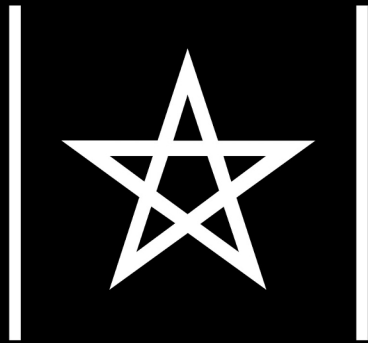


23 is XXIII

is / \ / \ | | | | is

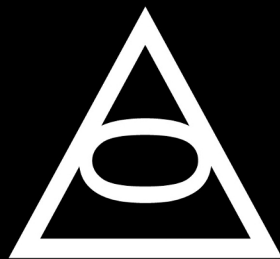


Magick
Portal

7 lines to form
the device

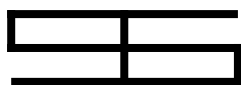
$7 + 23 = 30 =$

IIIO =



THE
23
MYSTERY

compiled by
THE 23RDIAN



SPOOK PRESS

Revised and expanded edition
published by the Spook Press on 6
May 2022. First published by Archives
Reeve on 6 June 2008, then published
by MR on 5 July 2018. Copyright ©
2008/2018/2022 The 23rdian/The
Respective Artist. All Rights Reserved.
The Spook Press can be contacted by
e-mail at: mark-reeve@hotmail.com
and more Spook Press plus other
releases are now available online at:
<https://markreeveother.blogspot.com>

CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
The Start of it All.....	2
Humanity.....	3
Mathematics.....	4
Religion.....	5
Cult & Occult.....	10
Aleister Crowley.....	16
William S. Burroughs.....	18
Robert Anton Wilson.....	21
Great Britain.....	23
UFOs & Space.....	24
Politics.....	28
War.....	31
Terrorism.....	36
Espionage.....	39
Disasters.....	41
Crime & Punishment.....	45
Broadcasting.....	52
Film.....	53
Television.....	57
Music.....	59
Art.....	63
Literature.....	64
Sport.....	67
Archaeology.....	69
Miscellaneous.....	70
Postscript: The 235 Connection.....	71
Notes.....	73

[BLANK]

“By this art you may contemplate the variation of the 23 letters, which may be so infinitely varied, that the words complicated and deduced thence will not be contained within the compass of the firmament...”

Robert Burton, *The Anatomy of Melancholy*
(G. Bell & Sons Ltd, 1920, p.109).

“It is hard to ‘suffer gladly’ the particular type of fool who expects with a twenty-third-rate idle brain to assimilate in an hour the knowledge that it has cost me twelve years to acquire.”

Aleister Crowley, ‘Gematria’, p.50, in Aleister Crowley, *777*
(Samuel Weiser Inc., 1986).

“What sort of eels called retreat 23? ... 23 skiddo
extranieros perniciosos ... Shrinking in the basement.
Reduce to a code message and transmit.”

William Burroughs, ‘The Dead Star’, in *NOVA Broadcast 5*
(Nova Broadcast Press, 1969, unpaginated).

[BLANK]

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the ages, all of us have worked with, or have been influenced by, numbers, and many thinking people have wondered just what numbers are. Unlike letters and words, the meaning of numbers do not change over time, which shows their greater importance. So did we invent numbers, or *discover* them, already alive? If the latter, are some numbers more powerful than others, and what is their intent?

This present publication does not attempt to answer these intriguing questions, but it does single out for attention a certain number that has been long noted for its ability to obsess those who investigate it: 23.

Like other cultural vectors, the strange and seemingly Sisyphean “23 Mystery” (aka “Vigintitresology”: the study of the Number 23) has, for some reason, made the transition from underground to overground, from obscurity to popularity, with two feature films made on the subject: *23* (1998) in Germany and the Hollywood production, *The Number 23* (2007).

The 23 Mystery, compiled by myself, The 23rdian, with a little help from my friends, documents some of the myriad manifestations of the Number 23 that have occurred in this world, and I hope that this registering of the number’s links and patterns may be of use to other people in their own research of the subject, which is the main purpose of this book, although its ultimate purpose is currently unknown.

NB: Unless otherwise stated, all times stated herein are relative to the time zone of the particular location where the described event occurred.

THE START OF IT ALL

Charles Darwin's famous but flawed (and allegedly plagiarised) treatise, *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*—whose logic asserts that there has been *no* single act of creation; that humankind, like other species, has instead developed from some lower form of life—was first published in the year 1859, and $1+8+5+9 = 23$.

The *Place of the Finding* (that is memorialised with a stone pyramid at Taung in South Africa) is where the fossilised skull of an early human ancestor—an infant ape-like creature known as the “Taung Child” (*Australopithecus africanus*), being the first known small-brained hominid—was discovered. The *Place of the Finding* is located on the official map at 27.3 South 24.5 East: $2+7+3+2+4+5 = 23$.

HUMANITY

There is a nucleus inside every human cell. Each nucleus contains 46 chromosomes, arranged in 23 pairs. One chromosome of every pair is from each parent: the male contributes 23 chromosomes, as does the female. The 23rd chromosome determines gender.

Within the DNA coil of genetic meta-programming instructions there are unexplained bonding irregularities every 23rd angstrom. Non-coding, or so-called “Junk” DNA in the human genome consists of 223 genes. Some claim it has no known biological function, but others suggest it does, even that it is part of the ancient alien genetic manipulation experiments.

The average human biorhythm is 23 days. The average human menstrual cycle is 28 (23+5) days (see *Postscript* below for more on 235). It takes 23 seconds for blood to circulate through the human body, which has a total of 23 vertebrae. Men have 2 sexual orifices and women have 3.

Whenever you point at someone, 2 fingers are aimed at that person but 3 fingers point back at you.

Professor Warren Weaver discovered what has been called the “Birthday Paradox”: that a group of 23 randomly-selected people is the smallest number where there will be a probability higher than 50 percent that two of these people will share the same birthday.

On average, every 23rd wave crashing to the shore is twice as large as normal, and on 23 August 2005, *Hurricane Katrina* formed and struck, that caused the then largest urban evacuation of people in US history.

MATHEMATICS

23 is one of the most commonly cited prime numbers (a number that can only be divided by itself and one). 23 is the lowest prime that consists of consecutive digits (both are primes: 2 being the only even prime number). 23 is the first prime number in which both digits are prime numbers and add up to another prime number. Primes have been described as the “atoms” of mathematics: the building blocks of the world of numbers. The Ancient Chinese (who believed numbers conveyed sexuality: evens for feminine and odds for masculine) considered prime numbers to be the most masculine, conferring special status on 23.

Bengali Tantrists believe the male sex cycle lasts 23 days.

There are 23 Axioms in Euclid’s Geometry. The 23 factorial is 23 digits long.

The first 6 digits of π add to 23; 23 divided by 6 = 3.83333 (recurring); the first six digits also add to 23. Two-thirds of numbers which are divisible by 2 are not multiples of 3.

23 is the lowest positive integer number not scoreable with one dart on a dartboard, and there are 23 joints in the human arm that throws the dart.

RELIGION

After a painstakingly deep chronological study of the Old Testament, John Ussher, Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, stated on the first page of both his *Annales* in Latin and its English translation *Annals of the World* (1658) that the date of the Creation (unspecified in the Bible itself) was on the night preceding 23 October 4004 BC/710 Julian Period (Calendar). (By the Serial Cipher [A=1; B=2; C=3; D=4 etc., up to X=24; Y=25; Z=26], ‘BC’ itself equals 23.) This was agreed upon by many of his learned contemporaries.

The much-cited yet incorrect statement that John Lightfoot, a Master of Cambridge University, England, also placed the Creation on the same date as John Ussher is due to a John Lightfoot ‘quote’ that was partly fabricated by Andrew Dickson White in his *A History of the Warfare of Science with Theology in Christendom* (D. Appleton & Company, two volumes, 1896-1897).

In his book, *We Are Almost There!*, the Christian theologian, Harold Camping, associates the Number 23—that appears throughout the Bible—with God’s “wrath” or “judgment,” and asserts that the period from the Creation Year to the year of the Noachian Flood is exactly 6023 years; that 5023 years after The Flood was Christ’s crucifixion; and that the Great Tribulation period (when Satan rules on Earth) will last 23 years, after which will come the last day of the Earth’s existence, on 21 October 2011: the 23rd day of the seventh month of the Biblical calendar, and 13,023 years after God’s Creation of everything.¹

The 23rd verse of *Genesis* 1 brings the Act of Creation to a close, while *Genesis* 23 deals entirely with death, namely that of

Abraham's wife, Sarah.

Although the Old Testament is unspecific, it is widely held that Adam and Eve had 23 daughters.

The most well known and most quoted of the *Psalms* is Number 23: "The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures ... Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me..."



The 16th Century Scottish clergyman John Knox was both a leader of the Protestant Reformation and the founder of the Presbyterian denomination in Scotland. He is buried under the Stall 23 parking spot [shown left], marked by a yellow plaque, in the back of Saint Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh, Scotland, where Knox was a minister from 1560-1572. A testimony to Knox was said at his grave by James Douglas, the 4th Earl of Morton and newly-elected regent of Scotland: "Here lies one who never feared any flesh."

The twin pillars of Solomon's Temple were both 23 cubits high (1 *Kings* 7:15-16; *Jeremiah* 52:21-22). However, 2 *Chronicles* 3:15 gives a total height of 40 cubits.

In *Revelation* 13:18, the Number of the Beast (Satan's chief human agent on Earth) is—with the superfluous 'and' removed—described in exactly 23 letters: "Six hundred threescore six." *Revelation* 12:4; 7-9, state that Satan gathered together a "third

part of the stars [angels] of heaven,” who were then cast out by God via the Archangel Michael. So two-thirds ($2/3$ rd) of the angels remained in Heaven with God: 2 divided by 3 makes 0.666 recurring (allegedly anyway: in reality it is actually capped by a 7: the Number of God).

Another Satanic-23 connection is the fact that ‘W’ (a double[2] V with three[3] syllables, and the only letter in the English language to be pronounced polysyllabically) has 2 points down and 3 points up and is the 23rd letter of the English alphabet; hence some see the *World Wide Web* as being the Devil’s creation, by the equation: $www = 23\ 23\ 23 = 2 \times 3\ 2 \times 3\ 2 \times 3 = 666$ (also note that WAND reverses to DNA W).

23 cardinals participated in the papal conclave of 1492, convened after the death of Pope Innocent VIII. On the fourth ballot they unanimously elected Pope Alexander VI. On 23 September 1652, Carlo de’ Medici (19 March 1595–17 June 1666) became Dean of the College of Cardinals and Cardinal Bishop of Ostia e Velletri. He presided over the conclave of 1655 and announced the papal election of Pope Alexander VII.

Pope John the 23rd instigated the greatest shake up of the Roman Catholic Church in many years when in 1962 he introduced the Second Vatican Council (aka Vatican II), that brought in widespread modernisation, liberalisation and the dropping of many traditional elements. It was the 21st Ecumenical Council of the Catholic Church and the 2nd to be held at St Peter’s Basilica in Vatican City ($21+2=23$).

The first official meeting for over 400 years between the heads of the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches took place in Vatican City on the 23 March 1966.

