

Ode to E Pluribus Unum for Sunday May 1 2022



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Moon Shadow on Jupiter



Image

Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/SwRI/MSSS; Processing & License: Thomas Thomopoulos

What is that large dark spot on Jupiter? It's the shadow of Ganymede, Jupiter's largest moon.

When Jupiter's moons cross between the Jovian giant and the Sun, they created shadows just like when the Earth's moon crosses between the Earth and the Sun. Also like on Earth, if you were in a dark shadow on Jupiter, you would see a moon completely eclipse the Sun.

Unlike on Earth, moon shadows occur most days on Jupiter -- what's more unusual is that a spacecraft was close enough to record one with a high-resolution image. That spacecraft, Juno, was passing so close to Jupiter in late February that nearby clouds and the dark eclipse shadow appear relatively large.

Juno has made many discoveries about our Solar System's largest planet, including, recently, rapidly expanding circular auroras.

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Márquez: Danzón No. 2 and Fandango



Arturo Márquez was born in Mexico and grew up listening to a variety of musical genres. One of the avenues of exposure was from his father who was a mariachi musician. Growing up around the musical culture of Sonora, Mexico during his childhood would later influence his drive to become a composer and musician.

Márquez began his musical education at La Puente, California in 1966. Already composing at age 16, he went on to study at the National Conservatory of Music in Mexico, followed by studies with French composer Jacques Castérède in Paris.

His compositions draw inspiration from the ballroom dancing born out of Cuba in the 1800s, commonly known as "danzón." This kind of music and dance atmosphere inspired him to compose not one, but a series of eight danzónes for orchestra.



Gustavo Dudamel, https://youtu.be/_1ynC1RB3kY?t=5

On August 2021, Anne Akiko Meyers joined Gustavo and the LA Phil for the world premiere of composer Arturo Márquez' new violin concerto, "Fandango," which is based on the Mexican dance Márquez grew up with. Listen to the final movement performed at the Hollywood Bowl.



"Fandango" LA Phil with Anne Akiko Meyers <https://youtu.be/ELxIHg80h70?t=1>

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Tarra and Bella: Best Friends



- 1 <https://youtu.be/e4OD8dxIry8>
- 2 <https://youtu.be/ArzQ4dlhE74>
- 3 <https://youtu.be/qAN5nf04L2s>
- 4 https://youtu.be/PuRBj_5dy_o

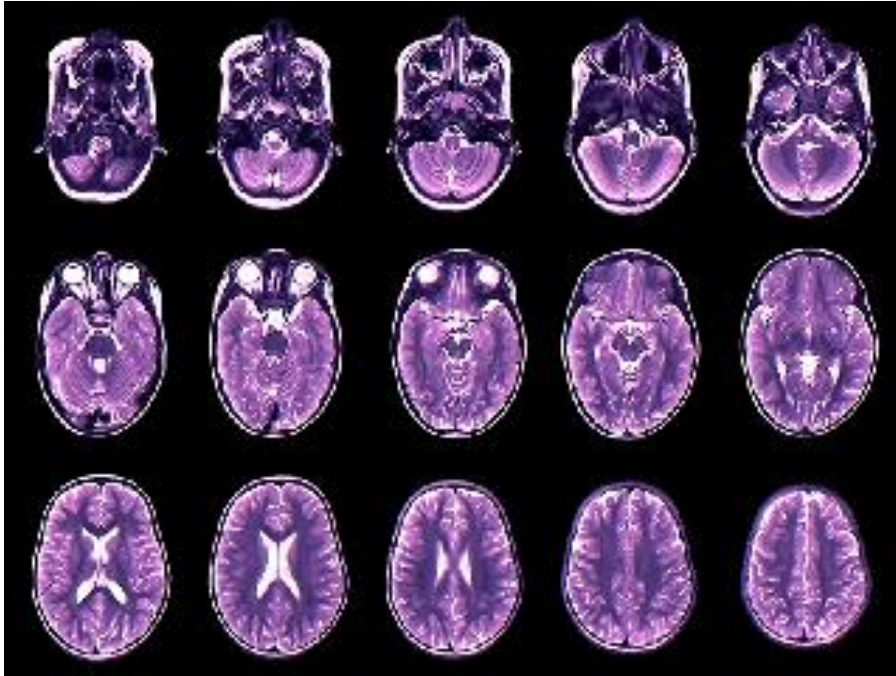
This story of an unusual friendship between an elephant and a dog could be an inspiration for anyone.

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Your Brain Expands and Shrinks Over Time — These Charts Show How

Based on more than 120,000 brain scans, the charts are still preliminary. But researchers hope they could one day be used as a routine clinical tool by physicians.

