

*Addenda to*  
**Floating Islands**  
A Global Bibliography  
with an Edition  
and Translation of G. C. Munz's  
*Exercitatio academica*  
*de insulis natantibus* (1711)

by

Chet Van Duzer



CANTOR PRESS

Los Altos Hills, California

2006

Cantor Press, Los Altos Hills, California 94024, [www.cantorpress.com](http://www.cantorpress.com)

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ISBN-10: 0-9755424-1-9

ISBN-13: 978-0-9755424-1-5

These Addenda, which are published in PDF format, are a supplement to the book:

Van Duzer, Chet A., *Floating Islands: A Global Bibliography, with an Edition and Translation of G. C. Munz's Exercitatio academica de insulis natantibus (1711)* (Los Altos Hills, California: Cantor Press, 2004), ISBN: 0-9755424-0-0

Praise for  
*Floating Islands: A Global Bibliography*

“It is exhilarating to find such a scholarly work.... C. Van Duzer has not only provided a masterful treatment of this subject but insights into these fascinating natural formations. Without question, this work is unequivocally choice!”

—Robert G. Wetzel in *Limnology* 5 (2004), p. 191

“The author can only be admired for the depth and breadth of his scholarship in compiling this unique book. It is both a labour of love and a definitive resource.”

—Russell King in *Geography* 90.1 (2005), pp. 101–102

“The exhaustive and erudite nature of this reference text makes it a valuable contribution towards our understanding of a fascinating, albeit largely obscure, natural phenomenon.... It is of interest to habitat specialists, agronomists, environment stewards, wetland researchers and island scholars generally. The one relevant detail I have missed is a reflexive research note on methodology that would have explained how the author went about his, truly awesome, academic quest.”

—Godfrey Baldacchino in *Progress in Physical Geography* 29.1 (2005), pp. 134–135

“Once I opened [the book] to see what I had to review, I could not put it down.... This resulted in utter chaos in our household—in that the pets were not fed on time, and the family was starving by the time I finally put the book down.... This bibliography is an amazing, in-depth, thorough piece of research.... Every environmental-related institute should acquire a copy, not only as an invaluable reference book but also as an example to all up-and-coming scientists.”

—René Glen in the *African Journal of Aquatic Science* 30.2 (2005), pp. 219–220

## Introduction

Since the publication of *Floating Islands: A Global Bibliography* I have found a number of additional works on the subject, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to disseminate these references here. Some of these works are from the database [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com), to which newspaper pages are constantly being added; others relate to the dispersal of species on floating islands or “rafts”; and others I simply did not know of or was unable to access before the book went to press. The bibliography is followed by a geographical and thematic index.

To this collection I append an account of a visit to the intermittent floating island in Derwentwater, Cumbria, England, in July of 2005, which is accompanied by some of the first color photographs of the floating island ever published (one color image of the island was published in my 2005 article in *Water Shapes* cited below). I also include some other images of floating islands that I have recently obtained.

It is a pleasure to thank here the scholars who have helped me in compiling these addenda: María Mercedes Arbo, Karen Brown, John Dargavel, B. K. Das, Susie Hallowell, Walter Hödl, Ric Jordan, Andrzej Łachacz, Rosemary Marcus, Michela Marangoni, Juan José Neiff, Karen Pinto, Sandra Sáenz-López Pérez, Imelda Somodi, Luc Sour, Jean-Nickolaus Tretter, Carolyn Vines, Ramananda Wangkheirakpam, Brett Watson, Brian Wilkinson, and Wayne Wright.

As always I would be grateful to learn of any other works relating to floating islands.

Chet Van Duzer  
[chetv@aol.com](mailto:chetv@aol.com)

## Addenda to Floating Islands: A Global Bibliography

- Alonso, Fernando, "Galician Legends about Miraculous Sea-Voyages in Stone Boats: Some Irish and Breton Parallels," *Études Celtiques* 29 (1992), pp. 89–95 (on some legends which are interesting to compare with those the floating stones of St. Modwenna and St. Kilian; see the citations of Conchubranus, Geoffrey of Burton, and Reeves in the book)
- Amat Quiroz, Gamaliel de, "Presentan libro sobre las islas flotantes en el mundo," *Correo* (Puno, Peru), December 26, 2004, p. 4 (briefly lists citations from *Floating Islands* relating to the artificial floating islands in Lake Titicaca)
- Arbo, María Mercedes, López, M. Gabriela, Schinini, Aurelio, and Pieszko, Gelina, "Las plantas de embalsado," pp. 36–39, and "Clave para identificar plantas de embalsado," pp. 40–61 in María Mercedes Arbo and Sara Graciela Tressens, eds., *Flora del Iberá* (Corrientes, Argentina: EUDENE, Universidad Nacional del Nordeste, 2002) (very good discussion of the flora of the floating islands or *embalsados* of the Laguna Iberá near Corrientes, Argentina; color photographs of some *embalsados* are included on the CD that accompanies the book)
- "Attacked by Floating Isles: Skipper Tells of Hair-Raising Experience When Ship Was Saved Only by Weird Apes Fanning Selves in Lofty Trees and Giving Breeze That Blew Liner to Safety," *Los Angeles Times*, June 17, 1924, p. 24 (a different, somewhat fantastic version of the article "A Floating Island Followed His Ship" cited in the book)
- Ballantyne, Robert Michael, *Martin Rattler; or, A Boy's Adventures in the Forests of Brazil* (London: T. Nelson and Sons, 1877) (p. 204 there is mention of numerous floating islands of grass on the Amazon; pp. 206–207 the group of adventurers spend the night on "a mass

## 2 Addenda to Floating Islands

of floating logs which had caught firmly in a thicket, and were so covered with grass and broken twigs as to have very much the appearance of a real island”; p. 209 there is a very fanciful sketch of this floating island; in the 1899 edition by the same publisher the passages occur on p. 182 and pp. 184–185, but this edition does not include the illustration)

- Balogh, Márton, “Az Őrségi Tájvédelmi Körzet úszólápjai” [“Floating Bogs in the Őrség Landscape Protected Area,”] *Kanitzia* 10 (2002), pp. 203–210 (discusses succession on the floating bogs in the Őrség and Vendvidék regions of West Transdanubia, Hungary, particularly in Lake Fekete, the Szőce Valley, and also within Őrség National Park the Kis Stream valley, Lake Ördög, Lake Vadkacsás, and Lake Sás; includes an English summary)
- Balogh, Márton, “Az Őrség úszólápjai” [“The Floating Bogs of the Őrség Region,”] *Természetbúvár* 58.1 (2003), pp. 20–23 (written for laymen; covers much of the same material as Balogh’s “Az Őrségi Tájvédelmi Körzet úszólápjai,” i.e. the vegetation and succession of the floating islands in the Őrség region of Hungary)
- Balogh, Márton, “Az úszóláp-szukcesszió kérdései II. Az úszólápok növényzetének szukcessziója” [“On the Succession on Floating Fens, II,”] *Kitaibelia* 6.2 (2001), pp. 291–297 (there are two main directions of floating island succession: one is growth of forest on the islands, the other is oligotrophication of the lake, while a third might be a cyclic (mosaic) succession; focuses on Lake Velencei; includes a German summary)
- Barclay, W. S., “The River Parana: An Economic Survey,” *The Geographical Journal* 33.1 (1909), pp. 1–5, 7–15, 17–19, and 21–36 (p. 15 has a photograph of a floating island on the Laguna Iberá near Corrientes, Argentina)
- Barker, Kate, “Island 22 in the Stream,” *Cottage Life* 18.6 (November-December, 2005), p. 22 (brief article about “Island 22” in Big Brother Lake near Minden, Ontario, Canada, which floated following heavy rains and was subsequently tethered to the shore; the island was 35 by 20 meters and had spruce trees and beaver lodges on it; see Perkins)
- Barth, Janice, “The ‘Floating Islands’ of Higley Flow were Unusual Harvest in 1942,” *Syracuse Herald Journal* (New York), Sunday, December 13, 1981, p. C2; in a different edition of the paper the article appears with an additional photograph as “Historian Recalls

‘Floating Islands’ of Higley Flow,” pp. C2-C3 (on the cutting up of the floating islands in the reservoir for the Higley power station on the Raquette River in 1942–1943; includes a photograph; see Fairman and “Last of Raquette River”; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))

