

The case of the half-eaten man

Information Established

The victim was a veteran and self-identified antiquarian, Sir Clarence H Cartwright.

Sir Cartwright was born in Port Colburne, Ontario in 1883. His father was a noted chemist who worked for the brewing company, Labatt.

Cartwright achieved a bachelor's degree from Oxford University in 1905. His publications from that period were characterized as exhibiting brilliance.

However, like many men of his generation, Cartwright became involved in the Great War. During the war, Cartwright saved his platoon from a monstrous German wonder. The wonder had been consuming allied soldiers in their trenches. Cartwright was able to stop him with the liberal application of dynamite stuffed into its throat. For this feat, Cartwright was knighted.

After the war, it appears that Sir Cartwright's intellect turned towards the esoteric and arcane. Sometime in 1928, Sir Cartwright relocated to the frontier city of Assiniboine in Manitoba. He took up residence in the Royal Alexandra hotel. He appears to have been a man of independent means, bringing with him considerable wealth. During his time in Manitoba there is no indication of a vocation or outside income.

Sir Cartwright became a member of the Manitoba Historical Society where he advanced his view that there existed a pre-human civilization. Witnesses recall that this view was based on books and other publications that were considered debunked or unworthy. His residence contained a number of books on antiquities and extinct cultures, including works on Lemuria and Atlantis. These works were liberally bookmarked and annotated.

Sir Cartwright was largely ridiculed for his views. His one published article (found so far) attracted rebuttal and scorn from the experts in the field. He appears to have made no converts or friends, though he was well regarded by the staff at the hotel.

During the summer of 1932, Sir Cartwright was moved by information yet unknown to take a trip to the south Pacific. At least some part of the journey took him to the town of Papeete in the French Protectorate of Tahiti. His notes indicate he visited an island of "G" in company with "Captain M". After an absence of about three months, he returned to his residence at the Royal Alexandra. This return was noted in the local paper.

On his return, Sir Cartwright rented a security deposit box at the local Bank of Montreal where he maintained his financial affairs. The box rented was one of the larger ones, bigger than those needed for ordinary document storage. Sir Cartwright also asked to give a presentation to the Historical Society for the express purpose of demonstrating proof of the existence of the pre-human civilization that he had been postulating. This presentation was arranged for the exclusive Manitoba Club for a Sunday evening.

Three days before that presentation, Sir Cartwright perished. Indications are that he died in his bed of a common heart attack. However, after his death – probably over the following day – something 'ate' the

lower half of his torso. The body showed bite marks that do not match to any known animal. Marks indicate an unusual number of teeth and a 'tidy eater'. This 'animal' left no other indications of its presence such as tracks or feces. A unique 'predator' scent likely associated to the animal was detected. Sir Cartwright's body was found still covered by the bed sheets, the room was locked, all windows secured, and no other method of entry or egress was located. No other resident has reported suspicious activity.

Sometime on Saturday evening or Sunday morning (two-three days after Sir Cartwright's demise) an intruder raided the security deposit box vault at the Bank of Montreal. This intruder appears to have forced a guard to cooperate and then killed that guard. Indications are that the guard died in great pain of a poison that largely liquified his internal organs. From the damage, the coroner suspects a form of snake venom. However, the means by which this poison was administered has not been established. The guard's throat did not display similar damage and no injection or bite marks were discovered.

The intruder proceeded to systematically remove and search the private boxes in that vault. Boxes #1 through box #784 were pried open and dumped on the floor. #784 was determined to be the box belonging to Sir Cartwright. It has not yet been established what, if anything, was taken but much of value was left behind.

At this point, the authorities invited the assistance of the local Wonder team that had opposed an earlier attempt to rob that institution. Specifically, the team was asked to work Detective Hargrave of the Assiniboine Police Department.

That team assessed the intruder's target to be Mr. Cartwright's box. They called on Mr. Cartwright and discovered the body. The team continues to make inquiries which as resulted in the information gathered above.

To date the team has questioned the bank manager, the Alexandra hotel staff, Dr. David Alexander Stewart (renowed physician and president of Manitoba Historical Society), and a professor at St. John's College history department. They are waiting to speak with Dr. Malcom Malory of that department. The team also checked the city's points of entry (train stations, air station and canal port) for the 'predator' scent but did not detect anything.

Speculation

There may be a connection between the monster that Sir Cartwright killed during the war and the entity that consumed his body after his death. Some sort of karmic revenge?

There seems little doubt that there is a Wonder element to the 'animal' that partly ate Sir Cartwright. No normal animal would have consumed a body without leaving other traces.

It is likely that the intruder at the bank found what he/she sought. It is worth noting though that the intruder did not posses Sir Cartwright's key nor knowledge of which specific box needed to be searched. Is the key and box number among Sir Cartwright's effects? If so, that would seem to indicate the intruder did not first access Sir Cartwright's room. If not, where would Sir Cartwright have hidden that key and what else might be there?