

## DR. ZORBO ATTACKS CITY WITH ZEPPELIN ARMADA

*Inspired heroes battle crazed scientist high above New York!*

### Aeon Society Battles Sky Brigade

By Charles Dukumphries

New York escaped calamity and destruction today at the hands of Dr. Manfred von Zorbo and his Death Balloons, thanks largely to the assistance of Chicago's Aeon Society for Gentlemen.

A heated battle, complete with courageous aerial combat by the famed pilot Jake "Danger Ace" Stefokowski, raged in the skies at mid-day. While the valiant aviator ran interference amidst a hail of deadly gunfire, Prof. Benjamin Franklin Dixon, piloting his custom auto-gyro, spirited Max Mercer and members of his Aeon Society onto the deck of Dr. Zorbo's command ship for the final assault.

"It was our pleasure to give that madman a sound thrashing," said renowned adventurer "Safari" Jack Tallon afterward. "I only regret that the fiend has escaped again!"

New York's peaceful morning was shattered when "Menschheit! Zum Himmel!" rang out over loud speakers near dawn; German words meaning, "Humanity! To the Skies!" It was the voice of Dr. Manfred von

Zorbo. Once considered an authority in the fields of sociology and engineering, Dr. Zorbo had a less rational tutelage for the city. The leaders of the world had ignored his warnings of overpopulation and the growth of cities. They had rejected his vision for floating cities in the sky.

Now, New York, like others before it, was to pay the price. If the mayor did not deliver \$10,000 to the top of the Statue of Liberty by noon, Dr. Zorbo's Death Balloons would rain down fire on the city.

By mid-morning, the news of Dr. Zorbo's coming assault had driven the citizens of New York into a panic. Police and city officials were baffled, and the mere sight of the black zeppelin fleet caused an automobile accident that cost the lives of three people.

At 10:00 AM, the mayor received a telephone call from millionaire Maxwell Mercer, founder of Chicago's Aeon Society for Gentlemen. In a ten-minute conversation, the mayor pleaded for the Society's assistance.

(Continued A-2)



**Mercer's Aeon Society Triumphant over Scientific Villain**

### Hammersmith Incident Linked to "Weird Phenomena"

by Dr. Edwin Isolanti

Scientific evidence has linked the explosion of the late Dr. Sir Calvin Hammersmith's so-called "Telluric Engine" to the upsurge in recent, inexplicable occurrences.

Since that event, serpents falling from the sky, human spontaneous combustion, the discovery of cannibalistic plants and the like, have been less-than-isolated events.

Dr. Hammersmith was a respected physicist who invited some of the world's biggest names in science

and politics to his London, England manor on July 21, 1922. Dr. Hammersmith claimed that telluric energy, also known as "z-waves," represented a limitless source of clean power that might liberate man of his reliance on fuels such as coal.

Unfortunately, the world may never know what scientific relevance this discovery may have been as Dr. Hammersmith's engine exploded, killing nearly all those present.

Nonetheless, some scientists now speculate that Dr.

Hammersmith's experiment was not completely unsuccessful. They link these weird phenomena to the very z-waves unleashed by the explosion that hot summer day.

Maxwell Mercer, philanthropist and founder of the Aeon Society for Gentlemen, could not be contacted for comment, leading to more questions about his survival following the fire at the Hammersmith home.

(Continued on B-4.)

### Jaguar Cult Stalks Human Prey

by Sarah Gettel

Villagers outside Iquitos, Peru have recovered the body of another mauled German worker from the swamps. The Bidembach Company has aggressively pushed its oil mining operations into the wilderness of the region since the gruesome death of Hanns Bidembach, the son of the company's owner, in November of last year.

Locals in Iquitos disregard reports of superstitious tribesmen.

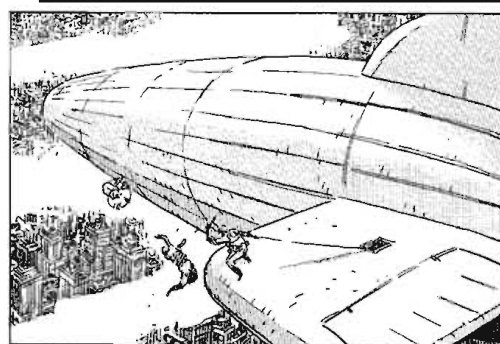
"They say that the sons of Ocelotl, the so-called 'jaguar queen,' are defending her swamps," said a Peruvian associate of the Bidembach Company. "They say that these men are half jaguar. The people who say these things, they are ridiculous. The had not seen automobiles until Bidembach arrived."

While some dismiss the claims of these simple tribes, autopsies do not lie.

(Continued on B-2.)

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Artist Rendition of Dr. Zorbo's Command Ship by Staff Artist Guy Davis



Photograph of "Danger Ace" Stefokowski and crew battling the Death Balloons by Staff Photographer Mike Danzo

### Col. Fawcett and Son to Man Expedition into Brazil

by William J. Truman, Esq.