“Beautiful Floating Gardens Make Appearance on Reservoir: Crowley Lake, Near Bishop, Has Unusual Display as Mountain Meadow Sod Rises to Surface of Water,” *Los Angeles Times*, August 5, 1941, p. 9 (on the floating islands in a new reservoir in southern California; see “Lake Crowley Now Has Floating Islands”)

Belluck, Pam, “And Sometimes, the Island Is Marooned on You,” *New York Times*, November 6, 2005, p. 1 and 27; reprinted in the *Star-News* (Wilmington, North Carolina), November 6, 2005; excerpted as “Drifting into a Debate: Disagreement on Whether to Tether Island that Floats Free in Massachusetts Pond,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, November 6, 2005, p. A 30; and “There Was an Island There, I Swear,” *The Kansas City Star*, November 6, 2005 (on the floating island in Island Pond, Massachusetts, which was moving about the lake again, with some remarks about other floating islands; see “Floating Island Comes to Shore in Flood,” and “Officials Tow ‘Floating Island’”)

Bent, J. Theodore, “In the Mountains of Media,” *Gentleman’s Magazine* 270, N.S. 46 (1891), p. 124–139 (p. 133, near the village of Padarlu, i.e. Badarlu, Iran at 36°28’N, 47°14’E, the author and his party visit “a floating island in the centre of a small highland lake. This islet is known amongst the tribes as ‘Chamli-gul,’ or the meadow in the water, and consists of a thick mass of roots and reddish clay about 40 feet by 60 feet, with a thickness at the edge of a yard and a half. It occupies more than half of the little lake, and changes its position with the wind; when there is a strong breeze it comes near enough to the shore to allow of one’s jumping on to it, and the shepherds are very fond of driving their flocks on there in the summer time, for the grass is very sweet and there is no fear of straying”; compare the article “Azerbaijan,” *Scottish Geographical Magazine* 6.2 (1890), pp. 84–93 cited in the book)

Boettcher, Terrell, “Drowning Victim Found Beneath Bog in Flowage,” *Sawyer County Record* (Wisconsin), August 11th, 2004 (“the floating bog, five acres or larger, is located in Kavanaugh Bay east of County Highway CC in the mid-part of [Chippewa] Flowage. The

#### 4 Addenda to Floating Islands

- bog is spongy, seven to nine feet thick, with cavernous pockets beneath it, and is covered with brush and trees up to 30 feet high")
- "Bottomless Holes," *The Sandusky Star* (Ohio), October 12, 1899, p. 1; also published in the *North Adams Transcript* (Massachusetts), October 17, 1899, p. 7; and the *Daily Nevada State Journal* (Reno), November 17, 1899, p. 1 (mentions a water-filled sinkhole near the Malmani River in the Transvaal region of South Africa which has a floating island of grass in it; from the *Cincinnati Enquirer*; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- Brent, Charles H., "A Strenuous Vacation," *Outlook*, June 3, 1905, pp. 333–337 (brief remarks on the floating islands of the Liguasan Marsh, Mindanao, the Philippines; reprinted from *The Indian Ocean*, March 11, 1905; see Landor)
- Bryan, S. E., Cook, A., Evans, J. P., Colls, P. W., Wells, M. G., Lawrence, M. G., Jell, J. S., Greig, A., and Leslie, R., "Pumice Rafting and Faunal Dispersion During 2001-2002 in the Southwest Pacific: Record of a Dacitic Submarine Explosive Eruption from Tonga," *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* 227 (2004), pp. 135–154 (the principle organisms that rafted on the pumice that reached Australia were algae, goose barnacles, serpulid worms, calcareous algae, bryozoans, corals, oysters, and gastropods)
- Bullard, Sandra Martin, *Portlandville, Milford Center, Goodyear Lake, Colliersville, Cooperstown Junction... to the Maryland and Oneonta Town Lines... and a lot more* (Milford, NY: the author, 2005) (p. 230 has a low-resolution reproduction, without comment, of an image of the floating island in Goodyear Lake, New York, possibly from the 1920s)
- Butler, Kevin, Prior, Christine A., and Flenley, John R., "Anomalous Radiocarbon Dates from Easter Island," *Radiocarbon* 46.1 (2004), pp. 395–405 (discusses a core sample taken from a floating mat dominated by *Scirpus californicus* in the crater swamp in the crater Rano Kao on Easter Island)
- Buzurg b. Sahriyar Ar-ramhurmuzi, *Livre des merveilles de l'Inde par le capitaine Bozorg Fils de Chahriyar de Ramhormoz*, Arabic text edited by P. A. van der Lith, French translation by Marcel Devic (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1883–86) (the text is from a manuscript of the 13<sup>th</sup> century which was probably compiled in the 10<sup>th</sup> century; see pp. 36–37 on a giant tortoise mistaken for an island and also pp. 60–61 and 101–102 on other sea monsters that looked like islands)

- Carr, Archie, "New Perspectives on the Pelagic Stage of Sea Turtle Development," *Conservation Biology* 1.2 (1987), pp. 103–121 (cites many instances of young sea turtles seen on floating rafts of sargassum)
- Carranza, Salvador, and Arnold, E. N., "Investigating the Origin of Transoceanic Distributions: mtDNA Shows *Mabuya* Lizards (Reptilia, Scincidae) Crossed the Atlantic Twice," *Systematics and Biodiversity* 1.2 (2003), pp. 275–282 (the genetic evidence strongly suggests that the lizards crossed the Atlantic on rafts of vegetation)
- Censky, Ellen J., Hodge, Karim, and Dudley, Judy, "Over-Water Dispersal of Lizards Due to Hurricanes," *Nature* 395 (October 8, 1998), p. 556 (on October 4, 1995, a group of at least 15 green iguanas washed ashore on the Caribbean island of Anguilla on a floating mat of logs and trees; the raft and the iguanas most likely came from Guadeloupe some 250 km away, whence the raft was likely washed away by a hurricane in September)
- Chapman, Frank M., "The Islands the Alligators Build," *Aquaphyte* (Gainesville, Florida) 24.1 (Winter, 2004), pp. 4–6 (a reprint of Chapman's article "The Islands the Alligators Build," *Our Animal Friends* 21.9 (May, 1894), pp. 198–202 cited in the book about a floating island in "Bevan's Arm" of Alachua Lake, Florida; a very good description of the island's formation, flora, and fauna)
- Chaudhuri, A. B., and Sarkar, D. D., "Special Site for Study of Biodiversity and Ecology: Case of Floating Island of Laktak Lake, Manipur," pp. 327–336 in their book *Biodiversity Endangered: India's Threatened Wildlife and Medicinal Plants* (Jodhpur: Scientific Publishers, 2002) (largely a list of the flora and fauna that live on Loktak Lake's *phoomdi* or floating islands)
- Cherry, Julia A., and Gough, Laura, "Temporary Floating Island Formation Maintains Wetland Plant Species Richness: The Role of the Seed Bank," *Aquatic Botany* 85.1 (2006), pp. 29–36 (the floating islands studied were on Lake Ponderosa, Alabama, at 32°55'N, 87°19'W; the floating islands promoted seed germination of emergent species, particularly sedges, while limiting the germination of rooted floating-leaved and free-floating species which germinate best when inundated)
- "China's Floating Islands," *Daily Iowa State Press* (Iowa City), May 23, 1899, p. 3 (on a floating island near Kumpharaphi on the Mekong)

