



## Immortal Airship Masters of the Andes!

*"And now, who is this Robur? Shall we ever know?*

*We know to-day. Robur is the science of the future. Perhaps the science of tomorrow! Certainly the science that will come!*

*Does the Albatross still cruise in the atmosphere in the realm that none can take from her? There is no reason to doubt it. Will Robur, the Conqueror, appear one day as he said? Yes! He will come to declare the secret of his invention, which will greatly change the social and political conditions of the world."*

- - Jules Verne, *Robur the Conqueror* (1886)

And you thought the [Antarctic Space Nazis](#) were warped. And don't get me wrong; they are. Regardless, they're still understandable, still clearly villainous. But these new guys, these immortal alien Rosicrucian airship technocrats, are so bisociative they don't even have a name. They might be the "Council of the 98"; they might be Le Brouillard; they might be the NYMZA. They could be a steampunk Shangri-La or Rosicrucian Blood Guardians or an outpost of Alien Nazi Supermen, or all three. And like so many great stories, theirs begins in the American West, in the shimmering heat distortion of the desert skies.

*"Taking Dellschau seriously for the moment we might postulate that in both Germany and the United States, specifically in California and New York, a secret cult of brilliant scientists, technicians and inventors established contact with nonhuman agencies which told them how to construct aerial vessels but ordered them to keep the work under wraps. It is safe to assume the German and American branches were in communication and about 1848 some of the Germans immigrated to pool their efforts with those of the Americans."*

- - Jerome Clark and Loren Coleman, "Mystery Airships of the 1800s," *Fate Magazine*, June 1973

About 45 miles west of Stockton, California, a small multinational clique of designers was building airships. Nothing too unusual about that, except that (assuming it was happening at all) it was the year 1850. And that the airships, or "aeros," of the Sonora Aero Club flew (as long as we're assuming things) using an energized antigravity gas known only as "the suppe" or "NB." The Sonora Aero Club designed possibly as many as 200 separate airships, of which possibly 20 or 30 actually flew during its 11 years of operation. The Aero Goose, designed by Peter Mennis, was the greatest of these craft, but all of them were decades ahead of their time, even without the antigravity gas. Mennis died in 1861 or so (possibly taking the secret of the NB with him) and the Aero Club scattered across America. (Making its membership a swell hook, as villain or patron, for *GURPS Old West-Steampunk* games.) One of its members, Carl August Albert Dellschau, moved to Richmond, Texas in 1865, and swore a loyalty oath to the Union for some reason - - could the

Sonora Aero Club have been the secret weapon that San Franciscan Asbury Harpending was counting on to sieze California for the Confederacy in 1863?

Shortly after the [Great Airship of 1897](#) buzzed both San Francisco and Texas, Dellschau began drawing the aeros in a series of sketchbooks, accompanied by ciphred and coded notes in archaic German and English. The notes emphasized that the Club was under the control of the "DM=X?" a secret society that Navarro translates as "NYMZA." Dellschau hinted that they killed Jacob Mischer, a Club pilot who wanted to reveal the aeros to the outside world. He had filled more than a dozen large books with his records and drawings before he died in 1923. Forty-five years later, by pure chance art history student Mary Jane Victor rescued four from a junkshop and displayed them as "folk art"; the designs attracted the attention of local UFOlogist Peter Navarro, who bought the surviving copies from the junk shop and drew the immediate connection between the Sonora Aero Club and the Great Airship.

In addition to the geographical and aerodynamic connections, one of the names Navarro found in the notebooks was "Tosh Wilson," a member of the Club who devoted his life to recreating NB. He succeeded some time in the late 1870s, apparently - - contactee George Dunlap described a "Mr. Wilson" as pilot of the Airship in Beaumont, Texas, in 1897, and said Wilson told him the airship ran on a "secret gas" extracted and harnessed by electricity. Dunlap described the airship pilot as a "young genius" - - which was the description the former sheriff of Fort Worth used for an experimenter named Wilson he recalled from 1877. "Wilson" hadn't aged for twenty years - - forty, if Dellschau's notes are to be believed. That's some gas.

*"My God, now that I think of it, all of Verne is an occult revelation . . . Verne gives even more explicit signals. Robur le Conqu?ant, R.C., Rosy Cross. And Robur read backward is Rubor, the red of the rose."*

- - Belbo, in *Foucault's Pendulum*, by Umberto Eco

But leaving Wilson aside for a bit, doesn't the notion of a secretly - constructed electrical airship running on a mysterious power source put one in mind of Robur's *Albatross* from Jules Verne's *Robur the Conqueror*? Robur, like the Sonora Aero Club, built his device on an isolated plateau in America despite being of multinational and mysterious origin himself. French theorist Michel Lamy points out the "R.C." symbolism in Robur's name and title, identifying Verne as part of a secretive Rosicrucian group known as Le Brouillard, "the mist." (Whence, of course, we get Phileas *Fogg*.) Verne was, in fact, connected with the mysterious "Nadar," a French photographer, balloonist, and leading member of the Society for the Encouragement of Air Travel via Heavier Than Air Vehicles. The Rosicrucians (like mist) were invisible, and (like Nadar and the Sonora Aero Club) they studied advanced scientific developments and (like Robur) kept them secret on island bases, or so says Sir Francis Bacon, who ought to know, in *The New Atlantis*.

