrait of an unidentified man, which still hangs in the Green Bay Public Museum. It has been suggested that the Prince revealed Williams' origins, and asked him to sign an abdication in favor of Louis Philippe.

In 1848, a deathbed confession, by a man named Bellanger, surfaced in New Orleans, saying he had brought the Dauphin to America and hid him among the Indians of New York. This confession is dubious, however – copies of it were later found in William's handwriting.

The French, of course, denied everything, saying the Prince and Williams met by accident. These denials are highly suspicious if the reports are correct that the Prince was looking for Williams in New York.

Williams petitioned the U.S. Congress to ask the French to acknowledge his claim and grant him a pension, but his request was refused. In Wisconsin he became a full minister, and died on August 28, 1858.

The Missing Marshal

Napoleon called Marshal Ney "the bravest of the brave." He was certainly the Emperor's most beloved and trusted officer.

1806 to 1812

1806 Continued

Official end of Holy Roman Empire.
French army under Murat enters Warsaw.
The Burr plot in the U.S. See p. 93.

1807

Indecisive battle of Eylau between French and Russo-Prussian armies.
French victory at Friedland.
The Chesapeake Incident between U.S. and Britain.
France invades Portugal; dethroned Portuguese royal family flees to Brazil.
Street lighting by gas in London.

1808

U.S. prohibits importation of slaves from Africa.
French army occupies Rome, invades Spain, and takes Barcelona and Madrid.
Rebellion in Madrid; King Joseph Bonaparte flees; Napoleon retakes city.
Goethe writes the first part of *Faust*.
Beethoven writes his fifth and sixth symphonies.

1809 to 1892

Alfred Lord Tennyson, English poet.

1809 to 1882

Charles Darwin, English naturalist.

1809 to 1865

Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the U.S.

1809 to 1849

Edgar Allan Poe, American author.

1809 to 1847

Felix Mendelssohn, German composer.

1809

War between France and Austria; French army takes Vienna, is defeated at Aspern and defeats Austrians at Wagram.
Arthur Wellesley defeats French at Oporto and Talavera and is created Duke of Wellington.

Benjamin Bathurst, representative of the British government at the court of Emperor Francis, vanishes mysteriously (see p. 120).

Napoleon annexes Papal States.

Pope Pius VII taken prisoner.

Napoleon divorces Josephine.

1810 to 1891

Phineas T. Barnum, American showman.

1810

Napoleon, at the zenith of his power, marries Archduchess Marie Louise of Austria.

Revolts in New Grenada, Rio de la Plata, and Mexico.

British seize Guadaloupe, last French colony in the West Indies.

1811 to 1896

Harriet Beecher Stowe, American author and abolitionist.

1811 to 1886

Franz Liszt, Hungarian composer.

1811 to 1863

W.M. Thackeray, English novelist.

1811

George III of England insane; Prince of Wales becomes Prince Regent.

Russians seize Belgrade.

Massacre of the Mamelukes at Cairo.

Duke of Wellington's victories at Fuentes de Oñoro and Albuera.

William Henry Harrison, later President of the U.S., defeats Indians under Tecumseh at Tippecanoe, Indiana.

"Luddites" destroy industrial machines in North England.

1812 to 1820

Unknown entities regularly disturb and rearrange coffins in a sealed tomb on the island of Barbados. Each time the tomb is unsealed for an internment, the coffins are found rearranged. Only remains belonging to the Chase family are disturbed.

1812 to 1833

Kaspar Hauser, German youth whose origins became a celebrated mystery.

When Napoleon abdicated, Ney swore allegiance to Louis XVIII. When Napoleon escaped from Elba, Ney volunteered to capture Napoleon and bring him to Paris in an iron cage. Instead, when Ney met his former commander he embraced him and placed his army at his disposal. At the Battle of Waterloo, Ney led several charges that reached all the way to the British squares.

After Napoleon's defeat, the Capitulation of Paris granted amnesty for all who had fought for Napoleon, but Louis demanded the arrest of Marshal Ney. Many brother officers felt that the Marshal was being unfairly made a scapegoat, and several refused to sit on Ney's court-martial. When he was convicted of treason, even Wellington was reported to be indignant at the verdict, though he took no direct action to interfere.

All of Ney's appeals were refused by the angry king, and he was sentenced to death. On the morning of December 7, 1815, Ney faced the firing squad with a heroic dignity befitting his station. He refused a blindfold, asserted his innocence, and himself gave the order to fire, dramatically striking his breast as he did so. Those who believe the execution was faked say Ney's dramatic gesture broke a container full of blood hidden under his shirt.

According to the official report, the squad fired once and the Marshal fell at 9:20. He lay undisturbed for 10 minutes. The body was then taken to the Hospital for Foundlings, where it lay all night. He was buried the next day under a marker that read only "NEY."

However, according to one witness, Quentin Dick, an Irish member of the British parliament, the body was carried away in a carriage within three minutes, without medical examination.

There is considerable conflicting testimony about the wounds on the body.

Ney's wife did not attend the funeral, did not honor the grave, and never remarried.

Four years later, in North Carolina, French refugees recognized Peter Stuart Ney, a schoolteacher, as Marshal Ney. During a 27-year career Ney taught school in Brownsville and Mocksville in North Carolina, in Mecklenburg County, VI, and again in North Carolina, where he remained for the last 15 years of his life.

Peter Ney was recognized by several former officers under Napoleon. The daughter of Pasqual Luciani, a Napoleonic officer, made an affidavit that her father and Ney had traveled together to America. In the mid-20th century a leading handwriting analyst testified that the handwriting of the two Neys was identical.

Peter Ney is reported to have fainted upon hearing of Napoleon's death in 1821, and to have attempted suicide the same night. At least once he demonstrated an expert knowledge of swordsmanship. He had the habit of making curt commentaries in the margins of any histories he happened to read on the Napoleonic era.

Ney never made any overt attempt to either deny that he was the Marshal, or to profit from that claim.

On his deathbed, in 1846, Ney asserted his claim that he was Marshal Ney, and referred attendants to a manuscript on his desk that he said would prove it. However, nobody present could read the manuscript's French shorthand. A visiting lecturer named Pliny Miles took the manuscript, saying that he'd get a French scholar in New York to translate it. The manuscript was never seen again, in any form (was "Pliny Miles" a time traveler disposing of inconvenient evidence?).

1812 to 1818

1812

Napoleon enters Russia June 24; defeats Russians at Smolensk and Borodino and enters Moscow; begins to retreat from Moscow Oct. 19. Returns to Paris Dec. 18; out of his army of 550,000 only 20,000 survive the Russian campaign.

General Claude François Malet conspires against Napoleon during his absence; attempt to end war and install Louis XVIII fails; Malet executed.

U.S. declares war on Britain.

The Brothers Grimm publish their *Fairy Tales*.

Swiss explorer J.L. Burckhardt discovers the Great Temple of Abu Simbel.

1813 to 1901

Giuseppe Verdi, Italian operatic composer.

1813 to 1883

Richard Wagner, German composer.

1813 to 1855

Søren Kierkegaard, Danish philosopher.

1813

Prussia declares war on France; combined Russo-Prussian forces enter Dresden; Napoleon's victory at Lützen.

Austria declares war on France.

The French defeated by Blücher at Wahlstatt on the Katzbach; defeat the allied army at Dresden.

The "Battle of the Nations" at Leipzig; Napoleon defeated.

French expelled from Holland; return of William of Orange.

The Americans capture York (Toronto) and Fort St. George.

H.M.S. *Shannon* captures U.S. frigate *Chesapeake*.

Detroit reoccupied by U.S.

U.S. forces defeated at Chrysler's Farm near Montreal; burn Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake); British forces take Fort Niagara and burn Buffalo.

Wellington defeats French at Vitoria, seizes San Sebastian, and enters France.

Mexico declares itself independent.

1814

Murat deserts Napoleon and joins Allies.

Allied armies defeat French at La Rothière, Bar-sur-Aube, and Laon, and enter Paris Mar. 30.

Napoleon abdicates and is banished to Elba April 11.

Louis XVIII enters Paris and takes up the throne as his hereditary right.

U.S. forces defeat British at Chippewa.

British force burns Washington, D.C.

British flotilla captured on Lake Champlain.

Lord Hastings, Governor-General of India, declares war on the Gurkhas (Nepal).

Francis Scott Key writes his poem "The Defense of Ft. McHenry," later set to the tune of the drinking song "Anacreon in Heaven," to become the U.S. national anthem.

1815

Americans defeat British at Battle of New Orleans (although peace had been made the previous year, word did not arrive until after the battle).

Napoleon returns to France; Louis XVIII flees.

Wellington and Blücher defeat Napoleon at Waterloo, June 18.

Napoleon abdicates for the second time; Louis XVIII returns to Paris, Napoleon banished to St. Helena.

Marshal Ney, one of Napoleon's most trusted commanders, shot Dec. 7. See p. 99.

1816 to 1855

Charlotte Brontë, English novelist.

1817 to 1862

Henry David Thoreau, American author.

1818 to 1848

Emily Brontë, author of *Wuthering Heights*.

1818 to 1883

Karl Marx, German political philosopher.

1818

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley writes *Frankenstein*.

For historical investigators using time travel to check the origins of Eliazar Williams and Peter Ney, the mission would break down to two sections, one easy and one hard.

The easy section would be to visit these individuals after the reported deaths of their alter egos, and do extensive interviews with them and with anybody who could confirm their stories. If the stories still check, the investigators move on to the hard part.

The only way to really discover whether Marshal Ney or the Dauphin survived would be to be present at their "deaths," and come back with hard evidence that they either died according to history, or that they were successfully saved by a flawlessly executed, top-secret conspiracy. Of course, both the conspirators and their opponents would probably be eager to eliminate any snoopers outsiders interfering with their mission, and in both cases the rumored conspirators and their opponents are some of the smartest, most capable individuals of an era known for its paranoia and ruthlessness. Good luck.

Treasure Hunting

1850-1881

History offers the time traveler plenty of opportunities to make a buck. One of the best opportunities is lost treasure, particularly for the time-traveling profiteer with a sense of temporal ethics. "After all," the treasure hunter can rationalize, "maybe it's *lost* treasure because *I* took it uptime."

Two excellent opportunities to abscond with lost treasure occurred in the 19th century, in South and North America.

In both cases it would be a simple matter for a time traveler with advanced technology to slip in and sneak off with the gold. The problem is that if one time traveler decides to try for the hoard, others are likely to make the same attempt. The PCs could be trying to recover the treasure, or they could be time cops,

trying to keep a trans-temporal "gold rush" from becoming a major anachronistic crisis.

The Gold of Pisco

The epic story of the gold of Pisco begins with the Incas. It is said that a huge horde of stolen Inca gold was cached beneath the church of Pisco, in Peru. The priests, it is said, kept the treasure a jealously-guarded secret.

The story says that sometime in the early 18th century, one of the priests at Pisco, Father Matteo, fell for a local beauty, snatched as much of the gold as he could get away with, and eloped. The senorita abandoned him when the money ran out.

Under the name Juan Damerion, the ex-Father Matteo went to sea, where he fell ill. In a delirium he spilled his whole story to a fellow seaman, a Spaniard named Alvarez. Alvarez threw the dying Damerion over the rail. Then, when the time seemed right, Alvarez began to assemble a gang with the object of relieving the church at Pisco of its burden. Eventually, he found three accomplices: an American named Arthur Brown, an Englishman named Barnett, and one "Japonica Jack" Killorain, who had recently been shanghaied into the crew.

The four jumped ship in Buenos Aires, and set out by mule train to Valparaiso, Chile. From there they took passage to Pisco.

There, Alvarez and Killorain became exemplary Catholics, ingratiating themselves with the priests. One night, as penance, they kept vigil in the church all night long. That night they discovered that four priests patrolled the church constantly, that the doors to the underground crypt were unusually strong (and the guards paid especial attention to that portal) and that the crypt itself was built of stone walls, 6 feet thick.

A frontal assault was ruled out. It would take explosives and hours of work to break in. So Alvarez concocted a new plan.

1819 to 1828

1819 to 1901

Queen Victoria of Britain.

1819

Beethoven deaf.

1820 to 1910

Florence Nightingale, English nurse.

1820

Revolution in Spain - King Ferdinand VII forced to restore Constitution of 1812.

Sir Walter Scott writes *Ivanhoe*.

Shelley writes "Prometheus Unbound."

1821 to 1910

Mary Baker Eddy, founder of Christian Science.

1821

Revolution in Piedmont; Victor Emmanuel abdicates, names his brother Charles Felix successor; the intervening Austrian army victorious at Novara.

Reign of Terror begins between Greeks and Turks.

Simón Bolívar defeats the Spanish army at Carabobo, ensuring Venezuela's independence.

1822

Turkish fleet captures island of Chios and massacres inhabitants; in reprisal, Greeks set fire to Turkish admiral's vessel.

Turks invade Greece.
Bottle riots in Dublin.

1824

First Burmese war.

British take Rangoon.

Egyptians capture Crete.

Turks seize island of Ipsara from Greeks but are defeated at Mitylene.

Beethoven's Ninth Symphony (the "Choral") performed in Vienna.

Erie Canal finished.

1825 to 1899

Johann Strauss, the "Waltz King."

1825

Decembrist revolt in Russia crushed.

Opening of Stockton-Darlington railroad, the first line to carry passengers.

1826 to 1864

Stephen Foster, American composer.

1826 to 1832

The great cholera pandemic begins in India, spreads from Russia into central Europe by 1831, and reaches Scotland by 1832.

1826

Russia declares war on Persia.

James Fenimore Cooper writes *The Last of the Mohicans*.

Mendelssohn composes the overture to *A Midsummer Night's Dream* ("Wedding March").

1827

Turks enter Athens.

Alliance of Russia, France and Britain destroys Turkish and Egyptian fleets at the Battle of Navarino.

Russia defeats Persia and takes Erivan (Armenia).

René Caillié of France sets off on an expedition to the African city of Timbuktu. On his return he becomes the first European to cross the desert with an Arab caravan.

Joseph Niepce produces photographs on a metal plate.

1828 to 1910

Count Leo Nikolayevich Tolstoy, Russian novelist.

1828 to 1906

Henrik Ibsen, Norwegian dramatist.

1828 to 1905

Jules Verne, French science-fiction author.

1828

Kaspar Hauser appears in the streets of Nuremberg, Germany.

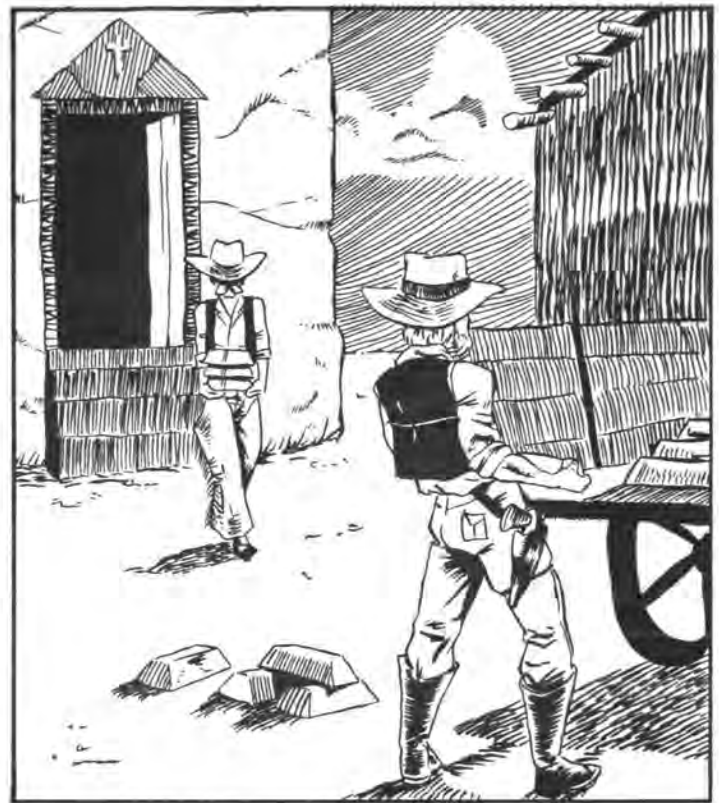
Alvarez and Killorain had a long, private talk with the senior priest. They told him that one Juan Damerion, whom the Father recognized from their description as Father Matteo, was coming to Pisco with a large force of bandits to steal something – they didn't know what, of course – from the church. They'd be there in only a few days, there was no time to summon help from Lima.

When Father Benito asked for help protecting his church, Alvarez proposed a plan. He suggested that the church valuables be hidden in Calloa, 200 miles away, where there was a military garrison. Alvarez offered to arrange for the transportation, and he would go himself, along with the usual four priests.

When they were taken to the crypt, Alvarez and his gang were taken down a long stone stairway, to a door of iron-bound wood three inches thick. Behind that door was a shoulder-high wall of solid gold ingots – at least 14 tons of gold. There were also large, gem-encrusted golden candlesticks, 38 long necklaces, one chest of uncut gems and another of Spanish doubloons, and many other assorted gems and jewelry.

Alvarez had chartered a schooner, the *Bos'n Bird*, and it took two nights to carry the treasure to the ship. Three of the ship's crew were waylaid and drugged, and Alvarez's three friends generously offered to take their place. When the ship left for Calleo, the thieves had a stroke of luck – she was swept out to sea by a hurricane. As far as anybody knew, the *Bos'n Bird* could have been lost with all hands. The crew and the four priests were promptly murdered, and their bodies thrown overboard.

The treasure was theirs, but now the thieves had to cover their tracks. Again, Alvarez had a plan. He suggested they hide the treasure on an uninhabited south-sea island, taking only enough to live on. Then, they'd sail to Australia and scuttle their ship, representing themselves as shipwrecked mariners. There, they'd



recruit a new partner – somebody with a good ship of his own – and return for their treasure.