Renowned explorer Colonel Percy Harrison Fawcett has announced plans for his next expedition into the reaches of the South American jungle. This will mark Colonel Fawcett's eighth exploratory trip on the continent.

Col. Fawcett, formerly of the United Kingdom's Royal Geographic Society and the

Boundary Commission, plans this journey around a mysterious city in the wilderness of Brazil, to which he refers only as "Z."

What more, Col. Fawcett's son, Jack, and friends will accompany him on this dangerous expedition.

(Continued on C-1)



One interpretation of the Jaguar queen by staff artist Andrew Trabbold

Dear Sir,

You are cordially invited to a scientific exhibition of the greatest importance. I do not exaggerate when I say that this discovery could potentially change the world forever.

Please attend the demonstration of my Telluric Engine at my laboratory in West London on 21 July 1922 and discuss the implications of this grand discovery.

If you are conversant with current developments in the physical sciences, you will have read or heard of the theory that the vacuum itself has energy to it... that there is energy even in nothingness! If energy can deform space and time as Einstein's General Theory of Relativity postulates, then space and time can store energy. My Telluric Engine draws, or will draw, upon this seemingly limitless source of power!

So please, attend my demonstration. As you no doubt can already conceive, this has implications far beyond the advancement of science. A new tomorrow beckons, and I would wish for you to help greet it!

Doctor Sir Calvin Hammersmith

Atlas Cross

Bushy Park

London



*London Times*, 22 July 1922

## **FIRE DESTROYS WEST END MANOR**

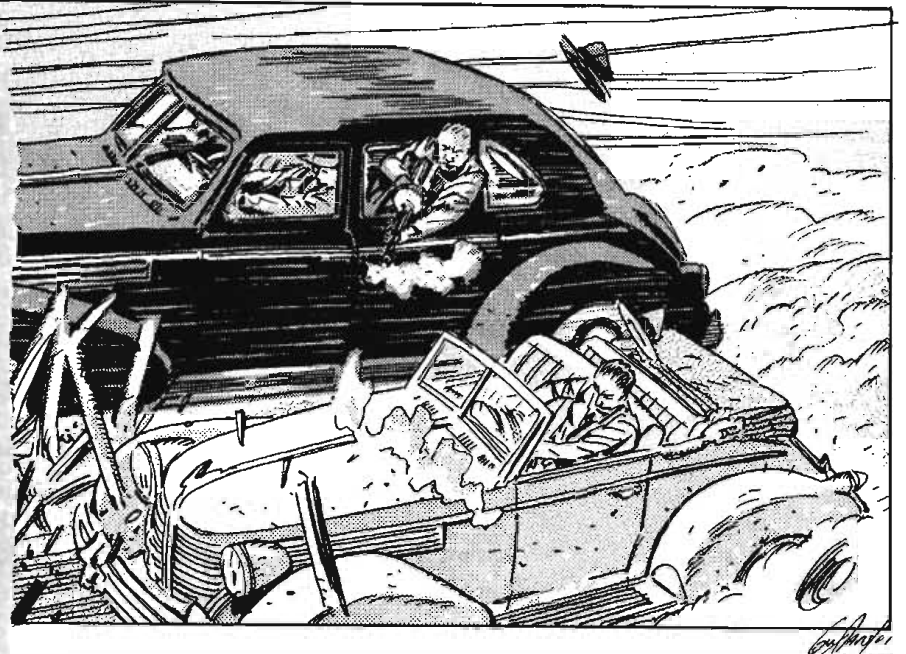
*Death Toll Unknown; Famous Inventor Lost*

One of the most distinguished members of London's scientific community, albeit one of its most eccentric, is no more. Dr. Sir Calvin Hammersmith perished in a fire at his Bushy Park home late last night. He was in the process of demonstrating a new scientific apparatus to the sort of cosmopolitan, eclectic audience so familiar to those granted the opportunity to participate in his salons. However, at the experiment's height, something went horribly wrong.

An explosion erupted from Dr. Hammersmith's apparatus, engulfing the room in flame. Attendees fled.



*by [signature]*



## Chicago Times, July 19th, 1923

### NEW CLUB TO OPEN DOORS

#### Æon Society for Gentlemen Promises Big Things

CHICAGO — Noted philanthropist and adventurer Maxwell Anderson Mercer announced yesterday that he is opening a new gentleman's club, the Æon Society for Gentlemen, here in Chicago. "We are looking for people of an adventurous nature who are interested in exploring the new worlds around us," Mercer said.

Maxwell Mercer has been instrumental in funding and leading expeditions in the darkest parts of Africa and South America.



