

PANORAMA

Dayton C. Miller: vilified and exonerated

Many of our readers may know that the Michelson-Morley experiment was designed to detect the orbital speed of the earth about the sun and failed to detect it. They may know, too, that their results were never exactly zero. The experiment always showed a few miles or kilometers per second result, but it fell far short of the expected thirty kilometers per second.

Intrigued by the not-exactly-null result, physicist Dayton C. Miller of Western Reserve University, later to become Case-Western Reserve University, took it upon himself to find out why. He conducted Michelson-Morley experiments all over the world, and always he found a non-null result. He finally concluded that the sun was moving at about 300 km/sec from a position in the sky located near the Large Magellanic Cloud and roughly towards the constellation of Lyra. This is, given the impreciseness of the values, consistent with star streaming, that is, the direction the stars come from as they stream past us, but 10 to 15 times faster.

A number of attempts were made to replicate Miller's findings, some with small positive readings, some with close to zero. These included an experiment by R J Kennedy in 1926 on Mount Wilson with the interferometer sealed in helium; an interferometer sealed in a vacuum casing and sent up by balloon to 2,500 meters in 1927; and an interferometer mounted inside a temperature-constant vault at Mount Wilson by Michelson himself in 1929. Displacements in each case were almost zero. However, Miller noted that in each case the instrument was enclosed in metal casings or in a basement room. He believed that such "opaque" shielding nullified the experimental effect.

Until his death in 1941, Miller's findings remained uncomfortably in the scientific background—impossible to refute, equally impossible to accept, since they fatally undermined Einstein's Relativity which by then had become universally accepted in physics. After Miller's death his former student Robert S. Shankland, became Chairman of the Physics Department at Case Institute of Technology (now Case-Western Reserve University). According to James de Meo, "Shankland's academic career soared after he organized a post-mortem on Miller's work, pronouncing it worthless, and after Einstein later granted him a series of widely-published interviews. Shankland subsequently became a bureaucrat within the emerging atomic energy infrastructure. Intimate with Einstein, in a 1981 interview Shankland claimed Miller's work on ether-drift had

probably cost Einstein the Nobel Prize for relativity theory (Einstein did later get a Nobel Prize, but for his other theoretical work)."

In 1955, Shankland, McCuskey, Leone, and Kuerti published a paper in the *Review of Modern Physics* which, on the surface, was a critical review and re-analysis of Miller's long and painstaking observations. In reality, there was no review and no re-analysis, simply a trawl through the data looking for possible sources of error. Moreover, neither Shankland nor his fellow authors actually did any of the work on which the paper was based. Instead this was left to one of Shankland's students who received no credit beyond a footnote. The 1955 Shankland paper begins with the statement that has been repeated so often since, that Michelson and Morley obtained a "null" result. The paper also claimed, "All trials of this experiment except those carried out at Mount Wilson by Dayton C. Miller yielded a null result within the accuracy of the observations."

Says James de Meo, "This kind of chronic misrepresentation of the slight positive results of many interferometer experimenters, including Michelson-Morley, Morley-Miller, Sagnac, Michelson-Gale, and Michelson-Pease-Pearson, suggests an extreme bias and deliberate misrepresentation. The fact that this is a very popular bias does not excuse it. By redefining all the positive results observed by what may in fact have been the majority of ether-drift researchers, as mere expressions of 'observational inaccuracy,' Shankland narrowed his task considerably."

In the end, Shankland and his team settled on the notion of seasonal temperature variations as being responsible for Miller's findings. There was no longer anyone alive to point out how fatuous this explanation is and Miller's data was safely interred along with his body. As far as orthodox science is concerned today, relativity is universally accepted and the æther controversy is dead and buried.

De Meo further points out a curious semantic footnote to this affair. The name for the hypothetical medium through which light was thought to travel has been spelled in two ways: as "ether" and as "æther." In late medieval times when the word was coined it was spelled æther. In the period 1850-1920 when the topic was current in physics and used regularly by physicists such as Sir Oliver Lodge, Michael Faraday, Nicola Tesla, Michelson and Morley, and even by Einstein, the term was spelled "ether." In the 1950s, after Miller's death, when a concerted effort was being made to denigrate his work, the medieval "æther" spelling suddenly re-appeared. On the face of it, the use of this spelling was to avoid confusion with the anesthetic fluid, ether. But it also appears to have been part of an attempt to "relegate the ether of space into ancient history, as an unproven speculation similar to Aristotelian elements of fire, air, water and earth."