For their hiding place they located an tiny island in the Tuamatos group, east of Tahiti, then owned by France. The thieves

1829 to 1837

1829 to 1912

William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army.

1830

France captures Algiers.
Revolution in Paris.

The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints, or Mormons, founded by Joseph Smith and his friends at Fayette, N.Y.

Military insurrection in Warsaw against Russian rule.

Charles Babbage designs an "Analytical Engine" – an mechanical computer. It is not built during his lifetime.

Richard and John Lander discover the mouth of the Niger.

Apparition of the Virgin Mary seen in Paris.

1831 to 1891

Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, founder of the Theosophical Society.

1831 to 1836

Charles Darwin sails as naturalist on a surveying expedition in H.M.S. *Beagle* to South America, New Zealand and Australia.

1831

Russians defeat Polish forces at Ostroleka; revolt collapses.

Southampton insurrection: Virginia slave revolt led by Nat Turner, a black man; 55 whites die.

Syria conquered by the Egyptians.

Légion Etrangère (French Foreign Legion) formed to help control French colonial possessions in Africa.

Uprisings of the working class in Lyons, France.

Sir James Clark Ross discovers the magnetic North Pole on his second Arctic expedition.

1832 to 1899

Horatio Alger, American author of novels for boys.

1832 to 1898

Lewis Carroll (Charles Lutwidge Dodgson), author of *Alice in Wonderland*.

1832 to 1888

Louisa May Alcott, American author of children's books.

1833

Scottish explorer Alexander Burnes crosses Hindu Kush mountain range in Central Asia.

Abolition of slavery in the British empire.

American religious leader William Miller predicts the end of the world. He'll try again in 1834, '43 and '44.

1834

Sixth Kaffir War. Severe clashes between Bantu people and white settlers on eastern frontier of Cape Colony.

1835 to 1842

Second Seminole War.

1836 to 1886

Ramakrishna, Hindu saint and teacher.

1835 to 1910

Mark Twain (Samuel Langhorne Clemens), American novelist and humorist.

1835

P.T. Barnum begins his career.

1836

Battle of the Alamo.

Texas wins independence from Mexico and becomes a republic, with General Sam Houston its first president.

Boer farmers launch "The Great Trek" across the Orange River, away from British rule, founding Natal, Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

The Awful Disclosures of Maria Monk published – a purportedly autobiographical anti-Catholic book describing horrible goings-on in a Catholic convent.

1837 to 1890

Sitting Bull, American Indian chief.

marked certain landmarks, and asked a passing native for the atoll's name, murdering him once they had their information.

With their loot hidden, they sailed to Australia. Their identity as shipwrecked sailors was accepted, but nobody believed their story of buried treasure. Alvarez and Bennett were killed by natives, and Brown and Killorain got into a fight where three men were killed, landing them 20-year sentences. Brown died in prison.

Killorain was finally released. His activities for the next 30 years are unknown, but in 1910, aged 84, Killorain stumbled across the home of Charles Edward Howe, who lived near Christchurch, New Zealand. The ancient Killorain fell ill and died a few days later, but not before telling the traditional deathbed story, and even passing on the traditional tattered map.

Up to this point, the tale is pure hearsay, but Howe was a real person, and his search is well-documented. He confirmed that the four shipwrecked sailors did indeed arrive in Port Darwin in 1850, and that the church at Pisco was indeed robbed at the proper time. With £500 he left for the south seas, on a treasure hunt, in 1912. He found an island matching Killian's description, and searched 12 years for the treasure, with no luck.

Finally, Howe discovered an infuriating fact. In the Polynesian language, "p" and "t" have virtually the same sound. Howe found another atoll, differing from the first only in that one's name contained a "p", and the other's a "t." Sure enough, the new island also held the proper landmarks – particularly a pear-shaped coral pool, and a coral pinnacle on the west side of the island – to be the cache. Howe claimed he located the treasure, submerged beneath the pear-shaped pool, but could not recover it himself. When the French authorities became suspicious of his activities, he returned to Australia in 1927.

Howe tried to find backing for an expedition to recover his treasure. In 1930 a journalist visiting Tahiti heard of Howe's quest,

and formed a syndicate to recover the treasure. In the meantime, however, Howe disappeared. He was never heard from again.

In 1932, six men, including one George Hamilton, obtained the proper permits from the French and sailed to Tahiti. There, without Killorain's map, they searched for the treasure, relying on Howe's stories and the accounts of locals who remembered Howe's search to find the right island.

Eventually, they found a pear-shaped pool, 12 feet deep. Exploratory digging discovered an object which was neither rock nor sand 6 feet below the sand at the bottom. The treasure hunters rigged a makeshift diving bell, and Hamilton tried to investigate from the floor of the pool, but he was attacked by the largest eel he'd ever seen, then by a large octopus that wrapped itself around his leg.

The treasure hunters decided that they could not recover the treasure without proper equipment. They cabled London for more money, didn't get it, and abandoned the search.

And there the matter rests. Is the Inca gold of Pisco resting beneath the sand at the floor of a tropical pool, protected by giant eels and other aquatic nasties? And what happened to Charles Howe?

The Lost Dutchman Mine

1881

The legendary Lost Dutchman mine, in the Superstition Mountains of Arizona, is believed to hold a vein of gold ore so rich that anyone with a spade can hack out a fortune in a few hours' work.

The story of the Lost Dutchman begins in 1871, when two Americans named Jacob Waltz and Jacob Weiser rescued a man named Don Miguel Peralta from a brawl in Sonora, Mexico. Don Miguel invited his rescuers to his home, and eventually proposed a strange business venture.

1837 to 1846

1837

Queen Victoria begins to reign.

U.S.S. *Caroline* set on fire and sunk by Canadian troops while transporting supplies to Canadian insurgents across the Niagara River.

Constitutional revolts in upper and lower Canada.

Samuel Morse exhibits his electric telegraph in New York.

American abolitionist editor E.P. Lovejoy murdered by mob in Alton, Illinois.

1839 to 1906

Paul Cézanne, French painter.

1839

China suppresses the opium trade, a move which will lead to European military intervention the next year to restore the trade.

American army officer Abner Doubleday lays out first baseball field and conducts first baseball game ever played in Coopers-town, New York.

First bicycle constructed by Scottish inventor Kirkpatrick Macmillan.

Charles Goodyear discovers the "vulcanization" of rubber.

Mendelssohn conducts the first performance of Schubert's *Symphony in C Major (The Great)*.

American traveler John Lloyd Stephens, with Frederick Catherwood, discovers the antiquities of the ancient Mayas in Central America.

Poe writes "The Fall of the House of Usher."

1840 to 1919

Pierre Auguste Renoir, French impressionist painter.

1840 to 1917

Auguste Rodin, French sculptor.

1840 to 1893

Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky, Russian composer.

1841 to 1904

Anton Dvorák, Czech composer.

1841

U.S.S. *Creole*, carrying slaves from Virginia to Louisiana, is seized by the slaves and sails into Nassau, where they become free.

British sovereignty proclaimed over Hong Kong.

1842

Chinese Emperor negotiates a peace with European naval forces. British granted Hong Kong, tariff reductions and other concessions.

1842 to 1914

Ambrose Bierce, American writer.

1843 to 1907

Edward Grieg, Norwegian composer.

1843

Maori revolts against Britain in New Zealand.

1844 to 1923

Sarah Bernhardt, French actress.

1844 to 1900

Friedrich Nietzsche, German philosopher.

1845

Observers as far apart as Syria and Malta observe two large, luminous bodies that appear to be joined together with streamer-like appendages on the night of June 18. The phenomenon persists for more than an hour.

1846 to 1917

W.F. (Buffalo Bill) Cody, American hunter and showman.

1846

East India Company troops defeat Sikhs at Aliwal and Sobraon.

Revolts break out in Poland; Austrian and American troops enter Cracow; Austria annexes Cracow.

According to Don Miguel, for generations the Peralta family fortune had come from a secret mine in Arizona. Periodically, the Peraltas would lead a large work party to the mine and dig out a vast quantity of ore, taking what they needed and caching the rest, for fast recovery by a smaller party in case of emergency.

In 1864, Don Miguel's grandfather, Enrico, was killed along with the mining expedition he was leading in a three-day battle with the Indians. After this setback, the Peraltas no longer had enough funds to raise an expedition strong enough to reach the mine through hostile territory.

Don Miguel's proposal was that he, Waltz and Weiser and a few others make a fast raid into the mountains to recover the family cache of already-dug ore.

The expedition was a success, and the party returned with \$60,000 in gold. Don Miguel then offered the two Jacobs a deal—he'd keep all the money from the expedition, and in return Waltz and Weiser could have the title to the mine itself. The Americans agreed. Don Miguel gave the men an ancient map drawn on rawhide, took his gold and left.

About this time a Dr. Abraham Thorne earned the gratitude of the Apache nation. As a reward, the Indians offered to take Dr. Thorne to a place from which he could take back all the gold he

could carry. However, Dr. Thorne must agree to wear a blindfold. Thorne agreed.

When his blindfold was removed, Thorne found himself confronted with a pile of almost pure gold piled up against a canyon wall. He had only a few moments to look around, but he recognized a spire of rock as a local landmark called Weaver's Needle, and nearby was what he took to be the remains of a stone fort. Thorne returned home with \$6,000 in gold. He tried to find the horde again a year or two later, but the Apache killed his companions and turned him back.

In 1879 Waltz and Weiser took Don Miguel's map and found their mine. Waltz later said that the mine was so well hidden, "You can be right in the mine without seeing it." The vein was so rich that large nuggets of gold could be knocked out just by tapping with hammers.

The mine was a large pit, shaped like a funnel. The walls had been cut into shelves, and the remains of notched timber ladders could be seen. Waltz and Weiser found two Mexican peons working in the pit, and shot them. They found the tunnel which Enrico Peralta had cut through the hillside, to make it easier to get to the gold at the bottom of the pit.

They started to work, but one night Waltz returned to camp

1846 to 1853

1846 Continued

U.S. moves troops into New Mexico, declares war on Mexico, annexes New Mexico in August.

Brigham Young leads the Mormons from Illinois to the Great Salt Lake, Utah.

Potato famine in Ireland.

Death of Peter Ney, a schoolteacher in North Carolina believed by many to be Marshal Ney. See p. 99.

Apparition of the Virgin Mary seen in La Salette, France, September 19.

Sewing machine patented by Elias Howe.

Ether used as an anesthetic.

Smithsonian Institution founded.

1847 to 1882

Jesse James, American outlaw.

1847 to 1922

Alexander Graham Bell, American inventor, born in Scotland.

1847 to 1931

Thomas Alva Edison, American inventor.

1847

U.S. forces capture Mexico City.

Sonderbund War in Switzerland.

Charlotte Brontë writes *Jane Eyre*, Emily Brontë writes *Wuthering Heights*.

Thackeray writes *Vanity Fair*.

First gold rush in California.

1848 to 1903

Paul Gauguin, French painter.

1848 to 1889

Belle Starr, American outlaw.

1848

Revolt in Paris; Louis Napoleon elected President of French Republic.

Revolutions in Venice, Berlin, Milan, Parma and three in Vienna.

Second Sikh War begins.

War between Sardinia and Austria.

Czech revolts suppressed by Austrian troops.

Revolt in Rome; Pope Pius IX flees to Gaeta.

Marx and Engels issue their *Communist Manifesto*.

Rise of Spiritualism in United States.

First settlers arrive in New Zealand.

1849

British defeat Sikhs at Chillianwalla and Gujarat; force them to surrender at Rawalpindi.

Revolts in Dresden and Baden.

Dickens writes *David Copperfield*.



Dostoevsky sentenced to death; sentence commuted to penal servitude in Siberia.

David Livingstone crosses Kalahari Desert and discovers Lake Ngami.

Fourteen tons of Inca gold stolen from the church at Pisco, in Peru. The treasure is allegedly buried on an atoll near Tuamatos, east of Tahiti. It is never recovered. See p. 100.

Black rain falls in Ireland in May. Red rains fall in Wales and Sicily.

Amelia Bloomer begins American women's dress reform.

1850 to 1894

Robert L. Stevenson, Scottish author.

1850 to 1893

Guy de Maupassant, French writer.

1850

Taiping rebellion in China; Hung Hiu-tsun proclaims himself emperor, attacks Peking and takes Nanking and Shanghai.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning writes *Sonnets from the Portuguese*.

Hawthorne writes *The Scarlet Letter*.

Swedish singer Jenny Lind tours America under the management of P.T. Barnum.

1851

Melville writes *Moby-Dick*.

1852

Louis Napoleon proclaims himself Emperor Napoleon III.

Second Burmese war; British forces annex Pegu.

Harriet Beecher Stowe writes *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

1853

Crimean War: Russia invades Danubian principalities of Turkey, Russians destroy Turkish fleet off Sinope.



and found Weiser gone, his bloodstained shirt lay on the ground surrounded by Indian arrows. Waltz took all the gold he could carry and fled to Phoenix.

Weiser, however, was not quite dead. Severely wounded, he made his way to the home of a Dr. Walker with the map. He told his story before he died, and gave Walker the map. Walker never tried to find the mine, and the map vanished when he died in 1890. He let the local newspaper editor copy the map, but the man's wife destroyed the copy, out of fear that her husband would be killed while treasure hunting.

In 1880, two young ex-soldiers (their names have been lost) arrived in the town of Pinal with saddle bags bulging with gold. They described a funnel-shaped opening in the rocks near a sharp pinnacle.

The two men soon set off again, but they never returned. Their bodies were found stripped naked in the Indian fashion, but shot with U.S. army bullets. Local suspicion immediately fell on a local ne'er-do-well who had suddenly seemed to acquire a fortune, but by the time the bodies were found, the suspect had fled.

The story of the two young soldiers set off a wave of reported findings. It has been said that the Apache, angry at the growing influx of white treasure hunters into their territory, camped at the mine during the winter of 1881 to 1882, and during the winter their women filled in the hole. There was an earthquake about this same time that may have erased other landmarks. At any rate, the mine was no longer reported found after 1881.

Late in 1890, the aging Jacob Waltz rode out alone from Phoenix and returned two days later with \$1,500 in gold, which he said came from the gold cached by him and Weiser. He died the next

1853 to 1862

1853 Continued

Commodore Perry enters Japan, 1853.
Wagner completes *Der Ring des Nibelungen* opera tetralogy.

Samuel Colt revolutionizes the manufacture of small arms.

Henry Steinway begins to manufacture pianos.

1854 to 1891

Arthur Rimbaud, French poet.

1854

"War for Bleeding Kansas" between free and slave states.

Tennyson writes "The Charge of the Light Brigade."

1855

On Feb. 8, thousands of small, strange hoofmarks appear overnight in Devonshire England, apparently making a straight line through or over obstacles. See p. 105.

1856 to 1950

George Bernard Shaw, Irish writer and playwright.

1856 to 1936

Sigmund Freud, Austrian neurologist and founder of psychoanalysis.

1856 to 1900

Oscar Wilde, Anglo-Irish author.

1856

Massacre of Potawatomie Creek, Kansas – slavers murdered by free-staters.

Anglo-Chinese war begins; British fleet bombards Canton.

Persia occupies Herat – outbreak of British-Persian war.

40' sea monster sighted at Leurbost Scotland by numerous persons in late February and early March.

Longest bare-knuckle boxing match in history: James Kelly vs. Jack Smith, Melbourne, Australia, 186 rounds, lasting 6 hours, 15 minutes.

1857

Indian mutiny against British rule; siege of Delhi.

Royal Navy destroys Chinese fleet; Britain and France take Canton.

1858

John Hanning Speke discovers Lake Victoria, in Africa.

Bernadette Soubirous reports that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to her at Lourdes, France, between Feb. 11 and July 16.

Death of Eliazar Williams, American missionary to the Indians rumored to be Louis Capet, the French Dauphin. See p. 97.

Unexplained fall of massive quantities of small, black stones in Birmingham, England. Stone falls will continue to be reported in the Birmingham region for the next 11 years.

1859 to 1930

Arthur Conan Doyle, British author, creator of Sherlock Holmes.

1859

Darwin writes *On the Origin of Species by Natural Selection*.

Edward Fitzgerald writes *Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám*.

Work begins on Suez Canal.

1860 to 1904

Anton Chekov, Russian playwright.

1860s

British send Indian spies, disguised as pilgrims or merchants, into Tibet.

1860

Second Maori war begins.

Robert Burke sets out, leading an expedition to traverse Australia from south to north.

1861

Confederate states secede; Civil War begins April 12, when Confederates take Ft. Sumter, Charleston; Confederates win at Bull Run; Union forces capture Ft. Clark and Ft. Hatteras.

Warsaw Massacre – troops fire at demonstrators against Russian rule.

Dickens writes *Great Expectations*.

George Eliot writes *Silas Marner*.

1862 to 1918

Claude Debussy, French composer.



year, telling his story on his deathbed. His story agreed in all important details with the one Weiser reportedly told Dr. Walker a decade earlier, although at the time of his death Waltz had no idea that his partner might have survived to tell his tale.

The local press caught wind of Waltz's story, and dubbed his horde the "Lost Dutchman's Mine," under the mistaken impression that Waltz was Dutch (he and Weiser were in fact German-American).

There is some solid archaeological evidence that there was at one time a large Mexican mining operation near Weaver's Needle, and gold ingots were found loose on the ground in 1912, near the spot where Enrico Peralta and his men supposedly met their fate.

The Devonshire Devil

1855

One of the most celebrated events in the history of unexplained phenomenon occurred in the hours before dawn of Feb. 9, 1855, in the Devonshire countryside.

The citizens of Exmouth, Lymptone, Woodbury, Torquay and Totnes parishes woke that morning, to find that they had apparently been visited by a strange creature in the night.

