

# Otherkin Timeline

## The Recent History of Elfin, Fae, and Animal People

By O. Scribner

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This free eBook is  
RATED PG  
for some references to adult concepts. Safe for work.  
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## Summary

Spanning from 1972 to 2011 inclusive, this work of non-fiction traces the recent history of therianthropes and otherkin: real people who identify themselves as animals and legendary beings. All events in this timeline are drawn from primary sources when possible, such as contemporary print and electronic media, as well as interviews with people who were directly involved at the time. Events covered include the coining of jargon, the publication of books, the development of philosophical explanations for being otherkin, and much more.

*Keywords:* alt.horror.werewolves (AHWW), community, books, draconity, Elfkind Digest, Elf Queen's Daughters, Elves, Fae-born, gatherings, newsgroups, otherkin, Silver Elves, therianthropes, werewolves.

*Illustrations:* None.

*Rated PG.* This document contains some references to adult concepts. This document itself is safe for work. However, some links lead to web-sites that may offend, and may be unsuitable for minors.

*Trigger warnings:* death (not graphic), scams, ableist language, harassment, and social conflicts (with as little personal detail as possible).

*Author:* O. Scribner has been involved in the otherkin and therianthrope communities for about ten years, and so has witnessed some of the events firsthand. O. Scribner identifies as a dragon person, and therefore can relate personally to the writings produced by otherkin and similar communities.

## Cite this document

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### APA format (on References page)

Scribner, O. (2012 Sept. 8). Otherkin timeline: The recent history of elfin, fae, and animal people, v. 2.0. *The Art and Writing of O. Scribner*. Retrieved **month day, year** from <http://orion.kitsunet.net/nonfic.html>

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### Chicago style (in footnotes)

O. Scribner, "Otherkin timeline: The recent history of elfin, fae, and animal people, v. 2.0," last modified Sept. 8, 2012 in *The Art and Writing of O. Scribner*. Accessed **month day, year**, <http://orion.kitsunet.net/nonfic.html>

### MLA format (on Works Cited page)

Scribner, O. "Otherkin timeline: The recent history of elfin, fae, and animal people, v. 2.0." *The Art and Writing of O. Scribner*. 8 September, 2012. Web. **Day month, year**. <<http://orion.kitsunet.net/nonfic.html>>

### MLA format (in footnotes or endnotes)

O. Scribner, "Otherkin timeline: The recent history of elfin, fae, and animal people, v. 2.0," *The Art and Writing of O. Scribner*. 8 September, 2012, **day month, year** <<http://orion.kitsunet.net/nonfic.html>>.

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## Introduction

### Who are otherkin and therianthropes?

The otherkin and therian communities have much in common in their history, ideas, and similarly unusual personal identities. Socially, the communities mingle with one another, and their philosophies overlap to some extent. However, they aren't entirely synonymous.

People who call themselves otherkin (meaning "kin to the other"<sup>1</sup>) look human, but identify as supernatural entities ordinarily thought of as legendary or mythological, most commonly elves, Fae, and dragons, but many other kinds of creatures are represented as well.<sup>2</sup>

The concept of otherkin, as we know it, apparently got its start in about 1972 when groups of people (the Elf Queen's Daughters, the Silver Elves, and others) said they were elves.<sup>3</sup> In 1990, mailing lists began to bring people together who identified as elves, as well as other creatures, for whom they coined the word "otherkin."<sup>4</sup> A community of people who identify as dragons developed independently of this on the alt.fan.dragons newsgroup, starting in about 1994.<sup>5</sup> The otherkin community thrives to this day, arranging many in-person get-togethers (called Gathers)<sup>6</sup> and many online communities. The philosophy started in English, but now there are significant groups of otherkin who actively discuss it in Spanish,<sup>7</sup> Hungarian,<sup>8</sup> and (formerly?) in Czech.<sup>9</sup>

People who identify as vampires or incarnate extraterrestrials may possibly count as otherkin. However, their communities developed separately from the otherkin community, and they don't mingle socially with otherkin very much, either. Some more otherkin-like people call themselves Fae-born, which refers specifically to those who were supernatural beings in past lives, or a mystical being in spirit.<sup>10</sup> However, some Fae-born make a point of saying that they don't call themselves otherkin. Another separate group of people call themselves Fae or Faeid, who in some (but not all) cases identify as fair folk themselves.<sup>11</sup>

People who call themselves therianthropes (meaning "animal people")<sup>12</sup> look human, but

identify as animals, most commonly wolves or felines, but many other kinds of animals are represented as well. Some such people call themselves therians, werewolves, Were-beasts, Weres,<sup>13</sup> shifters,<sup>14</sup> or animal people,<sup>15</sup> and each of these terms carries different shades of meaning.

The therian community that we know of began in 1993 with speculative discussions on the alt.horror.werewolves newsgroup,<sup>16</sup> apparently with no contact with the otherkin community until a few years later. (I have found no evidence of any therian community before the Nineties. If you have some primary sources to prove otherwise, please let me know.) The therian community thrives to this day, enjoying many in-person get-togethers (called Howls)<sup>17</sup> and many online communities. The philosophy started in English, but now there are significant groups of therians who actively discuss therianthropy in French,<sup>18</sup> Russian,<sup>19</sup> Spanish,<sup>20</sup> Swedish,<sup>21</sup> and Portuguese.<sup>22</sup>

With both otherkin and therians, this identification as another species will be explained in very different ways, depending on the individual's own interpretations of his or her own nature. Depending on the person, he or she may say he or she identify as another species in a way that is spiritual,<sup>23</sup> philosophical, metaphorical,<sup>24</sup> experiential,<sup>25</sup> behavioral,<sup>26</sup> or psychological.<sup>27</sup> Most rarely, a few do claim they are non-human in a physical or ancestral way.<sup>28</sup>

When we otherkin or therians say things like "I am an elf," we say it in earnest, and we've put a lot of thought into how we came to that statement, over many years of our lives.<sup>29</sup> This identification is not a make-believe role-playing game.<sup>30</sup> It is who we are in real life.

Although the concept of otherkin and therians sometimes involve spiritual concepts, it is not a religion.<sup>31</sup> This is because being otherkin or therian is a personal thing. Individuals make up how it works for their own selves alone, because only you can determine what you are, and nobody can do your introspection for you.<sup>32</sup> Nobody can tell you that you're an otherkin or therian, and they

can't tell you in what way you're an otherkin or therian, either.<sup>33</sup> We have no widely-agreed-upon leaders,<sup>34</sup> and no common dogma.

Because we arrive at our self-identifications independently, our communities are diverse, and our beliefs and experiences are widely varied. Some of us even doubt whether our communities have enough cohesion to be considered communities, now or ever.<sup>35</sup> (I do call them communities or subcultures, for lack of a more satisfactory word.) Whenever people find that the otherkin or therian communities don't suit them, they are free to leave at any time, and often do.<sup>36</sup> Nonetheless, the communities continue to see more people all the time. Some people have been content enough with the communities to remain involved with them for many years.<sup>37</sup>

### **This and other histories**

I started this project because I wondered just how far back our history went, and how each part of it got started. I'd heard that discussion of otherkin and therianthropes philosophies both started independently during the Nineties, and I wondered how that came about, and what led up to it... or whether it started earlier than that.

For that purpose, this timeline focuses on non-fiction events in real life that really happened. As such, I'm not inclined to list publication dates for works of fiction or games. The timeline won't track the publication of works of fiction about werewolves or elves, unlike timelines such as [Crazy Ioan's Timeline of Werewolf and Therianthropes Fiction](#).<sup>38</sup> I'm also disinclined to list dates for loosely-related Fortean, such as werewolf sightings. Nevertheless, a few rare exceptions may work their way in, but only if they're needed for context.