In March 2001, the Vatican admitted it was aware that Catholic priests from at least 23 countries had been sexually abusing and raping nuns, mostly in Africa, where priests vowed to celibacy—who previously used prostitutes—had preyed on nuns to avoid getting AIDS. In some cases the priests had made nuns pregnant and then encouraged them to have abortions.²

The revelations of sexual misconduct made by *The Observer* newspaper on 23 February 2013 against the Most Reverend, Cardinal & Archbishop Emeritus of St Andrews & Edinburgh, Keith O'Brien, prompted his resignation 36 hours later.

The 23 October 2011 religious Sunday Services at St Paul's Cathedral in London were cancelled due to the massed anti-capitalist Occupy London protesters camping in its churchyard, who posed a "Health and Safety threat". The only other time the cathedral has closed to the public was four days during the WWII Blitz in 1941.

The material, script and contents (the Temple of Jerusalem, hiding places of treasure, etc.) of the "Copper Scroll" are so very different from the other Dead Sea Scrolls that it is a mystery why its 2 rolled pieces came to be hidden in Cave 3 at Qumran, Israel, where it was found in 1952. In 1955 and 1956, at the Manchester College of Technology, England, the Copper Scroll was cut into 23 lengthwise sections when unrolling it seemed impossible due to its brittleness.

Bill Wiese's book, *23 Minutes In Hell*, details his terrifying descent into the infernal region. His trip began at 3.00AM, ending at 3.23AM.³ He says that it occurred on 23 November 1998: "I had an out-of-body experience which falls under the classification of a vision as described in 2 *Corinthians* 12:1-2."⁴ The numbers from

this biblical verse also encode 3.23 ($2/1+2 = 3/1+2=3$).

In Islam, many Hadith assert that the *Qur'an* was a continuous revelation, and that its verses were revealed systematically over a period of 23 years.

There are “twenty-three Realities” (*Tattwas*) in the Samkhya-yoga system (excepting *prakriti*, the original unmanifested, the basis of later manifestations; and *purusha* [soul], the real and ultimate source of pure consciousness, that manifests itself).

The Freemason, treasure-hunter, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (aka the “Mormons”), and the first Mormon ever to run for President of the USA, Joseph Smith, was born on 23 December 1805 (and had his first encounter with the angel Moroni in 1823). H.I.M Emperor Haile Selassie I—regarded by Rastafarians as the God of the black race—was born on 23 July 1892. His “Earth-day” (birthday) is one of the holiest days of the year in Rastafarianism.

One of the holiest days of the year in Judaism is *Yom Kippur*, that can occur on 23 September: the same day of the *Annual Outdoor Fete* of the AMORC Rosicrucians.

Woden’s Folk,⁵ England’s first and foremost Wodenist Movement, was set up on 23 April 1998 to create a new Folk Religion for the English people.

CULT & OCCULT

The editors of the *Book of Revelation*, the final book of the Bible, did not include a 23rd chapter, and the mysterious designers of the Tarot deck did not include a 23rd card in the Major Arcana; but when the unnumbered, sometimes numbered zero, card *The Fool* completes his initiatory journey from start to finish, then there are 23 cards.

The Oxford Dictionary of Classical Myth & Religion states that when the Egyptian solar calendar was adapted to Roman use, a day was inserted between 23-24 February in leap year: thus 23 February occurred twice.⁶

The original Knights Templar Order had a total of 23 Grand Masters. Their suppression began in France where they were arrested on Friday 13 October 1307 (the origin of the superstition that Friday 13th is unlucky), or Day 13, Month 10: $13+10 = 23$. These original Knights Templar are said to have created both Europe's first bank and Freemasonry. The first Grand Lodge of Freemasonry was founded in England in 1717: 23 years after the founding in 1694 of the Bank of England, which has its own Freemasonic Lodge, No.263.

The Masonic Hall in Stafford, England, is located at 23 Gaol Square. America's Grand Lodge is at the Masonic Hall on West 23rd Street, New York City. The most widespread Freemasonic Rite in use is *Scottish Rite Freemasonry*, that has a total of 23 letters, and in Freemasonic "Twilight Language", the 33 degrees of the *Scottish Rite* can be represented as 'two threes' or '23s'.

Kenneth Grant, the occultist, writer and former Outer Head of the Typhonian Order (originally the Typhonian Ordo Templi

Orientis) was born in Ilford, Essex, England on 23 May 1924.

The artist and actress, Marjorie Cameron, who took part in the 1946 Babalon Working with the OTO initiate, Jack Parsons, and Scientology founder, L. Ron Hubbard, and who starred in Kenneth Anger's feature film, *Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome* (1954), was born on 23 April 1922.

Dagobert II, the Merovingian king thought (by the Priory of Sion and others) to be of the "Holy Bloodline", became the object of an established cult and even had his own feast day: the 23rd December, the anniversary of his death in 679 AD.

John Dee's colleague, the alchemist and skryer, Edward Kelley, was knighted Sir Edward Kelley of Imany & New Lüben by the Holy Roman Emperor, Rudolph II, on 23 February 1590 (or perhaps 1589).

The headquarters of the Grail Foundation of Great Britain is located at: 23 Hamilton Road, Sidcup, Kent, DA15 7HB, UK.

The so-called "Curse of Tutankhamun" took its first victim on 5 April 1923, when Lord Carnarvon—who financed the excavation of the boy-king's tomb and was present at its opening—died from septicaemia after slicing a mosquito bite with his cut-throat razor. It was reported that later, when Pharaoh Tutankhamen's mummy was unwrapped, a wound was found on the cheek in the same position as Lord Carnarvon's mosquito bite.

The medium, Helen Duncan, was the last person convicted under the Witchcraft Act 1735, after announcing the sinking of HMS Hood and HMS Barham during two séances in 1941 (this information was supposedly not public knowledge at the time and caused great concern to British Intelligence). Her trial lasted between 23 March-3 April 1944.

Dr George King, founder of the Aetherius Society, was born on 23 January 1919. He was given orders out of the blue to go to a mountain in Devonshire, UK, on 23 July 1958, where he had a physical encounter with Jesus Christ. This marked the start of Operation STARLIGHT: the charging—with special energy from the Cosmic Hierarchy—of other mountains in Britain then across the world, turning them into holy mountains. The second mountain so-charged and transformed was in Cornwall, UK, on 23 November 1958; the last was Le Nid D'Aigle in France, on 23 August 1961. Upon completion, the Master Aetherius (the “first advanced extra-terrestrial” to contact Dr King) stated that the operation was “the most important single metaphysical task ever undertaken upon *Terra* [Earth] in her present life”.

The controversial guru, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, was born on 23 November 1926.

The American actor River Phoenix—a former member of David Berg’s Children of God cult—was born on 23 August 1970 and died aged 23 from a drugs overdose.

According to Eileen Barker’s book, *New Religious Movements*, “the average age of those becoming ‘core members’ of the Unification Church [aka the Moonies] ... is twenty-three.”⁷

The downfall of the Rajneesh Movement or “Orange People” cult began on 23 October 1985, when its founder and guru Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh plus his inner circle took off in two white Lear jets from their Oregon commune in an unsuccessful attempt to escape the American authorities.

The Reverend Jim Jones and most of his People’s Temple either committed mass suicide or were murdered in 1978 at their HQ in the country of Guyana, that, after achieving independence

from the UK in 1966, became a republic on 23 February 1970.

On 5 October 1994, 23 members of the Order of the Solar Temple (OTS) either committed mass suicide or were murdered at a farmhouse in Ferme des Rochettes, Fribourg, Switzerland. On 23 December 1995, the bodies of 16 OTS members were found in the Vercors mountains of France. On 23 March 1997, five OTS members died *en masse* in Saint-Casimir, Quebec, Canada.

Comet Hale-Bopp was first sighted on 23 July 1996 (the same year Sunspot Cycle 23 began), and was being followed by a UFO, according to the US-based Heaven's Gate cult. *Comet Hale-Bopp* came closest to Earth on 23 March 1997, a distance of 123 million miles; that same month, when the comet was at its brightest, thirty-nine Heaven's Gate members committed mass suicide in order to ascend to the "Evolutionary Kingdom Level Above Human" and live on inside the aforementioned spacecraft. (In this 'death-and-possible-rebirth' context, note that 23 is the number of *The Path of the Hanged Man*, that connects the two Sephiroth *Geburah* and *Hod* on the Cabbalistic Tree of Life. *The Hanged Man* is also *The Crucified Man*, a symbol denoting the place of the crossing over from Life to that which is beyond Life.)

According to the Welsh Assembly, the official number of deaths in the Bridgend Suicides Mystery, that happened in Bridgend, South Wales, between 2007-2008, was 23. "Most were male, many knew each other and hardly any left notes. All except one died by hanging. Parents were terrified and experts were mystified."⁸

America's "Sleeping Prophet", Edgar Cayce, started having visions of the lost island of Atlantis in 1923.

Over a period of thirty years, Avatar Adi Da Samraj created his

“Eternal Message to all” in the form of 23 “Source-Texts” that contain his most essential Writings and Discourses on Awakening and Enlightenment.⁹

On 6 July 2018, Shoko Asahara—founder-leader of the Japanese doomsday cult Aum Shinrikyo—was executed by hanging at the Tokyo Detention House, 23 years after the Aum Shinrikyo sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway.

Perhaps the most famous recipe for the witches’ psychotropic “Flying Ointment” was published by the 23-year-old Italian, Giovanni Battista Della Porta, in the 1558 first edition of his *Magia Naturalis sive De Miraculis Rerum Naturalium* (Book II, Chapter XXVI).

Robert Cochrane (born Roy Bowers), founder of the witchcraft coven the Clan of Tubal Cain (aka the “Royal Windsor Cuveen”), performed ritual suicide in his garden on 23 June 1966, by taking a combination of natural and synthesised drugs. He entered a coma, and died ten days later.

The “11:11 Phenomena” refers to the repeated seeing of the numerals 11:11, often on digital clocks. In this case, the next change would be ‘11:12’, which can be interpreted as $1+1 = 2$; $1+2 = 3$; 23; or 1112: 32, that is 23 reversed.

23 February 2008: it is widely reported that a fragment of a child’s skull had been found at the Haut de la Garenne Satanic Ritual Child Abuse site in Jersey, sparking much speculation. It is later allegedly revealed to be a tiny piece of coconut shell.

The 2012 Eschatological Cult believes that a great change or cataclysm (perhaps the end of the world) will occur when the Mayan Calendar ends in the year 2012: $20+1+2 = 23$. Scholars adhere to different time and counting systems, and debate what

the exact end date is. Mark Van Stone and Anthony Aveni claim it's 21 December; Michael D. Coe, Linda Schele and Marc Zender say that it is 23 December.

ESP and psychokinesis, etc., are popularly known by the term “Psi”, the 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet.

The former publisher, the Psychic Press Ltd., was located at: 23 Great Queen Street, London WC2, UK.