The evidence for the unknown creature's existence was a clear, single-file line of small "hoofprints," each 2¾" wide by 4" long and 8½" apart.

The prints zig-zagged back and forth, apparently in a single, continuous line across a tract of land 30 to 40 miles wide. The most remarkable thing about the prints was their resolute mathematical precision. They were reported to have entered a shed by the front door and exited the back through a hole only 6" high.

1862 to 1865

1862

Union forces capture Fort Henry, Roanoke Island, Fort Donelson, Jacksonville and New Orleans; they are defeated at Second Battle of Bull Run and Fredericksburg.

Sept. 22, Lincoln issues "Emancipation Proclamation," freeing all slaves held in Confederate territory effective Jan. 1.

Victor Hugo writes *Les Misérables*.

R.J. Gatling constructs the 10-barrel gun bearing his name.

1863 to 1951

William Randolph Hearst, American newspaper publisher.

1863 to 1947

Henry Ford, American automobile manufacturer.

1863 to 1947

Arthur Machen, Victorian author and mystic.

1863

Confederates win at Chancellorsville, lose at Gettysburg and Vicksburg; surrender at Fort Hudson; suffer further defeat at Chattanooga, victory at Chickamauga; Lincoln gives "Gettysburg Address" at the dedication of a military cemetery.

Civil war in Afghanistan.

French capture Mexico City and proclaim Archduke Maximilian of Austria emperor.

Japanese clans begin rebellion against the Shogunate.

Roller skating introduced to America.

1864 to 1943

George Washington Carver, agronomist and educator, known as the foremost black American scientist of his era.

1864 to 1901

Henri Toulouse-Lautrec, French painter.

1864

Austria and Prussia invade Denmark.

Ulysses S. Grant becomes Commander-in-Chief of Union armies.

Gen. Sherman marches his army from Chattanooga through Georgia; defeats Confederate army at Atlanta and occupies Savannah.

Chinese retake Nanking from Christian rebels.

Massacre of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians at Sand Creek, Colorado.

Confederate agents set the Barnum Museum and the Astor House afire in an attempt to burn New York City.

Tolstoy writes *War and Peace*.

Louis Pasteur invents pasteurization (for wine).

Admiral Farragut, attacking Confederates in Mobile Bay, Alabama, says, "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!"

Charles-Etienne Brasseur de Bourbourg discovers what he believes to be a reference to the lost continent of Mu in ancient Mayan manuscripts.

1865 to 1939

William Butler Yeats, Irish poet.

1865 to 1936

Rudyard Kipling, English author.

1865

Union fleet takes Charleston; Richmond surrenders to Grant; Robert E. Lee appointed General-in-Chief of the Confederate army; Confederacy formally surrenders April 9.

Abraham Lincoln assassinated April 14. April 26-27, assassin John Wilkes Booth is shot by U.S. soldiers, and his body is disposed of under mysterious circumstances. For the next 60 years, various persons claiming to be the "real" Booth will surface.

Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, captured and imprisoned.

Last Confederate Army surrenders at Shreveport, LA, May 26.

Thirteenth Amendment to U.S. Constitution abolishes slavery.

War between Boers of the Orange Free State and Basutos.

Lewis Carroll writes *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

Atlantic telegraph cable completed.

Ku Klux Klan founded, Pulaski, TN.

Publication of *A Dialog in Hell Between Machiavelli and Montesquieu*, a satire on the reign of Napoleon II, from which much of the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" will be plagiarized.

Another report had them entering a drain pipe and leaving the other end. When they crossed walls or roofs they'd go from the ground, to the eaves or the top of the wall, to the ground on the other side, with no visible change in depth or variance from their constant regular distance of 8½". The prints appeared on both sides of the 2½-mile-wide estuary of the River Exe.

Various animals were suggested as the origin of the prints – badgers, cranes, cats, even an escaped kangaroo (unfortunately, no fugitive kangaroos were abroad that night). The common folk, of course, believed that they had been made by the devil himself, as a warning to God-fearing folk to mend their ways.

The weather on the night of the manifestation was notable. Britain had been in the grip of a particularly severe cold spell for weeks. The Thames and River Exe were both frozen solid. On the 8th there had been a slight thaw, more snow fell at night, and a freezing wind came up at dawn.

Perhaps the prolonged freeze had sent thousands of small animals out to forage for food, and the cold wind had distorted their various prints into a more-or-less uniform shape. Or perhaps there was no animal involved at all. Similar effects have been reported to be produced by the wind on new-fallen snow under conditions of extreme cold. If either of the above explanations is true, the stranger elements of the report – that the prints apparently formed a single, continuous winding line, over, under and through obstacles – must be dismissed as exaggeration.

Or perhaps a small, fast, clever alien or robot, with a peculiar and very versatile motive system, escape from a time machine that night, and led the crew (wearing gravity belts or jet packs, to avoid

leaving still more inexplicable tracks) on a merry chase across the countryside before it was finally apprehended – or it escaped.

A Public Man

1861

In 1879, a remarkable series of articles appeared in the *North American Review*, the most respected magazine of its era. The articles were the diary excerpts of an individual identified only as "A Public Man." The diary covered the period from Dec. 28, 1860 to March 15, 1861 – the time immediately preceding the Civil War. They dealt with the highest levels of the Lincoln administration – including many otherwise unrecorded statements and opinions of the president himself – in terms of such precision and authority that there was little doubt that the author was a high-level Washington insider.

His identity was, of course, much speculated on. But most of the individuals in the diary were only named by initial, and the events in question were 18 years in the past, so many of the persons who *were* named in the accounts could no longer be questioned.

The editor of the *North American Review*, Allen Thorndike Rice, respected the anonymity of A Public Man to the grave. Even after Rice's death no record could be found of the true identity of A Public Man.

The identity of A Public Man remains an important and frustrating enigma to students of American history. The diaries record many significant and otherwise unknown facts about a pivotal period for the entire nation, but their accuracy cannot be gauged until the identity of the writer is revealed.

1866 to 1875

1866 to 1946

H.G. Wells, English author.

1866 to 1880

The "Wild West"; such legendary outlaws as Billy the Kid, Jesse James, the Dalton Gang and John Wesley Hardin, together with the lawmen who pursued them, flourish during these years.

1866

War between Prussian-Italian alliance and Austria.

1867

U.S. buys Alaska from Russia for \$7,200,000.

Garibaldi begins "The March on Rome," is defeated by French and Papal troops at Mentana and taken prisoner.

1868

Britain dispatches armed expedition to Vienna.

Revolution in Spain; Queen Isabella II is deposed and flees to France.

Shogunate overthrown, emperor restored to power in Japan.

Louisa May Alcott writes *Little Women*.

The first professional U.S. baseball club, the Cincinnati Red Stockings, forms, introduces uniforms.

1869 to 1954

Henri Matisse, French painter.

1869 to 1948

Mahatma Gandhi, Indian nationalist leader.

1869

Cardiff Giant excavated in New York – the "giant" is a 10' long stone statue planted as a hoax against local anti-Darwin agitators. See p. 108.

1870

France declares war on Prussia and is defeated.

Revolt in Paris, Third Republic proclaimed, Prussians besiege Paris.

Jules Verne writes *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.

1871 to 1916

Rasputin, Russian monk.

1871 to 1900

Stephen Crane, American author.

1871

P.T. Barnum opens his Circus.

The great fire in Chicago.

Stanley meets Livingston at Ujiji.

Jehovah's Witnesses Founded.

1872 to 1970

Bertrand Russell, English philosopher.

1872

Civil war in Spain.

Whistler paints *The Artist's Mother*.

Mary Celeste found adrift east of the Azores; the ship was intact and unharmed, and no explanation for its abandonment has ever been found. See p. 108.

1873 to 1942

Sergei Rachmaninoff, Russian composer.

1873 to 1921

Enrico Caruso, Italian tenor.

1874 to 1926

Harry Houdini, American escape artist.

1874 to 1946

Gertrude Stein, American poet.

1874 to 1965

Winston Churchill, British statesman.

1874

Jehovah's Witnesses predict Second Coming of Christ.

Unknown animal kills sheep in Cavan, Clare and Limerick Ireland. The creature does not eat its kills, but punctures their necks and sucks out the blood.

1875 to 1961

C.G. Jung, Swiss psychiatrist and philosopher.

1875 to 1950

Edgar Rice Burroughs, American pulp writer, creator of Tarzan.

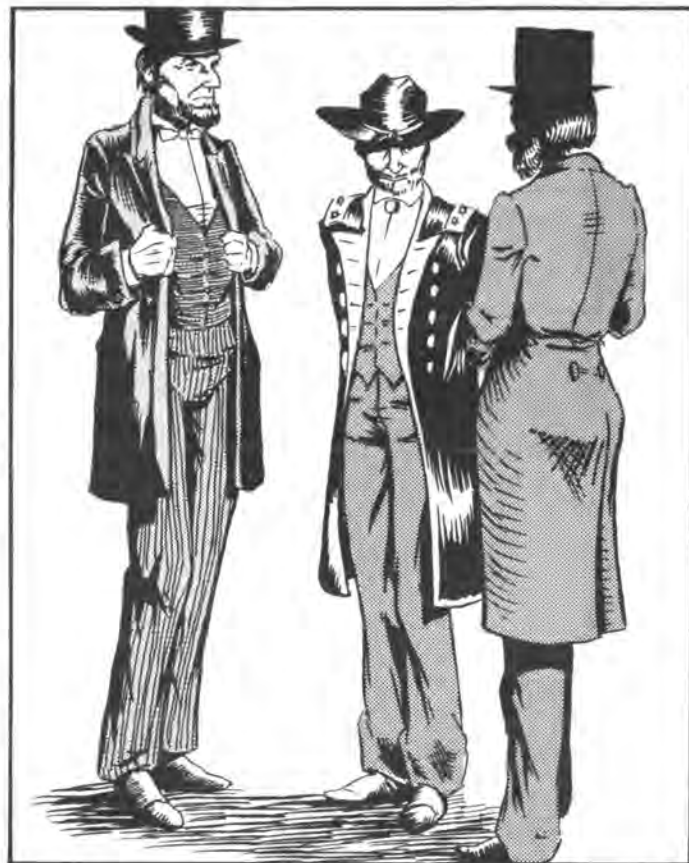
1875 to 1948

D.W. Griffith, American director.

Several names have been put forth as possible "Public Men:" John Van Buren (son of Martin Van Buren, the president), Horatio King (postmaster general of the Buchanan administration), Charles Edward Stuart (a senator from Michigan) and Henry Adams (writer, historian and a descendant of two presidents).

In 1948, Frank Maloy Anderson undertook what remains probably the most thorough inquiry into the mystery. Anderson decided that A Public Man was Sam Ward, a leading Washington lobbyist. He also decided that Ward had either made up or extensively embellished many of the incidents in the diary. Anderson's conclusion remains controversial, however, and many of his conclusions are open to question. For instance, A Public Man records President Lincoln asking him if he had ever matched his height against (Secretary of War Edwin M.) Stanton's. Stanton, like Lincoln himself, was known for his above-average height, and Anderson (and most other historians) has taken the president's remark as meaning that A Public Man was a tall individual. But Anderson's critics point out that, given Lincoln's midwest sense of humor, the remark might also be saying, with friendly irony, that the person the president was addressing was exceptionally short.

If he had access to a time machine, any serious student of the Civil War would promptly return to 1861 and try to discover the identity of A Public Man, and gauge the accuracy of his account. The trip would not be without dangers – Washington at the time was crawling with spies from the Confederacy and elsewhere, and anyone looking too closely at the daily lives of several high-ranking officials would risk a dangerous level of suspicion.



1875 to 1881

1875 to 1947

Aleister Crowley, notorious author and mystic.

1875

Rebellion in Cuba.

Mark Twain writes *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

Helena Blavatsky founds Theosophical Society.

Mary Baker Eddy publishes *Science and Health*, the foundation of Christian Science.

Bizet's *Carmen* performed in Paris.

1876 to 1916

Jack London, American novelist.

1876

Ethiopians defeat Egyptians at Gura.

Massacre of Bulgarians by Turkish troops.

Serbia and Montenegro declare war on Turkey.

Alexander Graham Bell invents the telephone.

1877 to 1945

Edgar Cayce, American trance medium.

1877 to 1962

Hermann Hesse, German author.

1877

Russia declares war on Turkey and invades Rumania.

First Kaffir War.

Edison invents phonograph.

1878

Turks capitulate to Russians; Russians take Adrianople; British fleet arrives, at Sultan's request, from Constantinople; Turkish-Russian armistice.

Russian Colonel Nikolay Przhevalsky enters Tibet. He's turned back 150 miles from Lhasa by guards of the Dalai Lama.

Billy the Kid gains notoriety in Kansas during the Lincoln County War.

1879 to 1935

Will Rogers, American humorist.

1879 to 1958

James Branch Cabell, American fantasy author.

1879 to 1955

Albert Einstein, German physicist.

1879

British Zulu war; Zulus massacre British soldiers in Isandhiwana, British capture Cetewayo.

Diary by "A Public Man" published in the *North American Review*, revealing many otherwise-unknown facts about the Lincoln administration. Diary excerpts cover Dec. 1860 to March 1861. The true identity of "A Public Man" is never revealed. See p. 106.

Apparition of the Virgin Mary seen at Knock, Ireland, on Aug. 21.

1880 to 1968

Helen Keller, American blind and deaf writer.

1880 to 1946

W.C. Fields, American film comedian.

1880

Billy the Kid surrenders to Pat Garrett and is sentenced to hang.

Apache women allegedly fill in the entrance to the "Lost Dutchman" mine in the Superstition Mountains, to conceal it from white treasure hunters. See pp. 102-105.

Giant, luminous wheel, with "spokes" 200 to 300 yards long, observed underwater in the Persian Gulf in May by the crew of the steamer *Patna*.

Dostoevsky writes *The Brothers Karamazov*.

Rodin sculpts *The Thinker*.

Gilbert and Sullivan write *The Pirates of Penzance*.

The game of Bingo is developed from an Italian game.

1881 to 1973

Pablo Picasso, Spanish artist.

1881 to 1959

Cecil B. De Mille, American film director.

1881

Transvaal Boers throw off British rule.

U.S. president James A. Garfield assassinated.

Pogroms against Jews in Russia.

The Cardiff Giant

1869

Americans in the late 19th century were wonderful hoaxers and practical jokers. Several hoaxes relating to the airship hysteria of the 1890s are discussed on p. 118. One of the most notorious and successful hoaxes of the 1800s was the Cardiff Giant.

On October 18, 1869, workers digging a well on the farm of William C. "Stub" Newell, near Cardiff, New York, discovered a massive stone figure that seemed to be the fossilized body of a giant. The figure was 10' 4½" tall, and weighed just under one and a half tons.

Several local folklorists recalled Onandaga Indian legends of great stone giants. A Yale graduate student named Alexander McWhorter claimed to discern an inscription on the figure's arm that identified it with the Phoenician god Baal. More sober experts were universally skeptical.

Despite official doubt, the giant proved tremendously popular. People began to flock to Newell's farm. On one day there were 3,000 visitors. Newell and his friend, George Hull of Binghamton, began shipping the giant around for exhibition. P.T. Barnum tried to buy the giant, and when he couldn't he had a replica made. For a while both figures were on display at the same time in New York.

After two months of unadulterated profit, George Hull told the story. Hull, an agnostic, had become disgusted with an argument about the scriptural assertion from Genesis that "there were giants in the earth in those days." Hull decided to give the faithful something to talk about.

He had a huge block of gypsum quarried in Fort Dodge, Kansas, and sent it to a stonecutter in Chicago, who carved the stone into a very rough likeness of Hull, himself. He then treated the

figure with ink and sulfuric acid, to "age" it. Then he had it shipped to Newell's farm, and Newell buried it behind the barn.

The two allowed a year to pass, so the locals wouldn't remember Newell's large shipment, then Newell ordered a well dug behind his barn. Sure enough, the workers discovered the giant. The Cardiff Giant still exists, stored in a museum in New York.

The Mystery of the *Mary Celeste*

1872

There have been many mysterious disappearances on the high seas. For example, in 1918, the naval auxiliary cargo ship *USS Cyclops* vanished without a trace between Barbados and Virginia. 304 lives were lost, and no bodies or debris were ever found. Naval experts believe that the *Cyclops* may have suddenly snapped in the middle, sinking so suddenly that it had no time to leave any significant debris on the surface. But that is only a theory, and the wreck has never been found. The *Cyclops* was America's largest single naval loss in World War I, and it remains a complete mystery.

The most famous "mystery ship" is certainly the *Mary Celeste*.

The *Mary Celeste* was a small cargo brig built in 1860. Just before her final voyage she was enlarged and refitted. She left New York harbor on November 7, carrying a cargo of 1,701 barrels of crude alcohol, bound for Genoa, Italy and valued at about \$37,000. On board were Captain Benjamin Spooner Briggs, his wife Sara Elizabeth and their two-year-old daughter Sophia Matilda (their son, Arthur, remained behind to start school), and seven crewmen. Though only 37, Captain Briggs was an experienced ship's master from a nautical family. The crew was likewise young but experienced, mostly of German descent, and by all accounts of excellent character. Captain

1881 to 1887

1881 Continued

The gunfight at the O.K. Corral, Kansas; outlaws Ike and Billy Clanton and Frank and Tom McLawry face lawmen Wyatt, Morgan and Virgil Earp and Doc Holliday, Oct. 26.

Mother Shipton predicts the end of the world this year and the next.

1882 to 1941

James Joyce, Irish novelist.

1882

British fleet bombards Alexandria, Egypt, troops land at Suez Canal, occupy Cairo.

Publication of the book *Atlantis* by Ignatius Loyola Donnelly sets off an international Atlantis craze.