Max Kozlov



Researchers have created brain growth charts that cover the human lifespan by aggregating more than 120,000 scans.

Credit: Zephyr/SPL

When neuroscientist Jakob Seidlitz took his 15-month-old son to the paediatrician for a check-up last week, he left feeling unsatisfied. There wasn't anything wrong with his son — the youngster seemed to be developing at a typical pace, according to the height and weight charts the physician used. What Seidlitz felt was missing was an equivalent metric to gauge how his son's brain was growing. "It is shocking how little biological information doctors have about this critical organ," says Seidlitz, who is based at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Can brain scans reveal behaviour? Bombshell study says not yet

Soon, he might be able to change that. Working with colleagues, Seidlitz has amassed more than 120,000 brain scans — the largest collection of its kind — to create the first comprehensive growth charts for brain development. The charts show visually how human brains expand quickly early in life and then shrink slowly with age. The sheer magnitude of the study, published in *Nature* on 6 April 1, has stunned neuroscientists, who have long had to contend with reproducibility issues in their research, in part because of small sample sizes. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is expensive, meaning that scientists are often limited in the number of participants they can enrol in experiments.

"The massive data set they assembled is extremely impressive and really sets a new standard for the field," says Angela Laird, a cognitive neuroscientist at Florida International University in Miami.

Even so, the authors caution that their database isn't completely inclusive — they struggled to gather brain scans from all regions of the globe. The resulting charts, they

say, are therefore just a first draft, and further tweaks would be needed to deploy them in clinical settings.

If the charts are eventually rolled out to paediatricians, great care will be needed to ensure that they are not misinterpreted, says Hannah Tully, a paediatric neurologist at the University of Washington in Seattle. "A big brain is not necessarily a well-functioning brain," she says.

No easy task

Because brain structure varies significantly from person to person, the researchers had to aggregate a huge number of scans to create an authoritative set of growth charts with statistical significance. That's no easy task, says Richard Bethlehem, a neuroscientist at the University of Cambridge, UK, and a co-author of the study. Instead of running thousands of scans themselves, which would take decades and be prohibitively costly, the researchers turned to already-completed neuroimaging studies.

The world's strongest MRI machines are pushing human imaging to new limits

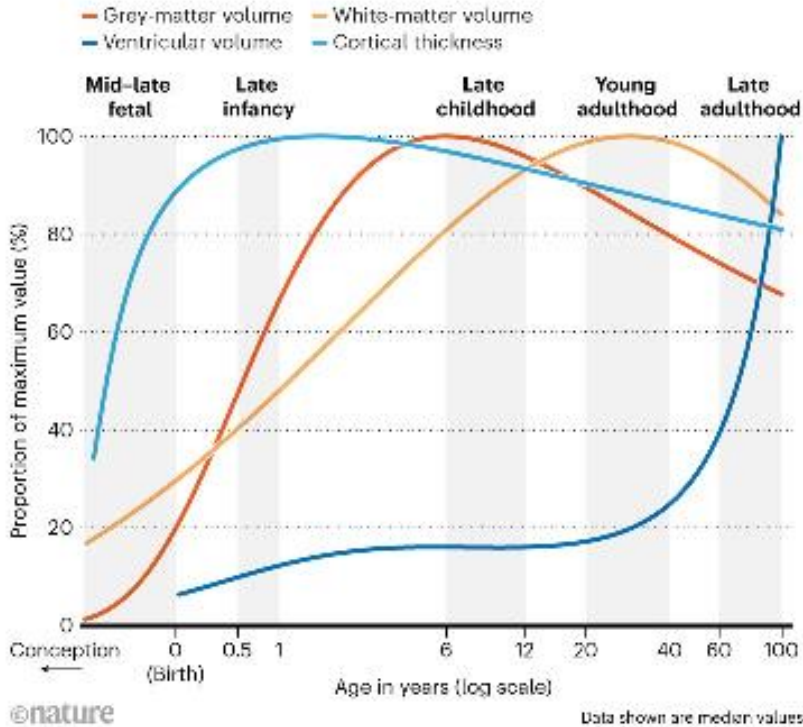
Bethlehem and Seidlitz sent e-mails to researchers all over the world asking if they would share their neuroimaging data for the project. The duo was amazed by the number of replies, which they attribute to the COVID-19 pandemic giving researchers less time in their laboratories and more time than usual with their e-mail inboxes.

In total, the team aggregated 123,894 MRI scans from 101,457 people, who ran the gamut from fetuses 16 weeks after conception to 100-year-old adults. The scans included brains from neurotypical people, as well as people with a variety of medical conditions, such as Alzheimer's disease, and neurocognitive differences, including autism spectrum disorder. The researchers used statistical models to extract information from the images, and ensure that the scans were directly comparable, no matter what type of MRI machine had been used.