In October 2021, the city council of Christchurch in New Zealand ended its employment of their official wizard, Ian Brackenbury Channell, 88, after his 23 years of service providing “acts of wizardry” and promoting the city.¹⁰

The first-ever unabridged English translation of the foundational text of the Hebrew Kabbalah, *Sephir Yetzirah* or *Zohar*, has 23 Volumes.¹¹

In 2009, after advertising for a resident witch for their tourist attraction near Wells, UK, the owners of the Wookey Hole caves received 23 letters of complaint from church or religious groups.¹²

Horse Ripper attacks are presumably performed by a cult. On 23 June 2004 (the last day of the Summer Solstice), a three-year-old bay mare horse was brutally assaulted with a sharp instrument in Barrhead, Glasgow, Scotland. Two nights later it was assaulted again. Also on 23 June 2004, Chochie the horse was part-scalped in a field in Nottinghamshire, England.¹³

ALEISTER CROWLEY

The British occultist, Aleister Crowley, began his study of Magick at the age of 23, when he was initiated into the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn in 1898. He took the *Oath of Ipsissimus* (the highest degree in his system of Magick) on 23 May 1921. The most famous work associated with Mr Crowley is *Liber AL vel Legis*, that was dictated to him by a non-human entity named Aiwass in 1904: $19+04 = 23$.

In Mr Crowley's teaching text, *Amrita*, dated 23 January 1933, he claims that the use of semen can cure many ailments, including asthma, obesity and greying hair.¹⁴



On Che Guevara's birthday, 2011, in just 23 seconds the Russian art group Voina (War) painted a 213-ft-tall, 89-ft-wide penis named the "Giant Galactic Space Dick" on Liteiny Bridge, St Petersburg, just outside the headquarters of the Russian Security Service, FSB.

On page xxv of Mr Crowley's *777 Revised*, he states that the Number 23 is: "The glyph of life – nascent life." In the Cabalistic Dictionary, *Sepher Sephiroth* (compiled by Mr Crowley and his colleagues), via Hebrew gematria, the Number 23 is defined as being the number of: "Parted, removed, separated"; 'Joy'; 'A thread'; 'Life'."

23 Skidoo is an American catchphrase meaning 'to make a sharp exit'. It appeared in newspapers as early as 1906 and was popularised in the early 1920s (the experimental author William S. Burroughs wrote a short story entitled *23 Skidoo* in 1967). Both *23* and *Skidoo* are part of the title of the 23rd chapter of Mr Crowley's *The Book of Lies: which is also Falsely called Breaks* (1913). In his Commentary to this chapter, Mr Crowley states that: "Both '23' and 'Skidoo' are American words meaning 'Get out'. This chapter describes the Great Work under the figure of a man ridding himself of all his accidents." The *23 Skidoo* catchphrase may instead have originated in the last chapter of the famous British author Charles Dickens' novel, *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859), where the old woman counting the daily victims of the guillotine calls "23" as the self-sacrificing hero, Sydney Carton, is beheaded.

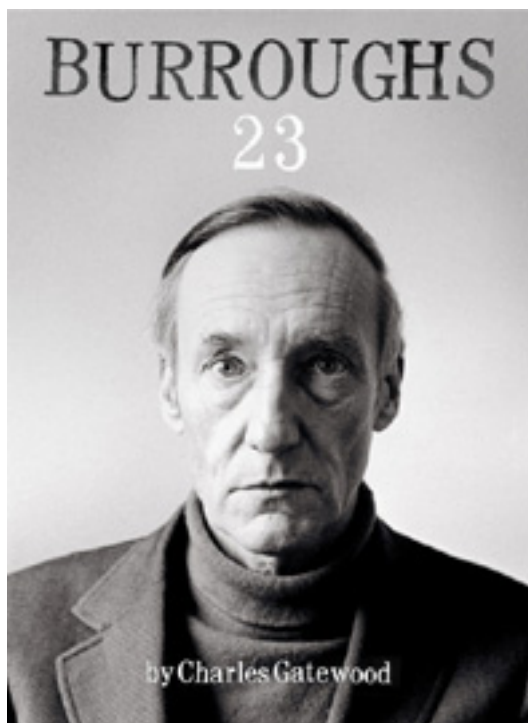
WILLIAM S. BURROUGHS

When the experimental author, William S. Burroughs, was living in Tangier, Morocco, in the early-1960s, he met a “Captain Clark” who ran a ferry between Tangier and Spain. One day, Captain Clark told Mr Burroughs that he had been doing the route for 23 years without an accident. Later that day the ferry sank, killing Captain Clark and everybody aboard. That same evening, while Mr Burroughs was thinking about this incident, he turned on the radio. The first newscast reported the crash of Eastern Airlines Flight 23 on the New York-Miami route. Its pilot was yet another Captain Clark. These mysteriously connected events caught Mr Burroughs’ attention and prompted an obsession in him with the Number 23. He recorded many occurrences of the Number 23 for the rest of his life. He explains how:

From the newspapers and from items people send me I get intersections between all sorts of things. Plane crashes, for example. They come in sequence. A plane piloted by a Captain Clark crashed in California. Now the crash was caused by a crazed passenger, Frankie Gonzales, who shot Captain Clark. The next major plane crash was at Clark Air Force Base in Manila, no survivors. Frankie Gonzales came from Manila. On the plane once, on the Gibraltar-to-Tangier run, the pilot was Captain Clark. Over the loudspeaker came, ‘Captain Clark welcomes you aboard.’ Things like that. They all tie up, there are connections, intersections.¹⁵

In this context, note that the notorious American criminal, John Dillinger—who is said to have robbed a total of 26 banks but only

23 for money—was allegedly shot inside a theatre at 2323 Clark Street, Chicago, IL, USA, and Clarke’s Orbit—the ideal orbit for broadcast and relay communications satellites—is 22,236 miles above the Earth, a distance that contains 0123 (the 23 in normal sequence and 226; $2+2+6 = 10$, which reverses to 01).



Charles Gatewood’s book, *Burroughs 23* (Dana Dana Dana, 2011; a limited edition of 23):
www.burroughs23.com

Mr Burroughs spent the final 23 years of his life in the country of his birth, the USA, and his final television appearance was in the *Last Night On Earth* music video by the Irish religious rock

band U2: 'U' is the 21st letter of the English alphabet; add the '2' and this equals 23.

James Grauerholz was variously Mr Burroughs' lover, friend, collaborator and manager for 23 years, from 1974 to Mr Burroughs' death in 1997.

Mr Burroughs' lifelong friend and closest collaborator, the writer, artist and inventor, Brion Gysin, created a 23-minute radio program entitled *The Permuted Poems of Brion Gysin*, that was first broadcast by the BBC in 1960. B[2nd letter of the English Alphabet]+B[2nd letter]+C[3rd letter]+1+9+6+0 = 23.

ROBERT ANTON WILSON

Sometime around 1966, the aforementioned William S. Burroughs introduced the 23 Mystery to the author and arch-Discordian Robert Anton Wilson, whilst the latter worked at *Playboy* magazine. The star Sirius rises annually on July 23rd, which marked the beginning of the ancient Egyptian (and Sumerian) New Year, and in his book, *Cosmic Trigger Volume 1: The Final Secret of the Illuminati*, Wilson recounts how he received the telepathic message “Sirius is very important” on July 23, “the day when, according to Egyptian tradition, the occult link (through hyperspace?) is most powerful between Earth and Sirius.”¹⁶ Throughout the book Wilson mentions the many other 23 Synchronicities which haunted him.

Mystery man extraordinaire, Adam Weishaupt, created his *Theodor zum guten Rath* Freemasonic Lodge in 1723 AD, that marked the official start of the Bavarian Illuminati. His initials, ‘AW’, are the 1st and 23rd letters of the English Alphabet. The best-known Illuminati symbol is the *Eye-in-the-Triangle*, and a stylised version was employed by the media giant AOL, who permitted a total of only 23 people in its online chatrooms.

For Discordians, 23 is the Holy Number and a tribute to the goddess Eris, the Queen of Chaos. The mantra chanted by Discordians to invoke this Holy Number is “Invert The Pyramid”. The explanation for this is that if you invert the sentence one letter at a time (“dinvert the pyramid”, “id invert the pyram”, etc.), it takes 22 chants, finished by “the final energy releaser” line, “The Pyramid Inverts”, to make a total of 23 chants. Interestingly, according to mainstream Egyptologists the Great Pyramid at Giza

in Egypt was built during the 23-year reign of Pharaoh Cheops, alternately called Khufu.

GREAT BRITAIN

Saint George is the patron saint of England, and the annual Saint George's Day is April 23rd.

According to Nigel Pennick, the total external length of King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England is 138H ('H' being the basic unit of 70cm). $138 = 6 \times 23$, and: "multiples of 23 units" occur frequently in the sacred landscape geometry of the Cambridge region, "notably in connexion with Shonke's Moat on the Virgo figure in the Nuthampstead Zodiac."¹⁷

One of the oldest charities in England is the Tichborne Dole, that is annually distributed on Lady Day in Hampshire. It is said to have been founded in the 12th Century by Lady Maybella, wife of Sir Roger de Tichborne, who, when asked by his wife to provide an annual dole of bread to the poor, took a burning brand from the fire then told his wife he would donate as much land for this purpose as she could walk round before the flame went out. Although she was dying, Lady Maybella managed to crawl around 23 acres of land, still known as "The Crawls", before the torch burnt no more.

Cross Bones Graveyard in Southwark, South London, is a disused post-medieval cemetery that contains the remains of paupers, prostitutes and other outcasts from society. On every 23rd of the month, the Friends of Cross Bones hold a monthly vigil at the graveyard to bless and remember the dead.

Britain's famous "Big Freeze" (when it started snowing and didn't stop) lasted between 23 January-17 March 1947.

UFOS & SPACE

The planet Neptune was officially discovered on 23 September 1846 by the German astronomer Johann Gottfried Galle and his assistant Heinrich Louis d'Arrest. The planet Pluto was officially discovered on the night of 23 January 1930 by the American astronomer Clyde William Tombaugh.

The supposed “British Roswell” UFO crash and retrieval (that allegedly included its alien occupants) took place on the night of 23 January 1974, on the Berwyn Mountains in North Wales. UFOs and aliens are also said to be housed at America’s “Area 51” facility: $23+23+2+3 = 51$. They are all supposedly kept in “Hangar 18”: $23-5 = 18$.

23 March 1983: US President Ronald Reagan (Raygun) proposes that the United States starts the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), or “Star Wars”, a program to develop anti-missile technology that would protect the country from attack by nuclear missiles (and UFOs, according to some).

Orson Welles was aged just 23 when he played a continuity announcer in his infamous CBS-sponsored radio dramatisation of HG Wells’ 1898 novel *The War of the Worlds* on 30 October 1938 in New York, USA. The broadcast is said to have caused widespread panic across America, whose citizens thought the Martians really had landed and were attacking. It also made Welles’ career take off.

Philip Schneider, who claimed to be one of only three people to have survived the alien-human war that took place underground at the Dulce base in 1979, and who may have been later murdered, was born on 23 April 1947.

The 1990s paranormal/conspiracy-themed *X-Files* and *Millennium* television series' were both created by the production company *Ten Thirteen*: $10+13 = 23$. The company is named after its founder, Chris Carter, whose birthday is 10/13. There is a hidden track on the CD version of *X-Files The Album* (1998), that starts playing 10.13 minutes into the final listed track (14: The Dust Brothers, *The X-Files Theme*). The hidden track features Mr Carter delivering a spoken-word monologue concerning dark conspiracy themes including alien-government interaction, cloning, the takeover of Earth. It also includes spoilers and details of the show's then-unresolved overall plot, blurring the line between fact and fiction.