I have chosen to make the Otherkin Timeline focus on events within living memory, because then I can verify whether the people concerned really do think of themselves as otherkin or not.

Nonetheless, I look forward to seeing other researchers discover signs that otherkin and therianthropes existed in earlier centuries! If there's nothing new under the sun, then the idea of being an animal-person *couldn't* have

just originated in the Nineties or Seventies or whatever... there must have been some earlier precedent somewhere. Completely new ideas are rare.

I'd like to hear of any other documents with timelines on similar subjects. I don't see these as competition, but rather, expansion within a subject where much of the material is still obscure and difficult to find. Ideally, I'd like to see quite a few people developing their own timelines independently, each with their own focus and viewpoint.

Several similar written histories are extant, each with their own focus. Brief histories of the otherkin subculture have been outlined by [Vashti on Wikipedia](#),<sup>39</sup> and summarized on pages 49-52 of Lupa's book *A Field Guide to Otherkin*.<sup>40</sup> The [alt.fan.dragons FAQ](#) tells a little of the history of the dragon community.<sup>41</sup> Belanger gives a timeline for the modern vampire subculture in pages 259-263 of *The Psychic Vampire Codex*.<sup>42</sup>

Jakkal's essay, "[Foundation's Edge](#)," examines alt.horror.werewolves (AHWW) from 1992 to 1999.<sup>43</sup> Polar tells about therians in the Nineties in the "[Unofficial AHWW archive](#)."<sup>44</sup> Yaiolani wrote essays about therian history, including "[How did the shifter/Were/therian movement start?](#)"<sup>45</sup> and "[People who think they are werewolves or shapeshifters](#)."<sup>46</sup> MoonWanderer's Russian-language essay "[Краткий экскурс в историю териантропии](#)"<sup>47</sup> looks at the online (English-speaking) therian community from 1996 to 2007. You can also read Wolf VanZandt's [Therian Timeline](#).<sup>48</sup> VanZandt's [Therian Timeline](#) traces hints of possible therianthropes all the way through prehistory and the medieval ages.<sup>49</sup> In *The Magic of Shapeshifting*, Rosalyn Greene looks at the history of medieval people convicted of being werewolves, and considers the implications for her modern therian peers.<sup>50</sup> Lonest Wolf's Russian-language essay "[Териантропы в инете в настоящее время](#)"<sup>51</sup> looks at how spirituality therianthropes entered Russian awareness in about 2005, and how it's changed since then.

For the most part, the Otherkin Timeline doesn't focus on events in the communities of vampires, star-seeds, incarnate extraterrestrials,

walk-ins, multiples, dæmians, or people who work with animal totems. These groups do have connections to – and have had influences upon – the development of the otherkin and therian communities, and so they have a few incidental mentions here. However, I believe they are currently outside the scope of this particular project, and a different author would address them better. When I've accomplished enough with the core topics of this project, then perhaps I'll begin researching their histories as well, and begin tracing the interconnections of those communities.

### **Presentation**

When quoting from informal sources, I've taken the liberty of correcting obvious errors in spelling and formatting, but I have left intact any passages where the spelling variation is deliberate or ambiguous.

I'm writing *all* dates in year-month-day format, because that's easier to put in chronological order. I write dates in year-month-day format in order to avoid transcription errors when comparing these dates to the rest of the document.

Many of my sources are from the World Wide Web, and I confess that I have taken some liberties with what is required by style guidelines when it comes to citing from electronic media. For example, the current guidelines require that web addresses be enclosed in carats and followed by a period, but I prefer not to do this, in order that the link will be intact. I have chosen not to mark every web resource with the word "Web," because this is already indicated by the presence of an address beginning with "http://". Unless otherwise noted, assume that all sources from the World Wide Web were retrieved on or near 2010-08-20. If only one date is written, assume that is when the source was created, not when it was retrieved.

Web addresses that are active, as of this writing, are displayed as hot-links within this eBook. However, web addresses that are "dead" (or passed to different ownership, or otherwise significantly changed) I mark "defunct." When a site has migrated from a contemporary dead address to a current live address, include both. I show all web addresses

in the footnotes, so that the book remains legible on paper as well as on screen.

In some cases, I've found the dates on which some web-sites were created by either looking up the domain's WhoIs information, or by reading the site's log (if it has one), or by contacting someone who was involved in the site's creation. Sometimes, records of the site's date of creation have been lost, and the best anyone can manage is to list the earliest date that the site can be viewed through Archive.org, which reveals when the site was extant, but not when it was created.

### **Help wanted**

This document is still a work in progress. I do the best I can to keep it looking polished, but inevitably some mistakes escape my attention. If you see any mistakes, *please* e-mail me corrections! I *love* getting help with editing and fact-checking! I'm serious! Are there spelling errors? Are events listed under the wrong dates? Any duplicate events? *Tell* me, so that I can make this better! Better yet, if you know of entire swaths of information that I didn't know to include, fill me in on it. Passages printed in **red letters** are those subjects where I know my information is lacking and I need more to fill it out satisfactorily.

In the "Help needed" chapter at the end of this book, I've got a list of some specific facts that I'm looking for. Anybody who helps out will get their name listed in the Acknowledgements section.

If you think I quoted somebody who was wrong, or who was skewing the facts, or if I quoted them in a bad way, please contact me to help straighten out the mess.

### **Respect**

Oh... and if *you* are mentioned in this timeline... and you want to make a correction to what it says about you, or you don't want to be mentioned in here at all... just [e-mail me](#)<sup>52</sup> and tell me what changes you would like me to make. I'll fix it in the next revision. I seriously respect – and believe in preserving – the privacy of all people. That's one of my highest values, and I hope that I did all right with that from the start. Everybody makes mistakes, though, and I expect to hear about some I made



on this project. If I accidentally violated anyone's personal boundaries, I want to make amends. All you have to do is ask.

This is a new project, and a lot of things have been unintentionally left out, just because I hadn't thought of researching them yet. However, I confess that I do find it necessary to intentionally omit certain persons, groups, and events from this history... but only with good reason. So far, I've intentionally omitted mentions of only two individuals and one group, in acknowledgement of their requests that I omit them from this or similar projects. This omission is a gesture of respect, not of censorship. I have not attempted to alter history to make it match my views.

Another attempt to respect the privacy of all people mentioned in this history: I omit or reduce to an initial all (apparently) legal surnames, unless if the name is that of a published author in connection with that author's work, or the person has given me permission to print their surname in this document. I assume that any other people who have made their legal names visible on the Internet don't necessarily want to have those names appear in connection with otherkin in this document. Hopefully I haven't made mistakes in determining which names are legal surnames or pseudonyms.

The opinions expressed in the following document do not necessarily reflect my own. I'm basically quoting people in chronological order, and they'll probably each view an event in their own way. Many of them express controversial views or contradict one another. I include many who I don't agree with, and many who I do agree with.

### Acknowledgments

This would have been a far shorter timeline if I had depended only on the information that I could find while working alone. The nature of this research project expanded when other people kindly answered my questions, sent documents to me, and filled in the missing details. Thanks to them, much of this timeline now includes many dates, places, and events in which I was not personally involved. They've opened my eyes to how big our community really is.