1883 to 1974

Samuel Goldwyn, Hollywood producer.

1883 to 1924

Franz Kafka, Austrian author.

1883

British general William Hicks and his forces are wiped out by forces of the Sudanese Mahdi, a radical religious leader; British nationals evacuated from the Sudan.

Krakatoa, in the straits of Sunda, erupts.

1884

Mark Twain writes *Huckleberry Finn*.

Gold discovered in the Transvaal.

Former British Sudanese governor "Chinese" Gordon rescues some 2,500 women, children and wounded men from Khartoum, but is hemmed in the city by the forces of the Mahdi.

Young Bigfoot-like creature, dubbed "Jacko," reported captured by railroad men in British Columbia.

1885 to 1930

D.H. Lawrence, English novelist.

1885

The Mahdi takes Khartoum and massacres Gordon and his forces.

A fiery mass falls into the sea off Yokohama, raising a tremendous wave with its crash. The Captain and crew of the bark *Innerwich* observe the fall.

English scientist Francis Galton discovers identification by fingerprints.

First successful rabies vaccine administered by Louis Pasteur in France.

Gilbert and Sullivan write *The Mikado*.

1886 to 1950

Al Jolson, American popular singer.

1886

The Statue of Liberty, a gift from France, is dedicated in New York Harbor.

Wowoka begins to preach the Ghost Dance religion to American Indians.

Robert Louis Stevenson publishes *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and *Kidnapped*.

1887 to 1969

Boris Karloff, American/British actor.



Briggs considered himself most fortunate to have gathered such an exemplary crew.

The *Mary Celeste* was next seen on December 4, by the Canadian bark *Dei Gratia*, heading from New York to Gibraltar. The ships were due east of the Azores, about halfway between the Azores and the coast of Spain.

The crew of the *Dei Gratia* found the *Mary Celeste* intact and partially rigged, although some of the sails and rigging appeared to have been blown away. The cargo hatches were open. The binnacle, a wooden compass stand, had been knocked over and the compass was destroyed. The wheel was unlashed and undamaged. The forward deck house was full of water, and there was a good deal of water between decks. There was no ship's boat. Despite the superficial damage the ship seemed to be in excellent condition.

In the captain's cabin, the men of the *Dei Gratia* found everything soaked through, but otherwise undamaged. The captain's bed was unmade, and there was an impression of a child's body having laid there. A decorative sword was stowed under the bed, and a rosewood harmonium stood against the wall, sheet music still in place. The Captain's chronometer, sextant, navigation book, ship's registration and other papers were all missing.

Of the Captain, his family and his crew, there was not a trace.

The mate's cabin was not soaked, and inside the searchers found a log book. The last entry in the book was 8:00 AM, November 25, recording that they had just passed the island of Santa Maria in the Azores, 600 miles from her present position.

In the galley they found a barrel of flour $\frac{2}{3}$ full, and washing hanging on the line. The cargo was undamaged in the hold.

Throughout the ship there was no sign anywhere of violence, fire, or extreme bad weather. The only exception were two unexplained notches, as though from an axe, on the rail and the bow.



1887 to 1893

1887 to 1968

Marcel Duchamp, French-American artist.

1887

Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle publishes *A Study in Scarlet*, the first Sherlock Holmes story.

Edison and Swan combine to produce Edison electrical lamps.

1888 to 1889

Irving Berlin, American songwriter.

1888 to 1965

T.S. Eliot, Anglo-American poet.

1888 to 1953

Eugene O'Neill, American dramatist.

1888 to 1953

Jim Thorpe, all-around athlete.

1888 to 1951

Huddie "Leadbelly" Ledbetter, folk singer and composer.

1888 to 1935

T.E. Lawrence, "Lawrence of Arabia."

1888

"Jack the Ripper" murders in London.

George Eastman perfects the "Kodak" box camera.

Sir Richard Burton compiles and publishes *The Arabian Nights*.

Madame Blavatsky publishes *The Secret Doctrine*.

1889 to 1945

Adolph Hitler, Nazi dictator.

1889 to 1977

Charles Chaplin, British film comedian and director.

1889

Worldwide influenza epidemic begins.

A dam breaks in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, causing a major flood; looters and vigilantes create chaos after the waters recede.

Crown Prince Rudolph of Austria apparently shoots his mistress, Marie Vetsera, then shoots himself.

1890 to 1977

Julius "Groucho" Marx, American film comedian.

1890 to 1944

Sister Aimee Semple McPherson, U.S. fundamentalist preacher.

1890 to 1937

Howard Phillips Lovecraft, American fantasy author.

1890

300 Sioux Indians massacred by American soldiers at Wounded Knee, SD. This event marked the end of the Indian Wars, and the end of the Ghost Dance religion.

1891 to 1976

Agatha Christie, British mystery writer.

1891 to 1951

Fanny Brice, American burlesque comedian.

1891

Widespread famine in Russia.

Earthquake in Japan kills as many as 10,000.

New Scotland Yard opens in London.

1892

A series of explosions occurs along the English Channel, continuing for several years; no explanation is ever offered.

1892 to 1973

J.R.R. Tolkien, British scholar and fantasy author.

1893 to 1964

Cole Porter, American songwriter.

1893

World exhibition in Chicago.

Oliver Deveau, first mate of the *Dei Gratia*, persuaded his captain to let him take the *Mary Celeste* to port and claim her for salvage. Deveau pumped out the excess water, repaired the minor damage to the sails and rigging, replaced the compass with one borrowed from the *Dei Gratia* and set sail with only two other crewmen. On November 13, the *Mary Celeste* put into port at Gibraltar, only a few hours behind the *Dei Gratia*. Deveau and his tiny crew had accomplished a superb feat of seamanship, but he was to gain little but trouble for it.

Frederick Solly Flood, the British Advocate General of Gibraltar, had the responsibility of making the inquiry into the fate of the *Mary Celeste*. Flood was a 71-year-old bureaucrat, stubborn and self-important. He immediately suspected the crew of the *Dei Gratia* of some sort of foul play – which was reasonable, at first, but Flood continued to hold onto that suspicion long after the weight of evidence should have cleared the finders. In spite of several exhaustive searches of the *Mary Celeste* no sign of violence was ever found. Flood did think he'd found bloodstains on the deck near the mysterious notches, but analysis revealed them to be wine stains.

Eventually the admiralty court awarded the crew of the *Dei Gratia* salvage equal to 1/5 of the assessed value of the *Mary Celeste*. This was a rather insulting figure – salvage fees more typically ran between 1/3 and 1/2 the ship's value. This low award can be attributed partly to Flood's continuing suspicions, and partly to the fact that the captain of the *Dei Gratia*, frustrated by the red tape and suspicion, and eager to deliver his own cargo to Genoa, had left Gibraltar before the inquiry was complete, annoying the court by his absence.

Speculation about the fate of the crew was running rife. Several people believed that the crew had got into the cargo one night,

became violently drunk, and murdered the captain and his family. Appalled by their actions, they threw the bodies overboard and took the ship's boat to the Azores, where they were either lost or were hiding out among the natives. None of the crew were known as violent men, however, nor was the Captain considered a harsh master. Most significantly, the cargo was *crude* alcohol. Any crewman sneaking a tippie from the hold would end up horribly ill, or, most probably, dead – but certainly not violently insane.

Others suggested a barratry – or insurance fraud – scheme. They thought that Briggs had deliberately abandoned ship to collect, through his partners, a share of the insurance. Or perhaps Briggs and Morehouse, the captain of the *Dei Gratia*, were conspiring to split the salvage. Neither suggestion held water. The *Mary Celeste* was adequately, but not overly insured. Briggs was cut in for a healthy share of the profits from the voyage, and he stood to gain more from safely delivering his cargo than from any possible combination of insurance money and salvage awards.

Piracy was, of course, suggested. But the era of pirates was decades in the past. And the absence of signs of violence and the intact cargo both left little room for pirates.

One of the stranger, yet actually more feasible theories is that the crew were killed and eaten by some sea monster or giant squid. Incredible as it sounds, there are reliable records of sea creatures large enough to effortlessly snatch a human off the deck of a ship the size of the *Mary Celeste*. This theory also explains the notches in the rail, as traces of futile attempts to fight off the monster with an axe. But would such a savage creature have grabbed each and every member of the crew off the ship with such delicacy? Surely there would have been some visible damage. And surely the captain's wife and child, or at least one crewman, would have hidden below decks, out of the creature's reach.

1893 to 1898

1893 Continued

Flooding caused by hurricane winds devastate U.S. South Atlantic Coast, killing 2,000.

Forged encyclical under the name of Pope Leo XIII purports to release all Catholics from any oath of allegiance to the U.S., and orders that Catholics "exterminate all heretics" in the U.S. on a given date.

Luminous body, seen by persons in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina on the morning of Dec. 20, passes overhead from west to east, then stands still for 15 or 20 minutes, then vanishes.

1894 to 1978

Norman Rockwell, American illustrator and painter.

1894 to 1974

Jack Benny, American comedian.

1894 to 1973

Edward G. Robinson, American film actor.

1894

Japan declares war on China and installs a puppet ruler on the throne of Korea.

First wireless.

Kipling writes *The Jungle Book*.

Louis Lumière invents the cinematograph.

Gramophone discs replace cylinders.

1895 to 1948

Babe Ruth, baseball legend.

1895

Japanese win war against China, engineer the assassination of the Queen of Korea.

Armenians massacred in Turkey.

Italians defeated by Abyssinians at Amba Alagi.

Cuba fights Spain for independence.

Art Nouveau in vogue.

Marconi invents radio telegraph.

Auguste and Louis Lumière invent a motion-picture camera.

First professional football game played in the U.S. at Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

First U.S. Open golf championship.

1896

Klondike gold rush begins at Bonanza Creek, Canada.

First modern Olympics held in Athens.

Puccini writes the opera *La Bohème*.

Chekov writes *The Sea Gull*.

Nobel Prizes established.

Lillian Gish, American film actress born.

1897

War between Turkey and Greece.

Comic strips appear in American newspapers.

Severe famine in India.

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

Swedish explorer Solomon Andrée and two companions attempt to cross the Arctic Ocean by balloon. The balloon crashes three days out, and an attempt to return south by sledge and boat fails. They die on an island east of Spitsbergen, where their remains – including 17 rolls of undeveloped film – will not be discovered for 17 years.

Purported date of the First Zionist Congress, in Basle – fictional meeting of world Jewish leaders, purported to have produced the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion."

Winged, cigar-shaped "airship" 180' long seen in Kansas City, Chicago, Omaha, Texas and many other places in the central U.S. during the month of April. See p. 114.

Bram Stoker publishes *Dracula*.

1898 to 1968

Dorothy Gish, American film actress.

1898 to 1961

Ernest Hemingway, American author.

1898

Spanish-American War; America acquires Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines.

British General Kitchener defeats the dervish forces of the Kalifa at Omdurman.

Constitutional "Hundred-Days" movement in China suppressed by the Dowager Empress.

As the mystery was told, it grew. Journalists were soon reporting that hot, unspilled tea was found in the captain's cabin, and that a half-cooked meal was still warm in the galley, and that the ship's cat was sleeping peacefully aboard the ship when it was boarded. Such reports are nonsense – the *Mary Celeste* was found in a condition that suggested it had been drifting for at least a week, as the Mate's log entry suggested. However, these wild embellishments are still often reported as established facts of the case. Arthur Conan Doyle published a fanciful fictionalized account of the voyage, and misspelled the ship's name "Marie Celeste." That error, too, is still found in modern accounts of the mystery.

Innumerable stranger theories have been suggested involving sinking islands, UFOs and dimensional vortices. The most plausible theory, however, is a bit complex. It was suggested by Charles Edey Fay in 1942. It does not account for the notches on the rail, but they could be completely unrelated to the abandonment.

Raw alcohol combined with oxygen is highly volatile. When the *Mary Celeste's* cargo was inventoried, nine barrels of alcohol were empty. This is an entirely reasonable loss for a cargo of such size, but those leaky barrels would have produced fumes.

On the morning of November 25th, the theory goes, the hatches would have been shut for some time, due to the weather. Perhaps there was a small explosion in the hold – alcohol burns so fast and clean that an explosion capable of rocking the ship would have left no visible marks. There was a drainage hole between the galley and the hold that could have admitted a spark, and spontaneous combustion is even possible. Or perhaps the

captain just became alarmed at the fumes that came out of the hold when the hatches were opened.

At any rate, concerned for the safety of his family and crew, the captain may have ordered the hatches opened to ventilate the hold, then launched the ship's boat and ordered all hands into it, leaving all daily tasks except the quickest and most trivial undone. The ship's boat was stowed in an unconventional spot over the main cargo hatch, and the compass stand had to be removed to launch the boat. A light line was found missing when the ship was searched, and the theory suggests that this line was used to attach the boat to the ship. The plan was to let the drifting ship tow the boat for a few hours, until the holds were safely ventilated.

Something, however, went wrong. Perhaps a squall came up. The tether came undone at the ship's rail, and the crew, crowded in the tiny boat, were lost trying to regain their ship. The *Mary Celeste* sailed on, alone.

Plausible though it may be, it all remains pure speculation. *Time Travel* GMs can use any explanation that appeals to them.

Suppose, for instance, that the Time Patrol wanted to launch a scientific expedition on the seas of the Jurassic era. The best vehicle for the job is a small sailing vessel. Where in history is the best place to find an experienced crew that won't be missed?

The Mahdi

1885

One of the most misunderstood, unfairly ignored figures of the late 19th century is the Mahdi, the radical Moslem leader who carved out a large but short-lived nation in northern Africa.

1898 to 1905

1898 Continued

H.G. Wells writes *The War of the Worlds*.
Pierre and Marie Curie discover radium.

1899 to 1974

Duke Ellington, jazz musician.

1899 to 1957

Humphrey Bogart, American actor.

1899

Boer War between Britain and South Africa begins.

Oscar Wilde writes *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

1900 to 1971

Louis Armstrong, American jazz trumpeter.

1900 to 1950

Kurt Weill, German composer.

1900

Boxer Rebellion in China against Europeans.

Count Zeppelin launches 420-foot airship.

Reports of sea monsters widespread.

New Orleans musician Buddy Bolden forms what he will later claim to be the first jazz band.

1901 to 1966

Walt Disney, animator and film producer.

1901 to 1961

Gary Cooper, American movie actor.

1901 to 1960

Clark Gable, American movie actor.

1901

President McKinley assassinated.

1902 to 1968

John Steinbeck, American writer.

1903 to 1968

Tallulah Bankhead, American film actress.



1903 to 1941

Lou Gehrig, baseball great.

1903

Orville and Wilbur Wright first fly a powered airplane.

Anti-Jewish pogroms in Russia.

602 killed in fire at Iroquois Theater, Chicago, prompting nationwide institution of fire codes.

Col. Francis Younghusband becomes the first European to enter Lhasa, Tibet. His expedition massacres 700 Tibetans at Guru, due to a mistake.

Jack London writes *The Call of the Wild*.

Edison's *The Great Train Robbery* is the longest film to date, at 12 minutes.

Ford Motor company founded.

Teddy bears (named after president Theodore Roosevelt) introduced.

First Tour de France bicycle race.

1904 to 1977

Bing Crosby, American singer and movie star.

1904

Japanese win war against Russia.

James Barrie writes *Peter Pan*.

Helen Keller graduates from Radcliffe College.

Work begins on the Panama Canal.

1,000 die in fire of steamship *General Slocum* near Manhattan.

1905 to 1976

Howard Hughes, American billionaire, aviator, filmmaker and recluse.

To the Shi'ite Moslems, the "mahdi" is the semi-legendary figure who will come to lead Islam to its final earthly victory.

The Sudanese Mahdi was born Muhammad Ahmad ibn As-Sayyid 'abd Allah in 1844. His father was a shipbuilder in Nubia. Muhammad Ahmad showed a scholarly bent from earliest childhood, and his studies always led him away from orthodoxy, into more mystical schools of Islam.

He joined the Sammaniyah, a religious brotherhood, in order to separate himself from the worldly life. Soon, the young scholar was attracting disciples of his own. In 1870, Muhammad Ahmad and his followers moved to a hermitage on Aba Island on the White Nile.

His uncompromising theology brought him into conflict with his *shaykh* (teacher), whom he accused of worldliness. The shaykh expelled Muhammad from the circle of disciples. Muhammad Ahmad requested forgiveness, but when it was denied he joined the circle of a rival shaykh.

Between 1880 and 1881, Muhammad Ahmad experienced a gradual revelation. He became convinced that the entire ruling class of the Sudan had abandoned Islam, and was therefore unfit to rule. At the time, the Sudan was under the rule of the Ottoman Empire, which was in turn a puppet of the English. In March of 1881, Muhammad Ahmad revealed to his disciples that he believed he had been given a divine mission to purify Islam and destroy ungodly governments. On June 29 he publicly assumed the title al-Mahdi.

The Mahdi found it easy to find citizens discontented with the status quo, but his achievement was forging these fractious and

mutually-contradictory minorities into a single effective fighting force. The Mahdi's forces started out as a few angry religious scholars armed with sticks and spears. Within four years, he controlled most of northeast Africa, including millions in captured funds and treasure, and a formidable arsenal of Krupp artillery and Remington rifles.

By 1883, the Mahdi had defeated three Egyptian armies. The last was a force of 8,000 commanded by General William Hicks, which the Mahdi's forces annihilated almost to the last man.

He captured two important cities, El Obeid and Bara, and began to act as a head of state, in addition to being a military commander. He began to collect taxes as mandated in the Qu'ran. For all the sternness of this system, it was an improvement over the corruption of the former regime.

The Mahdi proved himself a master of propaganda, always able to make his enemies appear in the wrong. He began to win allies in Arabia and western Africa.

