

Afterword to *The Other Log of Phileas Fogg*
Only a Coincidence: Phileas Fogg, Philip José Farmer, and the Wold Newton Family
by Win Scott Eckert

Phileas Fogg lives!

And so do Sherlock Holmes, and the jungle lord, and Doc Savage, and the insidious Doctor Fu Manchu.

In 1844, Fogg participated in an Eridanean blood-sharing ceremony, which granted him a lifespan of one-thousand years.

Philip José Farmer points out that there is no record of Sherlock Holmes' death.¹ One of Holmes' biographers, William S. Baring-Gould, revealed that the Great Detective developed a Royal Jelly bee pollen elixir which extended his life²; he probably perfected the Royal Jelly treatment in 1921.

The jungle lord is immortal. As shown in one of the canonical stories recounting his adventures: he was given an immortality elixir by an African witch doctor in 1912. Later on, in 1933, the jungle lord, his wife, and a few others gained access to Kavuru pills which halted the aging process. The jungle lord shared these with his cousin, Doc Savage, "the Man of Bronze," who analyzed and synthesized the pills, resulting in an unlimited supply to be shared with both their families and their closest associates.³

Doctor Fu Manchu independently developed his Elixir of Life in 1929.⁴

In addition to the common thread of immortality, or at least very long life, there is another tie which binds together these amazing men: they are all members of the extensive Wold Newton Family.

The Wold Newton Family takes its name from the cosmic event that spawned it. On December 13, 1795, at 3:00 p.m., a meteorite came plunging to the earth, landing near the English village of Wold Newton. The impact site became part of the local folklore in the countryside of the Yorkshire Wolds in the East Riding of Yorkshire. Pieces of the Wold Cottage meteorite⁵ are held in the Natural History Museum in London, and in 1799, Edward Topham built a brick monument to commemorate the event:

Here
On this Spot, Dec^r 13th, 1795
fell from the Atmosphere
AN EXTRAORDINARY STONE
In Breadth 28 inches

¹ Foreword to Farmer's *The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Peerless Peer*, Titan Books, 2011.

² *Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street*, Bramhall House, 1962.

³ This is recounted in Philip José Farmer's *Tarzan Alive: A Definitive Biography of Lord Greystoke*, Doubleday & Co., 1972; University of Nebraska Press Bison Books, 2006.

⁴ *The Mask of Fu Manchu* by Shan Greville, edited for publication by Sax Rohmer (1930); part of Titan Books' Fu Manchu series.

⁵ The meteorite is named after the Wold Cottage, the house owned by Edward Topham, who was a poet, playwright, landowner, and local magistrate. Apparently Magistrate Topham was instrumental in the Wold Cottage meteorite's role in promoting worldwide acceptance of the fact that some stones are not of this Earth. The Wold Cottage is still privately owned, and is currently the site of an excellent bed and breakfast; nearby is the Wold Top Brewery, where one can procure the local brew, Falling Stone Bitter.

In Length 30 inches
and
Whose Weight was 56 Pounds
THIS COLUMN
In Memory of it
was erected by
EDWARD TOPHAM
1799

History also records that several people observed the object in the sky. “Topham’s shepherd was within 150 yards of the impact and a farmhand named John Shipley was so near that he was forcibly struck by mud and earth as the falling meteorite burrowed into the ground.”⁶ A contemporaneous account observes that:

In the afternoon of the 13th of December, 1795, near the Wold Cottage, noises were heard in the air, by various persons, like the report of a pistol; or of guns at a distance at sea; though there was neither any thunder or lightning at the time:—two distinct concussions of the earth were said to be perceived:—and an hissing noise, was also affirmed to be heard by other persons, as of something passing through the air;—and a labouring man plainly saw (as we are told) that something was so passing; and beheld a stone, as it seemed, at last, (about ten yards, or thirty feet, distant from the ground) descending, and striking into the ground, which flew up all about him: and in falling, sparks of fire, seemed to fly from it.

Afterwards he went to the place, in company with others; who had witnessed part of the phænomena, and dug the stone up from the place, where it was buried about twenty-one inches deep.

It smelt, (as it is said,) very strongly of sulphur, when it was dug up: and was even warm, and smoked:—it was found to be thirty inches in length, and twenty-eight and a half inches in breadth. And it weighed fifty-six pounds.

(Remarks Concerning Stones Said To Have Fallen from the Clouds, Both in These Days, and in Antient Times by Edward King, ESQ. F.R.S. and F.A.S, 1796.)

What many historians fail to adequately record is the presence of eighteen other persons in the immediate vicinity at the time of the Wold Newton meteor strike. We know about these eighteen people through the extraordinary and singular work of one historian. This historian, in fact, has engaged in a rather in-depth treatment of the subject in two scholarly biographical tomes. However, despite the fact that this historian’s biographies are often appropriately shelved in the Biography section of libraries, his revelations are generally regarded as fictional.