Brian change: Graph showing proportional volume of ventricular, white- and grey-matter and cortical thickness through life.

BRAIN CHANGE

Researchers analysed more than 120,000 brain scans to assemble the most comprehensive growth chart of the brain so far. White- and grey-matter volume and mean cortical thickness (the width of the grey matter) increase rapidly early in development, whereas ventricular volume (the amount of cerebrospinal fluid in the brain) increases rapidly later in life.



Source: Ref. 1

The end result is a set of charts plotting several key brain metrics by age. Some metrics, such as grey-matter volume and mean cortical thickness (the width of the grey matter) peak early in a person's development, whereas the volume of white matter (found deeper in the brain) tends to peak by around age 30 (see 'Brain change'). The data on ventricular volume (the amount of cerebrospinal fluid in the brain), in particular, surprised Bethlehem. Scientists knew that this volume increases with age, because it is typically associated with brain atrophy, but Bethlehem was shocked by how rapidly it tends to grow in late adulthood.

A first draft

The study comes on the heels of a bombshell paper published in Nature on 16 March 2012 showing that most brain-imaging experiments contain too few scans to reliably detect links between brain function and behaviour, meaning that their conclusions might be incorrect. Given this finding, Laird expects the field to move towards adopting a framework similar to the one used by Seidlitz and Bethlehem, to increase statistical power.

How the world's biggest brain maps could transform neuroscience

To amass so many data sets is akin to a "diplomatic masterpiece", says Nico Dosenbach, a neuroscientist at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, who co-

authored the 16 March study. He says this is the scale on which researchers should operate when aggregating brain images.

Despite the size of the data set, Seidlitz, Bethlehem and their colleagues acknowledge that their study suffers from a problem endemic to neuroimaging studies — a remarkable lack of diversity. The brain scans they collected come mainly from North America and Europe, and disproportionately reflect populations that are white, university-aged, urban and affluent. This limits the generalizability of the findings, says Sarah-Jayne Blakemore, a cognitive neuroscientist at the University of Cambridge. The study includes only three data sets from South America and one from Africa — accounting for around 1% of all the brain scans used in the study.

Billions of people worldwide lack access to MRI machines, making diverse brain-imaging data difficult to come by, Laird says. But the authors haven't stopped trying. They have launched a website where they intend to update their growth charts in real time as they receive more brain scans.

With big data sets, big responsibility

Another challenge was determining how to give proper credit to the owners of the brain scans used to construct the charts. Some of the scans came from open-access data sets, but others were closed to researchers. Most of the closed-data scans hadn't yet been processed in a way that would allow them to be incorporated into the growth charts, so their owners did extra work to share them. These scientists were then named as authors of the paper.

Meanwhile, the owners of the open data sets received only a citation in the paper — which doesn't hold as much prestige for researchers seeking funding, collaborations and promotions. Seidlitz, Bethlehem and their colleagues processed these data. In most cases, Bethlehem says that there was essentially no direct contact with the owners of these data sets. The paper lists about 200 authors and cites the work of hundreds of others who contributed brain scans.

Can lab-grown brains become conscious?

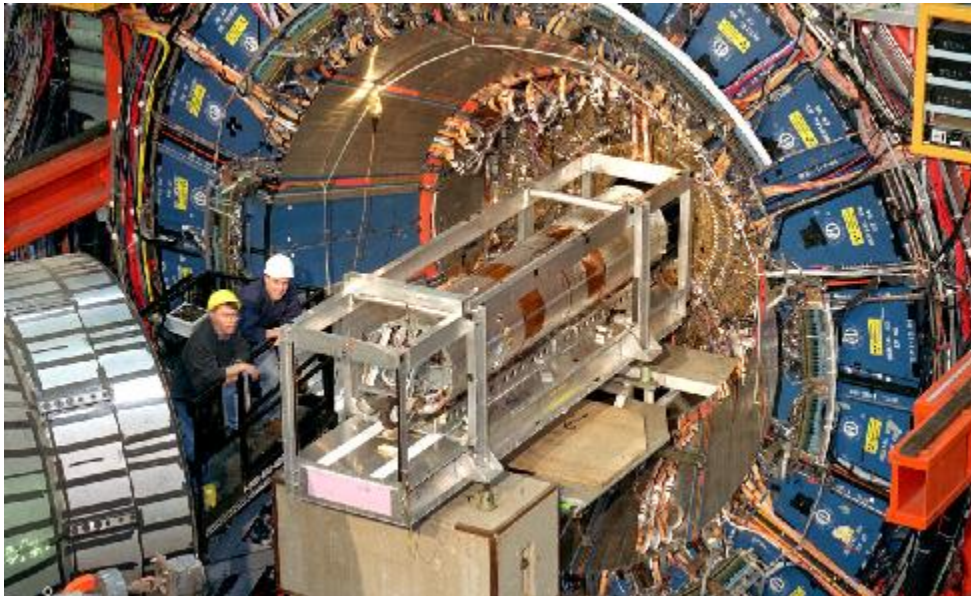
There are a number of reasons that data sets might be closed: for instance, to protect the privacy of health data, or because researchers don't have the resources to make them public. But this doesn't make it fair that the researchers who opened their data sets didn't get authorship, the authors say. In their paper's Supplementary Information, they argue that the situation "perversely disincentivises open science, since the people who do most to make their data openly available could be least likely to merit recognition". Bethlehem and Seidlitz contend that authorship guidelines from journals, including Nature — which say that each author is expected to have made "substantial contributions" to, for example, the analysis or interpretation of data — are an obstacle. (Nature's news team is editorially independent of its publisher.)