On the evening of 23 March 1999, an elongated UFO measuring 2 kilometres in length and shaped like an office building was reported to the Benito Juarez airport tower in Mexico. It remained over the Texcoco Dry Lake and was clearly seen by nearly two-dozen airport mechanics who were waiting to service a flight arriving from Acapulco.

In 2007, 23 members of an esoteric group from Peru led by researcher César Gutiérrez contacted an UFO on Easter Island.

The unmanned *Ranger* Space Program was the first US attempt to obtain close-up images of the Lunar surface. Ranger 1 was launched on 23 August 1961. Ranger 4 was launched on 23 April 1962. Rangers 1-to-6 all failed.

23 March 2001: Russia's MIR Space Station (the world's first consistently inhabited long-term research station in space) was officially decommissioned after fifteen years in space, and came down to plunge into the South Pacific.

23 March 2010: Virgin Galactic's "SpaceShipTwo", the VSS

Enterprise (designed to carry civilian “space tourists” who can afford the tickets) made its maiden flight.

The axis of the planet Earth is off by an angle of about 23.5 degrees. This 23.5 degree angle is also found in the construction of the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt, in 17th Century painting, and in some Masonic emblems. The right side of the detached All-Seeing Eye capstone and the pyramid on the US One Dollar Bill is also angled at 23.5 degrees.

According to conspiracy theorists and some of the astronauts involved, UFOs shadowed some, if not all, of the Apollo Moon Missions. The first two landings on the Moon were by *Apollo 11* and *Apollo 12*: $11+12 = 23$. The first Moon landing was in the *Sea of Tranquility*, 23.63 degrees East. The second Moon landing was in the *Ocean of Storms*, 23.42 degrees West: a curious combination of names. *Saturn V* rockets were used to launch the Apollo Missions to the Moon: in traditional astronomy, *Saturn* is the 7th, and most powerful, Planet/Deity: $7+V[5, \text{ or } 2+3] = 12$, as in “Majestic 12”, the ‘secret’ group that is supposedly in charge of any possible human-alien contact events.

In Telegraphers Code, *23* means ‘Bust’, or ‘Break the Line’, while the I Ching *Hexagram 23* means ‘Break Apart’. The rotation periods of all asteroids are over 2.3 hours, as a rotation period of less than 2.3 hours would cause them to *break apart*.

On 23 January 1997, a rare planetary alignment occurred that formed a six-pointed star, or hexagram, in the heavens. New Agers and the like celebrated this event all over the world.

The UFO Club (originally named “UFO Presents Night Tripper”), once London’s premier psychedelic hippy basement hangout, was founded by John “Hoppy” Hopkins and Joe Boyd. It

first opened on 23 December 1966. One of the club's main bands was Pink Floyd, whose official release in 2020 of their *Delicate Sound Of Thunder* 3-LP or 2-CD album contain 23 songs each (nine more than the original vinyl release and eight more than the original 2-CD).¹⁸ The unofficial release of the Pink Floyd *Your Favourite Disguise* 4×CD set was released by the Pink Floyd speciality bootleg label, Sigma 23.¹⁹

POLITICS

The first stage of the French Revolution lasted between the 22nd and 24th of February, 1848, the 23rd being the tipping point of no return. On 23 March 1849, the reactionaries triumphed, when Piedmontese was defeated by Austrians at the battle of Novara, and King Charles Albert abdicated as king of Piedmont-Sardinia in favour of his son, Victor Emmanuel II.

The spontaneous anti-Communist uprising in Hungary began in Budapest on the 23 October 1956.

Benito “Il Duce” Mussolini founded his Fascist Party in Italy on the 23 March 1919.

A notorious audio-tape from 23 June 1972 has come to be known as the “smoking gun” in the Watergate Affair. President Nixon can be heard on the tape giving explicit instructions that the CIA should tell the FBI to lay off the Watergate investigation, proving beyond any doubt that Nixon had been guilty of obstructing justice by trying to cover-up the crime. Once the 23 June tape was released his resignation was inevitable. The Articles of Impeachment applied to Richard Nixon were under *Article 2, Section 3* of the United States Constitution.

23 March 1956: the first ever Islamic republic in the world, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, is officially inaugurated. 23 March 1991: Saddam Hussein is defeated by allies fighting in the Gulf War, and it was announced that he had stepped down from his position as Prime Minister of Iraq.

23 February 1981: members of the Spanish Civil Guard and a number of high-ranking Spanish army officers storm the Spanish House of Parliament to stage a well-planned military coup, that

ended after Spain's King Juan Carlos appeared on TV to issue a regal appeal to stop the insurrection.

The most detailed account of the assassination of Julius Caesar was written by Nicolaus of Damascus, who claims numerous enemies stabbed the Roman emperor 23 times, the wounds ranging from superficial to mortal.

The day between the two days on which President John F. Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald were respectively assassinated was the 23 November 1963: the same day that the BBC's science fiction TV series *Doctor Who* was first broadcast. The *Doctor Who* show has since been watched by at least 110 million people in around 60 countries.

The 23-year-old Italian, Carlo Giuliani, was killed by a police gunshot to the face at point-blank range during a violent protest at the July 2001 anti-Group of Eight (G8) protests. He has since become an icon of left-wing anti-globalist/capitalist civil unrest, with musicians, poets, film-makers, political groups and activists referencing his name.²⁰

As a response to the Sandy Hook Elementary School gun massacre in Newtown, Connecticut, USA, the then US President Obama signed 23 executive orders regarding gun control into law on 16 January 2013.²¹ $16+1+2+0+1+3 = 23$.

David Cameron chose the date of the in-out referendum vote on the UK's membership of the EU to be 23 June 2016.²²

In the UK 2005 General Election, the right-wing English Democrats political party fielded 23 candidates.²³

A total of 23 people were arrested on 27 June 2021, the day of protest when the Extinction Rebellion group dumped seven tonnes of fertiliser outside the building in London that houses the

Daily Mail, Mail on Sunday, i, Independent and Evening Standard newspaper companies.²⁴

WAR

The Barbarians invaded Rome on 23 August 410 AD.

The Scottish knight, Sir William Wallace—one of the main leaders during the Wars of Scottish Independence—was executed for treason on 23 August 1305.

The first major battle of the English Civil War took place at Edgehill, Warwickshire, England, on 23 October 1642.

The famous racially-orientated Battle of Rorke's Drift, that took place during the Anglo-Zulu War, lasted a day and ended on 23 January 1879.

During WWI, in the year 1916 there were 23 German airship raids on Britain, which killed a total of 293 people.

During WWII, on the night of 23/24 May 1945, 520 American B-29 aircraft targeted Tokyo in the largest-ever incendiary bomb attack on Japan. The Frenchman Henri Becquerel discovered radioactivity in 1895: $1+8+9+5 = 23$. The USA performed 23 atomic detonation tests at Bikini Atoll in the South Pacific. The world's first ever offensive atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, at 8.15AM. $8+15 = 23$. The Uranium isotope used in nuclear bombs is U235.

During WWI, 23 issues of the humorous and subversive trench newspaper, *The Wipers Times*, were produced by two British officers on an abandoned printing press they had found just behind the lines in Ypres.

The German cultural historian, writer, publisher and quintessential Bohemian *fin-de-siècle* artist, Arthur Moeller van den Bruck, was born on 23 April 1876. He has been called “The Man Who Invented The Third Reich”, in part due to his 1923

book, *Das Dritte Reich* (*The Third Reich*). Its title was appropriated by the Nazi Party, and Adolf Hitler was profoundly influenced by the book's uncompromising ideas, regarding himself as the man who could implement them. Horrified at what Hitler was becoming, Moeller van den Bruck totally rejected him and committed suicide on 30 May 1925.



The death mask of the leading Nazi, SS *Reichsführer* and mastermind of the Black Occult inner circle of Nazism, Heinrich Luitpold Himmler, on display at the Imperial War Museum in London. On 23 May 1945, Himmler committed suicide in Allied captivity before interrogation could begin, by biting on a potassium cyanide capsule concealed in his teeth. He was buried in an unmarked grave on the Lüneburg Heath in Lower Saxony, Northern Germany. The precise location remains unknown.

The enthusiastic Nazi, Horst Wessel—who wrote the lyrics for the *Horst Wessel Lied*, the song that was adopted as a national anthem alongside *Deutschland Über Alles*—was killed in a Berlin brawl on 23 February 1930, and then posthumously elevated by Nazi propaganda to the level of a martyr/national hero.

In the 23rd year of the 20th Century, on 9 November (the fourth anniversary of the proclamation of the Weimar Republic), Adolf Hitler and General Ludendorff led almost 3,000 stormtroopers in their first attempt to seize power with their

(unsuccessful) “Beer Hall Putsch” in Munich.

23 March 1933: the German parliament passes the “Enabling Bill”, which effectively places Chancellor Hitler and his Nazi Party above the law, and allows Hitler rather than the President to rule by decree.

23 June 1933: Hitler bans all opposition parties.

23 July 1933: Hitler decrees that importing banned books is punishable by death.

23 May 1939: Hitler announces his decision “to attack Poland at the first suitable opportunity.”

23 August 1939: the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact, aka the German-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact, was officially signed in Moscow, and set out a neutrality stance between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union.

23 June 1941: Hitler first arrives at his “Wolf’s Lair” hideaway.

23 September 1941: the first tests for extermination gassing at Auschwitz concentration camp.

23 June 1942: the first actual mass extermination gassings at Auschwitz concentration camp.

The major Nazi-Soviet Union Battle of Stalingrad took place between 23 August 1942-2 February 1943.

After Adolf Hitler’s suicide, Karl Dönitz, leader of the Kriegsmarine, became President of Germany for 23 days.

The Russians found the burnt remains of Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun and officially identified them by autopsy on 8 May 1945, but this was kept secret by Stalin and his successors in the Soviet regime for 23 years, whilst they maintained the cover story that the corpses were undiscovered.²⁵

Under Regulation 18B of the Defence of the Realm Act, Sir

Oswald Mosley, leader of the British Union of Fascists, and eight other well-known leading members were arrested and detained without charge on 23 May 1940.

The famous “Great Escape” (as portrayed in the 1963 feature film of the same title) took place from the German-run Stalag Luft III prisoner-of-war camp between 23-24 March 1944.

Unrepentant Nazi, Rudolf Hess, Hess was wounded in battle on 23 July 1917, while serving in Romania. He was summoned to appear before the Munich Police on 23 September 1930, when he told them that his M-23 airplane D.1920 with the slogan “Völkischer Beobachter” (the Nazi Party newspaper) was his private property, and that he was paid by the newspaper for advertising. During his mysterious 1941 solo airplane flight to Scotland, he both parachuted out of his plane, and the plane crashed, shortly after 23:00. After his arrest, he spent 23 years in solitary confinement in Spandau Prison, West Berlin, Germany.

During the post-WWII Nuremberg Trials, the 1946-1947 Trial 1, the “Medical Case” (officially entitled United States of America vs. Karl Brandt, et al) tried 23 defendants, 20 of who were doctors. It concerned medical experimentation on human beings without the subjects’ consent and other crimes. The 1947-1948 Trial 6, the “I.G. Farben Case” (officially entitled United States of America vs. Carl Krauch, et al) began with 24 defendants of the I.G. Farben company, but ended with 23, because of the discontinued case against Max Brueggemann due to illness.