The historian to whom I refer, of course, is Philip José Farmer, and the biographies of which I speak are *Tarzan Alive: A Definitive Biography of Lord Greystoke* (1972) and *Doc Savage: His Apocalyptic Life* (1973). In the course of his researches into the life of Lord Greystoke, Farmer extensively traced the jungle lord’s ancestry, and came to discover the ape-man was closely related to several other august historical personages. The nexus of this relationship was the Wold Cottage meteor strike in 1795.

As Farmer uncovered, seven couples and their coachmen “were riding in two coaches past Wold Newton, Yorkshire... A meteorite struck only twenty yards from the two coaches...

⁶ See the *Wold Cottage* website, <fernlea.tripod.com/woldcottage.html>.

The bright light and heat and thunderous roar of the meteorite blinded and terrorized the passengers, coachmen, and horses... They never guessed, being ignorant of ionization, that the fallen star had affected them and their unborn.” (*Tarzan Alive*, Addendum 2, pp. 247-248.)

The eighteen present were:⁷

Coach Passengers (14)

- John Clayton, 3rd Duke of Greystoke, and his wife, Alicia Rutherford – *ancestors of the jungle lord*
- Sir Percy Blakeney, and his (second) wife, Alice Clarke Raffles – *Blakeney is from Baroness Emmuska Orczy’s The Scarlet Pimpernel and sequels*
- Fitzwilliam Darcy, and his wife, Elizabeth Bennet – *from Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice*
- George Edward Rutherford (the 11th Baron Tennington), and his wife, Elizabeth Cavendish – *ancestors of Professor George Edward Challenger, from The Lost World by Edward Malone, edited for publication by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*
- Honoré Delagardie, and his wife, Philippa Drummond – *ancestors of Hugh “Bulldog” Drummond from H.C. “Sapper” McNeile’s (and later Gerard Fairlie’s) novels*
- Dr. Siger Holmes, and his wife, Violet Clarke – *ancestors of Sherlock Holmes, from the stories and novels by John H. Watson, M.D., edited for publication by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*
- Sir Hugh Drummond and his wife, Lady Georgia Dewhurst – *ancestors of Hugh “Bulldog” Drummond from H.C. “Sapper” McNeile’s (and later Gerard Fairlie’s) novels*

Coachmen (4)

- Louis Lupin – *ancestor of Arsène Lupin, from novels and stories by Maurice Leblanc*
- Albert Lecoq – *ancestor of Monsieur Lecoq, from the novels by Émile Gaboriau*
- Albert Blake – *ancestor of Sexton Blake, from the stories by Harry Blythe and countless others*
- 1 unnamed by Farmer

⁷ It has since been revealed, by researchers inspired by Farmer’s original discoveries, that there may have been several more persons present that fateful day, not named by Farmer. I restrict myself herein to Farmer’s original findings.

The meteor's ionized radiation caused a genetic mutation in those present, endowing many of their descendants with extremely high intelligence and strength. As Farmer stated, the meteor strike was "the single cause of this nova of genetic splendor, this outburst of great detectives, scientists, and explorers of exotic worlds, this last efflorescence of true heroes in an otherwise degenerate age."⁸ (*Tarzan Alive*, Addendum 2, pp.230-231.)

In addition to the jungle lord and the Man of Bronze, Farmer concluded that influential people whose lives were chronicled in popular literature were part of the Wold Newton Family, including Solomon Kane (a pre-meteor strike ancestor); Captain Blood (a pre-meteor strike ancestor); The Scarlet Pimpernel (present at meteor strike); Fitzwilliam Darcy and his wife, Elizabeth Bennet (present at meteor strike); Sherlock Holmes and his nemesis Professor Moriarty (aka Captain Nemo); Phileas Fogg; Monsieur Lecoq; The Time Traveler; Allan Quatermain; A.J. Raffles; Professor Challenger; Arsène Lupin; Bulldog Drummond and his archenemy, Carl Peterson; the evil Fu Manchu and his adversary, Sir Denis Nayland Smith; Sir Richard Hannay; G-8; Lord Peter Wimsey; The Shadow; Sam Spade; Doc Savage's friend and associate Monk Mayfair, his cousin Pat Savage, and his daughter Patricia Wildman; The Spider; Nero Wolfe; Mr. Moto; The Avenger; Philip Marlowe; James Bond; Lew Archer; Travis McGee; and many more.

Farmer's researches, uncovering the cosmic explanation for the almost superhuman nature and abilities of these amazing men and women, heroes and villains, are meticulous, well-sourced, and representative of all his historical endeavors. He not only studied the jungle lord's life, but he actually met and interviewed the ape-man himself,⁹ after spending uncounted hours poring over Burke's *Peerage* to uncover his real name, titles, arms, and forebears. He applied a similar depth of focus when researching the life of Doc Savage, discovering Doc's real name, ancestors, and current relatives, as well as the family arms.

