

* **Jack III: Rain**

It was raining. The rain brought with it less familiar weather: small icicles that fell so that the streets were covered in white sheets.

Series (snow and sleet): 1909, 1936, 1956, 1962, 1964, 1981, 2006, 2007, 2012.

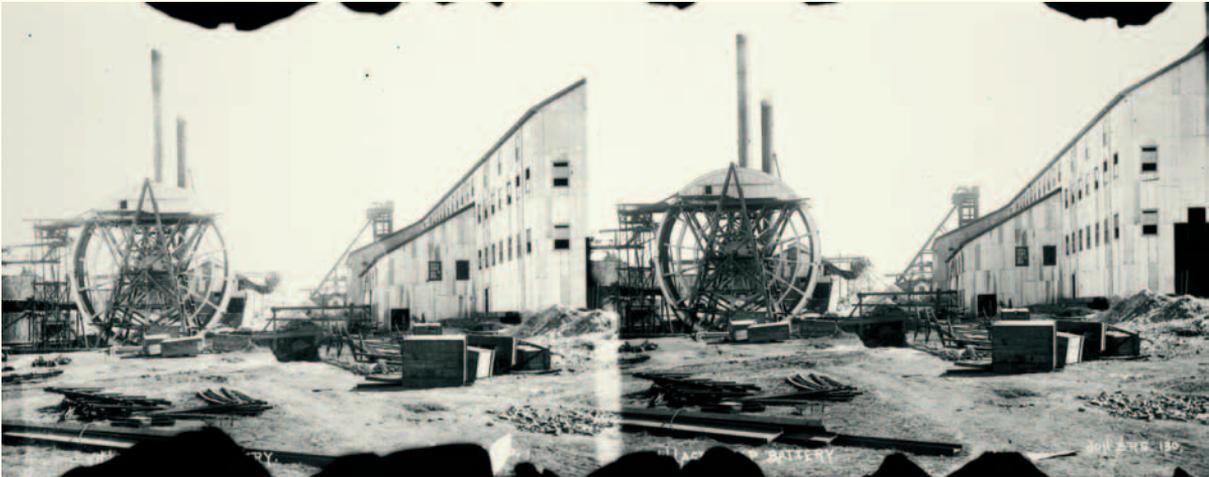
One must never confuse extension with duration, this amounts to the confusion of duration with space, on the condition of previously confusing succession and simultaneity.*

He returned from the window. He continued writing.

1. Rain (ph-3), Highway Chora, shaft. Occupied. Tollmen in evidence (perimeter). Sleepers (four counted). Attempted approach via road (barricaded).
- 2 Daylight. Rain (ph-3). Return to the site, on foot. Close enough to the entrance to take a third reading, figures appear on the edges of the structure, still with some considerable distance from my position (four counted). Conceal measuring instrument. They approach. Exit, descending the disused concrete driveway.

Series (radon): 400 Picas 415 Picas 405 Picas

3. Early morning (still dark). Rain (ph-3). Reading 2, Series b. Too much interference, able to make out a moving figure on the lower level, perhaps more than one. Unsure if I have been seen: continue. Unable to take reliable reading (See Entry 15 for site chronology, figure 15: historical scale, figure 21: geological scale). Increasing evidence that the site is located within disturbed ground, a point of egress. Slight glow from opening on upper level.



Village Main stamp battery. Stereoscopic photograph. 1900s.

> Science fiction. Entropy. By numbers.

4. Daylight. Light rain (ph-2). Approach the lower level, evidence of digging (stones).
5. Daylight. Clear. Unable to approach the lower level.
6. Daylight. Clear. The lower level. Four men appear. Two stand on the upper concrete platform looking down. Two walk towards me, emerging from behind trees on the north-east of the site. I cannot move away with enough speed, I wait. The two above remain watching. The others approach within two metres, positioning themselves slightly apart from one another. Slip (duration unclear).**
7. Daylight. Rain. The lower level. A tall, working mechanism, many men moving. I observe two men in some low scrub on the north-east edge. No record of readings.

Rain

It had been raining for four days. There were flood warnings beyond the 9 km radius of the city.

As he ascended the concrete driveway to the platform, bypassing piles of sand and barbed wire, he noted a man below the incline of the road, shovelling sand of a reddish colour into a bag. The man stopped as he passed, he'd nodded and the man had done the same, holding up a hand in greeting, a re-assurance that neither meant the other harm but only on condition of their mutual disinterest. He continued towards the concrete structure. To get there it was necessary to descend a slope, also of concrete, and to negotiate a path between what appeared to be the beginnings of small man-made holes reinforced with stones taken from the surrounding area. Some resembled the stones that formed the lattice-brick structure.

These caves we call the lower region, and we use them... for the imitation of natural mines; and the producing also of new artificial metals... and we use them also sometimes, (which may seem strange) for curing of some diseases and for prolongation of life in some hermits... by whom also we learn many things.⁽ⁱ⁾

He knelt down to examine the layers of stonework. They formed what appeared to be the base of a structure long removed and possibly built of a lighter weight material. Corrugated iron, he guessed. The concrete base above had been partially built on top of this tiered wall, but was in scale and technology far more sophisticated.

He takes out a piece of paper, a receipt from a game he plays occasionally on the streets. A game of chance using only numbers, something for which he has always had a weakness. On it is written a single number, 2. On the back of the sheet some notes, based on a conversation with a runner for the game, about the numbers.

2 Monkey, devil, thief, money, jockey, copper, black man

35 Hole, goat, star, clothes, sheep, big grave

22 Small boat, big ship, shoes, left leg, rats, coffin, bus, left foot⁽ⁱⁱ⁾

(i) Francis Bacon. 1626. *The New Atlantis*. (ii) Paul Friedrich Detlev Krige, 373.