

Degrees of “Truthiness”: A Response to Stephen A. Kent

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ABSTRACT: History indeed does progress through exchanges and controversies. While Stephen A. Kent mentioned in his paper two interesting additional documents, I do not believe they conclusively prove his claim that L. Ron Hubbard consistently and fraudulently pretended to have a B.S. in Civil Engineering. While it is true that the Church of Scientology’s publications were not always consistent in their claims about their founder’s academic career, it remains that in his lectures, interviews and writings, Hubbard basically told it as it was, that he did not have a Civil Engineering degree—and that this did not prevent him from developing many of the practical skills a civil engineer is supposed to have.

KEYWORDS: Dianetics, L. Ron Hubbard, Scientology, Church of Scientology, Stephen A. Kent, Biography of L. Ron Hubbard, George Washington University, L. Ron Hubbard’s Academic Degrees.

Acknowledgements

Thanks go to Frank Harris, Reference Services Librarian at Los Angeles County Library for providing the 1969 copy of *Who’s Who in California* and to Simon Elliott of the UCLA Special Collections department for the letter from F. LeJ. Parker to James R. Beverley. Also, thanks to Arizona Corporation Commission for providing a full copy of the 1966 HASI, Inc. renewal record. Of course, thank you to the anonymous peer reviewers for their dedication and for significantly improving my work, and thanks to Massimo Introvigne for offering me an opportunity to respond. Finally, thanks to Kay Christenson and to my wife Olga for reviewing my work for typos and clarity.

Introduction

I am flattered to have my first two peer-reviewed papers (Camacho 2018, 2019a) published in a scholarly journal discussed among distinguished scholars of religion, including Massimo Introvigne and Stephen A. Kent. I appreciate the opportunity to address and improve my work. There are some comments in Kent's paper to which, however, I would like to respond.

First, I am surprised that Kent argues that I claimed to have “the truth” as per the paper's title. My title was of course a simple wordplay between “degrees of truth” and the “degrees” of the academia. I believed that anyone with a sense of humor would see that the title was intended as humorous, and that the paper addressed the various claims of truth (and untruth) regarding Hubbard's college degree. Along with its subtitle, “Engineering L. Ron Hubbard,” this title was intended to be easy to remember and, yes, fun. Both Kent (this issue of *The Journal of CESNUR*) and Scientology critic Gerry Armstrong (2019a, 2019b) have based their response titles off of mine, thus allowing my papers, in a way, to set the agenda, which acknowledges that the title apparently was attention-getting.

Nevertheless, I am glad to see that Kent has chosen to associate with *The Journal of CESNUR*, as this is a marked shift from advice he gave me in 2018 by email, suggesting that I would do well to avoid such a nest of cult apologists and that Introvigne himself may be a “narcissist.”

Kent also applies this diagnosis to L. Ron Hubbard (1911–1986), the founder of Scientology. Kent claims that, because Hubbard “claimed to have discovered and developed ‘the knowledge and skills necessary to alter the basic nature of Man,’” he therefore showed traits of a narcissist. Neither Kent nor I are psychologists, and we both know that the whole category of “narcissism” is controversial (Zanor 2010; Parker-Pope 2010). However, by applying the same logic, Kent can easily conclude that Jesus Christ was a narcissist when he claimed, “I am the way, the truth and the life,” as quoted in *John* 14:6. It would seem to me that such kind of narcissism claims could apply to most religious leaders, as it would to many working in other fields (including social scientists) claiming to have discovered or created something new that may change their sciences or improve the fate of mankind.

Kent also accuses me of “motivated reasoning.” I am curious to know what Kent believes my motivations are, aside from the fact that I had doubts about the narrative accusing Hubbard to having falsely claimed a title in civil engineering. I have never been paid for my research or for publishing these papers, and have spent my own money for research materials and preparation for publishing. What Kent calls “motivated reasoning” I call giving someone the benefit of the doubt, similar to presuming them innocent until proven guilty.

Kent also claims that I unfairly accused him and others of bias. One simply need to look at his acknowledgements, most of which refer to well-known anti-Scientology critics, including Jon Atack and Gerald Armstrong, and anti-Scientology sympathizer Victor Lillo (Kent, this issue of *The Journal of CESNUR*). I believe that even Kent would agree that, during his long and distinguished career, he has fought against Scientology with passion and zeal, and stating that by now he has developed some sort of anti-Scientology bias or antipathy is not unfair. My impression is this also reflects in his choice of language, such as when Kent labels Hubbard’s extracurricular activities “distractions.” (One wonders how students at Kent’s own University of Alberta involved in extracurriculars, some likely on sports or religious scholarships, would feel if they knew his views).

Kent questioned my own choice of language, claiming that I called him and other critics “incompetent.” Actually, I didn’t. What the concluding sentence of my first paper stated was:

With this new information, one can better view the evolution of errors over the various series instead of attributing them to dishonesty, which only underscores his close friend Robert Heinlein’s (1907–1988) famous razor: “Never attribute to malice that which is adequately explained by incompetence” (Camacho 2018, 54).

