

# science news

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## HURRIAN HARMONY

In 1950 Dr. Immanuel Velikovsky was pronounced a heretic and his unorthodox theories were banned from discussion at scientific gatherings.

In June, 1974, leading scholars and scientists from around the world will gather in Ontario on the theme, "Velikovsky and the Recent History of the Solar System."

Many things have happened during the last 24 years. *Pensee* is one of them.



## A REPORT ON THE VELIKOVSKY AFFAIR

In the Spring of 1972 the Student Academic Freedom Forum (*Pensee* magazine) initiated a special series of publications examining the work of Immanuel Velikovsky. In his bestseller, *Worlds in Collision*, Velikovsky questioned the fundamental assumptions of disciplines ranging from psychology to physics to ancient history, and he claimed that Earth suffered near-annihilating catastrophes several times during recorded history. That thesis, once scoffed at, has gained more respect with each passing year. The one-time heretic is now in strong demand at scholarly gatherings around the United States and elsewhere. Here is a summary of some of the more important events since the appearance of our first special publication in 1972:

**NASA AMES RESEARCH CENTER. August 14, 1972.** Following Velikovsky's invited lecture and consultations with Ames personnel, Dr. Richard Haines, a research scientist at the center, wrote in *Pensee*: "I believe that the time has come to leave the debating table and begin the enormous task of evaluating empirically those hypotheses of Dr. Velikovsky's that are amenable to scientific study."

**"VELIKOVSKY SYMPOSIUM," LEWIS AND CLARK COLLEGE. August 16-18, 1972.** For three successive days 50 "invited scholars" and 200 "observers" crowded into the Council Chambers at Lewis and Clark College (Portland). Coming from as far away as Europe, they comprised the first large-scale symposium on Velikovsky's work. The papers were subsequently published in *Pensee*.

**MEDIA DOCUMENTARIES. 1972-.** Both the Canadian and British Broadcasting Corporations have produced major-length television documentaries on Velikovsky's work. Titled "Velikovsky: The Bonds of the Past" (CBC) and "Worlds in Collision" (BBC), the documentaries were each shown at least twice. A Dutch television network recently aired a whole series of programs on Velikovsky, and Voice of America is preparing a presentation of its own.

**NASA LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER. December 10, 1973.** Responding to an enthusiastic invitation to lecture at Langley, Velikovsky predicted that Mars will be found to show the effects of near-collisions with Earth.

**"VELIKOVSKY'S CHALLENGE TO SCIENCE," A SYMPOSIUM SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE. February 25, 1974.** The largest scientific body in the country held the symposium at its annual convention in San Francisco. The speakers: Immanuel Velikovsky; Peter Huber (professor of the history of science, Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule, Switzerland); Irving Michelson (professor of mechanics and mechanical aerospace engineering, Illinois Institute of Technology); J. Derral Mulholland (professor of astronomy, University of Texas); Carl Sagan (professor of astronomy, Cornell University); Norman Storer (professor of sociology, Baruch College, City University of New York).

**"VELIKOVSKY AND THE RECENT HISTORY OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM," A SYMPOSIUM. June 17-19, 1974.** Sponsored by the Student Academic Freedom Forum, this symposium will be held at McMaster University, near Toronto. Among

the participants:

**Immanuel Velikovsky;**

**Sergei Vsekhsvyatskii,** director, Kiev Observatory, U.S.S.R.;

**Claude Schaeffer,** Chaire d'Archéologie de l'Asie Occidentale, Collège de France;

**Irving Michelson,** professor of mechanics and aerospace engineering, Illinois Institute of Technology.

**"VELIKOVSKY AND THE POLITICS OF SCIENCE," A SYMPOSIUM. November 2, 1974.** Scheduled as part of the Philosophy of Science Association biennial convention, Notre Dame University, Indiana.

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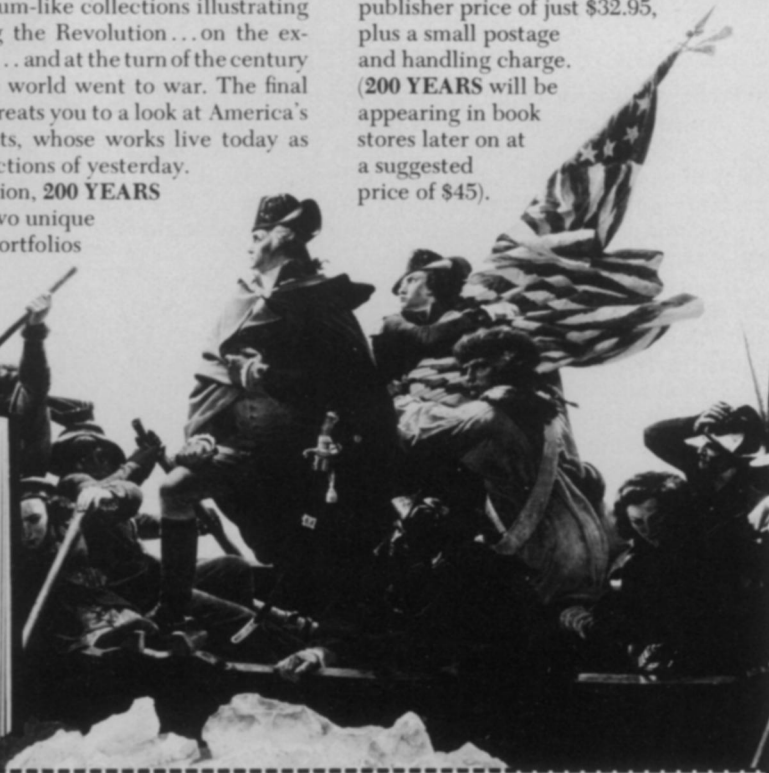
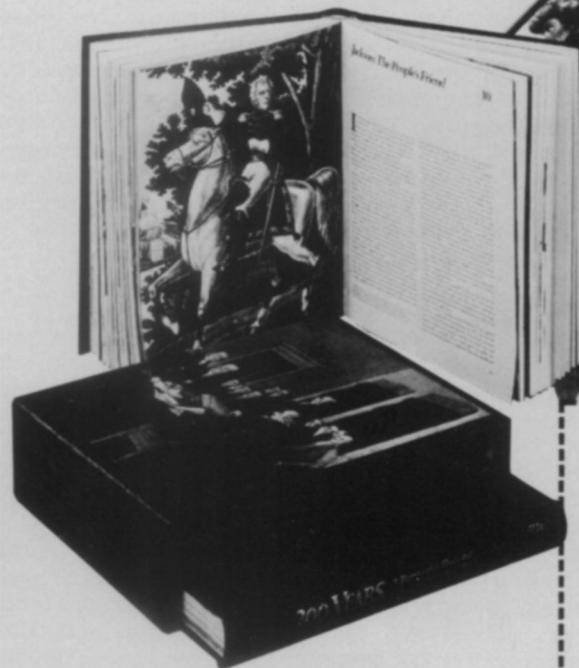
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