About this charge I can only speak for myself: there is something to this but the reason I use the æther spelling, preferably with the ligature æ, is to divorce the light-bearing medium from the clearly discredited “ether” commonly referring to the rare (meaning not dense) “luminiferous ether.” The æther of medieval times was thought of as a plenum, meaning a very dense, if not infinitely dense medium. Thus I use “ether” to refer to the rarified luminiferous ether, and “æther” when referring to the dense, plenum-like firmament.

Found missing links are lost again

It was heralded one of archaeology’s most sensational finds when the skull fragment of an allegedly “36,000 years old” link between Neanderthal and “modern man” was discovered in a peat bog near Hamburg. Professor Reiner Protsch von Zieten had been invited to date the extremely rare skull and had made the most of it at his announcement of his dating results and examination of the skull. On 18 February 2005, however, the professor’s 30-year academic career ended in disgrace after the University of Frankfurt forced his retirement for systematically falsifying the dates of this and numerous other “stone age” relics.

The discovery of the fraud means that everything you may have learned about the last 10,000 to 40,000 years of human evolution will have to be rewritten. That, according to Thomas Terberger, the archaeologist who discovered the hoax. “Prof Protsch’s work appeared to prove that anatomically modern humans and Neanderthals had co-existed, and perhaps even had children together. This now appears to be rubbish.”

The scandal broke when Prof Protsch was caught trying to sell his department’s entire chimpanzee skull collection, 278 of them, to a United States dealer for \$70,000. Subsequent investigation established that he had also passed off fake fossils as real ones and had plagiarized other scientists’ work.

Protsch’s discovery appeared to show that Neanderthals had spread much further north than was previously known. But his university inquiry was told that a crucial Hamburg skull fragment, which was believed to have come from the world’s oldest German, a Neanderthal known as Hahnhöfersand Man, was actually a mere 7,500 years “old,” according to Oxford University’s radiocarbon dating unit.¹

Another of the professor’s sensational finds, “Binshof-Speyer” woman, lived in 1,300 BC and not 21,300 years ago, as he had claimed,

¹ A C-14 date of 7500 years is roughly 4040 years old when corrected for the decay of the earth’s magnetic field and calibrated to artifacts of known age.

while “Paderborn-Sande man” (dated at 27,400 BC) only died a couple of hundred years ago, in 1750. “It’s deeply embarrassing. Of course the university feels very bad about this,” Professor Ulrich Brandt, who led the investigation into Prof Protsch’s activities, said the day of the firing, “Prof Protsch refused to meet us, but we had 10 sittings with 12 witnesses. “Their stories about him were increasingly bizarre. After a while it was hard to take it seriously. You had to laugh. It was just unbelievable. At the end of the day what he did was incredible.”

During their investigation, the university discovered that Prof Protsch, 65, was unable to work his own carbon-dating machine. He simply made things up. In one case he had claimed that a 50 million-year-old “half-ape” called Adapis had been found in Switzerland, an archaeological sensation. Actually, the ape had been dug up in France, where several other examples had already been found. Prof Terberger said that he grew suspicious about the professor’s work in 2001 after sending off the skull fragment to Oxford for tests. Further tests revealed that all of the skulls dated by Prof Protsch were in reality far younger than he had claimed, prompting Prof Terberger and a British colleague, Martin Street, to write a rebuttal paper last year. “If you find a skull that’s more than 30,000 years old it’s a sensation. If you find three of them, people notice you. It’s good for your career,” Prof Terberger said.

Prof Protsch boasted of having flats in New York, Florida and California, where, he claimed, he hung out with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Steffi Graf. Even the professor’s aristocratic title, “von Zieten,” appears to be bogus. Far from being the descendant of a dashing general in the Hussars, the professor was the son of a Nazi MP, Wilhelm Protsch, *Der Spiegel* magazine reported last October. The university is also investigating how thousands of documents lodged in the anthropology department relating to the Nazis’ gruesome scientific experiments in the 1930s were mysteriously shredded, allegedly under the professor’s instructions. They also discovered that some of the 12,000 skeletons stored in the department’s “bone cellar” were missing their heads, apparently sold to friends of the professor in the US and to sympathetic dentists. As for the Professor’s defense, in earlier remarks to *Der Spiegel* he insisted that he was the victim of an intrigue. “All the disputed fossils are my personal property,” he told the magazine.