## 6 Addenda to Floating Islands

- River which had been under cultivation and had trees ten feet in circumference growing on it, but it slipped its moorings and disappeared downstream; adds that floating islands issue from the Mekong every March; see “Floating Farms Disappear” and “Queer Stories”; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- Chiu Yu-Tzu, “Man-Made Swamp Cleans Up Waste,” *Taipei Times*, March 24, 2005, p. 2 (on artificial floating islands in Liyutan Reservoir, Hualien County, Taiwan)
- Clarke, S. C., “Among the Alligators,” *Lippincott’s Magazine of Popular Literature and Science* 13 (February, 1874), pp. 220–227 (p. 224 mentions floating islands of *Pistia* in Lake Okechobee, Florida, and that waterfowl frequent these islands)
- “Conservation Department Crews To Tackle Big Floating Island,” *Stevens Point Daily Journal* (Wisconsin), May 18, 1956, p. 5 (on plans to tow the floating island in Kettle Moraine Lake out of the harbor; the island was about the size of a city block, with 25 foot tall trees growing on it; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- “Conservation Team Reveals ‘Floating’ Islands,” *Oryx: The International Journal of Conservation* 39.2 (April, 2005), p. 126 (a brief preliminary report of findings by the Marsh Deer Project 2003 that marsh islands in the Paraná River Delta float when the water level rises, thus providing refuge for the deer during floods)
- Crispin, Edward S., “The ‘Sudd’ of the White Nile,” *Geographical Journal* 20.3 (1902), pp. 318–324 (a good brief description of the process of clearing a blockage of floating islands of papyrus on the river)
- “De S. Vouga, seu Vio, Episcopo in Britannia Armorica,” Iunii vol. 2, pp. 1060–1061 in *Acta Sanctorum ed. novissima* (Paris and Rome: apud Victorem Palme, 1863–1931) (describes how Saint Vouga miraculously traveled from Ireland to England on a large floating rock; compare Conchubranus on St. Monenna, who is cited in the book, and see [*Prayer Book of Charles the Bold*] cited below)
- “Deadly Seaweed Sea,” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise), August 9, 1898, p. 3 (an suspiciously dramatic account of the troubles of the Norwegian ship *Narka* under Captain Andreason in the Sargasso Sea, during which the crew saw a floating island: “Verdure, vines and trees covered the island. Countless birds of bright plumage, native of climes remote from their island home, fluttered in and out. Mer-

- mets chattered and scrambled about in the boughs. Snakes crawled about in the trees or lay basking on logs which floated in the same listless manner"; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- DePold, Hans, "Bolton's Mysterious Roving Islands," *Bolton Community News* (Bolton, Connecticut) 13.3 (June-July, 2004), p. 7 (summarizes the article "Crane, Bulldozer Tear Apart Roving Island in Bolton Lakes" cited in the book)
- Drake, Samuel Adams, *A Book of New England Legends and Folk Lore, in Prose and Poetry* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1901; facsimile reprint Detroit: Singing Tree Press, 1969) (p. 302 contains an illustration titled "Floating Island, Newburyport, Mass."; the islet depicted may be floating but it is not the large floating island at Newburyport discussed by Pettingall, Otley, and Browne in the works cited in the book; this illustration does not appear in the 1884 edition of Drake's book)
- Endes, Mihály, "'Úszóláp' a Tornai-dombságban" ["A Floating Island in the Torna Hills,"] *Calandrella* 10.1-2 (1996), pp. 245–246 (a man-made hole dug in the Torna hills has a floating island with the following plants growing on it: *Lemna minor*, *Drepanocladus aduncus*, *Calliergonella cuspidata*, and *Epilobium hirsutum*)
- "Entombed in a Crater," *Bucks County Gazette* (Bristol, Pennsylvania), April 10, 1890, p. 4; also published in *The Trenton Times* (New Jersey), May 29, 1890, p. 2; and as "A Thrilling Adventure," *Evening Journal* (Waukesha, Wisconsin), July 4, 1890, p. 2 (J. A. Beaton and R. W. Loudon of Albuquerque, New Mexico, were allegedly in a cave among the lava formations about 20 miles south of the city when the floor of the cave collapsed and they landed on an island of volcanic rock which was floating in an underground lake; from the *San Francisco Chronicle*; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- Overall, Nick C., and Crymble, S., "Bioremediation of an Industrialised River to Aid Treatment for Potable Use," *Journal of the American Water Works Association* 10 (1999), pp. 111–118 (a combination of a 750 m<sup>2</sup> floating reed bed and semi-buoyant units bundles of decomposing barley straw successfully reduced phytoplankton)
- Fairman, Roy E., "Fairman Confesses an Error and Recalls How the Floating Islands Floated Away," *Syracuse Herald-Journal* (New York), June 3, 1952, p. 2 (there had been several floating islands in Hightail Pond, which was a reservoir for power generation on

the Raquette River, and they interfered with power generation at the hydroelectric station; the largest of the islands was 11 acres and after dynamite failed to destroy the island it was sawn into pieces of about 150 square feet while the island was frozen during the winter of 1942–43; these pieces were then pushed over the dam; see Barth, the article “Last of Raquette River,” and also the article “Floating Islands Carried Over Dam” in the book; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))

“Fine Fun for the Hunters,” *Salem Daily News* (Ohio), October 14, 1896, p. 1 (“Middletown, N.Y., Oct. 19.—After a year’s anchorage on one side of Mombeshe lake a floating island, containing about two acres, has become released. Hunters are having fine sport with the foxes and raccoons thus imprisoned”; the lake is now known as Mombasha Lake and is near Monroe, NY; the article is available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))

“Fishing Through a Floating Island,” *Fitchburg Sentinel* (Massachusetts), August 8, 1883, p. 1; also published in the *Chester Times* (Pennsylvania), August 29, 1883, p. 4 (an account of successful fishing through holes in a floating island in a pond in Thompson, Connecticut; reprinted from the *Hartford Courant*; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))

“Floating Bog Plagues Winnebago Shoreline,” *St. Paul Pioneer Press* (Minnesota), July 15, 1993, p. 3C (on a floating island 150 feet long and 40 feet wide in Lake Winnebago)

“Floating Farms Disappear,” *Daily Iowa State Press* (Iowa City), June 13, 1899, p. 3; also published in the *Fort Wayne News* (Indiana), July 13, 1899, p. 8; and the *Newark Daily Advocate* (Ohio), June 14, 1899, p. 7 (relates a story from the *Bangkok Times* about a floating island on the Mekong River which had been under cultivation and had trees ten feet in circumference growing on it; it slipped its moorings and disappeared downstream, specifying that the island was six by fourteen *sen*, i.e. 240 by 560 meters (!); see “Queer Stories” and “China’s Floating Islands”; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))

“Floating in a Pitch Lake,” *The Lima Daily News* (Ohio), June 5, 1890, p. 2; also published in *The Evening Journal* (Waukesha, Wisconsin), June 18, 1890, p. 7 (a good brief description of the floating islands in Lago della Regina near Tivoli, Italy; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))

- “A Floating Island,” *Daily Gleaner* (Kingston, Jamaica), December 10, 1892, p. 3 (quotes from reports of sightings of the floating island described by Ochsenius from the *Pilot Chart of the North Atlantic Ocean*; the details are interesting; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- “A Floating Island,” *Decatur Daily Republican* (Illinois), June 1, 1888, p. 1 (a good description of the floating island in Meeting House Pond near Newburyport, Massachusetts, mentioning that most of the trees on the island are willows; from the *Newburyport Herald*; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com); see the article by Pettingall cited in the book)
- “A Floating Island,” *Lincoln Evening News* (Nebraska), November 19, 1910, p. 8 (the ship *Atlas*, en route from Philadelphia to Seattle by way of Cape Horn, saw in the Pacific a floating island “covered with trees and thick low underbrush. Birds and a few monkeys were seen upon it, but no other signs of life”; from the *Springfield Republican*; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- “A Floating Island,” *Syracuse Herald Journal* (New York), Sunday, May 3, 1953, p. 53 (“A floating island with 50-foot trees on an acre of soil is in Chief Noonday Lake in the Yankee Springs Recreation area near Hastings, Michigan”; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- “Floating Island,” *The Portsmouth Herald* (New Hampshire), July 26, 1906, p. 4 (a whimsical poem by Wallace Irwin in *Success* about a sea captain who finds a beautiful island in the tropics and has his men detach it from its foundations so that they can tow it with them as a floating island; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- “Floating Island Comes to Shore in Flood,” *Boston Globe*, October 20, 2005 (on the floating island in Island Pond in Springfield, Massachusetts; available at [www.boston.com](http://www.boston.com); see “Officials Tow ‘Floating Island’” and Belluck)
- “Floating Island in Lake County,” *The Decatur Daily Review* (Illinois), May 5, 1924, p. 12 (the floating island in Cedar Lake has been growing rapidly: six years previously it was six yards across, but at the time of writing it was more than twenty yards across, and was being studied by W. G. Waterman of Northeastern University; see the works by Emerson and Waterman cited in the book; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))