Also during the Nuremberg Trials, a prosecutor, the Soviet Major General of Justice, Nikolai Zorya, was found killed in his hotel room with a gunshot wound to his head on 23 May 1946.

Declassified official records have revealed that at least 23 war

criminals or Nazis were approached by the CIA for recruitment after WWII.²⁶

Today, the Number 23 is used as a recognition code for neo-Nazism, often in the form of a tattoo. The 23rd letter of the English alphabet is 'W': in this context, an abbreviation of 'White', or 'White Aryan Supremacy'.

After being in power for 23 years, Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali was the first leader to be overthrown in the "Arab Spring" revolutions that spread across the Middle East during 2011. The people of Tunisia held their first free elections on Sunday, 23 October later that year.

The world's most popular and proven to be reliable machine gun is the AK47: A = Alphabet Letter 1; K = Alphabet Letter 11; $1+11+4+7 = 23$.

TERRORISM

The supposed ecological terrorist, Theodore John “Ted” Kaczynski (aka “The Unabomber”), killed three people and injured 23 during his alleged nearly two-decade mail-bombing spree.

The (state-sponsored or otherwise) terrorist attacks that were the 1993 Waco massacre in Texas and the 1995 Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building bombing in Oklahoma both occurred on 19 April: $19+4 = 23$.

It could be said that the first world stage for global terrorism was the 1972 Munich Olympic Games, that had a total of 195 events in 23 sports, and where eleven Israelis were killed by the Black September terrorist group.

The most serious terrorist attack ever on the United States occurred on 11 September 2001: $9+11+2+0+0+1 = 23$. (The independent US commission that investigated the multiple attacks of 11 September 2001 claimed that the date had been chosen randomly by the hijackers and had originally been planned for later in the year.)

The “7 World Trade Center” building destroyed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks was officially opened at noon on 23 May 2006. It had an Emergency Command Center on its 23rd floor, that was specially designed to coordinate the response to catastrophes such as terrorist attacks. The 7 World Trade Center building mysteriously collapsed during 9/11, despite not being hit by a plane, due to what some people claim was a controlled demolition, i.e. an inside job.

William Luther Pierce III, author (under the pseudonym

Andrew MacDonald) of the influential violent US revolutionary novels *The Turner Diaries* (1978) and *Hunter* (1989) and founder of the influential white nationalist group, National Alliance, was born on 11 September 1933 and died on 23 July 2002.

On 23 October 1983, 241 US Marines were killed by a massive suicide truck-bomb at their Beirut base. Minutes later a second suicide truck-bomb rammed into the nearby French paratroop base, killing 58 paratroopers. Ten-years-to-the-day later, on 23 October 1993, an IRA bomb at a fish shop on the Shankill Road in Belfast, Northern Ireland killed a total of ten people (nine, including one of the bombers, in the actual explosion, and another person who died later from their wounds).

In February 2006, 23 al-Qaeda activists escaped from a high-security prison (that also served as the military intelligence headquarters) at Sanaa, Yemen (where al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden's father was born). This action allowed al-Qaeda to reform and rebuild its presence there. Terrorist Umar Abdulmutallab was trained in Yemen, and attempted to blow up a jet-plane over Detroit, USA, on Christmas Day 2009. He was aged 23 at the time, and it was Flight 253 that he targeted.

The terrorist bombing of the Manchester Arena, England, during an Ariana Grande concert on 22 May 2017 (a 23 Eve), caused the deaths of 23 people, including the lone attacker, Salman Ramadan Abedi, 22. All on 23 May 2017, the UK Prime Minister Theresa May announced that the UK's terror threat level had been raised to its highest level of "Critical"; the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, via the Nashir Telegram channel, claimed the attack was carried out by "a soldier of the Khilafah"; Mr Abedi's home in Fallowfield was raided by police; and his 23-year-

old brother was also arrested in Chorlton-cum-Hardy in Manchester in relation to the attack. Mr Abedi's younger brother and father were arrested by Libyan security forces on 23 and 24 May 2017 respectively.²⁷



A photo of the aftermath of the Muslim suicide bomber attack at the US popstar Ariana Grande concert in the Manchester Arena venue, England, that occurred on 22 May 2017, a “23 Eve”.²⁸

In May 2017, unnamed Whitehall Intelligence officers identified a seeming total of “23,000 jihadist extremists living in Britain as potential terrorist attackers”.²⁹

ESPIONAGE

The Soviet-controlled “third man” of the British upper class spying turned out to be Kim Philby, a British SIS agent whose true loyalty was with Communism and the KGB. He may well have eventually become the head of SIS or even the Prime Minister of Britain if he’d remained unsuspected. Whilst being pursued by British Intelligence, Philby evaded capture and arrest on 23 January 1963, by changing his name to “Villi Matis” whilst onboard the ship *Dolmatova*, which sailed from Beirut to the USSR the same day.

On 23 January 1968 (USA time) the spy ship *USS Pueblo*—captained by Lieutenant-Commander Lloyd Butcher—was hijacked off the coast of North Korea by the North Koreans, who killed and wounded a number of her crew. The ship and its crew were held captive for exactly 11 months until 23 December 1968 (USA time), when they were eventually released after they had made confessions of espionage.

The badly decomposed body of the MI6 spy and GCHQ codebreaker, Gareth Williams, was found inside a large sports holdall, secured shut by a padlock, in the bath of his Pimlico flat in London on 23 August 2010. Despite an official inquest, the actual circumstances and cause of his death remain “unexplained and suspicious”, and no-one has ever been arrested for the presumed murder.

The 23rd feature film in the series about the fictional British spy James Bond (007) had the working title of *Bond 23*. It was eventually released as *Skyfall* in 2012.

An official counter-eavesdropping service,³⁰ part of the British

Government's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), is located at this address: Technical Security (HP23), FCO Services, Hanslope Park, Milton Keynes, MK19 7BH.

Project BLUEBIRD began in 1950 and in the next year was renamed Project ARTICHOKE, that in 1953 became Project MKULTRA, that was officially halted in 1973. This constituted a 23-year CIA-run human experimentation program that studied mind-control, interrogation, behaviour modification and related topics via drugs, hypnosis, etc.

In March 2018, due to the nerve-agent attack on ex-KGB Spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in Salisbury, Wiltshire in England, 23 Russian 'diplomats' (i.e. intelligence officers) were expelled from the UK. In quick response, 23 British 'diplomats' (i.e. intelligence officers) were expelled from Russia.³¹

DISASTERS

One of the worst events in peacetime maritime history involved the ship *Titanic*. During her maiden voyage she struck an iceberg and sank on the morning of 15 April 1912: $1+5+4+1+9+1+2 = 23$. This resulted in the deaths of 1,517 people: $1+5+1+7 = 24$, or the ship itself plus 23.

23 March 1913: a series of tornados near Omaha, Nebraska and in Iowa, USA, kill 115 people.

The Trans World Airlines Flight 800, that exploded and crashed into the Atlantic Ocean on 17 July 1996, at about 20:31 EDT, was a Boeing 747-131 ($7+4+7+1+3+1 = 23$). All 230 persons on board were killed. The four-year National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigation concluded with the approval of the Aircraft Accident Report on 23 August 2000, ending the then most extensive, complex and costly air disaster investigation in United States history. Recovered from the aircraft were two seats with shrapnel damage: Seats 23J and 23K, where the explosion is suspected to have occurred. (In the 1970 disaster movie, *Airport*, the central character of the mad bomber who tries to blow up a plane has Seat 23.)

The Munich air disaster occurred on 6 February 1958, when British European Airways Flight 609 crashed on the runway at Munich-Riem Airport, West Germany, resulting in a total of 23 fatalities and 21 survivors.

Aer Lingus' first fatal accident occurred on 10 January 1952, when the Aer Lingus Douglas DC-3 Dakota aircraft called "St Kevin" crashed on Cwm Edno, south of Moel Siabod in Wales. All 23 people on board were killed.³²

Of the 11 people who died when a vintage jet crashed onto traffic in Shoreham, UK, on 22 August 2015, the youngest victim was Matthew Grimstone, who was 23-years-old.³³

The nine hikers who were mysteriously killed and mutilated in the Dyatlov Pass incident in the Ural Mountains on the night of 2 February 1959, originally set off on their doomed expedition on 23 January 1959.



A TV news report of TransAsia Airways flight GE-235, that crashed in Taiwan in February 2015. (The year before, in July 2014, TransAsia flight ATR-72 crashed while attempting to land in the Penghu Islands soon after a typhoon, killing 48 people.)³⁴

In 2004, 23 Chinese illegal immigrants cockle-pickers drowned when they were trapped by sweeping tides while working in Morecambe Bay, Lancashire, UK.³⁵

In September 2012, we learnt that the authorities lied to cover up their mistakes in the 1989 Hillsborough, UK, football stadium disaster. It took 23 years for the truth to officially come out. Later

on it was reported that “23 individuals and organisations could face criminal charges” over the disaster.³⁶

On 8 July 2013 (Scotland’s hottest day of the year), a burst water main in Glasgow cut off the water supply to “23,000 properties” and also caused flooding to some properties plus traffic disruption in the area.³⁷



The long-abandoned house named Llain-y-Grug at 23 Erw Las, Coetmor Road in Bethesda, Gwynedd, UK. On 5 June 2018, a fire occurred inside the next door and adjoined house (number 22) of local taxi driver, Mike Beeby, which resulted in his death.³⁸

The Grenfell Tower fire disaster on 14 June 2017, that killed around 80 people, was reported at the 24-storey block in North Kensington, London at 23:54 GMT.³⁹ The public casualty bureau phoneline for the Grenfell Tower incident is 0800 0961 233. Police

have said that, of the total of 129 flats in the building, there are still 23 flats where they “presume no-one survived”.⁴⁰

After some coverage in mainstream media, the Christian conspiracy theorist David Meade claimed people had misunderstood his Planet X prophecy and that the world would not end on 23 September 2017.⁴¹

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

In their book, *Uncle Jack* (Orion, 2005), Tony Williams & Humphrey Price claim that their investigation into the never-before-been-named true identity of Jack The Ripper began with a letter dated “23 Aug 1888,” sent from Dr John Williams (a direct ancestor of the aforementioned Tony Williams) to “Morgan.”

The Liverpudlian Jack The Ripper suspect named James Maybrick was poisoned to death by his wife Florence, who was 23 years younger than him. After her conviction and subsequent release from prison she gradually faded from public attention and eventually died in squalor on 23 October 1941. (An ‘M’, the mark of James Maybrick, was left by the murderer at three of the five Whitechapel murder sites, and Maybrick himself allegedly wrote a Diary in which he detailed his crimes, that has since been published as *The Diary of Jack The Ripper*, narrative by Shirley Harrison [BCA, 1993].)

John Dillinger robbed a total of 26 banks, but only 23 for the money. He was allegedly shot inside a theatre at 2323 Clark St. Chicago, IL, USA. The famous bank-robbers, Bonnie and Clyde, have the initials ‘B-C’, that are the alphabet values of ‘2-3’. They were shot to death by the Texas Rangers on 23 May 1934.