A Nature spokesperson responds that the issue was "considered carefully by the editors and authors according to our authorship policies" and that "all datasets were appropriately credited per our data citation policy".

Ultimately, these concerns can be traced back to how researchers are evaluated by the scientific enterprise, says Kaja LeWinn, a social epidemiologist at the University of California, San Francisco, who studies neurodevelopment. She says that it's incumbent on all of the relevant stakeholders — including funders, journals and research institutions — to re-evaluate how brain science can be properly recognized and rewarded, especially as these types of large-scale study become more common.

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The W Boson Might be Extra Hefty. If so, it Could Hint at New Physics



A new measurement of a subatomic particle's mass raises excitement — and questions
photo of the Collider Detector at Fermilab

The Collider Detector at Fermilab experiment (pictured) found that an elementary particle called the W boson has a higher mass than predicted.

By Emily Conover

There's something amiss with a mass.

A new measurement of the mass of an elementary particle, the W boson, has defied expectations. The result hints at a possible flaw in physicists' otherwise stalwart theory of the fundamental bits and bobs of our world, known as the standard model.

That theory predicts a W boson with a mass of about 80,357 million electron volts, or MeV. But the new measured mass is larger, at 80,433.5 MeV, physicists with the Collider Detector at Fermilab, or CDF, collaboration report in the April 8 Science.

The finding could hint at new particles or other mysteries of physics yet to be discovered. "If confirmed, this would clearly mean very interesting new physics that we can explore," says theoretical physicist Sven Heinemeyer of the Institute for Theoretical Physics in Madrid.

Still, several earlier, less precise measurements found W boson masses more closely aligned with the standard model, including one from the ATLAS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN near Geneva. So physicists are awaiting further confirmation before declaring their prized theory incorrect.

"CDF's new result seems barely compatible with the previous ones, including its own previous result, which prompts questions," says ATLAS physicist Maarten Boonekamp of the Institute of Research into the Fundamental Laws of the Universe at Université Paris-Saclay.

Discovered in 1983, the W boson plays an important role in the standard model (SN: 2/5/83). The particle comes in two varieties, with either positive or negative electric charge. Together with their uncharged partner, the Z boson, the particles carry the weak nuclear force, which is responsible for certain types of radioactive decay and plays an important role in the nuclear reactions that power the sun.

Using data that CDF collected from 2002 to 2011, the team looked for W bosons produced in collisions of protons and their antimatter counterparts, antiprotons, in the now-shuttered Tevatron particle collider at Fermilab in Batavia, Ill. (SN: 9/9/11). The analysis was designed so that researchers couldn't tell what the end result was until they were done.

The moment of the unveiling was striking, says experimental particle physicist Ashutosh Kotwal of Duke University. "When the answer popped up ... we were awestruck about what we might have just learned."

With a precision of 0.01 percent, the new W boson mass measurement is about twice as precise as the previous record. "This is a very special measurement; this is a true legacy," says experimental particle physicist Rafael Coelho Lopes de Sá of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, who worked on measuring the W boson mass for another Tevatron experiment. "The level of dedication and care and detail ... is amazing."

The new measurement disagrees with the standard model expectation by 7 sigma, a measure of the statistical significance of a result. That's well above the 5 sigma that physicists usually require to claim a discovery.

Still, "before getting too excited," says ATLAS physicist Guillaume Unal of CERN, "I would like to see an independent measurement that confirms the CDF measurement." In addition to the ATLAS measurement, described in 2018 in the European Physical Journal C, another measurement of the W boson's mass from the CERN experiment LHCb was also in line with the standard model prediction, researchers reported in the January Journal of High Energy Physics.