I would like to thank these people for helping out with this document: Adnarel, Baxil the Dragon, BlackVoidDragon, Kevin "Cerulean" Pease, Coyote Osborne, Dan O'Dea, Elinox, Goldkin, the House of Chimeras system, herringbone, Jarandhel Dreamsinger, Jessica, Lanina, Lupa, Malcolm-Rannirl, Rialian, R'ykandar (Dara) Korra'ti, Sabersinger, The Silver Elves, Torin/Darren Stalder, Tornir Leopardess, and Trin Drachewolf.

I would also like to express my gratitude toward several information contributors who prefer to remain anonymous. Thank you all.

- O. Scribner (revised 2011-05-27)

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- 1 "Kin to the other" is a phrase coined by Jarandhel Dreamsinger: <http://wanderingpaths.dreamhart.org/articles/kintotheother.html>
  - 2 Lupa's survey demonstrates typical demographics of both otherkin and therians:
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  - 7 <http://otherkin-hispano.foroactivo.com> and <http://otherkindespertar.blogspot.com>
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  - 9 Aeldra Nightwood, "Otherkin." 2011-01-28. <http://divinorum.cz/symposion/otherkin>
  - 10 A definition for Faeborn:
  - 10 Melishal, "Faeborn vs. Otherkin." 2002-06-21. *FAE*. <http://www.promethianweb.com/fae/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=60&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0> (defunct)
  - 11 Leaf McGowan, e-mail to the editor, sent 2010-12-31
  - 12 Swiftpaw, "Tracing the origins of the term 'therianthropy.'" [otherwonders.com/swiftpaws/therian/old/termtherian.html](http://otherwonders.com/swiftpaws/therian/old/termtherian.html) (defunct)
  - 13 An example of the use of the word "Were" in this way: Lynx Canadensis, "What does it mean to be a Were—and is Were the word to use?" 1999-09-18. [wildideas.net/temple/library/letters/weremeaning.html](http://wildideas.net/temple/library/letters/weremeaning.html)
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  - 15 An exploration of how "animal person" differs in meaning from "therianthrope."
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  - 16 Early history of the therian community:
  - 16 Polar, "Unofficial AHWW Archive." <http://www.furnation.com/lobo/forest/uh-AHWW.htm> (defunct)
  - 17 Coyote, "Howl etiquette and planning." Circa 2008. [werelist.net/forums/showthread.php?t=23698](http://werelist.net/forums/showthread.php?t=23698)
  - 18 Akhila. "Français." <http://akhila.feralscribes.org/french.php>
  - 19 <http://therianthropy.ru> and <http://shelter.clan.su> and <http://wereseyes.livejournal.com>
  - 20 <http://project-shift.org> (bilingual English and Spanish)
  - 21 <http://vargtheriantrop.wordpress.com>
  - 22 *Therian Circulo*. <http://therianbrasil.blogspot.com>



23 Some examples of several different spiritual explanations for being otherkin or therian:

Yaiolani, "A theory of misplaced souls." [yaiolani.tripod.com/artc010.htm](http://yaiolani.tripod.com/artc010.htm)

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[absurdism.org/therianthropy/defined.html](http://absurdism.org/therianthropy/defined.html)

27 Lupa, *A Field Guide to Otherkin*, p. 80-86

28 Examples of people who identify as otherkin in a physical way:

Rannir Windtree, "Here and now." 2002-04.

[otherkin.net/articles/hereNow.html](http://otherkin.net/articles/hereNow.html)

and Wildelf, "Various theories and the like." 2002-03-01.

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39 Vashti, "Otherkin." *Wikipedia: the Free Encyclopedia*. Created 2005-05-04, updated 2009-12-13.

<https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/User:Vashti/Otherkin>

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<http://dmbh.org/dragonfire/IndexFAQ.html>

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43 Jakkal (Pinky), "Foundation's edge: The history of the online werecommunity." 1999. [were.net/foundation.shtml](http://were.net/foundation.shtml) (defunct)

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45 Yaiolani, "How did the shifter/Were/therian movement start?"

<http://yaiolani.tripod.com/start.htm>

46 Yaiolani. "People who think they are werewolves or shapeshifters."

<http://yaiolani.tripod.com/think.htm>

47 MoonWanderer, "Краткий экскурс в историю териантропии (A brief history of therianthropes)." 2008-02-05.

<http://therianthropy.ru/index.php?page=docs&subpage=docs11>

48 Wolf VanZandt, "Therian Timeline." *Pages of Wolf VanZandt*.

Created 2010-01-09, updated 2010-07-25. <http://community-2.webtv.net/WolfVanZandt/TheTherianTimeline>

<http://community-2.webtv.net/WolfVanZandt/TheTherianTimeline>

49 Wolf VanZandt, *The Therian Timeline*.

[theriantimeline.com/the\\_timeline](http://theriantimeline.com/the_timeline)

50 Rosalyn Greene, *The Magic of Shapeshifting*, p. 3-7, 38, 46, 77, 87-91, 123, 126, 128, 134-139, 226

51 Lonest Wolf, "Териантропы в инете в настоящее время

(Therianthrope in the Internet now)." 2007-01-18.

<http://therianthropyru.livejournal.com/16218.html>

52 How to contact O. Scribner:

<http://waywind.livejournal.com/869635.html>

# The Timeline

## 1972 (?)

The Elf Queen's Daughters (EQD) were an early group of people who considered themselves to be elves. They began in about 1972, although estimates range from the late Sixties to 1974. [If anybody can find some of their early writings, this would help narrow down the date.] The Silver Elves knew the EQD, and told me in an e-mail:

"About 1972, Arwen and Elenor, who were, and are, very adept magicians were visiting friends in Carbondale, Illinois. They were, and are, the most adept necromancers we've ever encountered, using the Ouija board to channel a spirit, and receive answers and guidance from it. On this occasion, the spirit told them to form the Elf Queen's Daughters."<sup>1</sup>

The Silver Elves also think that the EQD may have been formed a few years later than 1972, maybe "late 1973/ early 1974," according to elven history researcher Leaf McGowan.<sup>2</sup> Aeona Silversong of the EQD believes this event happened a few years earlier instead. As she later wrote in *Green Egg* magazine, "In the late '60s a doorway opened to the Ancient Knowledge of Faerie, and the Elf Queen's Daughters was born."<sup>3</sup> On another occasion, Aeona told how this came about: "I knew the Tookes, who began the EQD. I knew them in Chicago in the late Sixties and happened to be visiting at the time they channeled the name Elf Queen's Daughters. They did it with a Ouija board."<sup>4</sup>

The people who founded the EQD were called "Arwen and Elenor, also known as Suzie Creamcheese and Mary Sunshine and in the 1980s also known as 'The Tookes.'"<sup>5</sup> Suzy Creamcheese was a *nom de plume* adopted by many women during the era, because the name was a running gag from Frank Zappa. Although I did find some retrospective books and articles referring to a Suzy Creamcheese, I have no way of knowing whether these are the same Suzy.<sup>6</sup>

I asked the Silver Elves to summarize who the EQD are, and the Silver Elves answered by e-mail, saying:

"We've known many people in magical/pagan/witchcraft circles. The Elf Queen's Daughters were the most powerful and adept we've ever met. They were and are experts at Tarot, Astrology, Necromancy and various other forms of Magick. They are I Ching Masters. They are very powerful Enchanters, that is they are incredibly charismatic, and have a way of making one feel at home among them, part of the family, empowered as an individual, and confident in ones'elf. Many people one meets in pagan circles are nice people. Some make up impressive titles for themselves but are not in the least impressive. Some are simply there for the party. None of those describe the sisters of the EQD who influence people by their mere presence and make you feel, if you've had any doubts about it at all, that the magic is real, and you've just walked into it."<sup>7</sup>