In February 1932, gangster “Mad Dog” Coll was shot on 23rd Street when he was 23 years old. Dutch Schultz (who paid for the Coll assassination) was himself fatally shot on 23 October 1935. Dutch Schultz’s killer, Charlie Workman, served 23 years of a life sentence before being granted parole. (Schultz, along with accountant Otto “Abbadabba” Berman, once ran the Harlem Numbers Racket. Did the Number 23 show up a lot?)

Salvatore “Toto” Riina, the “boss of bosses” of the Sicilian Mafia, evaded capture for a total of 23 years before finally being arrested in January 1993: $1+1+9+9+3 = 23$.



CCTV screenshot of the “A23” road-marking near to a modified black Volkswagen Transporter van suspected to have been used in the kidnapping a young male child by a male adult in broad daylight at Redstone Hill, Surrey, England, on 25 August 2016. The next day this particular van was ruled not to have been involved in the crime, that itself turned out to be a false alarm. The search for the boy was codenamed “Operation BIGFOOT”: a phantom-but-real monster that is regularly seen but never captured. A psy-op?⁴²

Between February 1975-May 1976, “The Dartman” (a depiction of *Death* in the Middle Ages) prowled at night in Westchester County and Rockland County, USA, shooting a total of 23 women with inch-long steel darts fired from a dart gun.

The now-discontinued British “borstal training” detention system was run by HM Prison Service and designed to reform

seriously delinquent young people. It was originally designed for offenders aged under 21, but in the 1930s the age was increased to under 23.

The 1990 April Fool's Day riot at Strangeways Prison in Manchester, England, was mostly due to the fact that its prisoners—even those on remand—had had enough of being locked up three to a cell for 23 hours-a-day (a common practice that is still widespread in many penal institutions today).

In Japan, a criminal suspect can be held in jail for 23 days without charge.

One of the “Operation JULIE” LSD-making labs was located at 23 Seymour Road, Hampton Wick, London, England. It was bought by Henry Todd in July 1975, operated by Andy Munro and is said to have manufactured up to 30,000,000 tabs of acid, that were exported across Europe, and to Australia and the United States, and helped fund many countercultural projects.

In the 1992 Los Angeles, USA riots following the shocking not guilty verdict for the cops who beat up Rodney King, TV footage clearly shows a Korean shopkeeper shooting at looters from the roof of a building whilst standing in front of a large sign with only the Number 23 on it.

The shooting to death of Jacob Blake by police in Wisconsin, USA, on 23 August 2020, provoked the riot in which Kyle Rittenhouse killed two and injured one of the rioters.⁴³

In December 2019, GP Manish Shah was found guilty of sexually assaulting 23 women between May 2009-June 2013.⁴⁴

British serial killer, Peter Sutcliffe, better known as the “Yorkshire Ripper”, rendered 23 children motherless during his five-year murder spree.



“Protesters led by former Labour minister Maureen Colquhoun gather outside the Old Bailey in 1982 to protest against the judge’s and media’s distinction between prostitutes and ‘respectable women’ during the Yorkshire Ripper case. (Photo by Keystone/Getty Images)”:
www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/arts-and-culture/restoring-reputations-yorkshire-rippers-victims-after-decades-victim-blaming-1757759

British serial killer and civil servant, Dennis Nilsen, was born on 23 November 1945. He killed, dismembered his victims, and was eventually caught and arrested by police, in his flat at 23 Cranley Gardens, London.

British serial killers Fred & Rose West were finally caught via a search warrant successfully applied for by police on 23 February 1994, in order to search for the remains of the West’s daughter, Heather, who had been murdered by her parents.⁴⁵

Myra Hindley—who with Ian Brady formed the British “Moors Murderers” serial killer duo—was born on 23 July 1942. She and

Brady took their second victim, John Kilbride, on 23 November 1963, who was killed by Brady on the same day. Hindley and Brady were jailed for life on 6 May 1966 for the Moors Murders, so Hindley celebrated her next, and 23rd, birthday in prison. On Hindley's 23rd birthday, her sister, Maureen, and brother-in-law, David Smith (who had turned Brady and Hindley in to the police), were rehoused in Underwood Court, a block of flats close to Hindley and Brady's former home on Wardle Brook Avenue.

The French serial killer Henri Désiré "Bluebeard" Landru, who is believed to have murdered at least 11 women, said in Court after he had been declared sane that this was proof of his innocence, because the crimes of which he was accused could only have been committed by an insane man. He was found guilty and guillotined on 23 February 1922.



After months of investigation and evidence gathering, police raid a heavily-fortified house that has the Number 23 in Corby, England, during a series of anti-drugs raids across the town known as Operation GUARDIAN, that ran between 18-22 October 2010. A total of 23 arrests were made for involvement in the supply of controlled drugs.⁴⁶

The ex-WDBJ-TV news reporter, Vester Flanagan/Bryce Williams—who shot and killed fellow WDBJ-TV news reporter Alison Parker and cameraman Adam Ward, and shot and wounded a woman the journalists were interviewing, Vicki Gardner, live on air on 26 August 2015—faxed a 23-page manifesto to the authorities soon before shooting and killing himself.⁴⁷

The deadliest mass shooting in modern US history was perpetrated by Stephen Paddock, who on 1 October 2017 targeted people from his hotel room No.32135 on the 32nd-floor hotel suite at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, that conceals a reversed 23 twice. Early mass-media reports stated that he had 23 guns with him inside the suite.⁴⁸

Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold shot and killed 13 people and wounded 23 others during the 20 April 1999 Columbine High School massacre. The pair then committed suicide. Student Cho Seung-Hui was aged 23 and killed 32 victims during his April 2007 mass-shooting rampage at Virginia Tech University, USA. He then committed suicide.

On 23 June 2000, 15 backpackers were killed in a fire at the Childers Palace Backpackers Hostel in Queensland, Australia, that had been deliberately set by Robert Paul Long, who was sentenced to life in prison.⁴⁹

The cargo ship Arctic Sea set sail from Finland on 23 July 2009, then the mystery began. It went missing for three weeks, after supposedly being hijacked by pirates. “Swedish police, who spoke to the crew, said 10 armed men posing as anti-drugs police boarded the vessel on 24 July and searched it from top to bottom. Some 12 hours later, the intruders apparently left on a fast inflatable boat, allowing it to continue its passage.” The ship was

apparently attacked twice at different locations, and an unnamed EU Commission spokesman added that these incidents had “nothing in common with traditional piracy or armed robbery at sea”, which provoked suspicions of foul play or espionage.⁵⁰

BROADCASTING

The first ever electrically-coded message to be transmitted over the telegraph wire was sent in Morse Code by the system's creator, Samuel Morse, on a line from Washington to Baltimore in 1844. It was: "What hath God wrought!", taken from the Bible passage *Numbers 23:23*.

There were originally 23 channels of Citizens Band (CB) Radio in the USA, and a video image doesn't actually begin until line 23 in the standard European PAL 625-line colour television picture.

FILM

One of the smallest working cinemas in the world is located in Wales. Named *La Charrette*, it consists of a 23-seat railway carriage, and has been showing films for over 55 years.

In the feature film *Die Hard: With A Vengeance* (1995), a train derails in subway station 23. In the 1970 disaster movie *Airport*, the central character of the mad bomber who tries to blow up a plane has Seat 23.

The Number 23 has so far been the subject of two feature-length films: the 1998 German *23*—based on the true story of young computer hacker, Karl Koch, who died on 23 May 1989, a presumed suicide—and *The Number 23*, starring Jim Carrey (whose production company is JC23 Entertainment), that began filming on 23 January 2006 and was released on 23 February 2007. Both films concern a main character obsessed with the Number 23, akin to the Nobel Prize-winning economist, John Forbes Nash, who published 23 scientific articles. His mental breakdown began when he claimed that a photograph of Pope John XXIII on the cover of *Life* magazine was in fact himself, the proof being that 23 was his favourite number. Nash was the subject of the 2001 feature film *A Beautiful Mind*.

There are 23 crosses on Calvary at the end of the Monty Python feature film *The Life of Brian* (1979).

The feature film *Charly* (1968) is about a low-grade moron man who is transformed by neuro-surgery into a superhuman genius. During the operation scene, the number of the operating room is visible as 23.

The “world’s first-ever mass market porn film”, *Deep Throat*

The Future is here.



THX 1138

Stay calm.

Warner Bros. presents THX 1138 • An American Zoetrope Production • Starring Robert Duvall and Donald Pleasence • with Don Pedro Colley, Maggie McOmie and Ian Wolfe • Technicolor® • Techniscope® • Executive Producer Francis Ford Coppola • Screenplay by George Lucas and Walter Murch • Story by George Lucas Produced by Lawrence Sturhahn • Directed by George Lucas • Music by Lalo Schifrin

Warner Bros.  GENERAL PUBLICATION
A Time Company

COPYRIGHT ©1971 BEYOND HORROR DESIGN, INC.

76-128

Promotional poster for the dystopian science-fiction film *THX 1138* (1971): www.imdb.com/title/tt0066434/

(1973), starred Linda Lovelace, who was hypnotised to transform her into an expert deep throat fellationist. The film was banned in 23 states of the USA.

In the Western, *Support Your Local Gunfighter* (1971), at the roulette table the main character repeatedly bets on the Number 23, first losing his money, but finally winning everything.

The Beatles' feature-length cartoon, *Yellow Submarine* (1968), includes a violent gang called the Blue Meenies. One member is named the "Butterfly Stomper", who destroys all things of beauty. He wears the Number 23 on his shirt. In the 2009 horror film, *The Haunting in Connecticut* (based on the true-life haunting of the Hallahan Funeral Home in Southington, Connecticut, USA), the main character (a boy psychic who contacts the dead who have been used in sinister necromantic rites) is seen wearing a sweatshirt with a large 23 on the chest, before all the really heavy paranormal stuff happens.

In the 1970 George Lucas feature film, *THX 1138*, Robot-cop No.23 delivers the dwarf "shell dweller" to the featureless, all-white prison for subversives, and later pursues two of its escapees. Robot-cop No.23 wears the Number 23 on the front of its helmet (symbolic of the Third Eye?).

At the climax of Jean-Luc Godard's 1967 feature film *La Chinoise*, the young Marxist-Leninist revolutionary heroine Véronique (played by Godard's wife) accidentally assassinates the wrong person due to reading a register upside-down: getting her intended victim's name right (Sholokov, a Soviet Minister of Culture), but interpreting his inverted room Number 23 as 32, and shooting the latter room's occupant instead.

The 23-32 Reversal was previously broadcast in the first *Star*

Wars film of 1977. When Luke Skywalker is in the trench during his Death Star bombing run, the first number seen on the targeting computer is 23 and the next scene featuring the computer shows the number 32. (In the same film, Luke's 'girlfriend', Princess Leia, is held in Cell AA23. Also note that Student Cho Seung-Hui was aged 23 and killed 32 victims during his April 2007 mass-shooting rampage at Virginia Tech University, USA. He then committed suicide.)

In the 1971 comic western, *Support Your Local Gunfighter*, the gambler and confidence trickster, Latigo Smith (James Garner), first loses all of his money, then eventually wins a lot more, at roulette. He always plays his lucky number: 23/Black.

On 23 July 1984, a Parliamentary Question raised in the British House of Commons resulted in the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) creating a set of guidelines to gauge the obscenity of horror and other films released for the home video-cassette market. This soon led to the infamous "Video Nasties List" of banned titles.

