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The Complete Books of Charles Fort: The Book of the Damned / Lo! / Wild Talents / New Lands

By Charles Fort



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The Complete Books of Charles Fort: The Book of the Damned / Lo! / Wild Talents / New Lands By Charles Fort

"Did beings from outer space visit earth in the past ... are the various objects seen in the sky evidences of their visits?

What is the explanation of falls of frogs, falls of fishes, falls of seagulls, which have been recorded from time to time?

How can we account for all the inexplicable astronomical observations that have been made in the past?

How can we answer reports of strange animals, disappearances of men from open sight, curious structures in the snow, talents like teleportation and telekinesis?"

These are the "damned," by which the late Charles Ford meant all the wide range of mysteries that are ignored by orthodox science or explained away improperly. He worked for 27 years at the British Museum and the New York Public Library gathering material on phenomena from the borderlands between science and fantasy. His research appeared in four books: *The Book of the Damned*, *New Lands*, *Lo!*, and *Wild Talents*.

In these four volumes Fort organized and commented on a wild host of phenomena: flying saucers seen in the sky before the invention of aircraft, flying wheels, strange noises in the sky; correlations between volcanic activity and atmospheric phenomena; falls of red snow; falls of frogs, fishes, worms, shells, jellies; finding of "thunderbolts"; discrepancies in the schedules of comets, sightings on Mars and the moon; infra-Mercurian planets; inexplicable footprints in snowfields; flat earth phenomena, disruptions of gravity; poltergeist phenomena; stigmata; surviving fossil animals; the Jersey devil; Kaspar Hauser; spontaneous combustion; and similar weird effects.

While Charles Ford never actually explained the phenomena, beyond making vague hints of an organic universe and neo-Hegelianism, through the years his following has grown. At first his work was picked up by literary men such as Theodore Dreiser, Booth Tarkington, Clarence Darrow, Havelock Ellis, and Oliver Wendell Holmes. Later, "Fortean themes" influenced the development of science fiction, and today his work remains the great predecessor to all extraterrestrial speculations.



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The Complete Books of Charles Fort: The Book of the Damned / Lo! / Wild Talents / New Lands By Charles Fort Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #240150 in Books
- Published on: 1975-02-01
- Released on: 1975-02-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.85" h x 2.13" w x 6.11" l, 2.54 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 1152 pages

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