As one can see from this sentence and its context, the argument was that the debated C.E. title was not attributed to Hubbard deliberately but rather by a series of errors (i.e. incompetence) that grew over time (Camacho 2018, 35–9). I attributed this “incompetence” to Scientologists and others who referred to Hubbard as C.E. or copied prior transcripts without verifying, not to those who didn’t, including Kent.

A Winter's Tale

Coming to Kent's specific criticism, I believe that his citation of Joseph Winter's (1910–1955) book as evidence actually *supports* my earlier claims regarding critics misattributing items and actions of others (and always negatively) to Hubbard. Here is what Kent stated:

In late 1949 or 1950, a medical doctor and associate of Hubbard, J.A. [Joseph Augustus] Winter (1910–1955), sent manuscripts about Dianetics to two top medical journals, mentioning specifically that, for one of them, he included “case histories” directly from Hubbard himself:

“A paper, using the terminology of Greek derivation, and giving a brief resumé of the principles and methodology of dianetic therapy, was prepared and submitted informally to one of the editors of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. The editor informed me that the paper as written did not contain sufficient evidence of efficacy to be acceptable and was, moreover, better suited to one of the journals which dealt with psychotherapy. A revision of this paper, together with some case histories given me by Hubbard, was submitted to the *American Journal of Psychiatry*; it was refused, again on the grounds of insufficient evidence” (Winter 1951, 18).

It is incorrect, therefore, to say that Hubbard “made no attempt to publish his research in any recognized scientific journal” (Melton 2000, 59). Hubbard and an associate *had* tried, but editors from two prestigious journals had rejected the submissions because they contained insufficient evidence about their techniques' healing claims (Kent, this issue of *The Journal of CESNUR*).

The statement proves that Winter submitted a text to the journals, not that Hubbard wrote the papers, nor that Hubbard came up with the idea. As evidenced earlier in the book, Hubbard had only provided Winter with a manual on *Dianetics* and was not as concerned with credit as Kent implies, nor did he write any letters or articles, as Winter reported.

I therefore communicated with Hubbard and suggested that he present his ideas to the medical profession for their consideration. I told him that I had some friends in Chicago, well-known in the psychiatric field, who might be interested in examining his results and testing his methods.

I received a courteous reply, in which he said that he was “preparing, instead of a rambling letter, an operator's manual for your use Certainly appreciate your interest. My vanity hopes that you will secure credit to me for eleven years of unpaid research, but my humanity hopes above that this science will be used as intelligently and extensively as possible, for it *is* a science and it does produce exact results uniformly and can, I think, be of benefit.”

I had also suggested that he attempt to publish some of his findings in some lay magazine as a means of stimulating interest in his work; to this he replied, "The articles you suggest would be more acceptable coming from another pen than mine" (Winter 1951, 8).

Methodological Problems

Kent makes a similar argument that, because Mr. David Miscavige or the Church of Scientology claims that Hubbard wrote something, and the Church of Scientology deems it authentic, it is thus authentic. But this only proves that Scientologists *believe* a text is authentic, and Kent himself normally does not accept statements by Scientologists at their face value. I also showed that the Church of Scientology made errors that became part of its records such as copying verbatim from *Who's Who* articles. Not to mention, some of the updated and current materials in the Church of Scientology differ from prior versions, whether by omission or changing meanings (TrueLRH.com 2013). If the new version is to be authentic and trusted, then one must ignore the prior versions; if the new versions have been altered, then one cannot use the statement of the church as a basis for argument. It cannot be both.

Kent also engages in hair-splitting over such minutiae as a class title: "the class in 'Atomic and Molecular Phenomena' (precisely, 'modern physical phenomena; molecular and atomic physics,' which he failed) was *not* the same as a course in nuclear physics" (Kent, this issue of *The Journal of CESNUR*). Although it is true that James Chadwick (1891–1974) had officially discovered the neutron in June 1932, its existence was proposed on 27 February 1932, the same year and semester that Hubbard took what he called the first course (Chadwick 1932, 312). Furthermore, Hubbard explained that the course would be called "nuclear physics" today as that course was the predecessor of subsequent teachings with this name, which is clear from the context especially as there had been work already done in the field of nuclear physics prior to the official discovery of the nucleus. Similarly, Kent used Hubbard's "Buck Rogers boys" comment, in which Hubbard had referred to himself as a science fiction writer with relatively useless knowledge on the subject, as evidence that he withheld information that he had failed. Yet, in addition to explaining earlier that he had not graduated in interviews and in other lectures, and that he had flunked a number of tests, Hubbard had stated a full year earlier that he failed an exam on the subject:

Physicists have spoken wisely, learnedly and without any data about cosmic rays for a long time. I don't have the figures in mind to rattle them off, but something like twelve of them pass through your body every second, whatever they are. They are not rays, however, they are particles.

This was a mistake which we were making back in 1930. I couldn't see, back in 1930, how in the name of common sense you could ever have a ray. It would have to be a particle flow, and yet I flunked an examination in atomic and molecular physics because I insisted there was particle flow (Hubbard 1951a).