1 The Silver Elves, e-mail to the editor, sent 2010-07-28.

2 Leaf McGowan, "Elf Queen's Daughters and the Silver Elves." Revised 2011-02. <http://www.technogypsie.com/faerie/?p=93>

3 Aeona Silversong, "The Elf Queen's Daughters." *Green Egg* 1995 Winter 28:111, p. 29.

4 Aeona Silversong of the EQD, e-mail to Tree Leaves Folk Fellowship. Sent 2002-03-02. Thereafter posted to public web-site as "Elf Queen's Daughters." *Faeid*. Retrieved 2005-02-11. <http://faeid.com/private/elfqueens.html#contacted> (defunct)

5 Leaf McGowan, "Elf Queen's Daughters and the Silver Elves."

6 "Suzy Creamcheese." *Wikipedia*. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suzy\\_Creamcheese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suzy_Creamcheese)

For example, I got excited when I found mention of a Suzy Creamcheese who was an engineer for KMPX, an underground radio station in 1967. I now suspect that was the wrong time and place to be Arwen. See Dusty Street, "Foreword," in *Voices in the purple haze: Underground radio and the Sixties*, edited by Michael C. Keith (Westport, Connecticut: Praeger, 1997), p. ix.

7 The Silver Elves, e-mail to the editor, 2010-07-28.

## 1973

Around this time, the Elf Queen's Daughters moved and began publishing letters. The Silver Elves told me,

“Arwen and Elenor [of the EQD] moved to Worthington, Ohio and began publishing the Elven Magic Letters [from there]. Many of these very early letters were published in the earliest version of the *Green Egg* magazine. [...] Arwen had always been the chief writer of the letters, but everyone, including us, had a hand in putting out letters from time to time and the letters bore the addresses of various vortexes (covens) around the country. Since about 1973, we (all of us) had been publishing 3 letters a week sent out to about 300 to 500 individuals.”<sup>8</sup>

Aeona Silversong later wrote in *Green Egg* magazine, “The Tookes (Arwen and Elanor) began the Elven Magic Mail, which birthed a tribe of about sixty Elven energy vortices scattered across the planet. All contributed to the letters.”<sup>9</sup> Here we have some estimates of elven and elven-interested groups active at that time. Comparing these estimates (300 to 500 individuals, divided into sixty vortices) would mean each vortex was made up of about five to eight people. However, McGowan contends that “based off addresses on the Magical Elven Love Letters and correspondence, that there were actually about a dozen vortexes not 60, with only a ½ dozen being active and truly devoted. Original article may have had a typo.”<sup>10</sup>

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8 The Silver Elves, e-mail to the editor, 2010-07-08

9 Aeona Silversong, “The Elf Queen's Daughters.” *Green Egg* 1995 Winter 28:111, p. 29.

10 Leaf McGowan, “Elf Queen's Daughters and the Silver Elves.”

## 1975

A year after the EQD began sending out their letters, Leaf McGowan says, the EQD

“took their nomadic business on the road and moved away from Worthington. By this time, a vortex was established in a house right on the Fox River. This house was inhabited by four elves: Melryn, Andruil, Athelas Seltome, and Loriel Lyndorean. Another vortex was also established in Hood River, Oregon by a sister named Tasa with her partner. Yet another vortex was established by a couple in Minneapolis, Minnesota who had previously spent some time living at the Fox River Vortex.”<sup>11</sup>

Zardoa wasn't a part of the EQD at this time, or any other elf group, but he'd nonetheless had contact with elves. He later wrote on a public web-page that he'd recently dissolved a marriage with L., who was

“a young woman who he had met at college [...] she was an elf, we mean she knew hers'elf to be elfin... she had read Tolkien several times and immediately said, 'I'm an elf.' She also kept a diary written in Sindarin rune script. [...] However, at that time, Zardoa still didn't know that he was an elf.”<sup>12</sup>

McGowan describes the circumstances by which Zardoa discovered the EQD and the Elven Way:

“By 1975 some of the [EQD's] letters had been published in *Green Egg Magazine*. By early 1975, Zardoa discovered two of the Magical Elf Letters outside an occult bookstore in Carbondale that had just been placed there by Athelas and Andruil who had connections at the local university. [...] Zardoa, an initiate of the yoga systems of TM [Transcendental Meditation?], the Ananda Marga Society, and the Divine Light Mission, while formerly experiencing great achievement with these systems, was still searching for his 'place,' so to speak. As the letters appeared to sound vaguely feminist, and unsure if being male would be a disadvantage, he talked a woman friend into writing to the Aurora [Illinois<sup>13</sup>] vortex. Melryn could tell Zardoa was a magician and began sending him Elf Letters every week after a few months of communication with an invitation to visit the Vortex. Upon visiting, Zardoa awoke in a profound psychic and psychological experience to realize he was also an elf.”<sup>14</sup>

The Silver Elves said that at this time, the Aurora (Fox River) vortex was comprised of

“four elves living together in a house on the Fox River and they greeted him with the loving kindness that he had so missed out in the mundane world. You must remember... that this was a time before AIDS and well, these were ELVES...and Zardoa just broke down crying at one point having found what he had yearned for for so long and missed for what had seemed eternity. His psyche shouted out, 'This is what you have been waiting for all your life!' and he knew he was an elf.”<sup>15</sup>

McGowan said, “The visits continued somewhat regularly between him [Zardoa] visiting Aurora or the elves coming to Carbondale. As he began writing to Arwen and Elenor, he was gifted the name 'Gildor' (from Tolkien's works) and declared him an 'Elf Lord.' He was also granted a 'BaKa,' a secret elven soul name for those of the inner circle as it was channeled through the Ouija board.”<sup>16</sup>

Zardoa and those who later became “[t]he Silver Elves were first awakened and became part of the Elf Queen's Daughters in 1975. Our sisters (both male and females members were called sisters) of the EQD taught us how to cast an Astrological Chart, do the *I Ching* and various spells of Enchantment.”<sup>17</sup>

11 Leaf McGowan, “Elf Queen's Daughters and the Silver Elves.”

12 The Silver Elves. “A brief history of the Silver Elves in this lifetime thus far.” Retrieved 2000. <http://www.jps.net/elve/history.html> (defunct)

13 The Silver Elves. “A brief history of the Silver Elves in this lifetime thus far...” Retrieved 2000. <http://www.jps.net/elve/history.html> (defunct)

14 Leaf McGowan, “Elf Queen's Daughters and the Silver Elves.”

15 The Silver Elves. “A brief history of the Silver Elves in this lifetime thus far...”

16 Leaf McGowan, “Elf Queen's Daughters and the Silver Elves.”

17 The Silver Elves, *Elves in Paradise*. Updated 2010-05. <http://silverelves.angelfire.com>

1975-03-21: The Elf Queen's Daughters published a letter in this season's issue of the quarterly *Green Egg* magazine, a Neo-Pagan publication edited by Tim Zell (now known as Oberon Zell-Ravenheart). The letter, titled "Discovery," was a full page about environmentalism and philosophy, and didn't mention elves or identification with them. The article listed the EQD's mailing address in Worthington, Ohio.<sup>18</sup>

This is the earliest primary source document that I've found so far to confirm that the EQD definitely existed at this time. This contemporary primary source exists. I myself have seen this article in the microfilm archive of *Green Egg* magazine (part of the Underground Newspaper Collection), which I checked out on interlibrary loan. From dawn to dusk, every day, for a week, I camped out at the library's microfilm reading machine. Although I looked at every page, I found no mention of the Elf Queen's Daughters in the years 1972, 1973, or 1974. Granted, the microfilm archive is incomplete, and it lacks several issues of *Green Egg* from during those years and before then.