- “Floating Island is On a Cruise,” *Reno Evening Gazette* (Nevada), August 22, 1946, p. 15 (brief article on the movements of the floating island on Lake Tiorati, New York, which formed following the flooding of a meadow bog in 1924; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- “Floating Island of Rest Lake,” *Ironwood Daily Globe* (Michigan), August 15, 1940, p. 8 (a photograph of part of the lake with a caption describing its recent movements; the island was 600 feet long and from 10 to 50 feet wide; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- “Floating Island on Sandy Pond Pushed to North Shore by Strong Wind,” *Syracuse Herald Journal* (New York), August 2, 1948, p. 3 (the island, which was the length of several city blocks and had cattails growing on it, caused some damage on the lake; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- “Floating Island Sold,” *The Fort Wayne News* (Indiana), April 6, 1903, p. 6 (on a heavily wooded one-acre floating island which had wandered around in Onata Lake, i.e. Onota Lake, in western Massachusetts, since 1860; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- “Floating Islands,” *The Friend; a Religious and Literary Journal* 62.20 (December 15, 1888), p. 158 (a description of the floating island in Henry’s Lake, Idaho; from the *Virginia City Chronicle* of Nevada)
- “Floating Islands,” *Saturday Magazine* 19.608 (December 25, 1841), pp. 241–243 (a brief discussion of *chinampas* and the floating islands in Kashmir, citing Moorcroft, China, a lake near Castello Archione in Lapland, St.-Omer, Lake Gerdauen, the Lake of Kolk in Osnabruck, Loch Lomond, Derwentwater, the Lago della Regina near Tivoli, Italy, etc.; relies on Malte-Brun; the outstanding feature of the article is the engraving on p. 241 which depicts the floating islands of the Lago della Regina; Viale and Latini, plate 1, supply a map of the lake which shows the islands, and Kircher in his *Latium*—both cited in the book—gives something similar, but the engraving in this article is the only close image of the islands with which I am familiar)
- “Floating Islands in Corundell Lake Just a Memory,” *Daily Kennebec Journal* (Maine), June 4, 1946, p. 7 (on the removal of floating islands fro Corundell Lake near Corinna, Maine; the largest of the

- islands was about two acres; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- “Floating Islands in Reservoir are Given Explanation,” *The Charleroi Mail* (Pennsylvania), August 20, 1934, p. 6 (a brief article that mentions floating islands in the Pymatuning Reservoir near Saron, Pennsylvania; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- Floating Islands Nature Reserve Proposed Management Plan* (Victoria, Australia: Department of Conservation and Environment, 1990) (cover title is *Floating Islands Native Reserve Proposed Management Plan*; 37 pp.; superseded by David Harper’s plan cited in the book)
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- pp. 575–598, and 25.1 (1909), pp. 47–73 (pp. 563–564 in the first article, and pp. 259–260 in the second, St. Malo falls asleep on the seashore, and as the tide comes in God miraculously raises the part of the shore on which he is sleeping, keeping it always above water; these articles are also published in Lot's book *Mélanges d'histoire bretonne (VIe–XIe siècle)* (Paris: H. Champion, 1907))
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- “Of General Interest [final item],” *Decatur Weekly Republican* (Illinois), January 29, 1885, p. 5 (offers a brief description of an intermittent floating island in Trinity Lake north of Poundridge, which was the water source for Stamford, Connecticut; from the *Hartford Courant*; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- “Officials Tow ‘Floating Island’ Back to Middle of Pond,” *Boston Globe*, October 29, 2005 (on the floating island in Island Pond in Springfield, Massachusetts; available at [www.boston.com](http://www.boston.com); see “Floating Island Comes to Shore in Flood”)
- Ortelius, Abraham, *Theatrum orbis terrarum Abrahami Ortelii Antuerp. geographi regii.* = *The Theatre of the Whole World: Set Forth by that Excellent Geographer Abraham Ortelius* (London: Printed by [the Officina Plantiniana and Eliot's Court Press for] John Norton [and John Bill], printer to the Kings most excellent Maiestie in Hebrew, Greeke, and Latine, 1606 [i.e. 1608?]) (the map *Aegyptus Antiqua* in Ortelius's *Parergon, sive veteris geographiae aliquot tabulae*, which is printed with his *Theatrum orbis terrarum*, includes an illustration of “Hermopolis in Chemni Insula,” that is, it shows the city of Hermes on the island of Chemnis, which was held to be a floating island; see Herodotus cited in the book)
- Otley, J., “The Floating Island, On Derwent Water, in Cumberland,” *Lonsdale Magazine* 1 (1820), pp. 15–16 (not an interesting or important article)
- Palmer, Joseph, *A Fortnight's Ramble to the Lakes in Westmoreland, Lancashire, Cumberland* (London: Printed for Hookham and Carpenter, 1792) (chapter 26, p. 173: “when it [Derwentwater] is violently agitated at the bottom, an island arises and remains upon the surface some time; when it last came up, it was split in the middle,

- and the guide sailed through it. The grass and the moss are as green as a meadow, and soon become consistent; there are very few people in the neighbourhood that have not been upon it"; also quoted in the article "The Floating Island on Derwentwater," *Chambers's Journal of Popular Literature, Science, and Art* 3.110 (February 6, 1886), pp. 93–95, which is cited in *Floating Islands*)
- "Paraguay," *The Weekly Hawk Eye* (Burlington, Iowa), May 3, 1859, p. 2 (briefly mentions the floating islands on the Río Paraná, "upon which are good large sized trees, reeds, and bushes," and which are "inhabited by snakes, tigers, and dangerous reptiles"; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- "Part of an Island Breaks Away and Floats on Lake," *New York Times*, August 31, 1962, p. 23 (on a 100 foot long floating island in Greenwood Lake, New Jersey; includes a photograph)
- Perkins, Martha, "Heavy Rains Launch Floating Island in Hawk Lake," *Minden Times* (Ontario, Canada), August 5, 2005, p. 16 (an article about the new floating island in Hawk Lake which moved into Big Brother Lake; "it is home to two beaver lodges and several dozen trees"; see Barker)
- Pinto, Karen Carol, "Ways of Seeing.3: Scenarios of the World in the Medieval Islamic Cartographic Imagination," PhD Dissertation, Columbia University, 2002 (p. 279 translates a brief passage from Ibn al-Wardi's 10<sup>th</sup> century *Kharidat al-'Aja'ib* (Cairo: s. n., 1863), pp. 116–117, which mentions "fortresses and palaces which float on the face of the water, disappearing and (re-)appearing and other wondrous images and strange forms that disappear inside the water")
- "A Pond in Lonsdale, R.I.," *The Daily Independent* (Helena, Montana), May 5, 1874, p. 1 (a brief description of the floating island in the pond, which was a quarter of an acre and had 25 foot high trees growing on it; see Kelley; the article is available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- [*Prayer Book of Charles the Bold*], Ghent and Antwerp, 1469 and ca. 1471, manuscript in Los Angeles, J. Paul Getty Museum, MS 37 (89.ML.35) (the first part of the manuscript, to f. 66, was illustrated by the Vienna Master of Mary of Burgundy and his workshop; the second part by Lieven van Lathem and his workshop; the illustration on f. 22 depicts Christ using his foot to push to sea a small rocky island upon which St. James the Greater sits sleeping,

and James floated from Jaffa to Galicia on this island; the image is reproduced in Maurits Smeyers, *Flemish Miniatures from the 8th to the mid-16th Century: The Medieval World on Parchment* (Turnhout: Brepols, 1999), p. 394, fig. 51; and in Thomas Kren and Scot McKendrick, *Illuminating the Renaissance: The Triumph of Flemish Manuscript Painting in Europe* (Los Angeles: J. Paul Getty Museum, 2003), p. 129, fig. 16a; also a low-resolution image of this folio is available on the internet site of the Getty Museum, [www.getty.edu](http://www.getty.edu))

“Queer Stories,” *The Daily Herald* (Delphos, Ohio), June 27, 1900, p. 3 (summarizes a story from the *Bangkok Times* about a floating island on the Mekong River which had been under cultivation and had trees three feet in diameter growing on it; it slipped its moorings and disappeared downstream; see “China’s Floating Islands” and “Floating Farms Disappear”; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))

Raxworthy, C. J., Nussbaum, M. J. R., and Forstner, R. A., “Chameleon Radiation by Oceanic Dispersal,” *Nature* 415.6873 (February 14, 2002), pp. 784–787 (presents genetic evidence that chameleons radiated from Madagascar by oceanic dispersal)

“Remarks on Scottish Scenery and Manners in 1819,” *Christian Observer* 19.218 (February, 1820), pp. 89–97 (p. 93 mentions a report of the floating island in Loch Dochart, “formed by the intertexture of the stems and roots of aquatic plants, and which is sometimes browsed by cattle. These, when it is driven on shore, embark upon it, and are not unfrequently indulged with a voyage around the loch”; see the article “The Floating Island: A Legend of Loch Dochart” cited in the book)