"The W boson mass is notoriously difficult to measure," says LHCb physicist Mika Vesterinen of the University of Warwick in Coventry, England. That explains why it took CDF so long to wrap up this analysis, published more than 10 years after the experiment ended.

Hopefully, scientists won't have to wait that long for another measurement. The ATLAS and LHCb collaborations are already working on improved W boson mass analyses. CMS, another experiment at CERN, could also size up the particle.

If the new measurement holds up, it's not yet clear what secrets of physics might be at play. New particles — such as those predicted by the theory of supersymmetry, which posits that each known particle has a heavier partner — could help shift the W boson mass upward (SN: 9/6/16). Intriguingly, Heinemeyer points out, those same particles might also help explain another recent physics mystery — the magnetic gyrations of muons reported by the Muon g-2 experiment (SN: 4/7/21).

Whatever physicists uncover, they'll gain a new grasp on the particulars of this crucial particle, says theoretical physicist Nathaniel Craig of the University of California, Santa Barbara. "At the end of the day, the added energy and attention devoted to the W mass measurement ... will be an immensely positive thing."

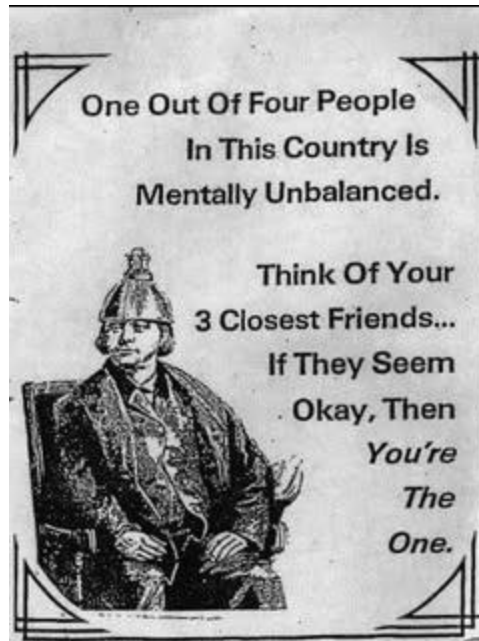
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With Whom We Spend Time: By Age



<https://news.join1440.com/t/j-l-zujiill-iyjituzhl-tt/>

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A Martian Crater in High Def



<https://youtu.be/LoumcmsyHg>

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Comments made in the year 1955! The March of Time



I'm afraid to send my kids to the movies any more. Ever since they let Clark Gable get by with saying damn in gone with the wind, it seems every new movie has either hell or damn in it.

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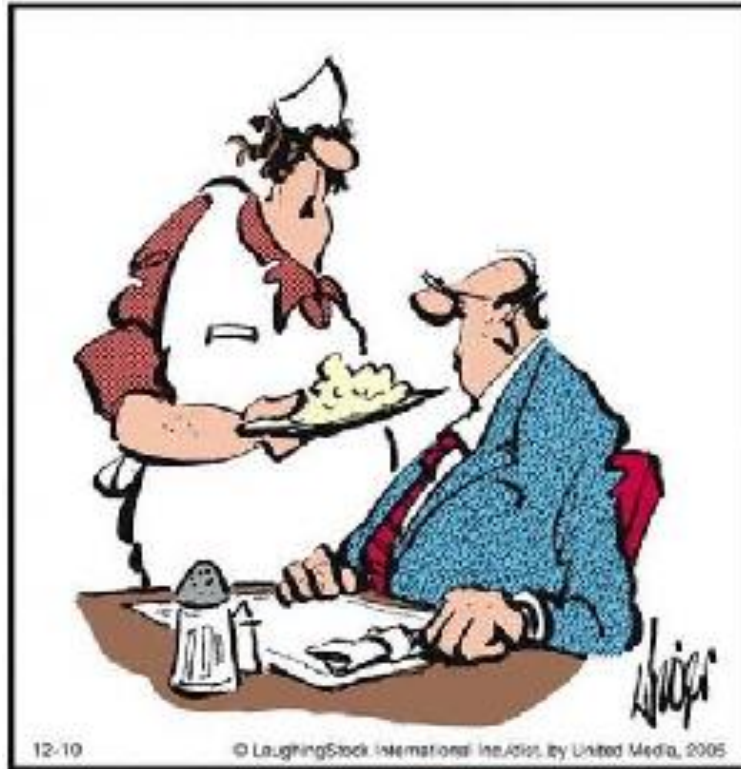
I read the other day where some scientist thinks it's possible to put a man on the moon by the end of the century. They even have some fellows they call astronauts preparing for it down in Texas .