1975-05-01: The Elf Queen's Daughters published "To be a rock... and not to roll" in *Green Egg*, a single page which talked about outsiders, philosophy, and environmentalism. It included the line "WE ARE INDEED ELVEN DAUGHTERS" (emphasis theirs), but it didn't explain how or why they are elven daughters, or what that meant.<sup>19</sup>

1975-06-21: The Elf Queen's Daughters published "Black Wholes-holes" in *Green Egg*. This page with fancy layout talked about astronomy and philosophy.<sup>20</sup> The EQD referred to themselves as elves several times in this, but they didn't explain how or why.

1975-08-01: The Elf Queen's Daughters published "The nest gives way to open sky" in *Green Egg*, about change and growth inhibited by outdated fears. It said something about "our Elven Peoples," but didn't explain what it meant by this.<sup>21</sup>

1975-09-21: The Elf Queen's Daughters published "Baboon" in *Green Egg*, in which they wrote that it's wrong for humanity to consider themselves superior to animals, and described themselves as both elven and environmentalists.

"I will return, sweet mother [nature], with my Elven sisters and brothers, forever and forever to your side. [...] Elves move out again to the forests, the deserts, upon the plain [...] We are Mother Nature's Children again."<sup>22</sup>

The article still listed the EQD's mailing address in Worthington, Ohio.

This same issue of *Green Egg* included an unrelated letter dated 1975-07-31 from a separate group of people who expressed views similar to what we now call otherkin. In this letter, Treesong and Ravenwolf of Modesto, California wrote:

"This is an appeal for communication from other people like myself and a few others that I know. I really don't know what to call us, but we feel sure that we are a distinct people. Some of us call ourselves natural craft people, because we know, without ever joining a coven or undergoing formal training, not only that we have lived before, but that we have certain traditions, ethics, and powers that are inborn in us. These seem similar to modern witchcraft in some ways but some elements of witchcraft—the use of binding and scourging in ritual, for instance, are alien to us. The coven structure is less natural to us than a community structure. We do little formal ritual but live and study magic as a way of living and relating to everything around us. We are all sensitives—we can feel the feelings of others, even the deep

<sup>18</sup> The Elf Queen's Daughters, "Discovery." *Green Egg* 9:69 (1975-03-21), p. 12.

<sup>19</sup> The Elf Queen's Daughters, "To be a rock... and not to roll." *Green Egg* 8:70 (1975-05-01), p. 27.

<sup>20</sup> The Elf Queen's Daughters, "Black Wholes-holes." *Green Egg* 8:71 (1975-06-21), p. 36.

<sup>21</sup> The Elf Queen's Daughters, "The nest gives way to open sky." *Green Egg* 8:72 (1975-08-01), p. 31.

<sup>22</sup> The Elf Queen's Daughters, "Baboon." *Green Egg* 8:73 (1975-09-21), p. 30.

feelings they often hide from themselves. [...] We have some peculiarities in common: identification with elves; (some) memory of a place where 'The Sun Rises in the West' – a faerie place; a total inability to deliberately hurt anyone. A need to be ourselves, a magic people, and to reach out to others of our people, wherever they are scattered. We would love to talk to anyone about these things, and about elvish and wizardly traditions."<sup>23</sup>

I am not aware of any other writings by these particular people, at least not by the names Treesong and Ravenwolf, and not with sufficient evidence that they are the same Treesong and Ravenwolf.

1975-10?-??: From what I can understand of the snippet view in Google Books and the search function of the HathiTrust Digital Library, apparently at least one letter from the Elf Queen's Daughters (or an article that at least *cited* a letter) was printed in the Volume 2, Issue 5 Fall 1975 issue of [WomanSpirit](#), a magazine about feminist spirituality, produced in Oregon.<sup>24</sup> The search function seems to show that other issues contained letters from the EQD, but not which ones. The digital archives are closed for copyright reasons.

1975-11-06: Tim and Morning G'Zell published an article titled "How we spent our summer vacation" in *Green Egg*, in which they described their travels and who they met in person, including, on 1975-09-03 in southern California, "Susie [sic] and Mary, our favorite Elf Queen's Daughters."<sup>25</sup>

1975-12-21: The Elf Queen's Daughters published "The etheric web" in *Green Egg*. It's a philosophical meditation upon loneliness. They refer to themselves as "elven" and address their readers as "sisters," but they don't explain how or why. This lists their mailing address in Aurora, Illinois.<sup>26</sup>

The same issue included a letter printed in the forum with a signature indicating that it was by Boadicea of the Elf Queen's Daughters.<sup>27</sup> However, that was an error. In a later issue, Boadicea wrote again with a correction, saying that Boadicea wasn't part of the Elf Queen's Daughters, and had only used their stationary.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Treesong and Ravenwolf, untitled letter in "Forum." *Green Egg* 8:73 (1975-09-21), p. 52.

<sup>24</sup> *WomanSpirit*. <http://womanspirit.ws>

<sup>25</sup> Tim and Morning G'Zell, "How we spent our summer vacation." *Green Egg* 8:74 (1975-11-06), p. 13-14.

<sup>26</sup> The Elf Queen's Daughters, "The etheric web." *Green Egg* 8:75 (1975-12-21), p. 18.

<sup>27</sup> *Green Egg* 8:75 (1975-12-21), p. 35.

<sup>28</sup> *Green Egg* 8:76 (1976-02-02), p. 46.

## 1976

The Silver Elves wrote that after Zardoa met the EQD,

“Within a year or two however, the elves in Aurora pulled up stakes and drifted to the west coast. Zardoa drifted that way as well but eventually found himself drawn to Gainesville, Fl. which is where Silver Flame lived... he had met her by synchronicity when she had passed through Carbondale and fallen instantly in love with her.”<sup>29</sup>

Silver Flame had “received a BS. in elementary education and a MA in educational psychology. She taught at colleges in Ms. and Fl. and worked as a school psychologist but eventually found that she simply didn’t fit in... in the normal world.”<sup>30</sup>

Leaf McGowan wrote that early this year, “Arwen and Elenor moved to San Francisco, relocating the ‘Fox River Vortex’ to California. That summer, Zardoa visited Athelas Seltome and Loriel there. Loriel moved in with Arwen and Elenor, living together for the next 30 years.”<sup>31</sup>

1976-07: In a directory of groups in *A Reformed Druid Anthology*, The Elf Queen’s Daughters are listed as a Wiccan group located in Seattle, WA.<sup>32</sup> This book describes itself as “mostly a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary reprint of *The Druid Chronicles (Evolved)* first published in August 1976”<sup>33</sup>, and the directory includes a warning from the reprint’s editor: “This section is terribly out of date, but it is shown to you in its historical originality”<sup>34</sup>. From context, it seems that the Elf Queen’s Daughters were included in the original 1976 version.

1976-02-02: The Elf Queen’s Daughters published “Ride the dragon” in *Green Egg*, about the passage of time. This is what it mentions about elves:

“Enter elfland and wonder at the magic unconcern of time. [...] What is time to an elf? The elven sisters (the heshes) ride the dragon of time with little concern for measure. [...] an elf gives beauty to the working world and is not the less an elf for it.”