“Reports Floating Islands: Skipper of President Adams, Back from World Trip, Tells of Strange Phenomenon and Waterspouts,” *Los Angeles Times*, May 23, 1924, pp. 1–2 (a different, shorter version of the article “A Floating Island Followed His Ship” cited in the book about two large floating islands seen in the Palawan Passage)

Riccioli, Giovanni Battista, *Almagestum Novum, astronomiam veterem novamque complectens* (Bologna: Ex Typographia Haeredis Victorij Benatij, 1651) (vol. 1, book 2, chapter 12, p. 68, has a brief description of the floating islands near Ferrara; see Terra Rossa)

- Rickard, Jayne, "Masters Floats Bio Island Idea," *Busselton-Dunsborough Mail* (Australia), January 18, 2006 (on the installation of an artificial floating island in the Lower Vasse River)
- Risner, Jeffery K., "The Floating Isle of Carnivorous Plants," *Carnivorous Plant Newsletter* 16 (1987), pp. 112–115 (on the floating island named Cranberry Bog in Buckeye Lake, Ohio; discusses *Sarracenia purpurea*, *Drosera rotundifolia*, and *Utricularia vulgaris*)
- Rockwood, Roy, *Dave Fearless on a Floating Island, or, The Cruise of the Treasure Ship* (New York: George Sully & Company, 1918) (the protagonists, searching for a treasure ship in the Pacific, end up the marshy, flat end of an island, p. 177; during a great storm this marshy part of the island is torn away and becomes a floating island of several acres, with many birds, including parrots, and monkeys on it; they spend the night on the island, and in the morning it drifts back to the island from which it was detached, pp. 180–196; the presence of both parrots and monkeys on the island makes it seem likely that the episode was inspired by the article "Sees a Floating Island," *Fort Wayne News* (Indiana), June 5, 1902, p. 1, which was widely reprinted and is cited and summarized in *Floating Islands*)
- Roesler, Rich, "Lake Residents Check Out Express Isles – Several Thompson Lake Islands Cut Loose in Storm, Sail into Residents' Yards," *The Spokesman-Review* (Spokane, WA), December 18, 1995, page A1; a shorter version of the story was published as "Winds Move Island in Idaho Lake," *The Columbian* (Vancouver, WA), December 22, 1995, p. B4; also published as "Boat Ramp Landlocked by Island that Set Sail," *The Seattle Times*, December 24, 1995, p. B1 (on floating islands in Thompson Lake, Idaho; one of the islands had moved previously in May, 1926)
- Rouch, J., "Les îles flottantes," *Archiv für Meteorologie, Geophysik und Bioklimatologie*, Serie A, 7 (1954), pp. 528–532 (includes English and German summaries; mentions the floating island seen in the Atlantic in 1892 that is described in more detail by Ochsenius and a few others, including one seen by the author while on his way from Singapore to Saigon)
- Sahoo, Narendra Kumar, "Ecological Status of Lake Khajjiar, Himachal Pradesh," M. Phil. Dissertation, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 2002 (51 pages) (includes discussion of the *Phragmites australis*-dominated vegetation of the lake's main floating island,

which however has come to rest along the southwest shore of the lake, but there are still smaller floating islets in the lake and the author discusses their origin and analyzes their soil)

- Saramago, José, *The Stone Raft*, trans. Giovanni Pontiero (London: The Harvill Press, 1994) (Spanish title *Jangada de pedra*; a novel in which the Iberian peninsula floats away from Europe, thus calling into question its European identity)
- Schoenmann, Joe, "Bog Down," *The Capital Times* (Madison, WI), August 18, 1993, p. 1A (on a 1.5 acre floating island in Lake Mendota and plans to remove it from the lake and use it for compost)
- Schwaegerle, Kent E., "Population Growth of the Pitcher Plant *Sarracenia purpurea* L., at Cranberry Bog, Licking County, Ohio," *Ohio Journal of Science* 83.1 (1983), pp. 19–22 (the population of the plants on the floating island, which stems from a single individual transplanted there in 1912, probably reached the carrying capacity of the island by 1942)
- Seely, Ron, "Riding Herd on Lake Bogs: Don't Try to Understand 'Em, Just Rope, Tie and Disband 'Em," *Wisconsin State Journal* (Madison), June 18, 2004, p. B1 (floating islands that come from Cherokee Marsh out onto Lake Mendota are pushed to the shore and staked in place)
- Silvestri, Carlo, *Istorica e geografica descrizione delle antiche paludi Adriane, ora chiamate Lagune di Venezia* (Venice: Presso Domenico Occhi, 1736; facsimile reprint Bologna: Forni, 1973) (pp. 201–202 on the floating islands called *cuori* that once existed at Modena, with a description of their formation; also cites Madrisio, who is cited in the book, on the floating islands of St.-Omer)
- Silvestri, Girolamo, "Discorso I. intorno all'Isole galleggianti, e fluttuanti antiche, e moderne," *Giornale d'Italia spettante alla scienza naturale, e principalmente all'agricoltura, alle arti, ed al commercio* 8 (1772), pp. 201–221; and "Dell'Isole nuotanti, e de' Cuori in relazione all'Agricoltura, all'Economia, e al pubblico, e privato interesse. Discorso secondo," *Giornale d'Italia spettante alla scienza naturale, e principalmente all'agricoltura, alle arti, ed al commercio* 8 (1772), pp. 225–231 and 233–237 (Silvestri provides a good survey of floating islands in classical literature but less on floating islands mentioned by modern authors, though he does cite Clüver's *Germania antiqua*, Montanari, and the usual sources on the floating islands at St.-Omer, France; he offers some discussion

- of the legal aspects of floating islands pp. 210–214; the second part of Silvestri's article, on the uses of floating islands, is rather vague)
- Singh, K. Saratchandra, "Ecology of the Loktak Lake of Manipur and Its Floating Phoom Hut Dwellers," pp. 255–259 in Khagen Chandra Mahanta, ed., *People of the Himalayas: Ecology, Culture, Development and Change* (Delhi: Kamla-Raj Enterprises, 1997) = *Journal of Human Ecology*, Special Issue 6
- "A Sinking Island," *Lima Daily News* (Ohio), January 8, 1898, p. 3 (a good account, with a sketch illustration, of the intermittent floating island in Lake Orion, Michigan; see Fig. 7 below; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- Smith, J. M. B., "Did Early Hominids Cross Sea Gaps on Natural Rafts?" pp. 409–416 in Ian Metcalfe, J. M. B. Smith, M. Morwood, and I. Davidson, eds., *Faunal and Floral Migrations and Evolution in SE Asia-Australasia* (Lisse, The Netherlands, and Exton, PA: A.A. Balkema Publishers, 2001)
- Somodi, Imelda, and Botta-Dukát, Zoltán, "Determinants of Floating Island Vegetation and Succession in a Recently Flooded Shallow Lake, Kis-Balaton (Hungary)," *Aquatic Botany* 79.4 (2004), pp. 357–366 (available nitrogen content of the soil was responsible for the differentiation of floating islands with ruderal vegetation from those with willow scrubs)
- Sour, Luc, "Waternatuurtuin: Achtergronden bij de natuurpadroute, biotopen, doelsoorten en beheer" ["Water Nature Garden: Information on the Nature Path Route, Management of Biotopes, and Information on Target Species,"] 29 p. report written as a handbook for the group of volunteers who maintain and monitor the site, "Vrijwilligersgroep Beheer Waternatuurtuin," The Netherlands, August, 2004 (p. 13 on the formation of floating islands in the Water Nature Garden in Westerpark, Amsterdam)
- "A South American Floating Island," *The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* (Indiana), February 24, 1907, p. 4 (a drawing looking out over the city of Paraná to the Paraná River, where an island is visible; the caption indicates that "The island has moved a mile in the last five years"; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- Swinehart, Anthony L., and Parker, George R., "The Potential Role of Lake Basin Morphometry in the Formation and Development of Peatlands in Indiana," *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Sci-*

*ence* 111.1 (2002), pp. 32–44 (protected shores were found to be more likely to develop floating mats)