After writing the two biographies, Farmer continued to chronicle previously unrevealed exploits of Wold Newton Family members in novels and short stories; often these tales have been mistaken for fiction, but they are entirely consistent with the information he had already uncovered, and many are similarly sourced from newly discovered, and unpublished, manuscripts and diaries.¹⁰

⁸ Of course, not all the Wold Newton Family members were heroes. Some turned the genetic advantages with which they had been blessed toward decidedly nefarious pursuits.

⁹ On September 1, 1970, Philip José Farmer conducted "An Exclusive Interview with Lord Greystoke." (Originally published as "Tarzan Lives" in *Esquire*, April 1972; reprinted in Farmer's *Tarzan Alive: A Definitive Biography of Lord Greystoke*, University of Nebraska Press Bison Books, 2006.) The interview ostensibly took place in Libreville, Gabon, West Africa, but Farmer later revealed that the interview actually occurred in Chicago. ("I Still Live!" in *Farmerphile: The Magazine of Philip José Farmer* no. 3, January 2006; reprinted in the Farmer collection *Up From the Bottomless Pit and Other Stories*, Subterranean Press, 2007.)

¹⁰ Farmer's prior publication of *A Feast Unknown* (1969), *Lord of the Trees* (1970), and *The Mad Goblin* (1970) (all part Titan Books' series of Farmer reissues) may have also added to the impression among some readers that the Wold Newton biographies, novels, and stories are works of fiction. These novels are also sourced, from the memoirs of Lord Grandrith, and cover the exploits of Grandrith and Doc Caliban. Grandrith is also a jungle lord, while Caliban is also a Man of Bronze. However, unlike Greystoke and Savage, who are cousins, Grandrith and Caliban are half-brothers. They share a common history which is not based on the Wold Newton meteor strike. Among Farmer's followers there are several explanations for the discrepancies: (1) The novels are highly fictionalized adventures of the real Greystoke and Savage, and Farmer published the books before uncovering and revealing the true backgrounds of these men in *Tarzan Alive* and *Doc Savage: His Apocalyptic Life*; (2) Grandrith and Caliban's

Among the first of these was *The Adventure of the Peerless Peer*, edited by Farmer in 1974 from Dr. John H. Watson's unpublished manuscript, and reissued by Titan Books in 2011. Another, *The Other Log of Phileas Fogg* was first published in 1973, and derived from Phileas Fogg's secret notes.

Further books in Farmer's Wold Newton series include *Time's Last Gift* (1972; revised 1977) and *Hadon of Ancient Opar* (1974).¹¹ *Hadon of Ancient Opar* kicks off the Khokarsa trilogy, which is rounded out by *Flight to Opar* (1976) and *The Song of Kwasin* (2012), the latter coauthored with Christopher Paul Carey.

Ironcastle (1976) is Farmer's translation and retelling of J.-H. Rosny Aîné's *L'Étonnant Voyage de Hareton Ironcastle* (1922), which has several prominent Wold Newton references. Farmer's *The Lavalite World* (1977), the fifth entry in the World of Tiers series,¹² solidly connects to the Wold Newton series. This is not an accident; more on this in a moment.

Farmer also wrote several Wold Newton short stories and pieces in the 1970s: "Skinburn," "The Problem of the Sore Bridge—Among Others," "The Freshman," "After King Kong Fell," "A Scarlet Study," "The Doge Whose Barque Was Worse Than His Bight," "The Obscure Life and Hard Times of Kilgore Trout," "Extracts from the Memoirs of 'Lord Greystoke,'" and others more peripherally connected to the series.

He also continued to write short biographical pieces, including "A Reply to 'The Red Herring,'" "The Two Lord Ruftons," "The Great Korak—Time Discrepancy," "The Lord Mountford Mystery," "From ERB to Ygg," "A Language for Opar," and "Jonathan Swift Somers III, Cosmic Traveller in a Wheelchair: A Short Biography by Philip José Farmer (Honorary Chief Kennel Keeper)."¹³

Farmer returned to the Wold Newton series in a big way in the 1990s, starting the decade with the authorized novel *Escape from Loki: Doc Savage's First Adventure* (1991), and rounding it out with the authorized *The Dark Heart of Time: A Tarzan Novel* (1999). 2009 saw the publication of the Wold Newton series novel *The Evil in Pemberley House*, coauthored with Win Scott Eckert. Farmer passed away on February 25, 2009, after the completion of *The Evil in Pemberley House* but before publication. The following year Wold Newton short fiction was authorized by Farmer's estate, and new stories based on his research appeared.¹⁴

Returning to *The Other Log of Phileas Fogg*, it's worth noting that not only is Fogg a Wold Newton Family member, but so too is his primary adversary, Nemo (aka Professor James

escapades occurred much as Farmer documented them, based on Grandrith's memoirs; the two heroes coexist alongside their more famous analogues in the Wold Newton Universe; or (3) Lord Grandrith and Doc Caliban exist in a universe which is parallel, but very similar, to the Wold Newton Universe. Perhaps this alternate universe shares a common past with the Wold Newton Universe, but diverged from it at some point in prehistory. The latter alternative begs the question how Farmer came into possession of Grandrith's memoirs, but solving such a mystery is not insurmountable.