In 1884, the British sent the popular general Charles "Chinese" Gordon to evacuate the Egyptian forces from Khartoum. Gordon arrived in February, and the Mahdi besieged the city a month later. On January 26, 1885, the Mahdi took the city. Gordon was killed in the battle, despite the Mahdi's explicit orders to the contrary, and many citizens of the city were slaughtered.

To the British, the Mahdi was their deepest fear come to life – a non-white, non-Christian rabble rouser successfully leading the common people to throw off British rule. The English press demonized the Mahdi, portraying him as cruel, lascivious tyrant. The death of Gordon was particularly reviled. Many historians,

1905 to 1912

1905 to 1957

Christian Dior, Paris fashion designer.

1905

Einstein formulates Special Theory of Relativity.

Unrest in Russia; sailors mutiny on the battleship *Potemkin*.

International Workers of the World ("Wobblies") – radical labor movement – formed.

Sun Yat-sen unifies secret societies of China.

"Protocols of the Elders of Zion" first published by religious mystic Sergei Nilus.

3,000-carat Cullinan diamond found.

Baroness Orczy writes *The Scarlet Pimpernel*.

1906 to 1936

Robert Ervin Howard, American fantasy author, creator of Conan.

1906

"Typhoid Mary," carrier of typhoid fever, found and jailed.

San Francisco earthquake kills 700, \$400 million in property loss.

Lusitania and *Mauretania* launched.

Road Amundsen navigates the Northwest Passage.

1907 to 1979

John Wayne, American film actor.

1908 to 1989

Mel Blanc, American vocal actor.

1908 to 1977

Joan Crawford, American film actress.

1908 to 1964

Ian Fleming, English author.

1908

Abdul Hafid proclaimed Sultan of Morocco; defeats his enemy Abdul Aziz at Marrakesh.

A mysterious explosion in the Siberian wilderness flattens trees in a 35-mile radius, is heard 500 miles away and produces atmospheric effects seen worldwide. See p. 118.

Kenneth Grahame writes *The Wind in the Willows*.

150,000 killed in earthquake in southern Calabria and Sicily.

Ford produces the Model T.

1909

Robert E. Peary reaches the North Pole.

Unidentified object, like a dirigible with a powerful searchlight, seen over Boston in December. The following month, a similar object is seen in Tennessee.

Multiple sightings of luminous UFOs over England in March and May. These events are dismissed by the press as the work of hoaxers.

S.S. *Waratah*, 6,000-ton passenger and cargo liner, lost off South Africa while carrying over 200 passengers and crew. No bodies or debris are ever found.

1910

Revolt in Albania.

Revolution in Portugal; King Manuel II flees to England; Portugal becomes a republic.

Tango becomes popular.

1911

First offensive use of aircraft in warfare during the Turkish-Italian war; Italians win decisively.

Revolution in Central China; republic proclaimed; end of Manchu dynasty (in power since 1644).

Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* stolen from the Louvre in Paris (found in Italy, 1913).

1912 to 1977

Werner von Braun, German/American rocket scientist.

1912 to 1965

Woody Guthrie, American folk singer.

1912 to 1956

Jackson Pollock, American painter.

1912

S.S. *Titanic* sinks on her maiden voyage; 1,513 drowned.

Balkan wars begin between Turkey and Eastern European nations.

Residents of Warmley, England, observe "a splendidly illuminated aeroplane, passing over the village."

C.G. Jung writes *The Theory of Psychoanalysis*.

however, have speculated that Gordon had disregarded his orders to evacuate the city – despite several opportunities to do so – and was making a deliberate effort to defend Khartoum.

Having forced the British out of his realm, the Mahdi abandoned Khartoum and began to consolidate his empire from his new capitol of Omdurman. His natural skills as a propagandist were used to the greatest possible advantage, due to the capture of the national press intact, along with an enormous supply of paper. Soon sermons, proclamations and letters from the Mahdi were being posted all over the country.

The Mahdi was a slender man, slightly taller than average. He had a soft voice that could become terrible with anger or indignation. His face was sensitive and patient, with large, piercing eyes.

In 1885, the Mahdi became ill, probably with typhus. He died in June, only 41 years old. 'Abd Allah, one of his "caliphs," or four senior officials, took command of the nation. After the Mahdi's death the Egyptians and English resumed in earnest their plans to take back northern Africa. The Mahdi's military coalition was effectively destroyed at the battle of Omdurman in 1898, and 'abd Allah himself was killed a year later at the final battle of Dabaykarat. The Mahdi's son reorganized his father's followers into a political unit. The Mahdists remained a presence in Sudanese politics until the country fell to a leftist revolution in 1970.

If the Mahdi could be kept alive through ultra-tech medicine, there seems a strong chance that his nation could have survived well into the 20th century. The presence of a strong, fundamentalist Islamic state in North Africa would have had a subtle but pervasive influence on the 20th century. The revolutionary Afri-

can factionalism of the last 30 years becomes less likely, and the tragic Ethiopian famine of the last 20 years could probably be avoided. The important African campaigns of the two World Wars might have been conducted very differently. A strong Muslim state in North Africa would also change the balance of power in the Arabic world, possibly having major effects on the creation of Israel and subsequent conflicts, like the Six-Day War.

If a time meddler wanted to preserve the Mahdi's Islamic state, in addition to prolonging the Mahdi's life he would be well-advised to influence General Gordon to carry out his orders and evacuate Khartoum. If, as seems likely, the Mahdi had allowed the evacuation to proceed relatively unmolested, this would deprive the British of a martyr and major rallying point, making violent reprisals against the Mahdi that much less likely in the future.

Votes, Bloomers and Hatchets

1890

In the 19th century, society's attitudes toward women changed fundamentally and permanently. Probably the most famous and influential advocate of woman's rights was Susan B. Anthony. Anthony was born to a family of Quaker abolitionists, and after the Civil War she redirected her activist energies to seeking for women of all races the same rights now extended to male ex-slaves. Her actions led directly to the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, passed in 1929, 14 years after her death.

Anthony's movement attracted several colorful characters. One of these was Amelia Jenks Bloomer, who tried to reform women's dress in 1850. In an era that required ladies of breeding to submit to infinite layers of undergarments – all over that fiend-

1913 to 1921

1913 to 1973

Walt Kelly, cartoonist, creator of *Pogo*.

1913

American journalist and iconoclast Ambrose Bierce disappears while attempting to find Pancho Villa in Mexico. See p. 120.

1914 to 1970

Gypsy Rose Lee, American exotic dancer.

1914

Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the Austrian throne, and his wife assassinated in Sarajevo June 28, beginning World War 1.

U.S. Marines occupy Vera Cruz Mexico.

Alexandra David-Néel, French Buddhist, disguises herself as an Asian and, with the help of only one Asian servant, becomes the first European woman to visit Tibet.

Jehovah's Witnesses predict the end of the world in this year.

Edgar Rice Burroughs writes *Tarzan of the Apes*.

1915 to 1959

Billie Holiday, American singer.

1915

WWI; Germans sink *Lusitania*; first zeppelin attack on London.

D.W. Griffith directs *Birth of a Nation*.

Einstein postulates his General Theory of Relativity.

1916

WWI; British first use tanks on Western Front; gas masks and steel helmet first used by German army.

Francisco "Pancho" Villa crosses border for guerrilla raid on Columbus, New Mexico, killing 17 Americans; Gen. John J. Pershing pursues Villa with 6,000 troops but cannot find him.

1917

WWI; bread rationed in Britain; February Revolution in Russia, Czar abdicates March 16; U.S. declares war on Germany; Lenin takes power in Russia Nov. 7.

The Allies execute dancer Mata Hari as a spy.

Apparition of the Virgin Mary seen at Fatima, Portugal, between May 13 and Oct. 13.

1918

Armistice signed Nov. 11.

Ex-Czar Nicholas II and family executed.

U.S.S. *Cyclops*, a 10,000-ton Naval Auxiliary cargo ship, is lost with 304 passengers and crew between Barbados and Norfolk, Virginia, in March. No crew or debris are ever found.

James Joyce's *Ulysses* censored by U.S. post office.

World-wide influenza epidemic kills nearly 22 million by 1920.

Knute Rockne named head football coach at the University of Notre Dame.

1919 to 1965

Nat "King" Cole, American singer and pianist.

1919

Prohibition amendment (18th) to U.S. Constitution passed.

President Wilson presides over first League of Nations meeting in Paris.

Race riots in Chicago.

Several flights cross the Atlantic.

1920

U.S. Senate votes against joining League of Nations.

19th Amendment gives American women the vote.

Earthquake in Kansu province, China, kills 100,000.

Prohibition in the U.S.

Adolf Hitler announces his 25-point program at the Hofbräuhaus, Munich.

Gandhi emerges as India's leader in its struggle for independence.

KDKA, first commercial radio station, on the air in Pittsburgh.

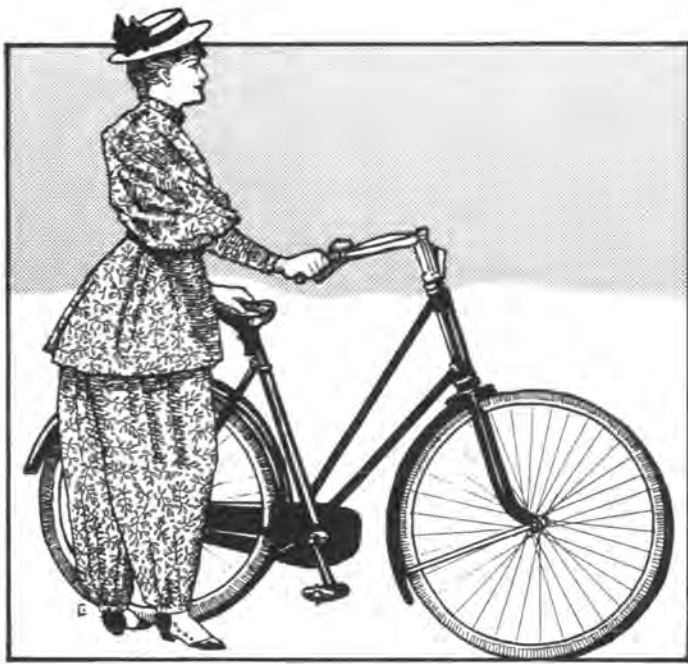
First Miss America crowned in Atlantic city.

1921 to 1936

Leonid Kulik leads four expeditions to discover the source of the Great Siberian Explosion (see p. 118).

1921

Hitler's storm troopers begin to terrorize political opponents.



ish instrument of torture, the whalebone corset – Bloomer advocated loose, comfortable clothing for women.

Bloomer campaigned for her “rational dress” in *The Lily*, the biweekly magazine she published from 1849 to 1854. Her “rational dress” consisted of a short jacket, a skirt with a hemline below the knee, and loose “Turkish” trousers gathered at the ankles. The billowing trousers became known universally as “Bloomers.”

For a while, Susan B. Anthony adopted Bloomer’s costume on her lecture tours, but it was widely satirized and never really caught on. A similar style, also called “bloomers,” came into vogue in 1890, during a national craze for bicycles, as practical cycling dress for women. The term “bloomer” also has been applied to divided skirts and baggy underwear for women.

Certainly the most colorful woman’s activist of the 19th century was Carry Nation, who terrorized sinners in Kansas around

the turn of the century. Like Anthony and Bloomer, Nation was a prohibitionist and a suffragette, but she was less interested in civil rights for women than in purging the nation of the evils of drink. She wanted to give women the vote only so they could pass legislation against alcohol and other sinful indulgences of the male sex.

She became a temperance activist in 1890, when the Supreme Court passed a decision in favor of the importation and sale of liquor from other states in the “original packages.” This weakened the prohibition laws of Kansas.

“Activist” is probably too weak a word for Nation’s behavior. “Terrorist” comes closer to the mark. Her reasoning was straightforward – the saloons in Kansas existed without legal sanction, therefore anybody could destroy them with impunity.

Dressed in stark black and white, alone or accompanied by a cadre of hymn-singing women, Nation would burst into a saloon and sing, pray, shout imprecations in Biblical-sounding oratory, and destroy the bar with a hatchet, smashing the fixtures, furniture and stock with equal vigor.

Although over 50, Nation was no tiny granny. She stood almost 6 feet tall and weighed 175 pounds. Physically, she was a match for any drunken farm-hand who might try to stop her.

On one occasion she invaded the governor’s office at Topeka. Arrested many times, she paid her fines through lecture fees and the sale of souvenir hatchets. It is estimated that she earned as much as \$300 a week in donations.

In addition to alcohol, Nation was against fraternal orders, tobacco, foreign foods, corsets, short skirts and indecent art. She died in 1911.

Airship!

1896

The first modern UFO sighting is considered to have occurred in 1947, when Kenneth Arnold sighted a line of glowing disks from his private plane near Seattle Washington.

Mysterious lights in the sky were really nothing new, however. During WWII, American fighter pilots saw enough unexplained aerial phenomenon to have a name for them – “Foo Fighters.” Earlier, in 1909, mysterious flying lights were seen over England.

1921 to 1924

1921 Continued

Mao Tse-tung founds the Hunan cell of the Chinese Communist party.

Chaplin makes *The Kid*.

Ku Klux Klan violence throughout the south against blacks and their sympathizers.

William Wrigley introduces chewing gum.

Emily Post publishes *Etiquette*.

15,000 physicians apply for license to prescribe whiskey.

More than a dozen ships disappear without a trace during the year.

1922 to 1969

Judy Garland, American movie star.

1922 to 1969

Jack Kerouac, American author.

1922

Mussolini forms Fascist government in Italy.

T.S. Eliot writes “The Waste Land.”

Charles Atlas wins “World’s Most Perfectly Developed Man” contest.

King Tutankhamen’s tomb opened by Lord Carnarvon.

1923

Centers of Tokyo and Yokohama destroyed by earthquake, 120,000 dead.

Beer Hall Putsch – Hitler’s coup d’etat – fails in Munich.

Sun Yat-sen appoints Chiang Kai-shek to fight the warlords.

Martial law established in Oklahoma to protect people and property from Ku Klux Klan.

George Gershwin writes *Rhapsody in Blue*.

Argentine Enrique Tiriboschi first man to swim the English Channel.

1924

Hitler serves eight months of five-year sentence.

J. Edgar Hoover appointed director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a post he will hold until 1972.

Zinoviev Letter published. See p. 123.

Will Rogers, U.S. comedian, at the height of his career.



And still earlier, in 1896 and 1897, the "airship" had toured the western half of the U.S.

The airship sightings began in Sacramento, California, on the evening of November 17, 1896. That night, hundreds of people saw a bright light moving slowly over the city, somewhere between the rooftops and the heavy black clouds. Some people saw more than one light. Many thought they saw a dark, roughly cylindrical body behind the light.

That same night, at approximately the same time, the light was also seen in San Francisco by several people, including most of the domestic staff of the mayor's house (the mayor himself was out that night).

The publicity generated by the sightings led to several people claiming to have previously seen the airship. Perhaps the earliest credible sighting was by a Sacramento astronomer named Swift, who had seen three mysterious lights at sundown on September 20. At the time, he had suspected the lights were a new comet, but he had not been able to find them again.

Over the next few days, the airship spread its range. On the

evening of Nov. 24th, it was seen in Tacoma, Washington, and San Jose, California, within the same half hour. Tacoma and San Jose are about 750 miles apart. By the end of the month, the airship had been seen over Los Angeles.

In Sacramento, the airship sightings set off a major war in the press, between the pro-airship *Call* and William Randolph Hurst's *Examiner*, which took an aggressive anti-airship stance. The *Examiner* accused the *Call* of faking the sightings, using lighted balloons, and the *Call* countered by accusing the *Examiner* of sending up obvious fakes, to confuse the issue.

Strangely, despite the *Examiner's* radical stance, Hurst's new East Coast paper, the *New York Journal*, took a markedly positive attitude towards the mystery, painting the airship as a major scientific breakthrough. Some students of UFOs have found Hurst's two-faced editorial policy on the airship rather sinister, given his influence over public opinion.

Most people regarded the airship as the work of some human genius, who was testing his discovery before announcing it to the world. Before the end of November, though, there were those

1925 to 1933

1925 to 1990

Sammy Davis, Jr., American entertainer.

1925 to 1975

Rod Serling, American T.V. announcer and producer.

1925

Hitler reorganizes the Nazi Party and publishes Vol. 1 of *Mein Kampf*.

"Scopes Monkey Trial" - John T. Scopes arrested for teaching the theory of evolution.

Colonel Percy Harrison Fawcett, his son and his son's friend search for a ruined city in the jungles of Brazil, and are lost.

F. Scott Fitzgerald writes *The Great Gatsby*.

Eisenstein films *Battleship Potemkin*.

Charleston dance introduced.

1926 to 1962

Marilyn Monroe, American movie star.

1926

English mystery writer Agatha Christie vanishes for several weeks in December. She is found in a hotel several weeks later, living under a false name. On her return she remembers none of her former acquaintances.

1927

Charles A. Lindbergh becomes first man to fly solo across the Atlantic.

The Jazz Singer, the first talking picture, starring Al Jolson.

Hermann Hesse writes *Steppenwolf*.

Harlem Globetrotters basketball team organized by Abe Saperstein.

1928

Chiang Kai-shek defeats the last of the warlords and takes Peking. Chinese republic founded July 6.

Al Capone convicted for carrying concealed weapons.

Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin.

First scheduled television broadcasts by WGY, Schenectady, N.Y.

J.L. Baird demonstrates color T.V.

Amelia Earhart is first woman to fly across the Atlantic.

Disney creates Mickey Mouse.

Ravel writes *Bolero*.

1929 to 1982

Princess Grace of Monaco; American movie star (as Grace Kelly) who gave up her film career to marry Prince Rainier III of Monaco.