“Tales of the Times: The Man from Jersey Tells a Few Stiff Yarns on the Fishing Question,” *The Olean Democrat* (New York), June 18, 1895, p. 6 (tells a story about a fisherman who built a hut on an islet in the Passaic River; one morning he found that his islet was floating downriver, and that in fact the islet was a giant sea turtle; he proceeded to cut a hole in the turtle’s shell, lowered his stove into the hole, added some water, salt, and vegetables, and made turtle soup which he then sold when the turtle came ashore in Newark; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))

Terra Rossa, Vitale, *Riflessioni Geografiche circa le terre incognite* (Padua: Per il Cadorino, 1686) (chapter 22, pp. 237–241, and also chapter 15, pp. 212–213, on floating islands—he is generally skeptical on the subject, but does cite Riccioli’s account of the floating islands that form when the Po floods, which are called *le cuore*; Terra Rossa also cites Cabeo)

Thesiger, Wilfred, *The Marsh Arabs* (New York: Dutton, 1964) (pp. 84–85 mentions floating islands in the lake Haur az Zikri amidst the marshes of the Euphrates in Iraq)

Thiel, Martin, and Gutow, Lars, “The Ecology of Rafting in the Marine Environment. I. The Floating Substrata,” *Oceanography and Marine Biology: An Annual Review* 42 (2004), pp. 181–264 (a very good general study of the suitability of various floating islands as vectors of species and includes good information about the speed that floating objects travel in the ocean, but contains little data about floating islands)

Thiel, Martin, and Gutow, Lars, “The Ecology of Rafting in the Marine Environment. II. The Rafting Organisms and Community,” *Oceanography and Marine Biology: An Annual Review* 43 (2005), pp. 279–418 (includes some remarks about floating islands and the organisms that might be rafted upon them, esp. pp. 294 and 342–343, but also notes p. 294 that “To our knowledge, no published reports of non-buoyant flora on rafts are available”; such reports are now more easily accessible)

“To Move Isles,” *Oakland Tribune* (California), October 25, 1917, p. 22 (two floating islands which had been in Lake Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, had moved into the Spokane River and were impeding navigation; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))

- Tomassen, Hilde B. M., Smolders, Alfons J. P., Lamers, Leon P. M., and Roelofs, Jan G. M., "Development of Floating Rafts after the Rewetting of Cut-Over Bogs: The Importance of Peat Quality," *Biogeochemistry* 71.1 (2004), pp. 69–87 (analysis of factors that affect methane production rates, and thus the buoyancy, of peat rafts; the ratio of pH to the peat's bulk density was found to be a good indicator of methane production rates)
- "2100 Miles Up Big Amazon River," *Oakland Tribune* (California), Sunday, January 2, 1910, p. 5 (on the explorations of the ship *Napo* on the Amazon; mention is made of islands moving down the river, some with monkeys and snakes on them; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- Urwick, William, *Indian Pictures: Drawn with Pen and Pencil* (London: The Religious Tract Society, 1891); *India Illustrated with Pen and Pencil* (New York: Hurst & Company, 1891) (p. 183 in the London edition, and p. 163 in the New York edition, has a good illustration of the floating gardens in Lake Srinagar, i.e. Dal Lake, which is reproduced here in Fig. 16)
- Van Duzer, Chet, "Islands Afloat," *Water Shapes* 7.12 (December, 2005), pp. 40–47 (a brief survey of some floating islands around the world, with six photographs)
- Van Duzer, Chet, "Phenomen vsplyvaushix torfyanikov: mirovoi obsor" ["Floating Islands: World Review"], pp. 29–30 in *Mnogoletnyaya dinamika populyatsii zhivotnyx i rastenii na OOPT i sopredel'nyx territoriyax po materialam stacionarnyx i tematicheskix nabludeniij* [*Dynamic of Animal Population and Plants on Nature Protected Areas and Adjoining Territories According to a Long Standing Station and Thematic Observation*] (Cherepovets, Russia: Izdatel'stvo "Port-Artur," 2005) (an abstract with bibliography)
- Van Duzer, Chet, "Some Floating Islands Seen at Sea," *The Drifting Seed* 10.3 (December, 2004), pp. 2–4 (available online at [www.seabeam.com/newsletters/vol10-3.pdf](http://www.seabeam.com/newsletters/vol10-3.pdf))
- Vance, Jack, *The Blue World* (New York: DAW Books, Inc., 1983) (the book takes its origin from the author's short story titled "King Kra-gen" published in *Fantastic* in July, 1964; then as a book in New York by Ballantine in 1966; a rather thin and chatty fantasy set in a water world with floating islands of several acres formed by the thick, spreading tops of gigantic sea plants shaped something like water lilies, which support large houses; the settlements on these

floating islands are attacked by sea monsters; the floating islands are never described in great detail but there is some account of them at the beginning of Chapter 4)

- Vences, Miguel, Kosuch, Joachim, Rödel, Mark-Oliver, Lötters, Stefan, Channing, Alan, Glaw, Frank, and Böhme, Wolfgang, “Phylogeography of *Ptychadena mascareniensis* Suggests Transoceanic Dispersal in a Widespread African-Malagasy Frog Lineage,” *Journal of Biogeography* 31.4 (2004), pp. 593–601
- “The Volcanic Eruption,” *The Oshkosh Northwestern*, August 31, 1883, p. 1 (an appendix to the article, titled “A Steamer’s Experience,” relays the report of the captain of a steamer which was in the Sunda Strait during the eruption on Java who “passed masses of floating pumice stone seven feet in depth”; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- Wangkheirakpam, Ramananda, “Dams and Discontents: The Case of the Floating Population of Loktak Lake,” M. Phil. Dissertation, Center for Social Medicine and Community Health, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 2000 (84 pp. + 25 pp. of appendices and 3 pp. of bibliography; esp. chapt. 3.4, pp. 42–49, chapt. 4, pp. 52–84, and Appendix II, pp. 3–23, on the Khangpok people of Loktak Lake, who live on huts on the *phumdi* or floating islands of the lake)
- Wangkheirakpam, Ramananda, “Lessons from Loktak,” *The Ecologist Asia* 11.1 (January-March, 2003), pp. 19–24 (includes brief discussion of the recent proliferation of people living in huts build on the *phumdis* or floating islands of Loktak Lake, Manipur, India)
- “Watertown—Island Voyage,” *Syracuse Herald Journal* (New York), August 13, 1951, section, p. 2 (a photograph of a floating island near Sackets Harbor, New York, which is on Lake Ontario, with the caption “A floating island in the eastern Lake Ontario, especially near the shores of Sackets Harbor and vicinity, is no uncommon sight these days. The other day one was detached from low land near Dexter, journeyed down Dexter bay and moved past Sackets Harbor. The island was held together by a mass of roots. Others have also been seen in that vicinity this summer”; compare the work by Hutchinson cited in the book; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- “The Way a Yankee Avoided Paying Taxes,” *The Athens Messenger* (Ohio), December 28, 1882, p. 3 (a story about man who lives on

- a floating island in a lake on the border between New Hampshire and Massachusetts moves the island so as to avoid taxes; compare “Old Ezra’s Floating Farm” and “Has Tax Collectors Guessing” in the book; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- Wentworth, Walter, *Kibboo Ganey; or, The Lost Chief of Copper Mountain, A Story of Travel and Adventure in the Heart of Africa* (Boston: Roberts Brothers, 1889) (pp. 327 and 337–345 the heroes cut free a large floating peninsula on Lake Chad so as to form a floating island and cross the lake on it)
- Wentworth, Walter, *The Drifting Island; or The Slave-Hunters of the Congo, a Sequel to Kibboo Ganey; or, The Lost Chief of the Copper Mountain* (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1903) (on p. 223 in chapter 14, “The Drifting Island,” the Lake Chad floating island of *Kibboo Ganey* reappears and is prominent in the rest of the book: the island had been moored to shore but the wind breaks it free and carries it across the lake with our heroes upon it; when it reaches the far shore some slave hunters unwittingly camp their slaves on the island, and our heroes free them; natives in canoes attack the island as it sails along the shore, but they repel the attack; when the island stops in a bay crocodiles climb aboard, forcing our heroes up into the trees; finally the wind blows the island back across the lake, they clear off the crocodiles and then equip the island with an elephant-driven propulsion system to facilitate an attack on the evil Major Snelling; see esp. pp. 225–226, 234, 242, 249, 260, 280–281, 284–289, 305–316, and 323–326)
- “When the Atlantic and the Pacific Were Wed,” *The Fort Wayne News* (Indiana), October 22, 1913, p. 2 (a captioned photograph relating to the opening of the Panama Canal; “The photograph shows a group of civilian and military spectators on one of the floating island[s] which are being rapidly removed from the canal, watching the boat racing through the opening between Gatun lake and Culebra cut”; available through [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com))
- Wickelgren, Ingrid, “Leaping Lizards!” *Current Science* 84.11 (February 12, 1999), pp. 4–6 (on the rafting of at least 15 iguanas on a natural raft of tangled trees from Guadeloupe to Anguilla in the Caribbean, a distance of 320 kilometers, in 1995; see Censky et al.)
- Wolf, Bill, “Daffiest Lake in America,” *Saturday Evening Post* 225.2 (July 12, 1952), pp. 28–29 and 110–113 describes the floating islands in Lake Hellen Blazes Lake in Florida)