There is nothing new or unusual about Prof. Protsch’s shenanigans. The “science” of evolution is fraught with them. I thought our readers, especially newer ones, might appreciate some further examples of the “facts” that make evolution “an established fact” instead of a theory. The list is by no means exhaustive. I’ve presented the most famous case and some newer ones exposed in the last five years. Others include Java Man,

Peking Man, and Archaeopteryx. We have an illustrated booklet called *The Peking Man Fraud* that we can reproduce and send to anyone interested in receiving it for \$8.00 postpaid. It is 65 pages but prints to thirty-four 8.5x11-inch pages at two panels per page. It depicts a presentation by the Rev. Patrick O'Connell. It mentions the late Walter Lang, from whom I obtained my copy.

Missing links and planted stone age finds

Piltdown Man

The most infamous of all scientific frauds was unearthed in 1912 in a Sussex gravel pit. With its huge human-like braincase and ape-like jaw, the Piltdown Man “fossil” was named *Eoanthropus dawsoni* after Charles Dawson, the solicitor and amateur archaeologist who discovered it. For 40 years, Piltdown Man was heralded as the missing link between humans and their primate ancestors. But in 1953 scientists concluded it was a forgery. Radiocarbon dating showed the human skull was just 600 years old, while the jawbone was that of an orangutan. The entire package of fossil fragments found at Piltdown - which included a prehistoric cricket bat - had been planted.

The devil's archaeologist

Japanese archaeologist Shinichi Fujimura was so prolific at uncovering prehistoric artifacts he earned the nickname “God's hands.” At site after site, Fujimura discovered stoneware and relics that pushed back the limits of Japan's known history. The researcher and his stone age finds drew international attention and rewrote textbooks. In November 2000 the spell was broken when a newspaper printed pictures of Fujimura digging holes and burying objects that he later dug up and announced as major finds. “I was tempted by the devil. I don't know how I can apologize for what I did,” he said.

Piltdown Turkey

The supposed fossil of Archaeoraptor, which was to become known as the “Piltdown turkey,” came to light in 1999 when National Geographic magazine published an account of its discovery. It seemed to show another missing link—this time between birds and dinosaurs. Archaeoraptor appeared to be the remains of a large feathered bird with the tail of a dinosaur. The fossil was smuggled out of China and sold to a private collector in the US. Experts were suspicious and closer examination showed the specimen to be a “composite”—two fossils stuck together with strong glue.

Another quasar in a nearby galaxy²

A team of astronomers has discovered a quasar whose redshift indicates that it is billions of light years away, in front of a galaxy 300 million light years away. The team consists of Geoffrey Burbidge and his wife, Margaret, Vesa Junkkarinen, a research physicist at the University of California at San Diego's Center for Astrophysics and Space Sciences; Pasquale Galianni of the University of Lecce in Italy; and Halton Arp and Stefano Zibetti of the Max-Planck Institute for Astrophysics in Garching, Germany. Geoffrey has long been a critic of the Big Bang and has been sympathetic to Halton Arp's reports of similar quasars located near galaxies with much lower redshifts than the quasar. The discovery is especially significant because it is the most extreme example of a quasar with a very large redshift yet found near the center of a nearby, active galaxy. The redshift of the quasar is 2.11. The galaxy is NGC 7319, a member of Stefan's Quintet. (See front cover.)

"Most people have wanted to argue that quasars are right at the edge of the universe," said Geoffrey Burbidge, a professor of physics and astronomer. "But too many of them are being found closely associated with nearby, active galaxies for this to be accidental. If this quasar is physically associated with this galaxy, it must be close by." Astronomers have used redshifts and the known brightness of stars as fundamental yardsticks to measure the distances to stars and galaxies. However, Burbidge said they have been unable to account for the growing number of quasi-stellar objects, or quasars—intense concentrations of energy believed to be produced by the swirling gas and dust surrounding massive black holes—with high redshifts that have been closely associated with nearby galaxies. "If it weren't for this redshift dilemma, astronomers would have thought quasars originated from these galaxies or were fired out from them like bullets or cannon balls," he added.

"No one has found a quasar with such a high redshift, with a redshift of 2.11, so close to the center of an active galaxy," said Geoffrey Burbidge. The fact that the quasar is so close to the center of this galaxy, only 8 arc seconds from the nucleus, and does not appear to be shrouded in or obscured in any way by interstellar gas makes it highly unlikely that the quasar lies far behind the galaxy. If it were, its light would be grossly obscured by the dust in the center of the galaxy. So it cannot be a case of shining through the galaxy near its center by an accident of projection. Indeed, the gas in the galaxy appears to be interacting with the quasar.