Hubbard's Grades

Kent demonstrates further bias in assuming that Hubbard was not trying to improve his grades. A review of Hubbard's college grades show that he got a total of 1 A, 5 B's, 3 C's, 6 D's, 2 E's and 4 F's. (Although an "E" is no longer used as a letter grade today, it did not necessarily indicate a failure, but rather a "Condition"). In fact, for two of the classes that Hubbard had failed initially, he improved the second time: he got a D on the second attempt at "Plane Analytic Geometry" and a D on the second attempt at "Differential Calculus." He declined on subjects of increasing difficulty, such as going from an E in "First Year German 1" to an F on "First Year German 2," and of course, he failed "Modern Physical Phenomena; Molecular and Atomic Physics." The only other class in which he declined in was "Mechanical Drawing; Descriptive Geometry" in which he went from a B in the first half to a C in the second half of the year-long course. Conversely, he improved in "Rhetoric 1" from a C to a B in "Rhetoric 2," and improved in "Physical Education" from a C to an A. The point here being that in reality Hubbard failed two courses as he passed two prior failed ones on the second attempt, declined in one as it got harder, improved in two, and was consistent in two others with a D in both "General Chemistry 3" and "General Chemistry 4" as well as got a B in both "The Short Story 115" and "The Short Story 116."

This is not to suggest that his grades were exceptional, but rather that Kent assigns motives (or lack thereof) to Hubbard in claiming that he was not trying and distracted. Kent also states that Hubbard "only took one civil engineering course"—omitting that he got a B in said course, because that would go against his narrative—and that he took a year-long mechanical engineering course "Mechanical Drawing; Descriptive Geometry" in which he received a B and C in

each semester, respectively (Camacho 2018, 32). When accounting for the classes retaken, Hubbard had 1 A, 5 B's, 3 C's, 8 D's, 2 E's and 2 F's, which is still not great but at least for the most part passing. Hubbard's overall grades were therefore not the "disaster" as Kent wants the reader to believe, but closer to "average" as Professor Arthur Johnson stated in his letter to the Navy (Johnson 1941). If calculating his GPA, it would be somewhere between a 1.38 (D+) and a 1.54 (C-) depending on whether the course retake grade replaced the original grade for calculation, and a 1.93 (C-) if strictly counting the credits he earned (Rapidtables.com 2020).

Again, this is not to argue that Hubbard's grades were good, but that he was not failing miserably either as he was still technically passing. Strictly considering the relevant engineering courses, which is what the crux of the papers are discussing, Hubbard's grades were somewhat above average.

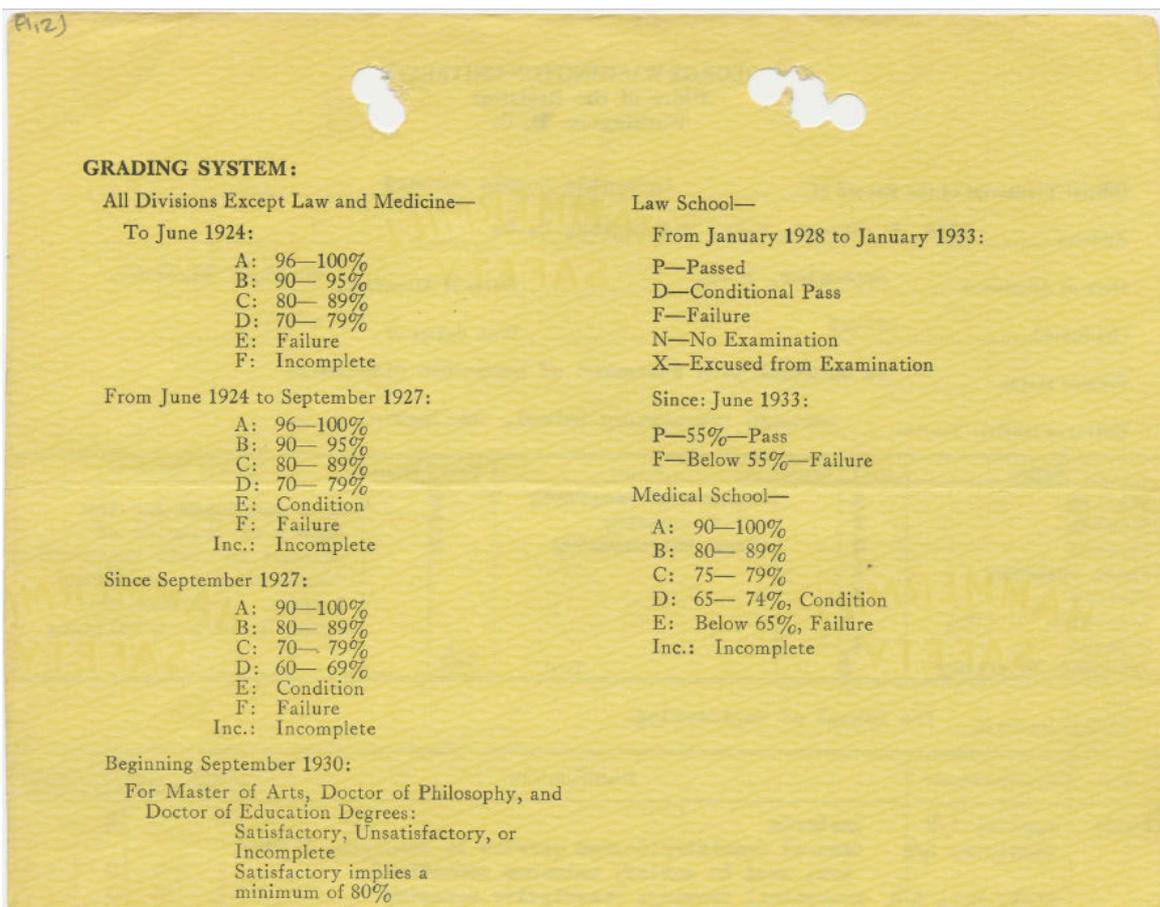


Figure 1. Reverse side of Hubbard's George Washington University transcript.