- Yoder, Anne D., Burns, Melissa M., Zehr, Sarah, Delefosse, Thomas, Veron, Geraldine, Goodman, Steven M., Flynn, John J., "Single Origin of Malagasy Carnivora from an African Ancestor," *Nature* 421 (February 13, 2003), pp. 734–737 (provides evidence that Carnivora of Madagascar are the product of a single colonization, which seems likely to have taken place via rafting from Africa)
- Yoon, Carol Kaesuk, "Hapless Iguanas Float Away and Voyage Grips Biologists," *New York Times*, October 8, 1998, p. A1 (on the rafting of 15 iguanas on a natural raft of tangled trees from Guadeloupe to Anguilla in the Caribbean, a distance of 320 kilometers, in 1995; see Censky et al.)
- Zöld-Balogh, Ágnes, Parádi, István, and Bratek, Zoltán, "Az őrési Fekete-tó úszólápi növényeinek mikorrhiza-kapcsolatai" ["Mycorrhizal Relations of the Floating Mat Plants on Lake Fekete, Őrség (Hungary),"] *Kanitzia* 10 (2002), pp. 217–226 (except for *Frangula alnus*, all of the woody species studied were highly colonized by ectomycorrhizal fungi in the spring, but in autumn ectomycorrhizal colonization was less intense and more varied; includes an English abstract)

## Index

Following the geographical section of the index there are thematic indices on Floating Islands Seen at Sea, Dispersal of Species by Rafting, Artificial Floating Islands, and Mythical or Literary Floating Islands. The notation “(m)” indicates that there are multiple works by the author or authors cited, and that all of those works address the index topic.

### Works That Discuss Floating Islands in Several Regions

“Floating Islands” in *Saturday Magazine*, Malte-Brun, G. Silvestri, Van Duzer’s “Islands Afloat,” Van Duzer’s “Phenomen vsplyvaushix torfyanikov”

### North America

Canada – Ontario: Barker, Perkins

Canada – Yukon Territory: Harris

US – Alabama: Cherry and Gough

US – California: “Beautiful Floating Gardens,” “Lake Crowley Now Has Floating Islands”

US – Connecticut: DePold, “Fishing Through a Floating Island,” “Of General Interest”

US – Florida: Chapman, Clarke, “Flotilla of Tussock Islands,” Keneagy, Wolf

US – Idaho: “Floating Islands” in *The Friend*, “An Idaho Wonder,” Roesler, “To Move Isles”

US – Illinois: “Floating Island in Lake County”

US – Indiana: Swinehart and Parker

US – Louisiana: Mayence and Hester

## 34 Addenda to Floating Islands

- US – Maine: “Floating Islands in Corundell Lake,” “Great Natural Curiosity,” “Maine’s Floating Island”
- US – Massachusetts: Belluck, Drake, “A Floating Island” in the *Decatur Daily Republican*, “Floating Island Comes to Shore in Flood,” “Floating Island Sold,” “He Saved Cleveland’s Life,” “Hornpout Anglers Miss Floating Isle,” “A Most Wonderful Natural Curiosity,” “Officials Tow ‘Floating Island’”
- US – Michigan: “A Floating Island” in the *Syracuse Herald Journal*, “Floating Island of Rest Lake,” “A Sinking Island”
- US – Minnesota: Klatt et al.
- US – Missouri: “How a Hill Traveled”
- US – New Hampshire: “Mason, N. H.,” “A Most Wonderful Natural Curiosity”
- US – New Mexico: “Entombed in a Crater”
- US – New Jersey: “Part of an Island Breaks Away”
- US – New York: Barth, Bullard, Fairman, “Fine Fun for the Hunters,” “Floating Island is On a Cruise,” “Floating Island on Sandy Pond,” “Last of Raquette River Floating Isles,” “Made a Floating Island,” “Missing Links,” “Natural History Group to Report,” “Watertown—Island Voyage”
- US – Ohio: Risner, Schwaegerle
- US – Oregon: Jacobs
- US – Pennsylvania: “Floating Islands in Reservoir”
- US – Rhode Island: Kelley, “A Pond in Lonsdale, R.I.”
- US – Washington: Johnston
- US – Wisconsin: Boettcher, “Conservation Department Crews,” “Floating Bog Plagues Winnebago Shoreline,” “Marsh Bog is Moving,” Schoenmann, Seely

## South and Central America

- Argentina: Abro et al., Barclay, “Conservation Team,” “A South American Floating Island”
- Brazil: Ballantyne, Hödl, “2100 Miles Up Big Amazon River”
- Panama: “When the Atlantic and the Pacific Were Wed”
- Paraguay: Mereles, “Paraguay”

## Europe

England: Gambles, Mill, Otley, Palmer

Hungary: Balogh (m), Endes, Somodi and Botta-Dukát, Zöld-Balogh et al.

Italy: "Floating in a Pitch Lake," "Floating Islands" in *Saturday Magazine*, Riccioli, C. Silvestri, Terra Rossa

Netherlands: Gonggrijp et al., *Jahrbücher der preussischen monarchie*, Sour, Tomassen et al.

Scotland: "Remarks on Scottish Scenery"

Sweden: "A Moving Island in Sweden"

## Africa

Chad: "Journey to Lake Chad"

Congo: Kingsley, "The Malinga"

Egypt: [*Genoese World Map*]

Gabon: Kingsley

Nigeria: "Floating Islands of West Africa"

South Africa: "Bottomless Holes"

Sudan: Crispin

Uganda/ Zaire: "A Floating Village in Central Africa"

## Asia/Middle East

Burma/ Myanmar: Gervol

India: Chaudhuri, Ghosh, Monkland, Sahoo, Singh, Wangkheirakpam (m)

Iran: Bent

Iraq: Thesiger

Japan: Haraguchi, Kofuji

New Guinea: Lane-Poole, MacDonald

Philippines: Brent, Landor

Thailand: "China's Floating Islands," "Floating Farms Disappear," "Queer Stories"

Turkey: Gecin, Girgin and Bulut

## Australia and Oceania

Australia: *Floating Islands Nature Reserve*

Easter Island: Butler

Fiji: Lutunauga

## Floating Islands Seen at Sea

“Attacked by Floating Isles,” “Deadly Seaweed Sea,” “A Floating Island” in the *Daily Gleaner*, “A Floating Island” in the *Lincoln Evening News*, Frederick, Kester, “Reports Floating Islands,” Rouch, Smith, Van Duzer’s “Some Floating Islands Seen at Sea”

## Dispersal of Species by Rafting

Bryan, Carr, Carranza, and Arnold, Censky et al., Foighil et al., Fréon and Dagorn, García et al., Hedges, Helfman, Hobday (m), Kappeler, Manzella et al., Mora, Mora et al., Moser et al., Raxworthy et al., Smith, Thiel and Gutow (m), Vences et al., “The Volcanic Eruption,” Wickelgren, Yoder et al., Yoon

## Artificial Floating Islands

Chiu Yu-Tzu, Everall and Crymble, Garbett, Ingersoll, Kania, Kępczyński, Momose, Rickard, Urwick

## Mythical or Literary Floating Islands

Alonso, Ballantyne, Buzurg b. Sahriyar Ar-ramhurmuzi, “De S. Vouga,” “Entombed in a Crater,” “Floating Island” in *The Portsmouth Herald*, Frankowski, Geyer, Gray, Ki-duk, Lot, Ortelius, Pinto, [*Prayer Book of Charles the Bold*], Rockwood, Saramago, “Tales of the Times,” Vance, “The Way a Yankee Avoided Paying Taxes,” Wentworth (m)

## Appendix

### Narrative of a Visit to the Floating Island in Derwentwater, England

I had read a great deal about the intermittent floating island in Derwentwater, Cumbria, England, but as the island only rises to the surface of the lake once every several years, on average, I did not harbor much hope of seeing it on my visit to the Lake District in July of 2005. The island, which is actually a semi-detached piece of the bottom of the lake, rises only at the end of particularly warm summers, when the higher temperatures increase the rate of decomposition of vegetable matter in the soil at the bottom of the lake, thus releasing additional gases, particularly methane, which carry the island to the surface of the lake. The island differs in size and shape in different years, depending on the heat of the summer.