² Presented 10 January 2005 in San Diego at the January meeting of the American Astronomical Society and which will appear in the February 10 issue of the *Astrophysical Journal*,

“If this quasar is close by, its redshift cannot be due to the expansion of the universe,” he adds. “If this is the case, this discovery casts doubt on the whole idea that quasars are very far away and can be used to do cosmology.”

Margaret Burbidge, who reported the team’s finding at the meeting, said the quasar was first detected by the ROSAT X-ray satellite operated by the Max-Planck Institute for Astrophysics in Garching, Germany and found to be closely associated with the nucleus of the spiral galaxy NGC 7319. That galaxy is unusual because it lies in a group of interacting galaxies called Stephan’s Quintet.

Mysterious disappearances in deserts solved?

In the past, we have reported on a possible solution to the mystery of sinking ships that go down so fast they do not have time to transmit a mayday.³ The solution proposed that natural gas produced on the sea bed breaks loose from the sediment and rises as a mass of bubbles, decreasing the density of the water, thus causing an unwary ship to sink like a rock. Some objected to the theory claiming that the pressure is still the same. As far as your editor is aware, no one has tried this as an experiment.

A similar mystery involves the complete disappearance of vehicles and their occupants in the world’s deserts. The phenomenon is well known among the dwellers of the desert and was even portrayed in the American film, *Hidalgo*. Conventional wisdom has it that fine silt gets water logged and acts like quicksand, though natives dispute that. Nevertheless, the disappearances do happen, as mentioned in T. E. Lawrence’s (Lawrence of Arabia) book, *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*.

Unlike the bubble theory for disappearing ships, this one has been verified by experiment. Reported in the 9 December 2004 issue of *Nature*, Prof. Detlef Lohse, Remco Rauhé, Raymond Bergmann and Devaraj van der Meer of the University of Twente say that the sand is dry, not wet, and that it really is like the bottom falling out from under you.

To make the dry quicksand, the researchers blew air through fine sand about 0.02 inch (0.04 mm) in diameter in a cylinder. The loosened sand was 41% air by volume. They then dropped a weighted ping-pong ball into the sand. The ball was suspended a short distance above the sand and released by burning the thread that held it. The sinking ball even leaves a splash of sand, a spike that rises surprisingly high above the surface of the sand. The sequence of events is pictured on the next page.

³ Panorama, 2001. “Were some ships sunk by a North Sea bubble?” *B.A.* 11(95):28.

distance. In a similar way, a sprinter running one percent faster than his opponents might win a 10-meter race in a photo finish, while a one percent faster marathon runner will finish hundreds of yards ahead of the rests of the field. After the alleged billions of years of travel, or at much higher values for the speed of light in the past, the faster components of a light wave would be far enough ahead of the slower components to make the beam's wave front noticeably distorted, or blurred.

Two astrophysicists from the University of Alabama in Huntsville tested the theory of quantum time by looking for this blurring in Hubble Space Telescope images of galaxies at least four billion light years away. Dr. Richard Lieu and Dr. Lloyd Hillman were taken by surprise when they did not find it. Instead, each image showed a sharp, ring-like interference pattern around the galaxy. The finding suggests that time does not happen in short quantum jumps but flows fluidly.

Of this, Dr. Lieu said: "[T]his discovery will present problems to several astrophysical and cosmological models, including the Big Bang model of the universe." The Big Bang theory supposes that at the instant of creation, the quantum singularity that became the universe needed to have infinite density and temperature. To avoid that sticky problem, theorists postulated Planck time. The problem is that the infinite density source points to the Creator. The episteme of modern science is to get rid of God in his creation, to eliminate him from man's knowledge (Rom. 1:28). So any hint of an omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent presence before the origin of the universe is an abomination to the atheists. They avoid the evidence for the Creator by claiming that if the instant of creation was also a quantum event, then space and time were both blurry, so you don't need infinite density and temperature at the start of the Big Bang. "If time moves along like business as usual even at Planck scales, however, you have to reconcile the Big Bang model with an event that isn't just off the scale, it's infinite," Lieu said.

The Christian reader can readily see why atheistic scientists turn to forgeries and deceptions in their attempts to get rid of God from their knowledge. We reported above on the forgeries of fossil evidence. One is left to wonder how many forgeries and deceits have gone undetected. How many souls are in hell because they rejected the Savior's sacrifice for sin and his resurrection all because of the fable of evolution? One cannot work one's way to heaven anymore than one can grow wings and fly there or build a tower and climb there. The impossible will always be impossible without God.