I assume that the term “heshes” here may represent a mixed gender expression, “he-she,” but “heshes” may be some other similar-sounding word. The article gave two mailing addresses for the EQD: one in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and another in San Francisco, California.<sup>35</sup>

In the same issue of *Green Egg*, a letter dated 1975-12-17 was published in the magazine’s “Forum” is by Roland P. of the “EQD” in Corse, France, and mentions the Elf Queen’s Daughters. The letter was mostly in French, and read in part:

“A l’approche du 200e Anniversaire de la République américaine, je puis vous dire que la ROSE BLANCHE DE LA DYNASTIE YORK (=Arc) est la Reine Elf Queens Daughters. Elle annonce la Rose Rouge de la Dynastie Lankaster... Jeanne d’Arc. Les deux Roses existent depuis le Début des Temps. Et Freya – la Rose Blanche – fût Jadis la secrète épouse de ODIN. C’est ensemble qu’ils creèrent les Runes, ainsi que le montre la planche jointe. Avant d’être Freya, elle fut Isis. Et elle sera plus tard Athena. Jamais personne encore n’a dévoilé CES secreta des RUNES. Que nous le fassions est un signe. [...] And for the one we call JOAN and our French sister-lovers call: JEANNE D’ARC... may She return

29 The Silver Elves. “A brief history of the Silver Elves in this lifetime thus far...”

30 The Silver Elves. “A brief history of the Silver Elves in this lifetime thus far...”

31 Leaf McGowan, “Elf Queen’s Daughters and the Silver Elves.”

32 I. Bonewits, R. Larson, R. Shelton, and M. Scharding, eds., *A Reformed Druid Anthology* (Northfield, MN: Drynemeton, 1996) 300.

33 Bonewits, *Druid* 1.

34 Bonewits, *Druid* 300.

35 The Elf Queen’s Daughters, “Ride the dragon.” *Green Egg* 8:76 (1976-02-02), p. 16.



again and again to our Elven Peoples to inspire, to move and yield and attack with love.”<sup>36</sup>

The letter correlated Saint Joan of Arc with the Elf Queen’s Daughters, and with several ancient goddesses. The letter referred to an attached sheet of diagrams of runes, but that sheet wasn’t printed in *Green Egg*. Notice that it didn’t explain how or why people can be elves.

1976-03-20: The Elf Queen’s Daughters published “Get down deep” in *Green Egg*, about the role of a priestess and her connection to the Goddess. It mentioned that “some sisters put words on paper, and other sisters magically transmute them into Elf Mail.” The article didn’t say anything about elves or elven-ness other than this. The article included a depiction of an acute septagram, and three different mailing addresses, but two of these addresses were obscured by the words “ELVEN STAR,” leaving only the address in Pomona, California legible, and the address in Sacramento partially legible.<sup>37</sup> It’s possible that the third address may have been legible in the original, and simply lost detail in the microfilm scan, or else the addresses were deliberately obscured by the authors.

1976-06-21: The Elf Queen’s Daughters published “O’Mother” in *Green Egg*, about environmentalism, parenthood, and elven-ness with J. R. R. Tolkien references. It poetically described Mother Earth as a woman with “long green arms” and “mossy fingers.” The part of the article that talks about elves said,

“We have suffered at the hands of humon [*sic*] mothering, sisters. Suffered rejections, phobias and massive enculturation. It is no wonder then, that we turn to Varda now with our pleas. We seek to find a matrix, a model, a fine and lovely vision of Mothering which we can follow. For, sisters, we could not create another generation of sad-eyed-elven-turned-orc children. [...] If we could see the fulfillment of our hearts’ desire, elves, we must begin now... these little sisters cannot be abandoned any longer. Reach out to them as Varda herself... encompass them with your love. THEY ARE THE ELVES and must be nurtured if Varda’s awakening is to become reality. There is nothing to teach... only love to be shared in easy union and play. Your smiles, sweet elflings, do impart a wealth of joy and beauty... they heal the weary heart and rekindle the dying flame... BE YE NOW AS VARDIA HERSELF... nurture and sustain all things and all beings as your own... SMILE UPON EACH, ALIKE, AND BRING THEM HOME TO LOVE!”

(Emphasis theirs, and ellipses theirs if not enclosed in brackets.) If I understand correctly, this article seems to describe *all* people as elves, not just the Elf Queen’s Daughters alone. The terms “orc” and “Varda” were references to the fantasy novels by J. R. R. Tolkien. I’m not aware of the significance of “humon,” whether it is an unintentional misspelling of “human,” or an intentional spelling variation in a style characteristic of several political and magical movements originating in the Seventies. The article included a depiction of an acute septagram, and gave the EQD’s mailing address in Portland, Oregon.<sup>38</sup>

The same issue of *Green Egg* included a letter in the Forum by Christian L., “looking to form a band with occult background to do work for the Mother,” asking for interested parties to write care of the Elf Queen’s Daughters in Minneapolis, Minnesota.<sup>39</sup>

This is the last issue of the early *Green Egg* archives that I’ve seen, up until the issues of the late Nineties, leaving an un-researched gap for the rest of the Seventies and Eighties.

36 Roland P., untitled letter in “Forum.” *Green Egg* 8:76 (1976-02-02), p. 39.

37 The Elf Queen’s Daughters, “Get down deep.” *Green Egg* 9:77 (1976-03-20), p. 10.

38 The Elf Queen’s Daughters, “O’Mother.” *Green Egg* 9:79 (1976-06-21), p. 22.

39 Christian L., untitled letter in “Forum.” *Green Egg* 9:79 (1979-06-21), p. 38.

## 1977

In late 1976,<sup>40</sup> or sometime around 1977, the Elf Queen's Daughters stopped publishing letters for several years. Aeona Silversong later wrote in *Green Egg* magazine, "After nearly a decade the EQD disbanded. Yet many of the Eldar continued individually upon their paths through Elfland and Magick."<sup>41</sup> The Silver Elves told me,

"About 1977, Arwen and Elenor had resettled in California with Loriel. Other elves had also moved that way to be with them, most particularly Andruil, Melryn, and Athelas Seltome. [...] At this time however, Arwen [who had been the chief writer of the Elven Magic Letters] grew tired of writing them and passed them on to Loriel to do. She did a couple of letters but received no guidance for this from Arwen and really didn't feel adequate for writing them so she soon abandoned the letters as well. (We know this from a conversation we had with Loriel when she came to visit us here in Hawaii in the summer of 2009)."<sup>42</sup>

The Silver Elves later wrote on a public web-page, "In 1977 the inner circle of the EQD withdrew into seclusion and ceased publication of the letters. We, however, have remained in contact with most of these sisters to this day."<sup>43</sup> In one of the books by the Silver Elves, *The Magical Elven Love Letters*, they wrote:

"When Zardoa first migrated to Gainesville, Fl. [...] it had been nearly two years since the Elf Queen's Daughters had forsaken the dharma of the Magic Letters. In fact, he came to Gainesville directly after having spent a month living with them in the South Bay area of San Francisco where he discovered to his chagrin that they had given up the path to Elfin. [...] It was nearly a year after arriving in Gainesville that he finally took up that Dharma."<sup>44</sup>

This passage shouldn't be interpreted to mean that the Elf Queen's Daughters had disbanded in 1977, merely that they had stopped publishing letters. However, the EQD didn't remain together as the same group, either. Leaf McGowan notes that after this, "eventually the Fox River Vortex Elves began to disperse into different directions."<sup>45</sup> The Silver Elves later wrote on a public web-page, "The Elf Queen's Daughters disappeared into the UTTERMOST WEST and their letters ceased."<sup>46</sup>

An unrelated event in 1977: an early reference to people who identify as incarnate extraterrestrials. In the foreword of Carla Rueckert's *A Wanderer's Handbook* (published in 2001), Rueckert writes,