When it rises the island does so in the southeastern part of the lake, near where the Derwent River and also Watendlath Beck debouche into the lake, and quite close to the Lodore Boat Landings. On the rainy morning of July 28<sup>th</sup>, Sandra Sáenz-López Pérez and I drove to Keswick, then south along the B5289, and then turned left onto Watendlath Road, and drove up that road about 1 mile (1.6 km) to the (unmarked) “Surprise View” of the lake, parking on the left of the road and walking a short distance to the right of the road, to the edge of a cliff that offers a spectacular view of the lake. Looking down from there we saw a marshy, irregularly-shaped island (Fig. 1) which certainly seemed to be the floating island; comparison of this image with a postcard image taken from the “Surprise View” confirmed that ordinarily there is no island in this location. The position of the island also agreed quite well with that indicated for the floating island in 1884 in the map in G. J. Symons’ *The Floating Island in Derwentwater* (London: E. Stanford, 1888).

We drove down to the Lodore Boat Landings, took an umbrella with us, rented a canoe, and paddled out to the island. The island was quite low in the water, perhaps partly because the day was cold and rainy, which would decrease the size of the bubbles suspended in the island's soil and thus its buoyancy. The uneven surface of the island rose just a few centimeters above the water, and was muddy with a growth of low grassy vegetation (Fig. 2); there were some rocks and sticks on the island, and while we were visiting it first a duck and later some geese (Fig. 3) grazed on the island. The edges of the island slope very gradually away under the water, and to approach close to the island we had to run the canoe aground on it. When we touched part of the island beneath the water with our paddles bubbles of gas rose to the surface.

We were able to paddle across the narrow area between the two largest parts of the island without any difficulty; I landed on the island twice (Fig. 4). The surface of the island seemed to sink slightly during the time I stood upon it, but as the soil was quite spongy it is difficult to be certain that my feet were not merely sinking deeper into the soil (Fig. 5). It was an exhilarating experience to visit and investigate this very unusual natural phenomenon.



Fig. 1. The intermittent floating island in Derwentwater, just to the right of center, seen from the “Surprise View,” with the Lodore Boat Landings and the mouth of the Derwent River to the left (Sandra Sáenz-López Pérez).



Fig. 2. Part of the northern section of the floating island in Derwentwater, showing the vegetation (Sandra Sáenz-López Pérez).



Fig. 3. Geese grazing on the southern part of the floating island, with the Lodore Boat Landings and Lodore Hotel in the background (Chet Van Duzer).



Fig. 4. The author standing on the floating island, with the cliffs of the “Surprise View” in the background (Sandra Sáenz-López Pérez).



Fig. 5. The author's foot on the floating island, showing the vegetation and also how low the island was in the water (Sandra Sáenz-López Pérez).



Fig. 6. An old image of a Girl Guide on the floating island in Derwentwater; the island is both higher in the water and more thickly vegetated than it was in 2005.

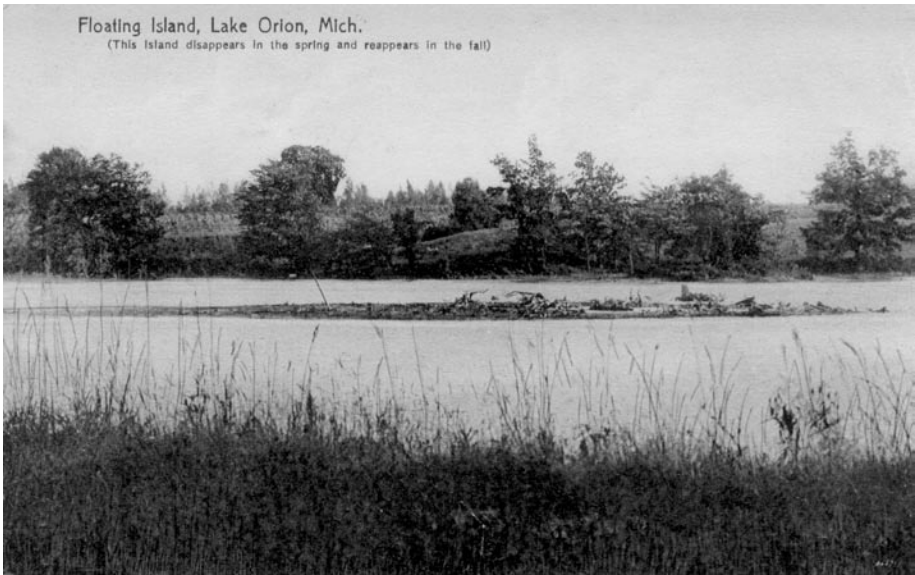


Fig. 7. A postcard postmarked 1909 of the intermittent floating island in Lake Orion, Michigan; compare with figs. 1-6 (author's collection).



Fig. 8. An old postcard image of the floating islands in Orange Lake, Florida (author's collection).



Fig. 9. An old postcard showing the large floating island in Sadawga Lake, Vermont (author's collection).



Fig. 10. A postcard postmarked 1909 showing floating islands in Prairie Lake near Cameron, Wisconsin (author's collection).



Fig. 11. A floating meadow dominated by *Paspalum repens* on the Central Amazon near Manaus (Walter Hödl).



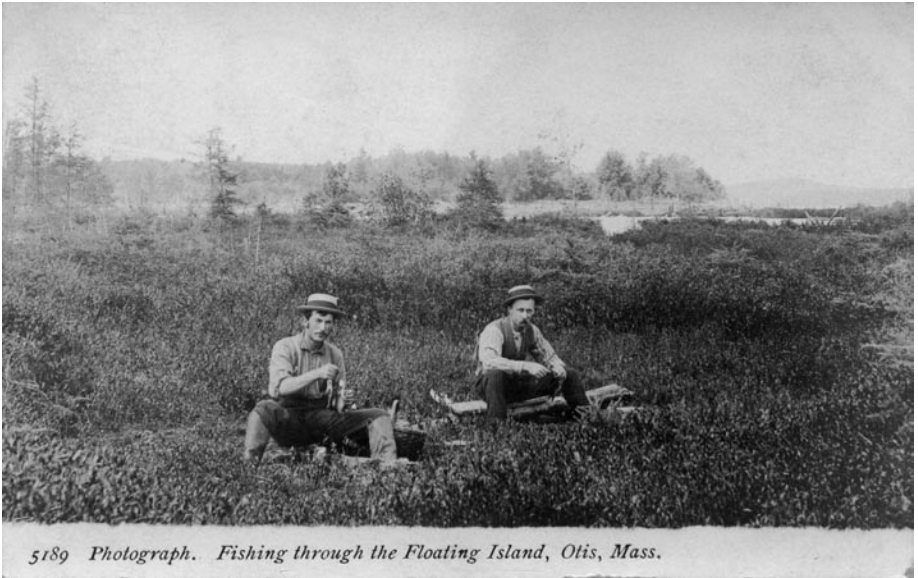
Fig. 12. A floating meadow dominated by *Salvinia auriculata* and *Reussia rotundifolia* and also with *Pistia* sp. on the Central Amazon near Manaus (Walter Hödl).



Fig. 13. The floating island in Lake Suresnar, Jammu and Kashmir, India; the island is usually stationary but does move in high winds (B. K. Das).



Fig. 14. The floating island in Lake Khajjihar near Dalhousie, Himachal Pradesh, India; the island moves freely about the lake (B. K. Das).



5189 Photograph. *Fishing through the Floating Island, Otis, Mass.*

Fig. 15. An old postcard, postmarked 1910, of two men fishing through a floating island in the Otis Reservoir, Massachusetts (author's collection).



Fig. 16. Detail of a hand-tinted etching of the floating gardens of Dal Lake, India, from William Urwick's *India Illustrated with Pen and Pencil* (New York, 1891) (author's collection).