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Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$50,000 a year just to play ball? It wouldn't surprise me if someday they'll be making more than the President.

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"We ran out of prime rib so
I gave you double potatoes."

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Stevie Wonder



Stevie Wonder, is an American singer-songwriter and musician, who is credited as a pioneer and influence by musicians across a range of genres that includes rhythm and blues, pop, soul, gospel, funk, and jazz.

A virtual one-man band, his use of synthesizers and other electronic musical instruments during the 1970s reshaped the conventions of R&B. He also helped drive the genre into the album era, crafting his LPs as cohesive, consistent socially conscious statements with complex compositions.

Blind since shortly after his birth, Wonder was a child prodigy who signed with Motown's Tamla label at the age of 11, where he was given the professional name Little Stevie Wonder. In 1963, the single "Fingertips" was a number-one hit on the Billboard Hot 100 when Wonder was 13, making him the youngest artist ever to top the chart.

Sir Duke <https://youtu.be/6sIjSNTS7Fs>

You are the Sunshine of my Life <https://youtu.be/yYj1DMHwFy4>

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Chocolate Art by Amaury Guichon



Baker Makes Hyper-Realistic Cakes In The Exact Image Of Everyday Items Such is Guichon's passion for chocolate sculpting that he can create anything from chocolate. In 2017, he created the famous hundred percent chocolate sculpture of a nautilus. Today, he enjoys the following of a whopping 2.4 million fans on Instagram alone and counting.

Chocolate Angel Statue <https://youtu.be/kdlYa0M3f80>

Chocolate Art by Amaury Guichon <https://youtu.be/3zPf9gP2xFs>

School of Chocolate <https://youtu.be/EySIhSBth6A>

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Just When You Think You've See it All



A farmer went into town to see a movie.

The ticket agent asked, "sir, what's that on your shoulder?" the old farmer said,

"This is my pet rooster Chuck. Wherever I go, Chuck goes."

"I'm sorry sir," said the ticket agent "we can't allow animals in the theater."

"Ill put him back in the truck then" said the farmer.

But the old farmer just went around the corner and stuffed Chuck down his overalls.

Then he returned to the booth, bought a ticket, and entered the theater.

He sat down next to 2 old widows, Ethel & Mildred.

The movie started and the rooster began to squirm.

The old farmer unbuttoned his fly buttons so chuck could stick his head out and watch the movie.

"Ethel", whispered Mildred. "what?" said Ethel.

"I think the old guy next to me is a pervert."

"What makes you think so?" asked Ethel?

"He undid his pants and he has his thing out", whispered Mildred.

"Well, don't worry about it", said Ethel.. "at our age we've seen 'em all"

"I thought so too", said Mildred, "but this one is eatin' my popcorn"

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What happens to used hotel soap?



<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?shva=1#label/4+ode/FMfcgzGpFWWgNCWcxnwjWCzlxhsDmpMT>

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Cha if by land, Tea if by sea



Across languages, there are two primary ways of referring to the golden liquid we all love - chai or tea.

English (tea), Dutch (thee), Tamil (te-neer) or Hindi (chai), Persian (chay), Arabic (shay)

The reason is interesting, showing how the imprint of globalization remains on languages.

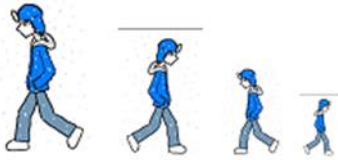
Tea originated in China and it was represented by the letter "茶" - this character was called "cha" in Mandarin spoken in mainland China and "te" in Min Nan variety of Chinese, spoken in the coastal province of Fujian.

The countries that got tea via China through the Silk Road (land) referred to it in various forms of the word "cha". On the other hand, the countries that traded with China via sea - through the Min Nan port called it in different forms of "te".

Interestingly, Portugal traded with China from the Macaw port instead of Fujian and thus uniquely adopted cha, in contrast with its neighboring countries.