"Am I a wanderer? Yes, and I mean that in the narrow sense of being from elsewhere than this planetary origin. Through regressive hypnosis I have re-experienced parts of a life on another planet, and even saw a group of us coming to Earth as wanderers. This regressive material was published in 1976 in Chapter Eight of *Secrets of the UFO*. [...] Through the decades since 1962, when I initially became aware of ET contact personally, I have thought much about what a wanderer really is."<sup>47</sup>

"Wanderer," as used by Rueckert, is a very general term. It includes people who were extraterrestrials in a past life, along with people who were entities from higher planes of existence. According to Rueckert, what they have in common is that they were born into this life in order to perform an ethical mission to help those who are living on Earth.<sup>48</sup> Rueckert also says that Wanderers are also referred to

40 Leaf McGowan, "Elf Queen's Daughters and the Silver Elves."

41 Aeona Silversong, "The Elf Queen's Daughters." *Green Egg* 1995 Winter 28:111, p. 29.

42 The Silver Elves, e-mail to the editor, 2010-07-29.

43 The Silver Elves, *Elves in Paradise*.

44 The Silver Elves. *The Magical Elven Love Letters, Vol. 1* (Sebastopol, CA: Silver Elves Productions, 2001) 9.

45 Leaf McGowan, "Elf Queen's Daughters and the Silver Elves."

46 The Silver Elves, "A brief history of the Silver Elves in this lifetime so far..."

47 Quote from page 13-14. Carla Rueckert. *A Wanderer's Handbook: An Owner's Manual for ETs and Other Spiritual Outsiders* (abridged version). Louisville, KY: L/L Research, 2001.

Rueckert refers to this book: Donald Elkins with Carla Rueckert. *Secrets of the UFO*. Louisville, KY: L/L Research, 1977.

48 Rueckert, *A Wanderer's Handbook*. 14, 563

as “apples,” a term “from George Hunt Williamson’s book, *The Saucers Speak* (London, Neville Spearman, 1963)”.<sup>49</sup>

## 1978

The Silver Elves told me,

“[When the Elf Queen’s Daughters] stopped publishing the letters, they moved to music, forming a rock band in 1978 called Aeron and published an album (back when there were albums) entitled *Palterion: The Far Memory of the Elves*. They played in various venues around the Bay Area but, unfortunately, never really caught on. In the course of time they drifted away from interaction with the public as elves [...]”<sup>50</sup>

The elves knew both birth and death this year. McGowan wrote, “A tragedy befell Andruil who died from a motorcycle accident in 1978. This so distressed Melryn that she faded completely from Elfin. [... Aeona Silversong] and Zardoa had a daughter together in the fall of 1978 named Elantari.”<sup>51</sup> While living in Florida, Elkador and Silver Flame also had a child a few months later, named Solon Song.<sup>52</sup> Aeona and Zardoa stayed together during the next seven years.<sup>53</sup>

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49 Ibid. 559.

50 The Silver Elves, e-mail to the editor, 2010-07-29.

51 Leaf McGowan, “Elf Queen’s Daughters and the Silver Elves.”

52 The Silver Elves. “The magical family.” *Magical Elven Love Letters Vol. 1*, p. 231-233

53 Leaf McGowan, “Elf Queen’s Daughters and the Silver Elves.”

## 1979

Publication of Margot Adler's *Drawing Down the Moon*, a non-fiction book about twentieth-century Pagans. The book goes through many revised editions in the following decades, so I looked at the original 1979 edition, and I found the Elf Queen's Daughters were mentioned in there a couple of times. In the chapter "Religions of Paradox and Play:"

"The Elf Queen's Daughters, a network of 'elves' located mostly in the Far West, sent out each week three pages of quite beautiful poetic prose, most of it composed by automatic writing. 'Most of it's nonsense,' they told me. 'We don't take it too seriously.'"<sup>54</sup>

An end-note of *Drawing Down the Moon* also mentioned the Elf Queen's Daughters: "Most Neo-Pagan groups meet in *groves*, *circles*, or *covens*. The word *nests* is used to describe groups within the Church of All Worlds. The word *vortices* has been used by the Elf Queen's Daughters."<sup>55</sup>

Although this book had a directory of groups in its "Resources" appendix, the first edition listed neither the Elf Queen's Daughters nor the Silver Elves. They were added in later editions.

In 1979 (maybe) and 1980, Sylvan Elves began publishing the *Magical Elven Love Letters*. The Letters were 'zines periodically delivered by mail. After trying out a few different names during its early years, the group later renames itself the Silver Elves.

Leaf McGowan wrote, "When Zardoa first awakened to his elfin nature he lived in Carbondale, IL. And he established a P.O. Box for correspondence under the name of the Elves of the Southern Woodlands. When he began publishing the letters in Gainesville, Florida [in 1979], he changed the name he wrote them under as the Sylvan Elves."<sup>56</sup> McGowan notes that "some of these first letters can be found in their first volume of the *Magical Elven Love Letters*."<sup>57</sup> In that anthology, the letters were numbered, but not individually dated, organized only into rough decades, so I'm not able to say on which date each letter was written, **unless if somebody else has some postmarked letters from the original run.**

The Silver Elves reminisced that "In April, 1979 we visited Arwen, Elenor and Lorie [of the EQD] in California and wound up living up them for a little over a month. We moved to Florida in June of that year, but probably didn't really begin publishing the letters until 1980 as the Sylvan Elves."<sup>58</sup> McGowan says that "at this point, Arwen, Elenor, and Lorie began identifying as hobbits instead of elves."<sup>59</sup>

The Silver Elves wrote, "In 1979 we moved to Gainesville, Fl., and changed our name to the Sylvan Elves and began publishing the *Magical Elven Love Letters* as a continuation of the Dharma we had vowed to undertake, the sharing of the knowledge of the Elven Way."<sup>60</sup>

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54 A network of 'elves.' In the 1979 and 1981 editions, this quote is on page 298. In the 1997 edition, the quote moves to page 319. In the 2006 edition, it moves again to page 335. The content of the quote itself doesn't change between editions.

55 Vortices: In the 1979 and 1981 editions, this quote is on page 416. In the 1986 edition, the quote moves to page 543. In the 2006 edition, it moves again to page 600. The content of the quote itself doesn't change between editions.

56 The Silver Elves, *Letters*, Vol. 1. 53.

57 Leaf McGowan, "Elf Queen's Daughters and the Silver Elves."

58 The Silver Elves, e-mail to the editor, 2010-07-28.

59 Leaf McGowan, "Elf Queen's Daughters and the Silver Elves."

60 The Silver Elves, *Elves in Paradise*.

## 1980

When the Silver Elves (still called the Sylvan Elves) started writing their letters, they said that at first they

“also had help from Tasa, one of the very early Elf Queen’s Daughters, who lived in Oregon, but somehow we [the Silver Elves] lost touch, she feeling, we expect, as inadequate as we first did about replacing Arwen whose knowledge and understanding of the occult and magic was so far beyond our own at that time.”<sup>61</sup>

McGowan wrote,

“In 1980, through correspondence with Tasa of the Hood River vortex in Oregon, Zardoa received signs that he should start publishing the Elf Letters again. Tasa sent a couple of letter contributions that the Sylvan Elves published at that time under the name Starlight Elves. Tasa eventually gave up on writing and lost touch with the group.”<sup>62</sup>

The Silver Elves went on a great road trip this year. They wrote that

“in ’80 when we lived in Florida...we took a trip and joined our brothers and sisters gathering at the annual Rainbow Festival being held that year in a national forest in W. Virginia. There were about twenty thousand or so gathered that year and we had a great time. We met a faerie and brought her back to live with us. However, after about four months we began, as it often happens, to go our separate ways...our paths leading us to different regions of the country.”<sup>63</sup>