Natural Gas, Oil Occur Naturally and are not a Limited Fossil Fuel, Says Prominent Scientist—Part 1

A lot of powerful interests use “energy shortage” scares to manipulate not only public opinion (particularly in regard to U.S. foreign policy toward oil producing nations) but also the price of oil itself. However, the truth is that oil is not a limited resource, according to one of the world’s most prestigious scientists, whose views on the subject have not received the publicity they deserve. Dr. Thomas Gold contends, based on long study, that oil, natural gas and coal are not so-called “fossil fuels.” Instead, according to Dr. Gold, these resources are constantly being manufactured within the Earth by natural processes that are little understood and which point toward new, relatively unexplored realms in science.

In his book, *The Deep Hot Biosphere: The Myth of Fossil Fuels*, which is available in most bookstores, Dr. Gold has outlined the entirety of his theory. Dr. Gold was the guest on the Oct. 28 broadcast of Radio Free America, the weekly call-in talk forum with Tom Valentine, sponsored by American Free Press. He and Valentine were joined by a long-time mutual friend, oil wildcatter John Ledbetter, who has used Dr. Gold’s research in his own oil drilling ventures. What follows is an abbreviated transcription of the broadcast. Valentine’s questions are in boldface. Gold’s responses are in regular text. Ledbetter’s comments are in italics.

Your most controversial idea is the non-biological origin of natural gas and oil. You put forth the position that dinosaurs and plants and the fossils from those living beings are not the origin of oil and natural gas. Your theory was first publicly referenced in a book by your colleague, the late Fred Hoyle, one of the world’s leading physicists and astronomers, in which Hoyle had a chapter entitled “Gold’s Ore Theory,” the ore referring to the porous spaces in the Earth. What first prompted you to suggest that oil and natural gas is generated from a chemical substance in the crust of the Earth?

The astronomers have been able to find that hydrocarbons, as oil, gas and coal are called, occur on many other planetary bodies. They are a common substance in the universe. You find it in the kind of gas clouds that made systems like our solar system. You find large quantities of hydrocarbons in them. Is it reasonable to think that our little Earth, one of the planets, contains oil and gas for reasons that are all its own and that these other bodies have it because it was built into them when they were born?

That question makes a lot of sense. After all, they didn’t have dinosaurs and ferns on Jupiter to produce oil and gas.

That's right. Yet, for some reason my theory was not heard. The old theory that it was all made from fossils had become so firmly established that when the astronomers had perfectly definitive evidence on most of the other planets, it was just ignored, especially by the petroleum geologists who had, by then, called these things "fossil fuels." So once they had a name, then every body believed it.

The oil geologists have carved a niche for themselves and they are perceived now to "know more" about how oil was supposedly formed from dinosaur bones than anybody. However, you have taken your theory and have gone one step further by saying that there is a biosphere; that living entities (fungi, microbes, etc.) are not necessarily just the ones we see on the surface of the Earth but that living creatures are deep in the Earth which could have given rise to creatures on the surface.

In the whole petroleum and coal story, there is this extraordinary paradox that all of these substances contain some biological material. But the chemistry in detail fits it better, as many chemists have said, with the theory of a primordial hydrocarbon mixture (say an oil or gas mixture) to which biological products have been added. That was one aspect that has been quite firmly noted by many Nobel laureate chemists and others.

So every time they find oil deep in the ground and they analyze it chemically, they are effectively supporting your theory?

Absolutely! That has been known, also, for quite a large number of years since the mid-1950s.

Human skull fossils have been found in anthracite coal in Pennsylvania. The official theory of the development of coal will not accept that reality, since human beings were not around when anthracite coal was formed.

That's right. Coal was formed millions of years ago.

Mark that statement. Gold is rejecting the evidence of not only human skulls in coal, but also bone and porcelain artifacts. Gold has a point, that the amount of carbon fuels in the ground exceeds any reasonable amount of flora and fauna that may have lived on the surface. An even larger problem is the amount of limestone and dolomite found in the earth far exceeds what could be generated biologically, that is by reef building and so forth. That is true whether we consider the earth to be billions of years old or six thousand years old.

We consider Gold's argument important enough that we will continue it in the next issue, Lord willing. At that time I will have more to say about how hydrocarbons came about during the creation week.