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My Walking Thoughts



May 1 2022

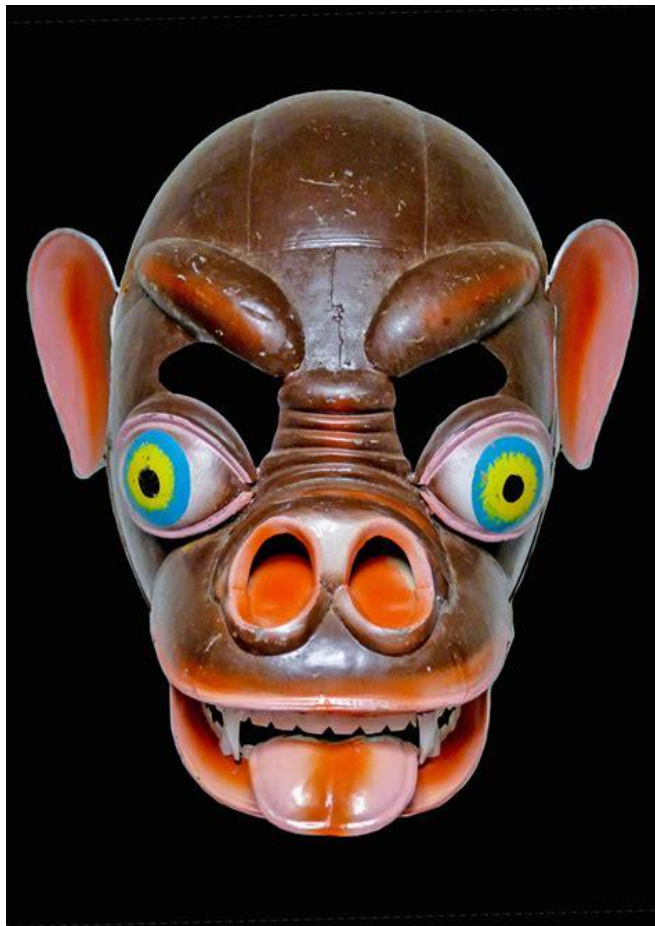
My next Book

I should have the first draft of Phantoms from Vietnam completed sometime this month, then the real work begins...things like making certain the timeline is accurate, people and actions are where they belong...the thousands of bits and pieces bound together in the hope a Mona Lisa emerges rather than something that belongs in the Smithsonian Museum of Modern Art.

Anyway, I am beginning work on my next literary effort, a personal voyage, but one on which we've all been complicit passengers. I've titled the work:

Two Years Behind the Mask

The destruction of civilization as we've known it.



I hope to have the preamble ready next week.

In the meantime I'd like to have you join me on a little ramble that were part of what was once my first shot of Phantoms from Vietnam. Since then, I've gone and entirely different direction, so this portion along with several to follow have been left to wither on my vine.

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ASHAU

Colonel Gho Minh of the headquarters section Third People's Army (PAVN) sat soaking in a hot tub in the Embassy Hotel in downtown Danang. It was his last night of R&R and he intended to make the most of it.

Enjoying the tranquility of the bath with him were a Japanese press photographer from Asahi Shimbun and two beefy Air America pilots. Their meeting was fortuitous for Minh, not only because it solved the problem of how he was going to rejoin his command at Hoi An Ca after a protracted strategy meeting in Danang, but having the photographer along was just that kind of blind luck that made belief in a divine establishment momentarily inviting.

"Hey, Tojo," drawled one of the pilots with good old down home amiability plastered all over his florid face, "any of them gooners up there where we're going?"

"Are nothing but peasants and loyal ARVN in Hoi An Ca. All very copacetic. No VC; no VD; no trouble for honorable Yankee sky pilots." It might appear to some that Minh's words were less genuine than his smile, for it so happened that Hoi An Ca was North Vietnamese Army territory down to the last inch. But since the PAVN trained and staged supplies in the area for raids elsewhere, the last thing they wanted was to bring trouble on their heads, so it was all the same.

"I'm Bobby," the pilot said, offering his hand. "Me and Houdini here ain't looking for any more trouble for a while," he continued. "We've had enough of that over by the Laotian border for the last three weeks."

"My name's Carl," the other said without offering to shake. "Bobby's just not used to landing on postage stamps with automatic weapons going off all over the place. He thinks that it's a little more fascinating than his four grand a month is worth."

Bobby gave him a curious look but said nothing.

Minh couldn't blame the Air America pilots for their apprehension. There had been a critical mistake less than two months before when a bunch of hotshot Cong down near the town of Vitanh in the Delta had shot down an Air America DC-3 and then murdered and mutilated the crew. The was a hell of a row, with CIA staunchly maintaining that there would be no more R&R flights for the NVA. The situation was desperate as it would have severely hampered North Vietnamese command and control activities in the south.

Finally, an agreement was worked out in which the scalps of the murderers were turned over to CIA along with a guarantee of safety for Air America flights in Vietnam. In return, Air America agreed to reestablish R&R flights throughout South Vietnam with the proviso that it would be on a space available basis so as not to look too hokey.

Additionally, a new set of Rules of Engagement were adopted, forbidding U.S. aircraft from attacking North Vietnamese aircraft that were not showing hostile intent. Hostile intent, as it evolved, required that the aircraft in question actually be engaged in a firing pass on a US aircraft, not merely peripherally present no matter how threatening that presence might seem to American pilots. It was the aerial equivalent of "in and out the border" games played along the Laotian and Cambodian borders by the ground troops. Minh's smile widened as he thought, you've got to love these imbeciles for the absurdities they live with.