The Caribbean Motion Picture Expedition

Kent also brings up other peripheral items such as Hubbard’s Caribbean Motion Picture Expedition. While more data is still needed on this subject, as full research has not been done on it, Kent again quotes anti-Scientology critics Russell Miller and Jon Atack (who largely quotes the former) as his sole sources that “it had been a disaster” (Miller 1987, 52–7; Atack 1990, 60–2). It may have been unsuccessful, but it is also true that Francis LeJeune Parker (1872–1947), Chief of the Bureau of Insular Affairs from the War Department in Washington, D.C., wrote to James R. Beverley (1894–1967), the Governor of Puerto Rico, on 2 June 1932 with a warm introduction regarding L. Ron Hubbard (Parker 1932). If the trip was a disaster, then it did not appear to have been so from the outset, as Atack, Miller and Kent would have us think, given that it appeared to have initial support from the U.S. and Puerto Rican government. Furthermore, the “disaster” commentary concerned the travel rather than the actual activities partaken, which is a sleight of hand performed by these anti-Scientology critics. Even if the entire operation was a disaster, it would still not disqualify Hubbard’s experience.

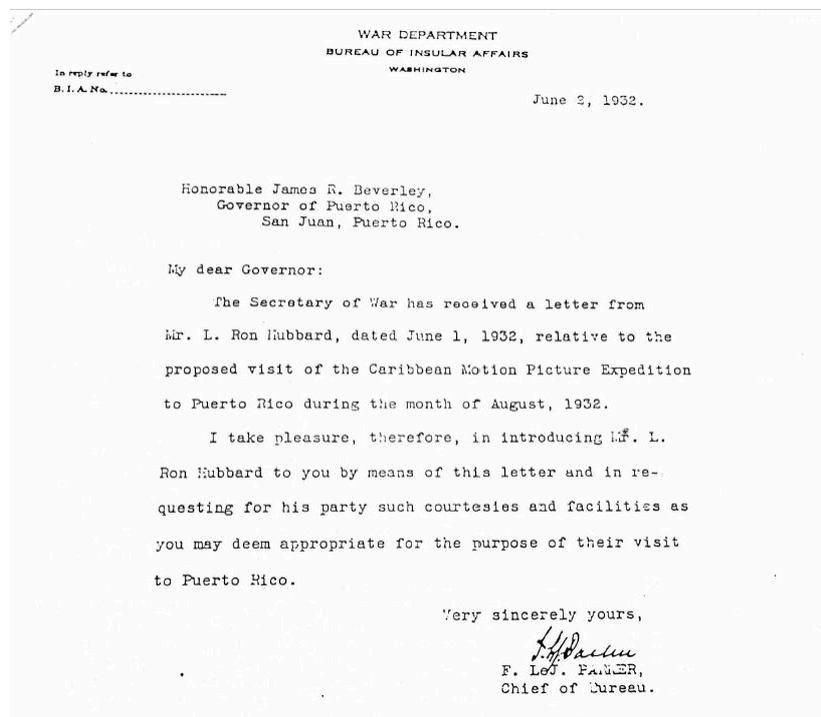


Figure 2. 1932 Letter to James R. Beverley of Puerto Rico from F. LeJ. Parker of Bureau of Insular Affairs regarding L. Ron Hubbard and Caribbean Motion Picture Expedition.

Atack’s, Miller’s, and by extension Kent’s, refusal to attribute anything remotely positive to Hubbard appears here again. Unsurprisingly, their works focus on the trip’s shortcomings, including Hubbard’s comment that

It was a crazy idea at best, and I knew it, but I went ahead anyway, chartered a four-masted schooner and embarked with some fifty luckless souls who haven’t stopped their cursings yet (Hubbard 1935; Atack 1990, 62).

Kent neglects Hubbard’s added commentary, which at least Miller quoted:

Despite these difficulties, we had a wonderful summer. The lot of us are tanned and healthy and we know what few men know these speedy days—the thrill of plowing thru blue seas in a wooden ship with nothing but white wings to drive us over the horizon (Hubbard 1932; Miller 1987, 55; Church of Scientology International 2013).

Additionally, expedition member Robert Wolf, according to an interview the Church of Scientology published, stated that

There were different types of people. Some were strictly city boys, you know, and I had come from a background where the out of doors was natural to me, and so I sort of gravitated to a few of the boys like that sort of thing. Packed up a few cans of beans in a knapsack and some fruit and take off. Buy some bread as we went along... It was a kind of sad thing for me, and for those of us who came aboard, at the end of the trip... that was the end of what I considered a glorious adventure (Church of Scientology International 2014).