1929

Great Depression begins with collapse of New York Stock Exchange on Oct. 29, "Black Thursday."

Arabs attack Jews in Palestine in disputes over Jewish use of the Wailing Wall.

Faulkner writes *The Sound and the Fury*.

Hemingway writes *A Farewell to Arms*.

Talkies kill silent films.

St. Valentine's Day Massacre: six notorious Chicago gangsters gunned to death by members of a rival gang.

1930

Revolutions in Brazil and Argentina.

Planet Pluto discovered at Lowell Observatory.

Grant Wood paints *American Gothic*.

Seventy-seven die and 300 stricken by mysterious poisonous fog in Belgium on Dec. 5.

Fire at the Ohio State Penitentiary traps and kills 322 in locked cells.

1931

Al Capone jailed for income tax evasion.

Eugene O'Neill writes *Mourning Becomes Electra*.

Jehovah's Witnesses formed from International Bible Students Association.

Salvatore Dali paints *Persistence of Memory*.

Chaplain makes *City Lights*.

Boris Karloff stars in *Frankenstein*.

"Star Spangled Banner" becomes official U.S. national anthem.

Empire State Building completed in New York.

1932

17,000 ex-servicemen march on Washington to demand veteran's benefits.

Indian congress declared illegal; Gandhi arrested.

Aldous Huxley writes *Brave New World*.

Olympic swimmer Johnny Weismuller appears in his first Tarzan film.

Shirley Temple (age 4) makes her first film.

Amelia Earhart becomes first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic.

Charles Lindbergh's infant child kidnapped.

Apparition of the Virgin Mary seen at Beauraing, Belgium, between November 29 and January 3, 1933.

1933

Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany.

Hitler granted dictatorial powers; Nazis erect first concentration camps.

Chicago World's Fair opens.

Prohibition repealed in the U.S.

Court ruling allows James Joyce's *Ulysses* into the U.S.

All books by non-Nazi and Jewish authors burned in Germany.

King Kong released.

Widespread starvation in U.S.S.R.

Mr. & Mrs. John McKay sight "an enormous animal rolling and plunging" in Loch Ness - beginning of modern monster sightings in the Loch. Big game hunter M.A. Weatherall goes in December to track down the monster, without success.

Apparition of the Virgin Mary seen at Banneaux, Belgium.

Gertrude Stein writes *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*.

who charged that the airship was not of this earth. At least one witness, Colonel H.G. Shaw of Stockton, claims that he was accosted by three tall, slender aliens as he drove his buggy through the countryside one evening.

George D. Collins was a young Sacramento attorney who, since early November, had been hinting to several people locally that he was representing a new client, an eccentric genius who had invented an airship. No one paid much attention until the object was actually seen on the 17th. Collins became an instant celebrity. In the face of increasingly hostile scrutiny from the press, however, Collins began to back off his story. At first he claimed to have actually seen the airship, later he said he had only heard it described by its mysterious inventor. Based on clues dropped by Collins, the papers pegged a dentist, Dr. E.H. Benjamin, as the inventor of the airship. Benjamin was a client of Collins', and a bit of an inventor, although all his inventions had to do with dentistry. He denied any connection with the airship from the start, and soon fled town to escape publicity.

As Collins backed off from the airship, his place in the headlines was seized by William Henry Harrison Hart, former attorney general of California, and a flamboyant publicity hound. Hart claimed that the inventor had fired Collins and retained Hart to replace him. In a series of confused interviews, Hart held forth on the nature of the airship. His most dramatic revelation was that the machine was being readied to bomb Havana harbor.

By mid-December the airship had slipped out of the pages of the California papers, but then it moved east.

On February 2, the *Omaha Bee* reported that the airship had been seen over Hastings, Nebraska, since "some time last fall." The airship was reported again on February 5. The *Bee* said that it had been seen over a small town south of Hastings, and took pains to point out that the witnesses were returning from a prayer meeting, and therefore unlikely to be under the influence of alcohol. On February 16th, the ship visited Omaha itself.

As in California, the midwest sightings soon produced candidates for the mysterious inventor of the airship, and candidates for hoaxers. In general the midwest sightings tended to be more extravagant and extreme than the California reports. On April 16 the *Table Rock Argus* reported that several upstanding citizens had seen the airship passing low and slow enough for the citizens to look through the windows and see what seemed to be a scene of foul play. A lady appeared to be bound to a chair, while another waited on her. Nearby, an armed cad kept a watch over the captive. It was a scene straight out of the least restrained adventure stories of the day. Many of the reports were even more absurd – they were frankly humorous tall tales, of the sort favored by midwesterners of that era. Nonetheless, amidst all the blame remained a solid core of stable citizens who apparently saw something in the sky they genuinely could not explain. As in California, the most credible sightings were of floating lights, with only the hint or the assumption of some sort of solid craft behind them.

In April the airship expanded its range again, being seen over Kansas City and Iowa, and even as far south as Denton, Texas, and as far East as St. Louis. One of the more unique stories came from

1934 to 1942

1934

Mao Tse-tung leads 100,000 Communists on "Long March" to escape anti-Communist purges. Only 4,000 of the original troops will survive.

FBI shoots John Dillinger.

Hitler assassinates many political opponents.

Expedition financed by wealthy insurance executive Sir Edward Mountaine produces almost a dozen sightings of the Loch Ness Monster.

1935 to 1937

Elvis Presley, American rock 'n' roll singer.

1936

Spanish Civil War brings Francisco Franco to power.

Dale Carnegie writes *How to Win Friends and Influence People*.

Boulder Dam completed.

Nazi exhibition of "Degenerate Art" includes works by many of the greatest modern artists.

Black American athlete Jesse Owens wins four gold medals at Berlin Olympics.

Floods sweep Johnstown, PA.

On Oct. 8, two busloads and several carloads of people (about 50 in all) observe the Loch Ness Monster for several minutes.

German boxer Max Schmeling defeats Joe Louis to win world heavyweight boxing championship.

1937

Amelia Earhart lost on Pacific flight. See p. 121.

Dirigible *Hindenburg* burns.

Japanese take Peking and several other major Chinese cities; Chiang Kai-shek allies with Mao Tse-tung's Communists to repel Japanese.

John Steinbeck writes *Of Mice and Men*.

Picasso paints *Guernica*.

Disney produces *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.

1938

Beginning of Nazi expansionism.

Hitler occupies Austria, Sudetenland.

Thornton Wilder writes *Our Town*.

Orson Welles's radio production of *The War of the Worlds* causes considerable panic when many take it for an actual newscast.

Benny Goodman's band defines "Big Band" jazz.

Howard Hughes flies around the world in 3 days, 19 hours and 17 minutes.

S.S. *Queen Elizabeth* launched.

1939

Beginning of World War II; Germany invades Poland Sept. 1; Britain and France declare war on Germany Sept. 3.

U.S. economy begins to recover, thanks to European orders for arms and war equipment.

James Joyce writes *Finnegans Wake*.

Primitive painter "Grandma Moses" (Anna M. Robertson) becomes famous in the U.S.

Igor Sikorsky constructs the first helicopter.

Earthquake in Anatolia, Turkey claims 45,000 victims.

Filming of *Gone With the Wind*, *The Wizard of Oz* and John Ford's *Stagecoach*.

1940

World War II; Germany invades Norway and Denmark, Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg; Churchill's "blood, toil, tears and sweat" speech; Germans enter Paris June 14; RAF begins night bombing of Germany; the Battle of Britain in August, followed by the London "Blitz."

Trotsky assassinated in Mexico on Stalin's orders Aug. 20. Earlier, on May 24, his villa was riddled by machine gun bullets while he was out.

Hemingway writes *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.

Chaplain satirizes Hitler in *The Great Dictator*.

Hitchcock directs *Rebecca* and Disney produces *Fantasia*.

1941

WWII; Rommel attacks Tobruk; Hitler's deputy, Rudolf Hess, lands in Scotland; HMS *Hood* sunk; *Bismarck* sunk; Germans invade Russia; Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor Dec. 7; U.S. and Britain declare war on Japan the next day; Japanese invade Philippines; Japanese take Hong Kong.

Orson Wells makes *Citizen Kane*.

1942 to 1970

Jimi Hendrix, American rock 'n' roll guitarist.

Springfield, Missouri, where W.H. Hopkins spotted the airship resting on four supports. Nearby was one of the crew, a beautiful golden-haired female wearing nothing but a jeweled headband. Nearby was a similarly attired man with a blond beard. The interplanetary sun bathers implied they were visiting from Mars.

The *Chicago Tribune* had been following the airship's progress west for some time by the time it arrived on April 9. As in California, an attorney – Max L. Hasmer, president of the Chicago Aeronautical Association – claimed to be professionally acquainted with the builders of the airship. In Chicago, the airship was seen more often in the daytime, and several witnesses described the airship as having a double hull, one above the other. One witness claimed to have taken a clear photo of the craft, a drawing of which was reproduced in the local papers. The photo has not survived.

Several papers in April said the airship was a hoax propagated as a publicity stunt by P.T. Barnum. A widely-circulated story from Kalamazoo, Michigan, said the airship had been observed to explode by two men on April 15, and that debris was afterward found spread around.

In the last half of April the Airship began dropping letters. The first fell on the 15th, in Appleton, Wisconsin, and gave the name



of the airship as the *Pegasus*. Several more fell in the next couple weeks, the most notorious of which was written in cipher and addressed to Thomas Edison. The message was delivered to the great inventor by members of the press during his lunch, and he paused from his meal long enough to go on record as having no faith at all in the existence of the airship.

Edison's statement on April 20 marked the end of the airship hysteria. The reports quickly dribbled off into nonexistence.

1942 to 1947

1942

WWII; Japanese invade Dutch East Indies, take Kuala Lumpur, invade Burma, capture Singapore, Java and Rangoon; Japanese/Americans on the West Coast interned in inland camps; Japanese occupy Bataan, many American and Philippine prisoners die on forced "Death March"; Americans defeat Japanese at Midway; Rommel takes Tobruk; FBI captures eight German saboteurs who landed in Florida and New York; Germans reach Stalingrad; 400,000 U.S. troops land in French North Africa; Rommel retreats, loses Tobruk; Germans work on V2 rocket; millions of Jews murdered in Nazi gas chambers; Gandhi demands independence for India and is arrested; MacArthur appointed Commander-in-Chief.



The first automatic computer developed in the U.S.

Magnetic recording tape invented.

487 die in fire at the Coconut Grove nightclub, Boston, most from asphyxiation when trapped by exit doors that open inward.

1943 to 1970

Janis Joplin, American rock 'n' roll/blues vocalist.

1943

WWII; Russians destroy German army southwest of Stalingrad; massacre in Warsaw ghetto; German army surrenders in Tunisia; U.S. recaptures Aleutians; Allies land in Sicily July 10 and soon occupy Palermo; Mussolini dismissed; Allies land in Salerno Bay and invade Italy; Italy's unconditional surrender announced Sept. 8; Italy declares war on Germany; students Hans and Sophie Scholl distribute anti-Nazi pamphlets in Munich and are caught and executed; Allied "round-the-clock" bombing of Germany begins.

Casablanca wins Academy Award.

Oklahoma! by Rogers and Hammerstein debuts in New York.

U.S. War Labor Board orders coal mines taken over by the government when half a million coal miners strike.

Race riots break out in several major U.S. cities whose labor population has been bolstered by an influx of southern blacks.

Zoot suits (with reet pleat) and jitterbug in fashion.

1944

WWII; Allied landings at Nettuno and Anzio; heavy air raids on London; 800 flying fortresses drop 2,000 tons of bombs on Berlin; D-Day, June 6, landing at Normandy; first V-1 flying bomb dropped on London; southern Japan bombed by U.S.; U.S. troops take Saigon; Russians capture 100,000 Germans at Minsk; German officers attempt to assassinate Hitler; Americans capture Guam; first V-2 rockets on Britain; British airborne forces land at Eindhoven and Arnhem but have to withdraw; U.S. troops land in Philippines; Battle of the Bulge begins; France regains Lorraine; Rommel commits suicide.

Tennessee Williams writes *The Glass Menagerie*.

1945

WWII; Americans enter Manila; Budapest falls; Okinawa captured; Russians reach Berlin; Allies cross the Elbe; Mussolini killed by Italian partisans; Hitler commits suicide April 30; "V.E. Day" ends war in Europe May 8; United Nations charter signed June 26 to take effect Oct. 24; U.S. drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima Aug. 6 and Nagasaki Aug. 9 (first atomic bomb detonated near Alamogordo, New Mexico, July 16); Japan surrenders; end of WWII, Aug. 14.

Nuremberg trials of Nazi war criminals begin.

Flight 19 lost off Bermuda on Dec. 5. Five U.S. torpedo bombers vanish without a trace on a training flight. The first search plane sent out after the flight also vanishes.

George Orwell writes *Animal Farm*.

Frank Lloyd Wright designs the Guggenheim Museum, New York.

Empire State building struck between the 78 and 79th floors by a B-25 bomber, July 28.

1946

U.S. Navy tests atomic bomb at Bikini atoll.

Benjamin Spock, MD, publishes the first edition of *Baby and Child Care*.

1947

India proclaimed independent and divided into India and Pakistan.

Albert Camus writes *The Plague*.

Tennessee Williams writes *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

The Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in Wadi Qumran.

Thor Heyerdahl sails on a raft from Polynesia to Peru to test theories of prehistoric immigration.

Two airship stories have become rather notorious among modern UFO researchers. Both are well established as hoaxes. The first was by Alexander Hamilton, a prosperous and respected farmer in Yates Center, Kansas. Hamilton described how late in April (Edison's debunking was rather late in reaching rural Kansas) the airship, piloted by nonhuman beings, lassoed a cow with a 300-foot line and flew off with the hapless animal dangling below it. With the account came a signed and notarized affidavit from 12 of the most respectable citizens of Woodson County, affirming Hamilton's absolute reliability and sterling character. When Hamilton's heirs were interviewed, years later, it developed that the entire story was cooked up as an elaborate prank by Hamilton and the men who signed the letter, who had a "liars club" as a hobby. The cow-napping was their proudest achievement.

Even more extravagant is the story of the airship that crashed into a windmill in Aurora, Texas, on April 17. The ship's nonhuman pilot was buried by the charitable people of Aurora in the local cemetery. Interviews conducted in the 1960s, with citizens who had been alive in 1897, indicated that the whole story had been made up by a reporter for a Dallas paper.

People tend to see what they're looking for, and there seems little doubt that many of the sightings of the "airship" were actually misinterpretations of natural phenomenon. In particular, the planet Venus – the undisputed queen of false UFOs – was particularly bright during the winter and spring of 1896 to '97. The star Alpha Orionus has also been put forth as a possible false airship. Add this to the multitude of hoaxes, pranks and publicity stunts masquerading as airships, and it becomes impossible to determine whether there was actually something strange above the

western U.S. just before the turn of the century, or whether the whole thing was just a very peculiar national fad. The speed and thoroughness with which the whole thing was forgotten is remarkable. This can be taken as a sign of the whole affair's nebulous nature, or as a remarkably efficient bit of suppression by the Men in Black.

Perhaps a cross-chronal organization of time travelers, each in their own flying time machine, decided to hold a sort of convention in North America between November 1896 and April 1897, indulging in a number of extravagant pranks on the local yokels.

If the airships were the work of time-traveling jokers, the 19th-century papers that claimed it was all the result of too much strong drink may have been right, but in a way they never suspected.

The Tunguska Blast

1908

On June 30, 1908, something literally rocked the world.

At 7:00 am local time, something exploded just above the subarctic forests of Tunguska, one of the most desolate regions of Siberia. The shock waves went around the world twice, and all over Europe luminescent clouds rendered that night bright as day. In London you could read the small print of the *Times* at midnight, and some golfers in Brancaster, England played a round at 2:00 am. In Germany flashless photos were taken outdoors at midnight, and came out as clear as if they'd been taken at noon. In Russia such photos could be taken well into the month of July.

Peasants in the village of Nizhne-Karelinsk came as close as anybody to seeing the explosion. For about 10 minutes a cylindrical object too bright to stare at directly flew over the horizon.

1947 to 1953

1947 Continued

Kenneth Arnold, a businessman and pilot from Boise, Idaho, sights 9 luminous objects while flying over the Cascade Mountains in Washington. This sighting is the first of many UFO sightings this year.

Three UFOs reported to have crashed near Roswell, New Mexico. The government dismisses the debris as a weather balloon. Years later, witnesses will claim to have seen the bodies of extraterrestrials among the wreckage.

Jackie Robinson becomes the first black professional baseball player.

More than a million war veterans enroll in college under the G.I. Bill.

1948

Gandhi assassinated.

The state of Israel comes into existence.

USSR stops road and rail traffic between Berlin and the West; airlift begins.

Norman Mailer writes *The Naked and the Dead*.

1949 to 1982

John Belushi, American actor and comedian.

1949

China becomes a Communist republic under Mao Tse-tung.

Apartheid program is established in South Africa.

George Orwell writes *Nineteen Eighty-Four*.



1950

Riots in Johannesburg against apartheid.

North Korean forces invade South Korea June 25 and capture Seoul; UN forces under the command of Douglas MacArthur land in South Korea and recapture Seoul; South Korean troops cross 38th parallel; UN troops forced to withdraw.

Ray Bradbury publishes *The Martian Chronicles*.

Thor Heyerdahl publishes *Kon-Tiki*.

1951

North Korean forces re-take, then lose Seoul.

Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are sentenced to death for espionage against the U.S.

Herman Wouk wins Pulitzer Prize for *The Caine Mutiny*.

John Huston makes *The African Queen*. Gene Kelly makes *An American in Paris*. Marlon Brando stars in *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

1952

Anti-British riots in Egypt.