It might seem strange to some, but Minh didn't mind the American presence in his country in the least. Their stay wouldn't last much longer, indeed the trick was to make certain they stayed long enough that when it ended Vietnam would be strong enough and wealthy enough to stand on its own as the principal power in Southeast Asia.

When the French first arrived, they had understood where the action was, solidifying their position in no time at all. But as time went by, their guilt began to get the better of them and they chose to wring blood from the trees rather than from the feudal overlords, who came more and more to despise them for their weaknesses.

The Japanese were smart enough to leave the administrative apparatus alone during their occupation during World War Two, harvesting the fruits of French Colonialism without having to tie up unnecessary men and materiel. Japan's Greater Southeast Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere cut so deeply into French influence in Indochina that when America put them out on a limb in 1954 (indeed helped saw it off) their stewardship came to an ignominious end with the fall of Dien Bien Phu.

America to the Rescue

In came the Americans with their money and their hordes of infantile do-gooders bent on bringing liberty to the oppressed masses. The results were diametric.

What made the Americans perfect for the role of liberator was the almost incomprehensible arrogance of their bureaucratic leaders aided by the greediness of their lesser functionaries whose sublime talents lay in their universal callousness to the plight of peoples everywhere.

Humanity to them was most any act of self-interest that left its recipient in a fawning position. Despite the exaltation of their perch, even the emperors of long forgotten dynasties viewed the kowtow with a detached amusement and would have been hard-pressed, no doubt, to keep a straight face watching these pompous nitwits in action.

Best of all was the fact that none of these ignoramuses seemed to have the slightest notion of who was important and who wasn't. Nor did they seem to care. In the same way their troops would as quickly belly up to Montanyard matrons or Chinese paddy stompers, the USAID ignoramuses persisted in creating pimps and lackeys from the

lines of incompetent no-accounts who showed up in droves ready to shine shoes or murder their countrymen, while the overlords of Vietnam's vulnerable (but still viable) feudal structure were left to their own devices.

Everywhere the Americans went, they arrived with a fanfare and innocence that defied understanding. They blew wads of money buying up all the moral cretins they could find to make certain (so it seemed to Minh) that everything they tried was doomed to failure.

And why should it be different. Americans were drilled from birth to concern themselves with a thing called principle, the mandate of which could be changed from time to time by their masters to suit the occasion. Actually, principle was a slight veneer for principal, but it was impolitic to suggest such a thing. The rank-and-file nitwits from the land of plenty couldn't see that life and death in Asia revolved around family and fate. Principle had nothing to do with it.

Lenin would have puffed with pride had he but lived to see the continuation of his handiwork. America's aristocracy showed an amazing flair for organizing and presiding over the dismantling of history's most successful experiment in inclusive diversity. They began by reposing power in the hands of incompetent bureaucrats and two-bit functionaries whose road to achievement lay in their ability to have procured a white collar work permit from those simpering ivory-tower Quislings whose intellectual honesty stemmed from the certain knowledge that playing ball in school was far more than a recreational pursuit.

Impressive was their understanding that through the idiotic offices of these degenerates, the excesses of capitalism, wrought over two centuries by the villainy of hard work and individual initiative (that Americans were told threatened global peace by challenging the pretense of the world's oligarchs that their vision of the New World Order is based on some secret wisdom imparted to them for our benefit and their safekeeping) were brought under control.

Better still was their ability to mobilize the Wobblies when it came time to prepare the turf for their depredations. But their absolute genius for mass manipulation came to the fore in their mustering of a fierce moral indignation for the reticence of many of the citizenry to swell the ever-increasing rolls of shattered bodies hobbling about on stumps, tapping potholes with white canes, and hoisting beer cans with metal claws.

It was precisely because of their gift for self-deception propelling perfectly good people to work toward their mutual destruction that Americans offered Vietnam the bright hope for an independent and prosperous future free from Chinese, Russian, French, Japanese, Formosan, Filipino, and most especially American control. Not for a thousand years had the future held so much promise.

The photographer, Watanabe was a gift from heaven - a chance to show the world the wonders of Pax Americana. Hoi An Ca would be the showplace of the pacification program, providing the world's press with a cornucopia of evidence provided that the American presence in Vietnam was at once a blessing and a necessity. When at last the

citizens from across the sea had been bled dry of money and blood, Vietnam would be strong enough to demand concessions.

"Keep your dollars coming," he mused, abandoning himself to the pleasure of the water. "Yankee stay here."

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Next week, Bobby, Carl, and Air America