Kent also seems to contradict himself, when on the one hand he alleges that it was a “supposed mineralogical survey, and (years later) a search for evidence that it even occurred (much less produced any science) proved impossible to find (Atack 1990, 64; Miller 1987: 56–7).” But in the very next sentence Kent admits that it did indeed occur, but of course per his narrative requirements, he claims it was a failure: “Recent research shows that Hubbard’s 1932 trip to Puerto Rico was an unsuccessful gold mining operation (Owen, 2017).” The latter finding would of course mean that Hubbard was using there some practical experience as a civil engineer, since a gold mining operation employs some civil engineering techniques and knowledge as per the survey report, maps, and other material, which the citation indicates. I have not fully researched this period nor all the available documentation. However, this information would show that Hubbard had more experience of civil engineering than even I had first acknowledged.

Fake News

Kent concludes with a mention of President Donald Trump because Introvigne had used the “fake news” phrase as a theme to tie together various articles included in the same issue of *The Journal of CESNUR* (Introvigne 2018). There may be different interpretations of the role played by President Trump in the whole fake news debate, depending on what one’s political preferences are. However, Kent seems to include Introvigne among the ex officio defenders of the American President, overlooking the fact that, having stated the obvious, i.e. that “fake news” became a common expression because of its use by Trump, the Italian scholar went on to comment that,

The genius [sic: perhaps a pun on President Trump’s calling himself a genius] was out of the bottle. “Fake news” became a household word overnight. In fact, Trump had used it during the campaign, but now he commanded planetary attention. Unfortunately for Trump, once unleashed, the genius [sic] could not be controlled. The President’s opponents started accusing him both of spreading fake news and to have been elected thanks to fake news disseminated by his Russian friends (Introvigne 2018, 4).

Despite what Kent asserted, at no point did my paper claim to have the final word nor *the* truth, nor state that the “science is settled” on Hubbard’s B.S. in C.E. claim. If one actually takes the time to read my papers, *which were based on published or easily available evidence at the time* (mid-2018 to early 2019), then they will see that my point was that the arguments that Hubbard claimed to be a B.S. in C.E. as advanced by critics of Scientology were based on a relatively superficial investigation tainted by biased analysis.

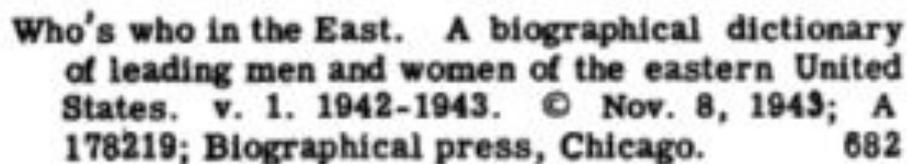
Although it is true that J. Gordon Melton had stated Hubbard had made no such claims, what actually inspired my research was not Melton’s book, but Paulette Cooper’s lack of citations and flawed research into the 1959 *Brief Biography* (Camacho 2018, 35–7; Cooper 1971, 162 & Bibliography). Cooper ignored most of the citations within the 1959 *Brief Biography*, which got me curious if she or others had further investigated these, but as I discovered she had apparently not done so.

New Evidence 1: The Who's Who Monthly Supplement, 1943

Jon Atack and Gerry Armstrong contacted me via email after my first paper published. Armstrong even published all my private email responses to him on his website without prior permission. I later emailed author Lawrence Wright from 16 to 18 June 2019 to inform him of my two articles and discuss his records. On 19 June 2019, the following day, journalist Tony Ortega published Hubbard's letter to Swann, which was sent to Wright's assistant during his research for *Going Clear*. The timing indicates that once I made him aware of the articles, Wright sent this letter to Ortega. It was therefore technically not unknown to researchers because indeed it was known (and withheld) by Wright for at least 6 years, or perhaps longer. Not having the same resources as *The New Yorker*, I worked with documents publicly known, or easily accessible, at the time of my writing. Why Wright, when I wrote to him, failed to inform me of the Swann letter and instead sent it to Ortega, is unclear.

Kent indeed makes two significant counterclaims, which I acknowledge as such: first, in May 1943 there was a *Who's Who Monthly Supplement* that shows Hubbard with a B.S. in C.E., which may be his earliest published biography, and second, Hubbard wrote a signed letter to W.F.G. Swann that stated that he could be named B.S. in C.E.

That Hubbard *personally* submitted the incorrect information to the 1943 *Who's Who Monthly Supplement* is a speculation. The 1944 first edition of *Who's Who In the East* was published in 1944, but the material was gathered and submitted prior to that year as the copyright date was 8 November 1943 (Library of Congress 1944, 19).



**Who's who in the East. A biographical dictionary
of leading men and women of the eastern United
States. v. 1. 1942-1943. © Nov. 8, 1943; A
178219; Biographical press, Chicago. 682**

Figure 3. Copyright entry for *Who's Who in the East* from 1944.