You want more? Verne describes the flag of Robur as stars on black surrounding a "golden sun," which calls to mind the explicitly Rosicrucian magical order the Golden Dawn, which debuted the year after Verne wrote *Robur the Conqueror*. The Golden Dawn got its authorization from mysterious coded letters from a "Anna Sprengel" in Germany - - and Dellschau also received letters in the same time period from a "Mary Sprengel" in Germany. Where there were also "airship" sightings in the 1850s. Was this the work of the NYMZA's European branch? And did the NYMZA have anything to do with the murderous attempt on Verne's life the same year that *Robur*

was published, as if warning him that he had revealed a little too much?

*"In the esoteric writing of the Latin countries, Marconi has achieved a near-legendary status, much as Tesla has recently in the United States. But most Tesla students are unaware that Marconi was supposed to have founded a secret high-tech city in the remote southern jungles of Venezuela."*

- - David Hatcher Childress, "Tesla & Marconi," *Atlantis Rising*, Fall 1997

The spark now jumps from Verne to Marconi, the man credited with inventing the radio (by infringing on Tesla's patent) and who certainly made a great deal more money off of it than Tesla did. Marconi also had his wild side, experimenting in radio communication with other worlds on his laboratory-yacht, the *Electra*. He did, in fact, report such contact "from another star" in 1921, and in 1930 succeeded in transmitting electrical power over distance, replicating Tesla's efforts in that field as well. Marconi even has a "death ray" story, although it comes bisociatively in both pro- and anti-Marconi versions. He either offered Mussolini his death ray in 1935 and was only talked out of it by the Pope, or refused to turn his research over to the fascists and faked his death in 1937, escaping on his yacht (now stocked with Tesla and Marconi antigravity technology) to South America with 98 like-minded believers, all top-notch scientists. Using their mighty skills, they built a secret city in the Venezuelan Andes (possibly harnessing Atlantean technology to do it) to guarantee world peace.

This Council of 98 is just swimming in wealth; not only from Marconi patent royalties but from the secrets of matter-transmutation, revealed to them by the alchemist Fulcanelli, who disappeared in 1932 - - only to show up in the Council's secret lair six years later. Like Robur, the Council builds advanced airships; like the Rosicrucians, they keep them to themselves. And like Wilson, they're immortal, made so by Fulcanelli's elixirs. Or by exposure to NB. Or by their Bloodline - - "Wilson" adds kabbalistically to 156, "Zion" - - implying that Le Brouillard is a subsidiary of the *Prieur?de Sion*. Or, of course, by aliens; famed UFOlogist "Branton" identifies the "Marconi Group" as allied with the "Tall Blonds" - - the Nordic aliens, in other words. Hmmm. Is it just a coincidence that the Sonora Aero Group also had a jet-propelled craft known as the *Dora*, just like the Antarctic Space Nazis? Or that Robur is thought to be an Argentine exile? Do the Council folks send a disc-ship over to their neighbors in the Nazi [El Dorado](#), Akakor, to borrow a cup of NB every now and again? Maybe the Council isn't quite so anti-Fascist as they'd like you to think.

*"However, an article in the British publication The Independent claims the incidence of suicide among Marconi scientists is twice the national average of mentally healthy individuals. Either Marconi is hiring abnormally unstable scientists or something is very wrong."*

- - "Addendum to Alternative 3," author unknown

And the NYMZA are either still at that murdering people game, or the Council is doing a lot better job of faking people's deaths to recruit them to run the secret base. Twenty-two scientists and technicians working on SDI in Britain between 1982 and 1988 either committed suicide, died mysteriously, or simply vanished - - virtually all of them either Marconi Company, Ltd., employees or contractors. (For those with a yen for Masonic paranoia, two of them were hanged, and two died under a bridge. One of each type died in Bristol, 100 miles from their job or home.) That makes a great start to either a *GURPS Illuminati* or *GURPS Espionage* game (or both, heh heh heh), as well as being an odd echo of an *Avengers* TV episode. But can even Emma Peel and John Steed defeat the Immortal Airship Masters of the Andes? And should

they? Only the GM knows for sure - - and the immortal Dr. Wilson, of course.

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