

MORE "PHLEGMIANA"

Recently several sets of missing pages from Grayson d'Auly's massive *Phlegmiana* have turned up here at the Archives. Their discovery may eventually permit us to partially fill several of the puzzling lacunae in that work, which was published in considerable disarray following the disappearance of its author. The page numbers on this new material are misleading; we have not found any of the new texts to be closely related to previously published material in *Phlegmiana*, though the persons mentioned are mostly familiar. We briefly speculated that the lemur incident might be part of the woefully incomplete chapter in Volume VIII dealing with Phlegm's crusade against the Small Mammals Act, but have since found that Edna had not at that time joined the "Girls."

Responsible inquiries and speculations are always welcome here, but correspondents should be prepared for long delays in responding to letters. Please do not telephone.

Wooster
April

Alexander S. Gourlay
Acting Director
The Phlegm Archives

revealed that the ukelele had been doctored, perhaps by a firm in the shoe-repair district of Zagreb.³ The lemur died in a Toledo zoo, "sadder but wiser," according to Phlegm's memoirs.

IV. DARK DAYS

In 1923 the "hoop-hoop" girls went straight and told all. Edna and Blanche gave the most damning testimony, though they insisted throughout that Phlegm knew "next to nothing" about lemurs, and that the court was "barking up the wrong tree." "That man," said Edna, "kept trying to feed it corks." All



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is said that he reluctantly abandoned the bagpiper in Cheyenne after a spate of particularly unfavorable reviews.

Following the departure of the extraordinary Mr. MacPherson, Nígel's western tour was, in the main, a critical as well as an artistic success. The *Boise Banner-Eagle* was unstinting in its praise. "Professor Phlegm has done the improbable," it said; "Phlegm and his merry 'Sultaneers' explored the limits of the polka as a blues idiom and did not find it wanting."² Another journal carped about his decision to sing the popular "Oyster Drab's Polka" in an unfamiliar dialect, but praised Phlegm's "unobtrusive sense of pitch."³ Such notices as



break with Satchelveranda was not long in coming, however. The final crisis came with the collapse of Lunar Projection Travel, the unscrupulous swami's most notorious venture, and the only one with which Phlegm refused to be associated afterward. The extent of Phlegm's involvement in this scheme is still not clear; certainly, his post-facto assertion that he was "in bed most of 1938" has not clarified the matter to the satisfaction of all scholars. There can be no doubt that Nigel participated in the earliest phase of the swindle, but promotional material lacks Phlegm's characteristic flair, as is clear in the photograph reproduced at right.

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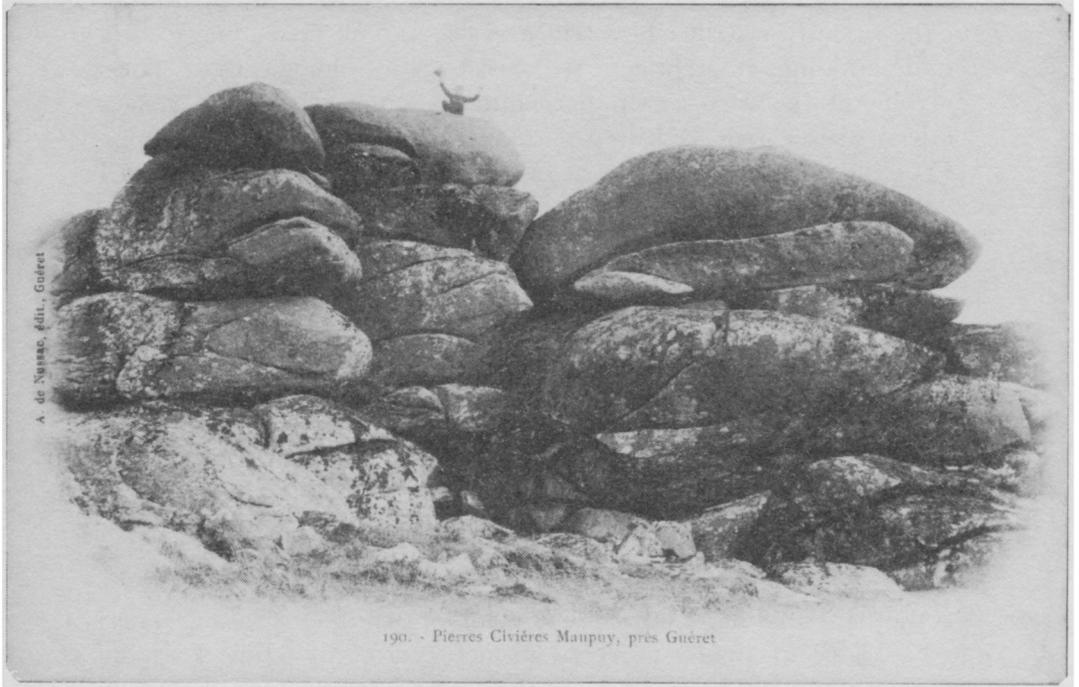


From page six of "Is Moon Travel
for YOUR family?"

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and de Nussac, never one to take a failure lying down, promptly reissued the photo of Phlegm atop the miraculous truffle as an ordinary picture postcard, no. 190 in the series called "All around Guéret." He was canny enough to describe the subject as a view of the "Pierres Civières Maupuy, près Guéret" (although these rocks are almost 90 km. from the town), and for almost a decade the card escaped the notice of Rome. The ruse was detected in 1904, however, and de Nussac's entire line was placed on the Index for fear that it might harbor other reminders of the embarrassing affair.

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A. de Noyasse, éditeur, Guéret

190. - Pierres Civières Maupuy, près Guéret

Postcard. Original title:

"It's Really a Big One," Says Nigel Phlegm."