Furthermore, the book that Kent cites, but does not fully mention in his paper, has the title “Who’s Who in The News—And Why” (Kent, this issue of *The Journal of CESNUR*). This title suggests that the monthly supplement was a compendium of people mentioned in the news media. Information on Hubbard was likely gathered from publicly available sources or from others responding on his behalf, given that he was in the US Navy at the time, either stationed in Portland, Oregon or on the USS PC-815. If Hubbard had submitted false information to the *Who’s Who Monthly Supplement* in or before May 1943, then did he also submit the correct information to *Who’s Who in the East* published in 1944, as my 2018 paper showed? If he did not submit it to the 1944 *Who’s Who in the East* publication, then how did they have the correct information? If Hubbard originally submitted false information in or before May 1943, as Kent claims, then did Who’s Who somehow know how to correct it in the 1944 publication, only to make further “corrections” (that is, a series of errors) later? If Hubbard did not submit it to either *Who’s Who* publication, then this may better explain the anomaly.

As Kent fails to provide the entry criteria for this document, nor, I believe, attempted to contact *Who’s Who* nor A. N. Marquis to resolve this question, it is difficult to know for certain what the entry criteria were. As stated earlier, the book title Kent cited suggests that the monthly supplement was a compendium of people mentioned in the news media, and that it used publicly available data, or data submitted by others on Hubbard’s behalf, given that he was in the US Navy and no *Who’s Who* correspondence in his military records has as of yet surfaced. Kent did not comment on the fact that my papers cited two email conversations with Marquis Who’s Who editor Alison Perruso in 2018, in which she stated that Hubbard did not submit any records to them voluntarily or upon request—or at least they had no records available in their archives showing that he did (Camacho 2018, 40). Additionally, Kent fails to discuss the other incidents I mentioned, in which Hubbard explained that he did not graduate, such as in various lectures, writings and the *Look* interview (Camacho 2018; Hubbard 1950, 7; Hubbard 1957, 74–7; Maisel 1950, 82).

Furthermore, at that time Hubbard had not yet even written *Dianetics*, thus undermining Kent’s claim that Hubbard lied about being a B.S. in C.E. so as to lend legitimacy to his yet unpublished work 5–7 years before publication, which is on its face absurd. Nevertheless, it is entirely possible that Hubbard wrote

something to the effect of attending George Washington University for Civil Engineering from 1930–32, and the editors assumed that he graduated that year, appending a B.S. in C.E. to the date, which would explain the incorrect 1943 *Who’s Who Monthly Supplement* entry. If Kent or others can show that Hubbard submitted records to the *Who’s Who Monthly Supplement* claiming a B.S. in C.E. in or before May 1943, however, then I will retract my statement.

As counterevidence, the one record that I have found thus far showing that Hubbard was sent a copy of *Who’s Who* was actually from the *Who’s Who in California* on 18 March 1967 via “Irene”—likely Irene Thrupp (Armstrong 2020). *Who’s Who in California* is not a direct publication of *Who’s Who* but likely a satellite or unofficial one attempting to leverage the *Who’s Who* name, which may explain why Alison Perruso did not have any records from Hubbard. Regardless, this form has his signature and handwriting on it, and so there is no doubt that he wrote it. Two things are noteworthy here: the first being that the letter to Hubbard for review includes a B.S. in C.E. 1934 at George Washington University. None of that page is marked, aside from an underline under “Sequoia Univ, LA, PhD, 1950” though it is not known who added it. The second item of note is that Hubbard wrote a chronology in response, notably excluding the B.S. in C.E. of 1934 drafted in the letter to him. As he had excluded the B.S. in C.E. but included the Sequoia University degree with the same year already having been mentioned in the type-written draft, then it appears that he wrote a chronology without the 1934 B.S. in C.E. for Irene to use in the type-written letter, which indicated that he was not claiming to have the title. I should note that my previous paper had spent some time examining the discrepancies regarding as to when the honorary degree was awarded from Sequoia University, and that this may be worth re-examining in the near future (Camacho 2019b, 43–7). Regardless, the B.S. in C.E. title made its way into the listing (Armstrong 1969, 454).

8th March, 1967.

(7)

L. R. H.
LRH. Pers.Sec.

Dear Ron,

Who's Who in California

You may care to be included in this listing.

I have made a start on the form: will you please correct and fill out if you are interested.

Shall I pay from here
or arrange through N.Y.?

Love,

Gene.

Inform Julia I
am using LA
NY address
Give her when
finished Xerox
copy
[Signature]



PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
192

Who's Who in California
and
Who's Who Historical Society

ALICE CATT ARMSTRONG, EDITOR
1331 CORDELL PLACE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90008
274-2388 • 281-4330

(Please type or print plainly to avoid errors.)

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA
All questions optional. Answer only those you wish published.