¹¹ Both volumes are part of Titan Books' reissues of the Wold Newton series. Christopher Paul Carey discusses Farmer's research and sources for *Time's Last Gift* and the Khokarsa trilogy in an afterword to *Time's Last Gift*, Titan Books, 2012.

¹² *The Maker of Universes* (1965), *The Gates of Creation* (1966), *A Private Cosmos* (1968), *Behind the Walls of Terra* (1970), *The Lavalite World* (1977), *Red Orc's Rage* (1991), and *More Than Fire* (1993).

¹³ These have been collected in *Myths for the Modern Age: Philip José Farmer's Wold Newton Universe*, Win Scott Eckert, ed., MonkeyBrain Books, 2005.

¹⁴ "A Kick in the Side" by Christopher Paul Carey and "Is He in Hell?" by Win Scott Eckert, *The Worlds of Philip José Farmer 1: Protean Dimensions*, Michael Croteau, ed., Meteor House, 2010; "Kwasin and the Bear God" by Philip José Farmer and Christopher Paul Carey, *The Worlds of Philip José Farmer 2: Of Dust and Soul*, Michael Croteau, ed., Meteor House, 2011.

Moriarty). In fact, they are half-brothers. The dalliance that led to Moriarty's birth also caused Phileas' mother, Lorina Dacre, to divorce his biological father, Sir William Clayton. Lorina Dacre was the daughter of Lord Dacre and Jane Carfax, who in turn was the daughter of Lord Rufton.

Nemo also has several Capellean assistants: Colonel James Moriarty (the very tall dark man with a heavy stoop); Colonel Sebastian Moran; a man named Vandeleur; and a henchman who is "the dissolute wenching young baronet, Sir Hector Osbaldistone."

Colonel Moriarty is the Professor's elder brother. That two brothers Moriarty share the first name James is an oddity found in Dr. Watson's accounts of Sherlock Holmes. In "The Final Problem" Watson refers to Colonel James Moriarty, and in "The Adventure of the Empty House," Holmes mentions Professor James Moriarty.

Colonel Moran was Professor Moriarty's lieutenant and appeared in Watson and Doyle's "The Empty House." Vandeleur appeared in Robert Louis Stevenson's short story "The Rajah's Diamond," which was published in the collection *New Arabian Nights*. Sir Hector Osbaldistone is a descendant of Sir Francis Osbaldistone, who was seen in Sir Walter Scott's *Rob Roy*.

Fogg's secret log also indicates that before joining Fogg, his valet Passepartout was a valet for Lord Windermere. Oscar Wilde wrote a biographical play about Lord Windermere's wife: *Lady Windermere's Fan: A Play About a Good Woman*. The log also refers to Lady Jane Brandon of Brandon Beeches. Brandon Beeches also appeared in George Bernard Shaw's *An Unsocial Socialist*.¹⁵

Finally, Fogg's notebooks discuss the Rajah Dakkar of Bundelcund, a renegade Capellean who is killed. This cannot be the Prince Dakkar of Jules Verne's *The Mysterious Island*, which H.W. Starr dismisses as wholly fictional in his essay "A Submersible Subterfuge, or, Proof Impositive."¹⁶ However, if there is a kernel of truth in *The Mysterious Island* (or more than a kernel), then maybe Rajah Dakkar is the Prince's father.

Perhaps the greatest mystery to be found in *The Other Log of Phileas Fogg* is not resolved by Fogg's secret diaries, but rather is contained in Farmer's cryptic concluding comment: "That Phileas Fogg's initials and your editor's are the same is, I assure you, only a coincidence."

What precisely is Farmer hinting at here? That *he is* Phileas Fogg?

¹⁵ Lady Jane Brandon, the widow of Sir Charles Brandon, became Sir William Clayton's twelfth wife after his eleventh wife perished in 1874. Sir William, a Wold Newton Family member, was the biological father of Phileas Fogg.

¹⁶ There is a split among post-Farmer Wold Newton researchers regarding the veracity of *The Mysterious Island*, and the validity of many points made in Starr's essay. A few even go so far as to challenge the authenticity of Fogg's notebooks, casting them as an elaborate forgery; others take a more moderate view, and have proposed lines of research which reconcile aspects of *The Mysterious Island* with *The Other Log of Phileas Fogg*.