State of emergency proclaimed in Kenya following Mau Mau disturbances.

Norman Vincent Peale publishes *The Power of Positive Thinking*.

Gary Cooper and Grace Kelly star in *High Noon*.

Hank Williams records "Your Cheatin' Heart."

1953

Queen Elizabeth II crowned.

Korean Armistice signed July 27.

Royalist coup d'etat in Persia.

Arthur Miller writes *The Crucible*.

From Here to Eternity wins academy award.

Emmy awarded to *I Love Lucy*.

When the object vanished, it was replaced by a huge cloud of black smoke, and a loud crash less like thunder than like the fall of stones was heard. A forked tongue of flame broke through the cloud, and the buildings shook. Nizhne-Karelinisk was 200 miles from the center of the explosion. The explosion had been audible for at least 500 miles from the center.

Amazingly, no human life was lost. The explosion had occurred in one of the few places on earth where humans could escape injury from a disaster of that magnitude. Dogs died, at least one herd of reindeer was incinerated, and several remote farms had buildings leveled, but no human was killed or even seriously injured by the explosion.

So remote and isolated was ground zero that it would be almost 20 years before any researchers even tried to reach it.

In 1927, a scientist named Leonid Kulik, with the backing of the young Soviet government, set out to find the secret of the Tunguska explosion. Kulik pushed through the dense Siberian forest, or *Taiga*, until he finally came upon a scene of almost surreal destruction. Every tree within a radius of more than 30 miles had been flattened, and the trees all lay in the same direction, away from the force of the blast. Kulik's native companions refused to go on, and Kulik had to return to civilization and recruit new assistants. Later that same year, Kulik finally found the epicenter of the blast, a natural amphitheater in the Siberian hills.

Kulik was, of course, convinced that the explosion had been the result of a massive, solid meteorite striking the earth. He found numerous small craters or depressions, which he felt must be where the fragments of the disintegrating object landed. Kulik

never discovered that these depressions were a natural tundra phenomenon related to the annual thawing of the soil.

Almost immediately after reaching the center, Kulik had to turn around and return to civilization – supplies were running out.

Kulik's second and third explorations were beset with difficulties, and much effort was squandered in a futile search for meteoric debris. On the third journey, one of Kulik's deputies took a picture of a tree stump at the bottom of one of Kulik's "craters" – a stump that could not exist if the hole had in fact been made by a meteor crash. But he kept this photo secret from his leader.

Kulik's final expedition, in 1937, was the most productive. It combined a surface expedition with an aerial survey of the epicenter. The area of devastation was found to exceed 770 square miles. It was noted that the trees seemed to be regrowing at an accelerated rate. There was still no sign of debris from a space object.

After WWII, people began to draw the inevitable conclusion – the Tunguska explosion was very like the explosion of a huge atomic bomb. When the area was tested for radiation, however, in the '60s, no unusual readings were found. Finally, however, after WWII extraterrestrial fragments were found – tiny globules of magnetite and silicate embedded in the trees.

As to the exact nature of the object that caused the blast, many theories have been put forth. Several respectable scientists have suggested that it was caused by a space ship (or time machine?) that exploded while coming in for a landing on earth. Others have hypothesized a miniature black hole, or an anti-matter meteor.

The most widely-accepted theory today is that the blast was the result of a small and unrecorded comet entering the earth's atmosphere, and exploding just above the surface of the taiga.

1954 to 1961

1954

Senator Joseph R. McCarthy conducts nationally-televised hearings seeking to prove Communist infiltration into the U.S. Army; his formal censure and condemnation by Senate resolution follow.

J.R.R. Tolkien publishes the first volume of *The Lord of the Rings*.

Billy Graham holds evangelistic meetings in New York, London and Berlin.

Reverend Sun Myung Moon founds the Unification Church in North Korea.

Kurosawa directs *The Seven Samurai*.

1955

Blacks in Montgomery, Alabama, boycott segregated city bus lines.

Marilyn Monroe stars in *The Seven Year Itch*.

Bill Haley and the Comets' "Rock Around the Clock" becomes the first rock 'n' roll hit.

Atomic power first used at Schenectady, New York.

Emmy awarded to *The Ed Sullivan show*.

1956

Israeli troops invade Sinai Peninsula.

Anglo-French forces bomb Egyptian airfields after Egypt seizes Suez Canal.

Soviet troops enter Hungary; martial law and mass arrests ensue.

Martin Luther King emerges as a leader in the desegregation movement.

John F. Kennedy publishes *Profiles in Courage*.

Lerner and Lowe's *My Fair Lady* opens in New York.

Elvis Presley records *Hound Dog*.

Prince Rainier of Monaco marries Grace Kelly.

Rocky Marciano retires undefeated from boxing.

1957

USSR launches Sputnik I and II, first artificial satellites.

UN forces occupy Gaza strip.

Mao pronounces his "Hundred Flowers" campaign, ending government censorship in China. It lasts six weeks, after which Communist critics are banished to remote provinces.

Teamsters Union expelled from AFL-CIO when Jimmy Hoffa refuses to expel criminals and union refuses to expel Hoffa.

Jack Kerouac writes *On the Road*, inaugurating the "Beat Generation."

Dr. Seuss writes *The Cat in the Hat*.

Ayn Rand writes *Atlas Shrugged*.

Leonard Bernstein writes music for *West Side Story*.

Desegregation crisis in Little Rock, AR; President Eisenhower sends paratroopers to forestall violence.

Bobby Fischer, 13 years old, emerges as a chess champion.

International Geophysical Year.

Emmy award to *Gunsmoke*.

1958

Fidel Castro wars against the Batista government in Cuba.

Mao launches the disastrous "Great Leap Forward" five-year plan.

"The Chipmunk Song" and "Purple People Eater" are popular songs.

Stereophonic sound introduced.

NASA established.

1959

Castro in power in Cuba.

Rock stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper die in a plane crash at Clearlake, Iowa, Dec. 3.

Ian Fleming writes *Goldfinger*.

Fellini makes *La Dolce Vita*.

D.H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover* banned from the U.S. mails on grounds of obscenity.

1960

Former Gestapo chief Adolf Eichmann arrested.

In January, Jacques Piccard and Lt. Don Walsh descend 35,800' in the bathyscape *Trieste*.

On April 20 monster-watcher Tim Dinsdale obtains motion picture footage of the Loch Ness monster.

Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* wins Pulitzer Prize.

Hitchcock directs *Psycho*.

The Twist is a popular dance.

1961

Activities of ultra-conservative John Birch Society concern U.S. Senate.

Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba fails.

Berlin Wall constructed.

Time travelers would certainly want to record and measure the Siberian explosion, and getting those recordings would be a tricky and dangerous assignment. Despite current scientific consensus, the GM remains free to replace the comet with an exploding time machine, flying saucer or any other exotic object he cares to imagine.

More Disappearances 1809, 1914, 1937

Not all disappearances are mysterious. Given François Villon's lifestyle (see p. 75), it's not surprising that he vanished. Presumably Villon came to a bad end in some alley or back street, and his body was never identified. On the other hand, some disappearances are complete enigmas. The fate of the crew of the *Mary Celeste* (see p. 108) has haunted investigators for more than a century. Other remarkable cases include:

"He Walked Around the Horses"

One of the most celebrated disappearances of a famous man happened to Benjamin Bathurst, in 1809. An English diplomat, Bathurst had been serving at the embassy in Vienna. When Austria fell to Napoleon, Bathurst, an outspoken political foe of the conqueror, decided it was in his best interest to return to England. He rode home through Germany.

His carriage arrived at the town of Perleberg for a short rest stop. Bathurst appealed to the captain of the local guard for an armed escort, and was assigned two guards.

Bathurst, noticeably nervous, left the inn about an hour later. He walked into the small courtyard in the sight of his secretary, his valet and the guards. He crossed the courtyard and, for some reason, did not go directly to his entourage, but instead went to the other side of the coach and horses. The men in the courtyard saw him go around the horses, and no one ever saw him alive again.

His expensive fur coat and trousers were recovered a few days later, and almost 50 years later a skeleton that may have been Bathurst's was found under a local doorstep.

If Bathurst was murdered or assassinated, it was done with astonishing skill and silence. If he vanished for reasons of self protection, he picked a strange place for it. In the end, his fate remains an enigma.

Ambrose Bierce

Ambrose Bierce was equally well-known as a writer of weird fiction and a rabble-rousing journalist and editorialist. Always a misanthrope, Bierce became fed up with American life in his old age – his two sons were dead, he was separated from his wife, his career was in decline and he had alienated many former friends with his unpleasant personality. In 1913, Bierce decided to search for the Mexican revolutionary leader Pancho Villa. Bierce hoped to revitalize his career with a major journalistic coup, and perhaps find a reason to go on living in Villa's revolutionary ideals.

Bierce was 72 when he left for Mexico. An old, bitter, sick man, alone in a hostile waste, searching for dangerous, desperate men. There's nothing mysterious about his disappearance, except

1961 to 1967

1961 Continued

Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human being in space.

Joseph Heller writes *Catch-22*.

Robert A. Heinlein writes *Stranger in a Strange Land*.

White and black civil-rights activists attacked and beaten by white citizens in Anniston and Birmingham.

1962

Cuban missile crisis brings U.S. and USSR to the brink of nuclear war.

U.S. military council established in South Vietnam.

John Glenn orbits the Earth.

Ken Kesey writes *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

David Lean directs *Lawrence of Arabia*.

Bob Dylan records "Blowin' in the Wind."

Thalidomide causes children to be born with severe birth defects.

1963

Civil rights demonstrations in Birmingham, AL, lead to riots, beatings by whites and police and maltreatment by officials; Martin Luther King arrested; President Kennedy calls out 3,000 troops.

"Hot Line" between White House and Kremlin established.

200,000 black and white "Freedom Marchers" demonstrate in Washington, D.C.

Buddhist-led military coup overthrows government of South Vietnam; U.S. sends financial and economic aid.

President John F. Kennedy assassinated by Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas, Texas, Nov. 22; Oswald shot and killed by Jack Ruby on national TV.

Hitchcock directs *The Birds*. Kubrick directs *Dr. Strangelove: Or How I Quit Worrying and Learned to Love the Bomb*.

1964

Vietnam war escalates.

Easter outbreak of "mods" vs. "rockers" disturb British sea resorts.

Race riots erupt in Harlem and many other U.S. cities.

Beatles record "I Want to Hold Your Hand," star in *A Hard Day's Night*.

Cassius Clay wins world heavyweight boxing championship from Sonny Liston.

Discothèques, go-go girls in vogue.

1965

Black Muslim leader Malcolm X shot in New York.

Martin Luther King heads procession of 4,000 civil rights demonstrators from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama; Ku Klux Klan shootings in Selma.

American demonstrations against the war in Vietnam.

Revolution in Algeria.

Severe race riots in Watts district of Los Angeles.

Swami Prabhupada brings the International Society of Krishna Consciousness, or Hare Krishnas, to the U.S. from Calcutta, India.

Ralph Nader writes *Unsafe at Any Speed*.

The Sound of Music released.

The Dick Van Dyke Show wins an Emmy for the fourth consecutive year.

1966

2,000 Madrid University students battle with police in demonstrations.

Red Guard demonstrates in China against Western influences.

Israeli and Jordanian forces fight battle in Hebron area.

Flying, humanoid "Mothman" sighted numerous times this year and the next in the Ohio River Valley Area. The area also sees a rash of UFO sightings and visits from "Men in Black."

Truman Capote writes *In Cold Blood*.

Jacqueline Susann writes *Valley of the Dolls*.

Quotations of Chairman Mao ("The Little Red Book") published in China.

Soviet and American spacecraft make successful soft landings on the moon.

Sgt. Barry Sadler records "Ballad of the Green Berets."

Miniskirts in fashion.

Color TV becomes popular.

The Monkees win an Emmy.

1967

Israel uses tanks in Syrian border conflict.

Hanoi attacked by U.S. bombers.

Six-Day war between Israel and Arab nations.

Ibo people of Eastern Region of Nigeria secede to create the state of Biafra. See p. 124.

its exact time and place (some believe that Bierce died in the siege of Ojinaga in January of 1914). The only reason paranormalists make any fuss about Bierce's fate at all is literary irony – several of his bizarre tales centered around disappearances more mysterious than Bierce's own.

Amelia Earhart

Amelia Earhart's disappearance was perhaps more tragic, since she was at the height of her career. Earhart was only 40 when she vanished over the Pacific.

Earhart had been a field nurse in WWI, and a social worker in Boston after the war. In 1928, she became the first woman to cross the Atlantic by plane (as a passenger). Four years later, she became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. This made her a celebrity, and she used her new fame to campaign for commercial aviation and for the right of women to fly.

In 1935 she became the first flyer of either sex to fly solo from Hawaii to California – a flight both longer and more difficult than the journey from the U.S. to Europe.

In 1937, she started a trip around the world, in a twin-engined Lockheed Electra, with a navigator named Fred Noonan. Two-thirds of the way through her journey, somewhere over the Pacific, on or about July 2, she was lost. It seemed likely that her

small plane had simply experienced some sort of mechanical failure and vanished into the Pacific. There were also intriguing but dubious rumors that she had been captured and executed by the Japanese after the crash.

Time Agents

The time service would be interested in recruiting Earhart and Bierce. Earhart was a tough-minded, fearless, mechanically-inclined, medically trained individualist with an unwavering faith in her own competence. She'd make an excellent field agent or special operative.

Bierce, with his brilliant, retentive mind and unrestrained imagination, would be an excellent temporal analyst. He'd be exactly the kind of person who could intuitively anticipate the kind of random temporal intervention that no machine could ever predict. Of course, Time Patrol science would have to be advanced enough to rejuvenate Bierce by several decades, and his misanthropy and crotchiness would make him a less-than-ideal team member, unless his attitudes could somehow be repaired along with his body.

Either or both of these individuals would make excellent on-going characters in a campaign, as important NPCs, or even as player characters.

1967 to 1971

1967 Continued

Race riots in Cleveland, Detroit and Newark.

Christiaan Barnard performs the world's first human heart transplant operation.

Roger Peterson films Bigfoot at Bluff Creek, California.

Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy star in *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?*

1968

U.S. Navy Intelligence ship *Pueblo* captured by North Korea after allegedly violating North Korean waters; the crew is held prisoner until December.

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinated in a Memphis motel; Scotland Yard arrests James Earl Ray in London; he is extradited to U.S. to stand trial.

Student rioting in Paris.

Senator Robert F. Kennedy assassinated in Los Angeles immediately after winning California presidential primary, by Sirhan Sirhan, a Jordanian.

Riots and police brutality at the Democratic convention in Chicago.

Russians invade Czechoslovakia.

More than 70 apparitions of the Virgin Mary appear over 14 months, beginning on April 2, near the St. Mary's Coptic Church in Zeitoun, a suburb of Cairo, Egypt. The longest apparition, on June 8, lasts for more than seven hours. Miraculous cures are reported.

Gerome Ragne and James Rado write *Hair*.

Neil Simon writes *Plaza Suite*.

Civil rights campaign in Ireland leads to fighting between Catholics and Protestants in Ulster.

Kubrick makes *2001, A Space Odyssey*.

Soul singer Aretha Franklin and hard rock guitarist Jimi Hendrix are at the height of their popularity.

Jacqueline Kennedy marries Aristotle Onassis.

1969

Apollo 11 lands men on the moon July 21.

Catholic/Protestant violence in Northern Ireland escalates.

First U.S. troops withdrawn from Vietnam.

Staff Sgt. David Mitchell and Lt. William Calley ordered to stand trial on murder charges for massacre of civilians at My Lai, Vietnam.



More than 300,000 hippies come to Woodstock Music and Arts Fair in Bethel, NY.

Charles Manson and followers kill actress Sharon Tate and four others at Tate's home near Los Angeles.

The Concorde, Anglo-French supersonic passenger plane, makes its first test flight.

Philip Roth writes *Portnoy's Complaint*.

Mario Puzo writes *The Godfather*.

Kurt Vonnegut writes *Slaughterhouse-Five*.

Dennis Hopper makes *Easy Rider*.

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid released.

Robert Altman directs *M.A.S.H.*

Wilt "The Stilt" Chamberlin holds most NBA records.

1970

Crushed by the Nigerian army, the nation of Biafra ceases to exist. See p. 124.

National Guardsmen kill four students protesting against the Vietnam war at Kent State University, Kent, OH.

John Wayne stars in *True Grit*.

1971

Fighting in Indochina expands into Laos and Cambodia.

Idi Amin comes to power in Uganda.

India and Pakistan go to war.

Guru Maharaj Ji, aged 13, brings his Divine Light Mission to the U.S. Initially the sect attracts thousands of U.S. citizens, but by 1973 it is largely defunct, due to scandal and internal divisions.

Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar* published posthumously.

Kubrick makes *A Clockwork Orange*.

Villa Rides

1916

Like a 20th-century Robin Hood, Pancho Villa led his band of Mexican revolutionaries through the downfall of two regimes and even a short war with the United States.

Francisco "Pancho" Villa was born Doroteo Arango in 1878, in San Juan del Rio, Mexico. His father was a field laborer and his parents died young. As a young man, he killed one of the owners of the estate where he worked, after the man assaulted his sister. Barely in his teens, he fled to the mountains where he survived until he reached adulthood.

He became a revolutionary in 1909, when he joined Francisco Madero's uprising against the dictator Porfirio Diaz. With Villa's help, Madero succeeded in usurping the government of Mexico.

In 1912, a rebellion under Pascual Orozco threatened the Madero government. Villa came under suspicion of disloyalty and was sentenced to death by General Victoriano Huerta, but his sentence was commuted to imprisonment by Madero. By the end of 1912, Villa had escaped from prison and fled to the United States.