Full Name Lafayette Ronald Hubbard Position _____
 Birthplace Tilden, Nebraska Birth Date 13th March, 1922
 Father's Name Ferry Ross Hubbard Mother's Name Bora May Waterbury
 Family Notables (Relationship) _____

 Education (Degrees, etc.) (Dates) George Washington Univ. BS 1944 (2nd) Term
Seconda Univ. I. I. Ph. D. 1950 Princeton (Sch. Div. Div.) 1942
 Wife's First and Maiden Name or Husband's Name Mary Sue Whipp
 Place of Marriage _____ Date _____
 Children and Birth Dates (Married Names of Daughters) Diana Meredith de Wolf Hubbard 24.5.47
Geoffrey Augustus MacDoulay Hubbard, 6.1.51 Marie Suzanne Rontelle Hubbard 13.5
Arthur Ronald Donray Hubbard, 6.6.53.
 Chronology of Career (Dates) _____

 Past Positions (Dates) _____
 Other Offices and Directorates Held (Past and Present) (Dates) _____
 War Record Mentorship UNIT 1942-1946, accompanying escort vessels
 Lodge, Club and Fraternity Memberships (Offices Held) (Dates) Explorers Club; Captain Yacht
Port Captain (Yacht) Yacht Club; Aviation Association (A.A.)
 Politics (Offices Held) (Dates) _____
 Religion (Church Offices Held) _____
 Hobbies _____ Recreations _____
 Residence (and Phone) _____
 Office Address (and Phone) 2812 16th St. N.W. Washington D.C. 142-1115
 Achievements in: Literature, Stage, Screen, Radio,
 Television, Art, Scientific, Professional, Publications, etc. (Dates) _____
 Please include your Favorite Photograph (Glory Preferred)
 Do you wish to receive a copy of the book for your library? _____ Yes No
 PLEASE USE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND OMIT OR MAKE CHANGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR PERSONAL DESIRE.

I wish to nominate the following distinguished Californians for inclusion in "Who's Who in California":

NAME	ADDRESS	PROFESSION
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Chron Career

Led ~~West~~ Caribbean Nature Picture Expedition
 (1933) (Summer 1933); led West India
 Minerals Expedition (1934); Writer
 magazines 1933 onward; Screen writer
 Hollywood 1935-36 on. Led
 Alaskan Radio Experimental Expedition
 1940. ~~Writer~~ Author various novels
 and magazines 1946 on. ~~Completed~~

How
 many
 papers
 on this
 expedition?

~~of this work - Obtained~~
 1950:2
 Degree philosophy ~~Research on~~

~~Books on applied philosophy 1950~~
 on ~~the~~ ~~Director~~ ~~mission~~
 Founder of the Institute and pseudology woman
~~Completed in~~ ~~and~~ ~~overseas~~

1960
 Philosophy
 H.L. & L.
 Religion
 Philosophy
 Hum.

~~Director and trustee~~
 various humanitarian institutions & ~~directorate~~
 66. Resigned all posts 1966.

X 0112

~~Currently engaged in research~~
~~family financial affairs in US, Europe~~
 Currently engaged
 an expeditionary and motion picture
 work in ~~the~~ on the coasts of
 Africa.

PLAINTIFF'S
 EXHIBIT

OK
Add war record 1940-46,
Service in 5 theatres, 21 medals
and palms. Awarded 1950.

Add: 1935 President American Fiction
guild.

Add memberships correct title
Writers' guild UK Screen writers
section.

On Residence give LA
orig ~~to~~ and same on office,
Quit DC and UK
addresses.



Figures 4-7. Item 500-Z, 8 March 1967 Letter to L. Ron Hubbard for Who's Who corrections.

Hubbard, Lafayette Ronald, Ph.D.

Author—Explorer

b. Mar. 13, 1911, Tilden, Nebr.; s. Harry Ross and Dora May (Waterbury) Hubbard; ed. B.S. (C.E.). George Washington U. 1934; Princeton Sch. Mil. Govt. 1945; Ph.D., Sequoia U., L.A. 1950; m. Mary Sue Whipp; chil.: Diana Meredith de Wolf, b. Sept. 24, 1952; Geoffrey Quentin MacCaulay, b. Jan. 6, 1954; Marie Suzette Rochelle, b. Feb. 13, 1955; Arthur Ronald Conway, b. June 6, 1958. CAREER: Dir., Caribbean Mot. Pic. expedition (summer), 1933; dir. West Indies minerals survey expedition, 1934; dir. Alaskan radio experimental expedition, 1940; founder. dir., Dianetic and Scientology Inst.; dir.-trustee, various humanitarian insts. 1952-66; expedition and mot.-pic. work on coast of Africa, 1967. AUTHOR: mag. writer, 1933—; screen writer, Hollywood, 1935—; various novels and mags. 1946—; books on applied philosophy, 1950—. Lt., U.S.N.R. (commanding escort vessels) 1941-46 (5 theatres), World War II; U.S.N.R. 1946-50. AWARDS: 21 medals and palms, U.S.N. MEM.: pres. Amer. Fiction Guild, 1935; The Writers' Guild of Great Brit. (screen writers sect.); Great Brit. Cruising Assn.; Port Orchard Yacht Club, Wash.; Capital Yacht Club; Explorers Club. HOBBY: photog. Res.: 2005 W. 9th St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90006.



DR. L. RON HUBBARD

454

Figures 8-9. Hubbard's eventual listing in volume 6 of Who's Who in California.

New Evidence 2: The Swann Letter

The only strong evidence in favor of Hubbard claiming to be a B.S. in C.E. was from Ortega's site, which presented an apparently signed 1960 letter that stated to W.P.G. Swann "you need take no responsibility for them [my ideas] beyond saying that they were developed by L. Ron Hubbard, B.S. in C.E., Ph.D., and sent you [sic] for possible interest." Here, Hubbard asked Swann to attribute the B.S. in C.E. to him, in what appears to be Hubbard's signature and written on his letterhead. While one could argue that Hubbard had asked Swann to make the

attribution and thus had not directly done so himself, I agree that this would be a weak argument, and I do not regard it as persuasive.