TELEVISION

Brooke Allison English (formerly Cudahy, Chandler, Martin, and Grey) is a character in the US soap opera, *All My Children*. She was played by actress Julia Barr from 1976 to 2006. In 2010, Barr made a special appearance as Brooke as part of the series' 40th anniversary, and returned on 23 February 2010 for a three-month period until 23 April 2010.

The original US sci-fi series', *Star Trek* and *Babylon Five*, are both set in the 23rd Century.

The violent, animated sailor, *Popeye*, repeatedly ponders the Number 23 in many of his 1970s cartoons.

In David Lynch's series, *Twin Peaks* (1990-1992), the main character in the plot, Laura Palmer, is murdered on 23 February. (David Lynch later directed a 23 March 2011 concert by British pop band Duran Duran at the Mayan Theater in Los Angeles.)

The US series, *Jericho* (2006-2008), takes place in the aftermath where 23 American cities have suffered nuclear bomb strikes by terrorists, controlled by a secret cabal bent on taking over the country. (The *Jericho* series is a CBS/Paramount production, so the All-Seeing-Eye corporate logo is constantly on screen, glaring into the mind.)

The US series, *Lost* (2004-2010), concerns a group of plane crash survivors who are stranded on a remote island and their interactions with the mysterious "Dharma Initiative" and its underground stations. The secret of this experimental project is connected to the six numbers that are frequently mentioned in the show: 4, 8, 15, 16, 23 and 42.

'Propellant 23' is the second episode of the second series of the

1960s cult British spy-fi television series *The Avengers*, the two twos possibly being code. This episode originally aired on ABC on 6 October 1962: $6+1+0+1+9+6+2 = 25$. $5-2 = 3$, forming the 235 (see Postscript).

The Channel 4 reality TV social experiment show *Eden* (2016) involved 23 men and women who were taken out of their normal lives to start another one for a year in a remote part of the Scottish Highlands, to fend for themselves without the usual comforts and build an utopia. But the show was taken off the air after just four episodes, either because it was too dull or it went nightmarish.⁵¹

MUSIC

The British pop group, Psychic TV (commonly known as PTV), employed the Number 23 extensively in its texts, records and memorabilia. Its companion cult, Thee Temple Ov Psychick Youth (commonly known as TOPY), suggested that its rituals start at 23.00 hours, and held its major ceremonies and events on the 23rd of the month. PTV often played their gigs accompanied by 23 television sets, each showing different footage to disorientate their audience. PTV's *Pagan Day* picture-disk LP was released at 23.00 hours on 23 December 1984 and deleted 23 hours later. Between early-1987 and 1989, they released a new live LP on the 23rd day of 23 consecutive months, packaged in almost identical covers.

The former Rolling Stones' founder, Brian Jones, is said to have recorded an EVP message from beyond the grave on the empty 23rd multitrack of PTV's 1985 song *Godstar*.

Another British pop group cult, the KLF, incinerated £1 million on a remote Scottish island on 23 August 1994. Kurt Cobain, the co-founder and lead singer of the American grunge band Nirvana, was born in 1967 and committed suicide in 1994: $1+9+6+7 = 23$; $1+9+9+4 = 23$.

The British alternative rock group The Fall played their first gig in the "small white cave"-like basement of the North West Arts complex in King Street, Manchester, England, on 23 May 1977.

The former member of the band The Beatles, John Lennon, and his assistant and companion, May Pang, saw a UFO at around 9PM on 23 August 1974 in New York, USA.⁵²



The hip-hop song *23* by Mike WiLL Made-It (real name Michael Len Williams II, born 23 March 1989) and other people features Miley Cyrus (born Destiny Hope Cyrus, on 23 November 1992) and rappers Wiz Khalifa and Juicy J. It was released in 2013 on Interscope Records, and in its official music video Miley Cyrus broadcasts the Number 23 to her multitude of slavish fans.

Rock ‘n’ roll star, Buddy Holly’s “Winter Dance Party” tour began in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, on 23 January 1959. It ended in his death, along with the deaths of his colleagues Ritchie Valens, JP Richardson, and the pilot, Roger Peterson, in a plane crash soon after take-off. Holly’s wife of six months, María Elena, who was pregnant, first learnt of her husband’s demise via a TV news

report, and miscarried the following day, due to “psychological trauma”. Holly’s mother heard the news on the radio in Lubbock, Texas, then collapsed.

According to researcher Adam Gorightly, after Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page had supplied a below-par “twenty three minutes of material” to Kenneth Anger for the soundtrack to his film *Lucifer Rising*, the disillusioned Anger is said to have placed a curse on Page, that inadvertently resulted in the death of Zeppelin lead singer Robert Plant’s young son Karac, and of Zeppelin drummer John “Bonzo” Bonham. The band officially split up in 1980, the same year the film was released.⁵³

In June 2011, the openly bisexual, 23-year-old popstar, Jessie J, revealed in *Q* magazine that she had received death threats since becoming famous, and that there were rumours she was a Devil worshipper because of the ‘666-OK’ hand-sign she makes in her video for the single, *Price Tag*. She added that when certain people played her track, *Do It Like A Dude*, backwards, they could “hear the devil.”⁵⁴

Don McLean’s iconic song, *American Pie*, refers to the “Day the Music Died”. This day was February 3rd, or 2/3, when the musicians Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and Jiles Perry “Big Bopper” Richardson lost their lives in a plane crash in 1959.

The Stay Home Live Lounge charity fundraising event, that featured big music stars recorded and filmed from their own homes, was first broadcast at midday on 23 April 2020.⁵⁵

Euronymous (real name Øystein Aarseth), the founder and owner of the black metal record label Deathlike Silence Productions and record shop Helvete, co-founder of the Norwegian black metal band Mayhem, and part of the Norway

church-burning “Black Circle” gang of the early-1990s, was murdered by his colleague Count Grishnackh (real name Varg Vikernes) on 10 August 1993. Euronymous’ body was discovered outside his Oslo flat with a total of 23 stab wounds.⁵⁶

The body of an unknown man was discovered in Keillers Park, Göteborg, Sweden, on 23 July 1997. He had been shot twice and was later identified as Josef ben Meddour, a homosexual and Algerian national. Jon Nödtveidt, the leader of black metal band Dissection, and his friend Vlad, both members of the Satanic Temple of the Black Light, confessed to, and were convicted for, the crime, that according to circumstantial evidence may have been a ritual sacrifice.⁵⁷

A traditional manual carillon is a musical instrument of at least 23 cast bronze bells played by striking a keyboard with the fists, and by pressing a pedal keyboard with the feet. There are 17 traditional manual carillons in the United Kingdom. Those with 23 bells are located at: Atkinson’s Carillon, London; Our Lady of the Rosary and St Therese of Lisieux RC Church, Saltley; South Holland Centre, Spalding; the Wisbech Institute, Wisbech; St. Patrick’s Church, Dumbarton.

ART

German-born artist Hans Holbein the Younger's famous painting, entitled *The Ambassadors* (1533), contains a disturbing alien blob at the bottom of the scene. This is an example of his "Anamorphic Distortions", that when viewed at an angle of 23 degrees, is revealed to be a skull.

The surrealist painter, Salvador Dali, believed the ancient large meteorite named the "Cradle" due to its shape, that landed on Earth close to the Spanish frontier (probably in Girona), had access to 23 dimensions.⁵⁸ He died on 23 January 1989.

In *The Origin of Neoism Manifesto*, the controversial avant-garde artistic cult the "Monty Cantsin Commando" declare that: "NEOISM never has been before and the First Neoist Manifesto was printed in Taiwan, on Oct 23, 1987, at 1.34 pm."

LITERATURE

Early books used the 23-letter Latin Alphabet, with *I* (usually) or *J*, but not both, and with *V* (usually) or *U*, but not both, and with *W* omitted. ‘W’, the 23rd letter of the English alphabet, is located on most keyboards directly underneath the space between the numerals ‘2’ and ‘3’.

In February 2009, Reading University’s Dr Mark Pagel reported how he had used a powerful IBM supercomputer to track the evolution of words in the Indo-European family of languages back through about 20,000 years. His team found that, in the Top 20 oldest words in English, *two* ranks as number 2, and *three* ranks as number 3 (number 1 is *who*).⁵⁹

England’s best-known author, William Shakespeare, was born on 23 April 1564: $2+3+4+1+5+6+4 = 25$. He died aged the exact reverse of this number, 52, on his birthday, 23 April 1616: $2+3+4+1+6+1+6 = 23$. (Another famous person who was born and who died on the 23rd day was the American TV host and comedian John William “Johnny” Carson [23 October 1925–23 January 2005].) Most of Shakespeare’s work is known to us through his first Folio, first published in 1623. $23+23 = 46$: Shakespeare was baptised in 1564, so he would have been 46-years-old during 1610 when the *King James Version* of the Bible was being finished. In *Psalms* 46, if one does not consider non-Scripture (the title), verse numbers, and the final word, *Selah*, the 46th word from the start is *shake* and the 46th word from the end is *spear*.

Some scholars claim that the real author of the works attributed to Shakespeare was Sir Francis Bacon, who chose 23

July 1603 as the date he was made a knight by Queen Elizabeth I.

The German painter, poet and writer, Maximilian Dauthendey (1867-1918), wrote the book *Der Geist Meines Vaters* (first published in Germany in 1912). In it, this self-described “numbers fanatic” describes the many good and bad occurrences of the Number 23 throughout his life.

The Number 23 features heavily in the diaries of the Irish author James “Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man” Joyce. It’s also repeatedly present in Arthur Koestler’s books on coincidence, most notably his *The Challenge of Chance: A Mass Experiment In Telepathy & Its Unexpected Outcome* (Random House, 1974).

JG Ballard’s novel, *Crash*, was first published in 1973. 23 years later, David Cronenberg’s feature film of Ballard’s book, *Crash* (1996), was released.

The science fiction author, Philip K. Dick, experienced a series of revelatory mystical visions between February-March 1974, which he named “2-3-74.” They deeply effected him and his work and he attempted to explain them in his extensive final writings, published as *The Exegesis of Philip K. Dick* (2011). He wrote all this between 1974-1982, the year of his death. Regarding 19 as $1+9 = 10 = 1+0 = 1$; $1974+1982 = 23$. Again regard 19 as $1+9 = 10 = 1+0 = 1$; and 74 as $7+4 = 11 = 1+1 = 2$; and 82 as $8+2 = 10 = 1+0 = 1$, then rearrange the four totals, and one obtains 2111, that could be regarded as 23?

The whole of the French Pataphysician Georges Perec’s experimental 600-page novel *Life: A User’s Manual* (1978) takes place on 23 June 1975.

The proto-Surrealist icon, Isidore Ducasse, better known as the “Comte de Lautréamont”, stated in an 1868 letter that he lived at

the “rue Notre-Dame-des-Victoires, 23 Hotel: *where nations meet*,” in Paris, France.

SPORT

The American basketball player, Michael Jordan, wore the Number 23 shirt throughout his career.