In 1913, Madero was assassinated, and Villa's enemy Huerta took over the government. Villa returned to Mexico and again organized his own division, the famous *División del Norte*. He gained a strong ally in Venustiano Carranza, and together they set out to topple the dictatorial and corrupt Huerta government.

The rebels against the Huerta government had one ally they didn't want . . . Woodrow Wilson, the new U.S. President. On flimsy pretext, Wilson sent an expeditionary force of U.S. troops

to occupy the town of Veracruz. Once the U.S. troops were in Mexico, however, the revolutionaries rejected their intervention – all except Villa, who alone among the revolutionary leaders wished to pursue the U.S. alliance.

American help proved unnecessary. By the end of the year the revolutionaries had liberated the state of Chihuahua and Villa was made governor. Carranza won a decisive victory over Huerta in June of 1914, and together the victorious generals entered Mexico City.

Soon, however, an irreparable rivalry developed between Villa and Carranza, and by the end of the year Villa was forced to flee the city. This time, he formed an alliance with the idealistic guerrilla leader Emiliano Zapata. After several crushing defeats, Zapata and Villa fled to the northern mountains.

Early in 1916, Villa made his most puzzling and notorious move. He executed 16 U.S. citizens at Santa Isabel. Shortly thereafter he began ordering fast raids on U.S. territory, notably one on Columbus, New Mexico. President Wilson quickly retaliated, sending a U.S. military expedition into Mexico after Villa.

Villa's attack on the United States seems puzzling, especially in view of his earlier support of American intervention in the Huerta revolution. His motives were complex. In his mountains, Villa was invincible, but he also lacked the force necessary to make any significant move into the south. His attack on the U.S. was partially intended to send Carranza a message – that Villa still ruled the north. More important, Villa hoped to provoke the U.S. into some action that would lure the touchy Carranza into a costly war

1972 to 1978

1972

The five "Watergate" burglars arrested inside Democratic National Headquarters in Washington, DC.

Arab terrorists kill two Israeli athletes at Munich Olympics.

U.S. Supreme Court prohibits capital punishment.

Herbert W. Armstrong predicts the end of the world for this year.

Grease opens on Broadway.

Francis Ford Coppola makes *The Godfather*.

The Tasadays, a stone-age tribe, are discovered living in caves in the Philippines.

The Star of Sierra Leone (969.8 carats), the largest diamond known, is discovered.

Gary Gygax and Dave Arneson design *Dungeons & Dragons*, the first fantasy roleplaying game.

All In the Family, *Mary Tyler Moore Show* on TV.

1973

Spiro Agnew, vice president of the U.S., resigns.

Fighting between Arabs and Israelis

Arabs embargo oil sales to U.S., due to U.S. support of Israel, provoking an energy crisis.

Militant American Indians occupy Wounded Knee, SD, for 70 days.

Skylab I, II and III space missions.

Billie Jean King beats Bobby Riggs in tennis "Battle of the Sexes."

*M*A*S*H* wins Emmy.

1974

Irish terrorists bomb Tower of London and Houses of Parliament.

Cypriot rebels overthrow the government.

Nixon resigns Aug. 9.

Russian expatriate Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn writes *The Gulag Archipelago*.

Roman Polanski makes *Chinatown*.

Patricia Hurst, kidnapped heiress, announces she has decided to join her captors, the Symbionese Liberation Army.

"Streaking" becomes a fad in the U.S.

1975

Civil war in Ethiopia.

Khmer Rouge takes power in Cambodia after all Americans leave.

Communists take over Vietnam after Americans withdraw.

Christians and Moslems clash in Beirut, Lebanon.

American union leader Jimmy Hoffa vanishes, presumably killed by enemies in organized crime.

Richard Adams writes *Watership Down*.

Steven Spielberg makes *Jaws*.

Joint Apollo/Soyuz space mission.

1976

Rioting and violence against Apartheid in South Africa.

Chinese coup attempt by The Gang of Four (led by Mao's widow) is crushed.

Rev. Sun Myung Moon ends his ministry in the U.S. with rallies in New York and Washington, D.C.

Sylvester Stallone makes *Rocky*.

Robert De Niro stars in *Taxi Driver*.

Mysterious "Legionnaires' Disease" breaks out after American Legion convention in Philadelphia.

Henry "Hank" Aaron retires holding the U.S. Major League career record of 755 home runs.

1977

U.S. confirms testing of neutron bomb, 15 countries, including U.S.S.R. and U.S., sign nuclear proliferation pact.

David Berkowitz, the "Son of Sam," arrested for six random murders.

Voyager I and II space probes launched.

George Lucas makes *Star Wars*. Steven Spielberg makes *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

Woody Allen directs, stars in *Annie Hall*.

John Travolta stars in *Saturday Night Fever*, setting off worldwide disco craze.

Rumors, by Fleetwood Mac, wins Grammy.

Steve Jackson designs *Ogre*.

1978

Leftist Sandinista guerrillas fight against ruling government in Nicaragua.

Senate votes to turn Panama Canal over to Panama by the year 2000.

Pope Paul VI dies. His successor, Pope John Paul I, dies unexpectedly after only 34 days in office; he is succeeded by Pope John Paul II.

John Belushi stars in *National Lampoon's Animal House*.

with America – a war which Villa could manipulate to increase his own power base even as his enemy depleted his resources.

It didn't work. The leader of the U.S. expedition, General John "Black Jack" Pershing, was a strategist of frightening competence and held no romantic delusions. Pershing knew that there was no way his troops could get to the elusive Villa himself, so he pursued more realistic goals. He successfully orchestrated an impressive show of American muscle, while taking no action that would push Carranza over the line. Although Pershing could not catch Villa, he efficiently slammed the door on further efforts to embroil the U.S. in his plots.

After Pershing's withdrawal, Villa resumed his bandit existence until Carranza was overthrown in 1920. The new government offered Villa a pardon and a ranch in Chihuahua in return for his promise to withdraw from politics. Villa agreed. Three years later, he was ambushed and assassinated on his ranch.

A canny time meddler trying to change Mexican history might arrange for Villa to fall into Pershing's hands. This might have the effect that Villa was seeking all along – inflaming the populace against the U.S., and drawing Carranza into an open conflict. Of course, a captured or executed Villa would be in no position to advance himself from the situation, but the result on North American history could be great. A shooting war on its own borders might delay or prevent America's entrance into World War I, with major repercussions for the whole world. "Manifest destiny" was not an entirely dead concept early in the 20th century; an intriguing possibility is the annexation of Mexico by the U.S.

The Zinoviev Letter

1924

In the late fall of 1924, the British press was full of the Zinoviev Letter. This was a note purportedly from Grigori Zinoviev, the head of Comintern in Moscow, to the Communist Party in Britain, setting out a plan for the communist subversion of the British armed forces.

The Zinoviev Letter surfaced just four days before a general election, in which a proposed treaty with the Soviet Union was a major issue. The outrage generated by the Zinoviev Letter is usually credited with significantly contributing to the fall of Ramsay MacDonald and the liberal Labor Party, and the subsequent rejection of the Soviet treaty.

No original copy of the Zinoviev Letter was ever produced. The Soviet government curtly denounced the letter as a forgery. The Conservative government refused all parliamentary requests for an official inquiry into the document.

One thing the letter does not seem to be is a journalistic forgery – the fact that it surfaced simultaneously in government offices and at several Conservative newspapers argues against it being the invention of a reporter seeking to drum up circulation.

Eventually a businessman named Conrad Donald in Thurn took credit for distributing the letter, saying that he had received a copy from a friend with close ties to the British communists, and that he had sent copies in turn to the Foreign Office and various Conservative newspapers.

It's safe to say that most contemporary historians regard the

1979 to 1986

1979

The Cambodian capitol of Phnom Penh and the Pol Pot regime fall to Vietnamese-backed insurgents.

Iranian revolution deposes the Shah and brings the Ayatollah Khomeini to power.

Margaret Thatcher elected Prime Minister of Great Britain.

Radioactivity released in Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident.

SALT II treaty signed.

Leftist Sandinista rebels take over Nicaragua.

U.S. embassy in Teheran, Iran, seized by right-wing Iranian college students; staff taken hostage.

Soviets invade Afghanistan.

First cases of AIDS reported.

Francis Ford Coppola makes *Apocalypse Now*.

1980

Helicopter rescue of American hostages in Iran fails.

The Shah dies of cancer.

Iraq invades Iran.

Three U.S. nuns and a lay worker killed in El Salvador.

Former Beatle John Lennon killed in New York by deranged fan Mark David Chapman.

U.S. leads boycott of Moscow Olympics in protest over continued Soviet presence in Afghanistan.

1981

Iranian hostages freed.

110 killed in Kansas City Hyatt Regency hotel when overloaded overhead walkway collapses.

Air traffic controllers strike.

Non-fatal shootings of President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II.

Apparitions of the Virgin Mary begin appearing to six adolescent villagers in Medjugorje, Yugoslavia. Mary will appear to at least one of the children daily for the next 18 months. Sightings will continue for several years.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome identified.

1982

British defeat Argentina in Falklands conflict.

Israel invades Lebanon.

First mission of U.S. space shuttle.

Skylab's orbit deteriorates, and it burns up on reentry into the atmosphere; some debris falls over Australia.

First successful implantation of an artificial heart in a human being.

Steven Spielberg's *E.T., The Extraterrestrial* becomes the top-grossing movie of all time.

1983

South Korean 747 shot down by Soviet fighter plane.

237 U.S. Marines killed in terrorist attack in Beirut, Lebanon.

U.S. forces invade Grenada.

Michael Jackson wins Grammy for *Thriller* album.

1984

Soviet Union boycotts Olympics in retaliation for U.S. boycott of 1984.

Toxic gas leak in Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India kills 2,000 and injures 150,000.

U.S. withdraws from Beirut.

President Reagan reprimanded by Congress, international court for mining Nicaraguan harbors.

First successful "test tube baby."

1985

Mikhail Gorbachev takes power in the USSR.

Police in Philadelphia firebomb the inner-city home of the radical black MOVE organization, killing 11 and leaving 200 homeless.

Thousands die in Mexico earthquake.

PLO hijacks the *Achille Lauro*, an Italian cruise ship, precipitating a crisis that topples the Italian government.

25,000 dead or missing in Columbia volcano eruption.

1986

Space Shuttle *Challenger* explodes on liftoff, killing all aboard.

Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos ousted in favor of Corazon Aquino.

Nuclear accident in Chernobyl, USSR.

Millions of blacks strike in South Africa to commemorate 1976 Soweto uprising.

Secret plan by executive branch of U.S. government to sell arms to Iran and divert the profits to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels is discovered.

Zinoviev Letter as a forgery, but the question remains open. Even if it was a forgery, historians would be eager to discover who, exactly, originated the letter.

Time meddlers might be tempted to go back and uncover evidence to expose the letter as a fake. Such an exposé would probably discredit the Conservatives (regardless of whether or not the Conservative government itself had anything to do with the forgery) enough to throw the election to the Labor Party, which would probably significantly alter the policies of England – and therefore the balance of power throughout Europe – during the years between the wars. In particular, if a strong and long-standing treaty between England and Russia existed at the dawn of Hitler's conquest of Europe, the early years of WWII might have gone very differently. On the other hand, perhaps Russia could have used a leftist government and diplomatic relations to turn Britain into a thoroughly socialist, or perhaps even a Marxist, state.

If the letter could be proven *genuine*, the split between England and Russia would be much more dramatic and volatile, and the two nations might even be pushed into an out-and-out war.

Biafra 1970

The tiny and tragic little African state of Biafra unilaterally declared its independence from Nigeria in May, 1967.

Before that year, the Eastern part of Nigeria was dominated by the prosperous, well-educated Ibo minority. In 1966, the Hausa majority in northern Nigeria had slaughtered 10,000 to 30,000 Ibo, out of resentment for Ibo wealth. Almost 1 million Ibo fled to the East, where their people dominated. Non-Ibo were expelled from the east as a protectionist measure.

On May 30, 1967, Lieutenant Colonel Odumegwu Ojukwu declared the east a sovereign and independent republic, Biafra. The federal government refused to recognize the secession.

Hostilities broke out in July. The disciplined and motivated Biafran troops won the initial engagements, but soon the Nigerians began to wear down the Biafrans through sheer numbers. During the course of the war Biafra shrunk to 1/10 of its original size. By 1968, it had lost its seaports and become landlocked. Supplies dwindled and disease set in. It is estimated that at least 500,000 Biafrans, and possibly many times that number, lost their lives due to starvation or disease.

Many countries became aware of the plight of the starving Biafran children, and began airlifting supplies in. The Papacy and the Organization of African Unity campaigned for peace. Most countries, however, refused to recognize Biafran independence. Only France sent the Biafrans weapons. The U.K. and the Soviet Union supplied arms to the Nigerians.

On January 15, 1970, Biafra formally surrendered to Nigeria and ceased to exist. Stories of cruel, even genocidal persecutions of the Ibo following the conquest reached the west.

For time travelers, Biafra represents a golden opportunity for recruitment. The Ibo were known for their bravery, education and resourcefulness. The final days of the Biafran war would be an excellent time to save a few exceptional individuals – or as many as possible – by making them time agents. With their struggle hopeless and so many friends and family dead or lost the recruits would have little to tie them to their own era, and the chaos and death everywhere would make it easy to extract the new agents without causing undue attention.

1986 to 1992

1986 Continued

Oliver Stone makes *Platoon*.

Paul Simon wins Grammy for *Graceland*.

1987

Gorbachev demands reforms in Russian Communist party.

Iraqi missile attack on U.S.S. *Stark* in the Persian Gulf.

Divers retrieve jewels from the *Titanic*.

New Age sects all over the world declare Aug. 16 and 17 to be the Harmonic Convergence – the supposed end of the materialistic world. The event is celebrated with dancing, chanting, meditation and yoga.

Ed and Francine Walters sight UFOs over their Gulf Breeze, Florida home. They will see the UFOs more than 20 times between Nov. 11 and May 1, taking numerous photographs.

1988

Palestinian uprisings in Israel.

American "TV preachers" Jim and Tammy Bakker and Jimmy Swaggert embroiled in scandal.

U.S. Navy ship U.S.S. *Vincennes* shoots down an Iranian airliner in the Persian Gulf, killing 290.

Space shuttle missions resume after *Challenger* disaster.

U.S. unveils Stealth Bomber.

25,000 killed, 15,000 injured, 400,000 homeless after Armenian earthquake.

Two Soviet astronauts remain in space for 366 days.

Pan-Am 747 explodes due to terrorist sabotage over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 259 aboard, 11 on ground.

1989

Sweeping and dramatic democratic reforms in many former Soviet Bloc countries.

Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound, Alaska.

Chinese students protest for democratic reform by occupying Tiananmen Square; government retaliates violently, June 9.

Salman Rushdie marked for death by Ayatollah Khomeini, after his novel *The Satanic Verses* is deemed blasphemous to Islam.

Berlin Wall torn down.

Ayatollah Khomeini dies of natural causes.

Earthquake in San Francisco, Oct. 17.

U.S. invades Panama over the Christmas holidays, capturing Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega to stand trial in the U.S. on drug trafficking charges.

Voyager II passes outside the orbit of Neptune, becoming the first manmade object to leave the solar system.

1990

Collapse and division of USSR begins. East and West Germany reunified. Baltic nations begin to declare independence.

Iraq invades and annexes Kuwait; U.S. troops deploy to Saudi Arabia to prepare for counter-invasion.

Washington Mayor Marion Berry, Jr. arrested for possession of crack cocaine.

South African President F.W. de Klerk announces sweeping reforms, including the release of black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

Rap music gains popular acceptance among white listeners.

Comic book characters Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles become a national fad.

1991

U.S.-led international military force defeats Iraq in 100-hour military operation, restoring the government of Kuwait.

Coup attempt by hard-core Marxist cabal in Moscow fails.

Mikhail Gorbachev resigns as Russian president; Boris Yeltsin assumes control of the government.

South Africa takes steps to enfranchise black majority, but the process is marred by violence among black factions.

1992

Billionaire H. Ross Perot prepares to run as an independent candidate for president of the United States. Despite enthusiastic national support, Perot declines to actively run after the Democratic National Convention.

Hurricane Andrew devastates southern coastal Florida in August. A few weeks later, Hurricane Iniki becomes the strongest recorded storm to hit Hawaii.

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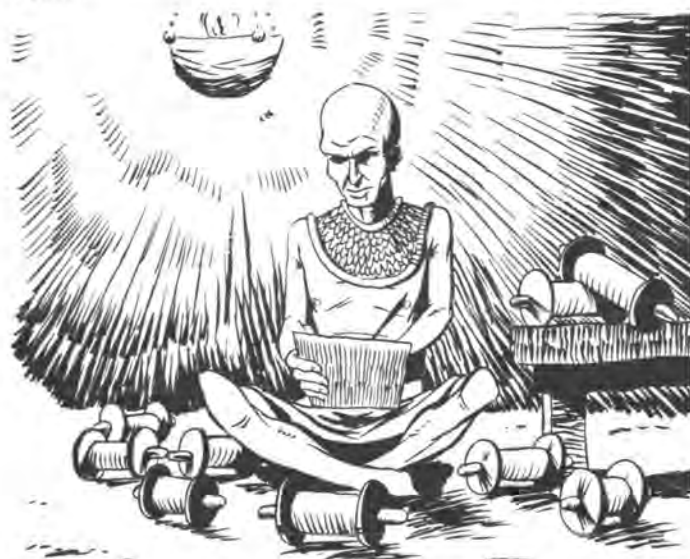
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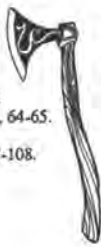
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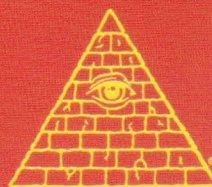
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