It is noteworthy that, like the prior letterhead showing Hubbard had crossed out the D.D., Ph.D., this one lacked any such letterhead (Camacho 2019b, 82; HCO 1955; Hubbard 1955a; Hubbard 1955b). Kent argues that this letter also explains the letter to Inspector Bent three weeks prior, but misses key differences between these two. For example, the signature in the Bent letter states "L. Ron Hubbard C.E., Ph.D., Saint Hill Manor, East Grinstead, Sussex, England" whereas the letter to Swann reads "Saint Hill Manor, East Grinstead, Sussex." If Hubbard was trying to puff himself up for Swann, then why not use the signature used with Bent? That the Bent letter was clearly not written by Hubbard is obvious, and this does not explain their connection. Additionally, there is some question as to whether Hubbard actually signed it, as neither Kent nor I are forensic signature experts. That said, he very well may have. Hubbard also held no lectures for about two weeks both before and after the Swann letter, that is, none from 8 July 1960 and 7 August 1960, suggesting that he may not even have been at Saint Hill writing the letter.

Furthermore, stamps name from around this time bearing his name were being used and look similar. For example, a 1966 HASI, Inc. renewal through the Arizona Corporation Commission, was supposedly signed in person by Hubbard in Sussex, England, but the signature indicates that it was a stamp; unlike a regular signature, it is at a slight southeastern angle yet written as if in a straight line, Hubbard's wife Mary Sue (1931–2002) signed it so as to place the "d" of "Hubbard" between the gap in his stamped signature, and it differs noticeably in pen thickness, boldness, pressure, and in several other aspects when compared to other handwritten portions of the document. Furthermore, the handwritten notice indicated by a caret (^) within the "Subscribed and sworn before me this 28th day of February 1967" states that only Mary Sue Hubbard signed it in person, despite this being a legal requirement. This was made official on 28 February 1967, about one week before the letter to Hubbard requesting corrections on the *Who's Who in California* biography. As this was also on what should have been an official, legally notarized document, in which both parties should have been in person, and yet it was obviously a stamp by L. Ron Hubbard, this too may cast some suspicion on the letter. It is missing the characteristic handwritten postscript and handwriting of the other letters that Hubbard clearly

wrote. This does not mean that the letter to Swann is inauthentic, but there is some reason to doubt its authenticity.

Figure 10. 1966 HASI, Inc. Renewal from Arizona Corporation Commission, signed in person by Mary Sue Hubbard on 28 February 1967.

Nevertheless, assuming that Kent and other researchers are correct that Hubbard’s letter to Swann was hand-signed by him, I admit this is an interesting finding, and one I could not have discussed in my articles, as I did not know of his existence before Wright shared it with Ortega, who later published it.

Case Closed?

Kent, however, claims that this and other documents *conclusively* prove that Hubbard tried to convince others that he was a civil engineer, but this is not necessarily so. The three examples he provides are: “introduced by L. Ron Hubbard, American engineer” (Hubbard 1951b, 1), “term and doctrines introduced by L. Ron Hubbard, American engineer” (*Funk & Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary of the English Language*, Supplementary Word List, 1951: [1565]) and “L. Ron Hubbard, C.E., D.Sc., American Engineer” (Hubbard 1952, Frontispiece). Kent argues that,

it may be no accident that the definitional alteration took place in a British (rather than an American) Scientology publication, because the dictionary upon which the alteration was based was an easily and widely accessible book in the United States and likely would have been discovered quickly (Kent, this issue of *The Journal of CESNUR*)

yet the second example was published in an American dictionary.

It is the last example of these three that is the most revealing, however, because it clearly separates "American Engineer" from "C.E." and by doing so illuminates the prior two examples. Obviously, nobody debates that Hubbard was an American. Kent also concedes that Hubbard worked with the U.S. Navy hydrological survey for two weeks, which, in addition to gold mining, whether successful or not, shows that he was both employed as a civil engineer by the US government and worked as one independently, whether accredited or not. Even so, this still does not mean that Hubbard was a B.S. in C.E., which I clearly explained in my second paper, but he did have experience in engineering, which Kent and others have negated.

Though my papers never claimed to have the final word or truth on the subject, my intention to challenge the current narrative given that the records had not been delved into deeply has been, in its own way, successful. The doubt is lessened, but not eliminated, with the Swann letter as there's still a possibility that it was stamped. Even if Hubbard once claimed to be a B.S. in C.E., the new evidence shows that he also excluded it from a submission to *Who's Who in California*, and there's also evidence that he was actually doing a mineralogical survey in Puerto Rico, which shows that he did have experience, and negates a statement by Kent. While true that Hubbard and others surrounding him were not always consistent in their claims, even with the new documents, when presented the story of his academic career, whether in lectures, interviews and writings, Hubbard basically told it as it was, that he did not have a degree, that he flunked classes, was a poor student, and so on. In any case, as even Kent admits, the research on this and several other aspects of Hubbard's life is far from over, with more material still surfacing. Kent too would likely not assume to have the final answer to this question.

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