The England National Football Team, aka “Squad”, usually has a total of 23 potential players, as it did for the 2018 FIFA World Cup tournament.⁶⁰ For the UEFA Euro 2012 tournament each of the participating national teams had to have a squad of 23 potential players.⁶¹



“DDCIA Cohen gives a #CIA coin to @RedSox player @MichaelChavis11 who caught his ceremonial first pitch”:
<https://twitter.com/CIA/status/1418732137071759367>

Former England National Football Team Captain, David Beckham, swapped his number 7 Manchester United shirt for Number 23 when he joined Spain’s Real Madrid team. Beckham

continued wearing the Number 23 shirt when he joined the LA Galaxy team in the USA, and claimed this was done in deference to Jordan. Beckham was on the shortlist of 35 players for the London 2012 Olympic Team GB football squad, but was not selected for the final 18-man squad, as one of three players over the age of 23 who are allowed to compete in the Olympics.⁶²

On 26 June 2003, Marc Vivien Foe of Manchester City FC collapsed and died playing for the Cameroon while wearing the Number 23 shirt. Manchester City FC have not allotted the squad Number 23 to any player since then.

The American Football player, Devin Hester, plays for the Chicago Bears and wears shirt 23. He began the 2006 Super Bowl XLI by performing the first-ever touchdown return of an opening kick-off in Super Bowl history. It was also the quickest lead ever taken by any team.

England cricket player, Marcus Trescothick, wears the Number 23 shirt and was Australian bowler Shane Warne's 600th test wicket. Warne also wears the Number 23 shirt.

ARCHAEOLOGY

On 23 March 1900, Arthur Evans began his massive archaeological excavation of Knossos on Crete, during which he uncovered the Knossos Palace and the existence of a hitherto unknown civilisation: possibly the oldest in Europe.

It is stated above how: “In Telegraphers Code, 23 means ‘Bust’, or ‘Break the Line’, while the I Ching *Hexagram 23* means ‘Break Apart’.” In this context, note that Number 23 in the Shire Archaeology book series is *Deserted Villages* by Trevor Rowley & John Wood (Shire Publications Ltd., 1982).

MISCELLANEOUS

The official launch of World Wide Web to the general public was on “Internaut Day”, which began on 23 August 1991 and has since been celebrated annually on that day and month.⁶³

The Woolworth Building in New York, USA, was the world’s most tallest man-made building at the time of its official opening on 23 April 1913: $2+3+4+1+9+1+3 = 23$.

If the popular American toy doll, *Barbie*, was a real-life female, her vital statistic measurements would be 39-23-33.

The Federal Reserve Act (of Congress, that created the central banking system of the USA and granted it the legal authority to issue legal tender) was signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson on 23 December 1913.

The *Nissan* car’s name is derived from the Japanese numerals *Ni* (2) and *San* (3). Thus, *Nissan* is a code for, or means, ‘23’.

The German Embassy is located at: 23 Belgrave Square, London, UK.

In August 2017, it emerged that some countries had submitted inaccurate records of climate warming gases released into the atmosphere. An example given was Italy’s official inventory of the HFC-23 gas, which is 14,800 times more warming to the atmosphere than CO₂. Scientists at the Jungfraujoch Swiss air monitoring station claimed the actual amount emitted was 6-8 times higher or more.⁶⁴

By the English Serial Cipher system (A=1, B=2, C=3 up to X=24, Y=25, Z=26): 163 = TWENTY THREE =
MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE = ALICE IN WONDERLAND =
EYES WIDE SHUT.

POSTSCRIPT: THE 235 CONNECTION

The references to “235” in this book are linked to the 23 Mystery via the “Law of Fives”, one of the first Discordian “catmas”, that was invented by Kerry Thornley. The Law of Fives states that all incidents and events are directly connected to the number five in some simple or convoluted way.

Some examples: the axis of the planet Earth is off by an angle of approximately 23.5 degrees; the two imaginary lines drawn around the surface of the Earth parallel to the Equator are the Tropic of Cancer, 23.5 degrees North of the Equator, and the Tropic of Capricorn, 23.5 degrees South of the Equator; 2, 3, and 5 are the first three prime numbers in our counting system, and $2+3=5$; the binary equivalent to 23 is the 5-digit 10111; the average Lunar/Menstrual Cycle is 28 ($23+5$) days; the term used to replace *BC* (‘Before Christ’) is *BCE* (‘Before Common Era’): *BCE* are the 2nd, 3rd and 5th letters of the English Alphabet; the Uranium isotope used in nuclear bombs is *U235*; UFOs and aliens are said to be kept in “Hangar 18” ($18=23-5$); Churchill’s “V-for-Victory” magickal hand-sign that he flashed throughout WWII is also used by Catholic priests in blessings and by Satanists in invoking the Devil: V is the Roman numeral for 5, and the sign is made with five fingers: 2 fingers up and 3 down;⁶⁵ and Article 235 of the May 1919 Versailles Treaty ordered Germany to pay the Allies and Associated Powers the equivalent of 20,000,000,000 gold marks, that effectively crippled post-WWI Germany and powerfully seethed its acute humiliation and anger, making this Article 235 a major cause of WWII.

235 came up for me when I read in *The Sun* newspaper that

the number 5 is the only number never to have appeared as a main or bonus ball in the previous 23 double rollovers of Britain's National Lottery (the numbers 15, 24, 33 and 44 each appeared seven times during this same period).⁶⁶ Five months later, *The Sun* newspaper stated that on Boxing Day 2008, British National Lottery organisers Camelot had revealed that the luckiest ball for 2008 was Number 23, and that it was drawn 23 times: 19 times as a main ball and 4 times as the bonus ball.⁶⁷

NOTES

- 1 Harold Camping, *We Are Almost There!* Family Stations, Inc., 2008, pp.52- 53; 62.
- 2 www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/vatican-confirms-report-of-sexual-abuse-and-rape-of-nuns-by-priests-in-23-countries-688261.html
- 3 www.newstatesman.com/200605220035
- 4 www.soulchoiceministries.com/about.html
- 5 www.wodensfolk.org.uk
- 6 *The Oxford Dictionary of Classical Myth & Religion*. Oxford University Press, 2003, p.95.
- 7 Eileen Barker, *New Religious Movements*. HMSO, 1995, p.15.
- 8 www.thesun.co.uk/living/2720523/mystery-small-welsh-town-bridgend-23-men-committed-suicide-one-year/
- 9 www.adidam.tv/source-texts.html
- 10 www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-58924306
- 11 Rav Shimon Bar; commentary by Yehuda Ashlag; Rabbi Michael Berg, ed., *The Zohar: The First Ever Unabridged English Translation with Commentary*. Kabbalah Centre International, 2003.
- 12 www.theguardian.com/uk/2009/jul/28/witch-recruitment-wookey-hole
- 13 www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-314834/Return-horse-ripper.html
- 14 Theodore Reuss & Aleister Crowley (Anthony Naylor, ed.), *OTO Rituals & Sex Magick*. IHO Books, 1999, p.412.
- 15 Bill Butler, 'A Word Is a Word Is a Collage: A Profile of William S. Burroughs', in *The Guardian* newspaper, 27 November 1965. This article has been republished online at: <http://realitystudio.org/interviews/a-word-is-a-word-is-a-collage-1965>
- 16 Robert Anton Wilson, *Cosmic Trigger Volume 1: The Final Secret of the Illuminati*. New Falcon, 2000, p.87.
- 17 Nigel Pennick, *The Mysteries of King's College Chapel*. Cokayne Publishing, 1974, p.95.
- 18 'Delicate Sound of Thunder Instore From 20th November' (24 September 2020): www.pinkfloyd.com/news/
- 19 www.discogs.com/fr/release/5974014-Pink-Floyd-Your-Favourite-Disguise
- 20 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_of_Carlo_Giuliani
- 21 www.houstonianonline.com/news/obama-signs-twenty-three-gun-control-executive-orders-1.2804337
- 22 [www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/feb/20/](http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/feb/20/cameron-set-to-name-eu-)cameron-set-to-name-eu-

- referendum-date-after-cabinet-meeting
- 23 http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/vote_2005/frontpage/4499455.stm
 - 24 www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jun/27/extinction-rebellion-protesters-arrested-dumping-manure-daily-mail
 - 25 Alan Bullock, *Hitler & Stalin: Parallel Lives*. Fontana Press, 1993, pp.966-967.
 - 26 https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu//news/20050121/FINAL_Comments_Op_Files.pdf
 - 27 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_Arena_bombing
 - 28 www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4531940/Emergency-services-rush-Manchester-Arena.html
 - 29 www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/huge-scale-of-terror-threat-revealed-uk-home-to-23-000-jihadists-3zv58mhq
 - 30 www.counter-eavesdropping.gov.uk/main.html
 - 31 www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-43440992
 - 32 www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/deadly-plane-crash-snowdonia-killed-22732349
 - 33 www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34033660
 - 34 www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/04/taiwan-plane-crash-lands-in-river & www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/23/taiwan-transasia-airways-plane-crash-penghu-island-typhoon-matmo
 - 35 www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-25914594
 - 36 www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/hillsborough-23-individuals-organisations-could-12443617
 - 37 www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-23224833
 - 38 www.northwaleschronicle.co.uk/news/16273089.Tributes_paid_after_Bangor_taxi_driver_dies_following_Bethesda_house_fire/
 - 39 www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-40272168
 - 40 www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-40445069
 - 41 www.thesun.co.uk/news/4520024/david-meade-conspiracy-theorist-world-not-end-september-23rd-seven-years-chaos/
 - 42 www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/surrey-news/redhill-child-abduction-everything-know-11802480
 - 43 www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-53909766
 - 44 www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-50727810
 - 45 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fred_West#Search_warrant
 - 46 www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2I6Z8WjnYg
 - 47 <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/08/26/us/virginia-shooting-bryce-williams-documents/>

- 48 <http://edition.cnn.com/2017/10/03/us/mandalay-bay-hotel-room-what-we-know/index.html>
- 49 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Childers_Palace_Backpackers_Hostel_fire
- 50 www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/mystery-of-hijacked-cargo-ship-deepens-1773470.html
- 51 www.radiotimes.com/news/2017-08-07/what-is-eden-on-channel-4-and-why-is-everyone-talking-about-it
- 52 Larry Warren, 'There's UFOs Over New York & John Lennon Wasn't Too Surprised': www.ufoevidence.org/Cases/CaseSubarticle.asp?ID=543
- 53 Adam Gorightly, *Adam Gorightly ON: Death Cults*. Sisyphus Press, 2004, no pagination.
- 54 www.azcentral.com/ent/celeb/articles/2011/06/28/20110628jessie-j-admits-she-has-received-death-threats.html
- 55 www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2020/live-lounge
- 56 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euronymous#Murder_of_Euronymous
- 57 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keillers_Park_murder
- 58 <http://patricechaplin.uk/2015/11/the-stone-cradle-part-1-arrival/> See Patrice Chaplin, *The Stone Cradle*. Clairview Books, 2017.
- 59 www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1156122/Revealed-The-worlds-oldest-words--ones-disappear.html
- 60 www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/44125255
- 61 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UEFA_Euro_2012_squads
- 62 www.bbc.co.uk/sport/0/football/18624174
- 63 www.cbc.ca/news/technology/25th-internaut-day-1st-web-page-1.3732077
- 64 www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-40669449
- 65 Robert Anton Wilson, *op. cit.*
- 66 *The Sun* newspaper. 14 June 2008 edition.
- 67 *The Sun* newspaper. 27 December 2008 edition, p.9.

[BLANK]

23