### From the Personal Journal of Whitley Styles

November, 1923

*It's been four months, and no one is dead. I'm amazed, sometimes, at the scrapes we manage to escape.*

*Stefokowski crashed in the Yukon – and managed not only to survive, but came out with the Furry Man in one piece. "Safari" Jack Tallon led that Smithsonian expedition into the Congo and when it all went bad, he escaped by intimidating the locals. I barely made it out of San Francisco after my run in with the Ubiquitous Dragon and his Dragon's Coil Tong. And we nearly lost Annabelle to a stunt during filming of a movie in Los Angeles.*

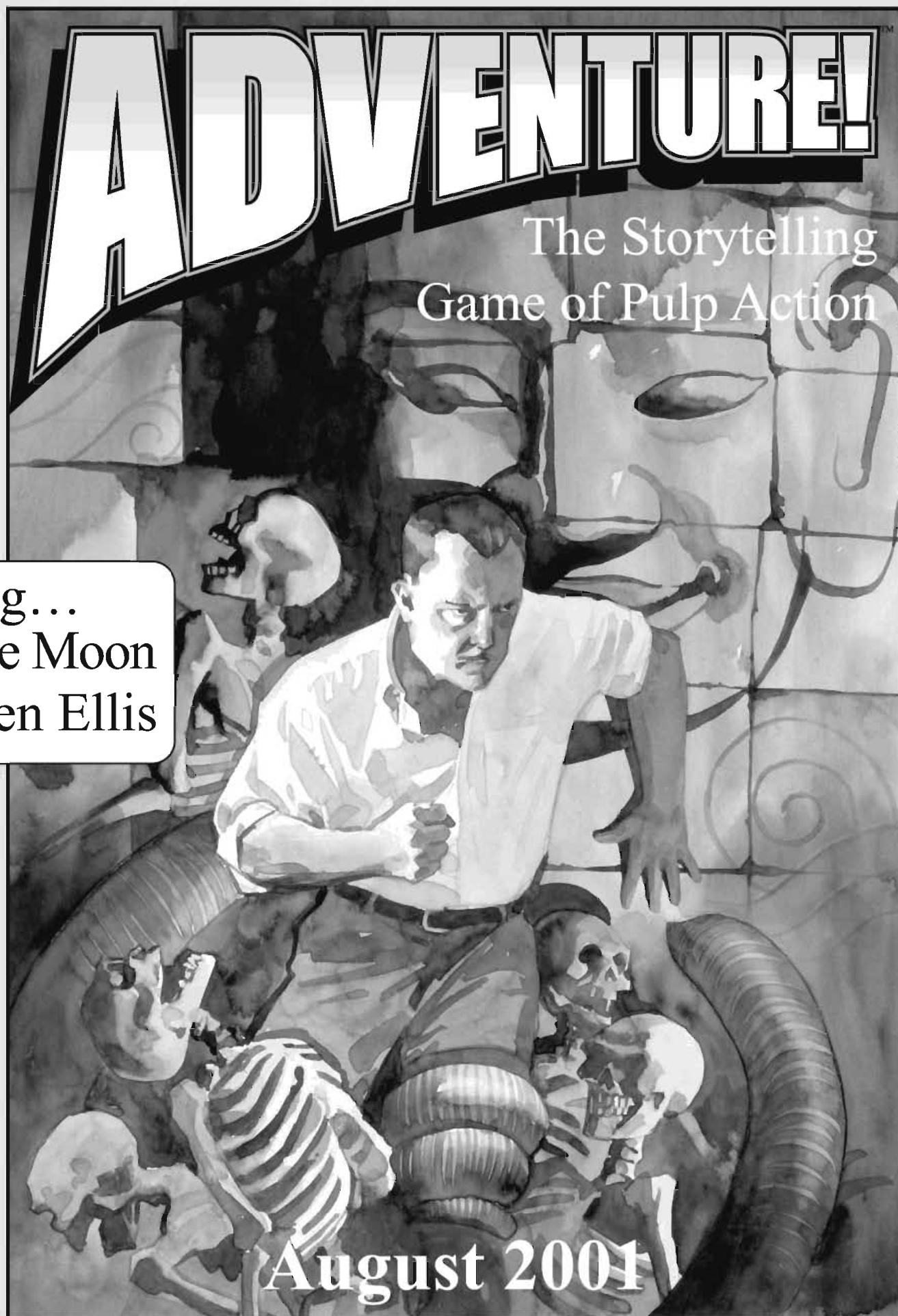
*Max reminded us not to take any of it personally, that we're not pursuing personal vendettas or out to force people to change. After all, the Æon Society is not a secret government, and it has no intention of becoming one. We fight against secrets. Some of the secrets we've uncovered have left me in shock. Lost worlds, people with strange abilities, secret organizations I never suspected – who would have ever thought such things existed outside the pages of the pulps?*

*It's all pretty amazing stuff, and the Æon Society is right there, uncovering it firsthand. I've been treating all we've been doing as a bit of a lark, but now? I think I can – I should – do more.*



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