The journey itself was quite an adventure. The Silver Elves wrote that Rainbow Jerry helped them

“acquire an old school bus and about ten new housemates. Five months and about 30 roommates later we headed out for Ca. in a bus filled with hippie gypsy rainbow people...which is to say the most spiritual and magical of folk mixed with the oozing scum of the streets and the near crazed homeless. We picked up every hitchhiker on the way and stopped... that is to say... broke down about every hundred miles and had to have the bus repaired. How we did that when we had very little money is a mystery that can only be explained by saying there was a lot of wheeling, dealing, bartering going on by very inventive, creative and desperate folk. We hawked handmade bamboo flutes on the streets of New Orleans just before Mardi Gras, we read tarot cards at the flea market in the French Quarter and at swap meets along the way and in front of health food cafes. We told hard luck stories to strangers and gleefully accepted donations. But most of all our lucky elfin stars were with us.”<sup>64</sup>

Among many other exciting twists and turns during the road-trip, they discovered that one of the hitch-hikers they’d picked up was wanted for murder.<sup>65</sup>

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61 The Silver Elves, e-mail to the editor, 2010-07-28.

62 Leaf McGowan, “Elf Queen’s Daughters and the Silver Elves.”

63 The Silver Elves, “Elven Gypsies.” Retrieved 2000. <http://www.jps.net/elve/elvengypsy.html> (defunct)

64 The Silver Elves, “Elven Gypsies.”

65 The Silver Elves, “Elven Gypsies.”

## 1981

The Sylvan Elves move from Florida<sup>66</sup> to California, and to reflect this, they changed their name to the Silver Elves. They said, “In 1981, we [the Silver Elves] relocated to California and took on the title of the Silver Elves, which has remained our name ever since.”<sup>67</sup>

The Silver Elves wrote, “Later, when he [Zardoa] moved west to San Luis Obispo, California [in 1981], he altered the name [of his group the Sylvan Elves] again, this time to the Silver Elves which has seemed to stick and has been the name he and Silver Flame, Solon and Elantari have been publishing them under, ever since.”<sup>68</sup>

The Silver Elves wrote, “We finally settled down in San Luis Obispo for a couple of years... got rid of the old bus... got another bus and then moved to Santa Cruz for a while and then to Guerneville.”<sup>69</sup>

1981-01-28: On this date, the subculture of people who channeled extraterrestrials came up with an estimate of how many people might have been extraterrestrials in their past lives, whether they know it or not. They called such people “Wanderers.” Mandelker wrote, “On January 28, 1981, in the twelfth session of channeled information from an E.T. group known as RA, it was stated that there were approximately 65 million Wanderers on Earth [...]”<sup>70</sup> The RA group started in 1961,<sup>71</sup> and channeled RA from 1981 through 1984.<sup>72</sup> I am not aware of any census that has attempted to use scientific means to confirm this channeled estimate.

## 1984

Previously, the Silver Elves had changed their name whenever they moved to a new home. They said,

“However, when we relocated to Guerneville, Ca. [in 1984], we make no such [name] change. Having by this time accumulated numerous elfin on our mailing list and having become somewhat known as the Silver Elves from articles that we had published in *Circle Network News*, from having been added to the appendix of Margot Adler’s *Drawing Down the Moon* and Laurie Cabot’s *The Power of the Witch* and numerous small elfin publications that had reproduced these letters, we decided to let the name stand.”<sup>73</sup>

## 1985

Leaf McGowan says that “In 1985, Silver Flame who had been contributing to the letters via mail, with her son Solon, relocated to be with the Silver Elves in California and has continued with them as an active member to this day.”<sup>74</sup>

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66 Leaf McGowan, “Elf Queen’s Daughters and the Silver Elves.”

67 The Silver Elves, *Elves in Paradise*.

68 The Silver Elves, *Letters*, Vol. 1. 53.

69 The Silver Elves, “Elven Gypsies.”

70 Mandelker, 2

71 Mandelker, 233

72 Mandelker, 234

73 The Silver Elves, *Letters*, Vol. 1. 115.

74 Leaf McGowan, “Elf Queen’s Daughters and the Silver Elves.”

## 1986

Margot Adler published a revised and expanded edition of her book *Drawing Down the Moon*. This edition's directory of groups still didn't list the Elf Queen's Daughters, but now it added the Silver Elves, describing them as:

“A small group that sends out elvish letters from time to time and spreads magic about the world, finding elves and faerie folk here and there. The letters are free for the asking, but first class postage stamps are requested to cover costs. The Silver Elves feel themselves to be the genetic and spiritual descendants of all the gentle folks through the ages whose cultures have been obliterated, oppressed, and absorbed.”<sup>75</sup>

Then the directory listed their address at Guerneville, CA.

By this time, the Silver Elves had designed an original oracular alphabet they called the Elven Runes.<sup>76</sup>

Leaf McGowan wrote that Aeona Silversong left the Silver Elves and Zardoa this year “to pursue being a priestess with CAW,” the Church of All Worlds.<sup>77</sup> Aeona's interview in 1993 indicates that she joined CAW in about 1985.<sup>78</sup> Aeona took her daughter Elantari with her: “The Runes had warned us and we had heeded them but we were unfortunately unable to prevent the breakup. When Elantari became old enough to choose the direction of her own life she returned to us, so the parting was indeed just a journey.”<sup>79</sup>

In Tallahassee, Florida, some magic-using people created a group for communicating with Faeries.<sup>80</sup> An anthropologist studying the American Neo-pagan movement, Tom Baurley, was involved with this magical group, and coined the word “Faeid” (made up of *Fae*, plus Gk. *id*, meaning “to know”) to describe humans/faeries who know or communicate with Faery.<sup>81</sup> Originally, I wasn't sure about whether to include Faeids in here, but Leaf McGowan e-mailed me to say, “I realize we're not solidly 'otherkin' by definition, but a good 80% of us do agree with defining ourselves as Faerie Otherkin. Faeid is just specifically Faeries, Faerie/human breeds, and selected humans to work with the Great Awakening and are friendly to the fae ...”<sup>82</sup>

1986-02: The Silver Elves lived with many housemates, but this month, a flood surrounded the home, and most of their housemates decided to move out for this reason. The Silver Elves later wrote,

“our gnome went off to get married and was replaced by another... our faerie departed for the northern reaches and was replaced by a wood nymph and another faery... some star elves moved in for a while then went journeying on but not before revealing some amazing things to us. Eventually, however, no one wanted to stay in a place that could get flooded...”<sup>83</sup>

So the Silver Elves went nomadic. They said,

“we bought a van, painted stars on it and went on the road for the next nine months traveling up and down the coast of Ca. visiting elves and elf friends that we had been writing to for years but had never had a chance to visit due to work, etc. We

75 In the 1986 and 1997 editions, this quote is on page 522.

76 The Silver Elves, “Elven runes.” <http://www.jps.net/elve/elfrunes.html> (defunct) and The Silver Elves, *The Book of Elven Runes*, p. 11.

77 Leaf McGowan, “Elf Queen's Daughters and the Silver Elves.”

78 Tony N. “Foghorn #37.” 1993-06-15. alt.religion.all-worlds Thanks to Leaf McGowan for bringing this to my attention.

79 The Silver Elves, “Elven runes.” <http://www.jps.net/elve/elfrunes.html> (defunct)

80 “About the Faeid Fellowship.” <http://www.treeleavesoracle.org/faeid/fellowship.html>

81 “Are you a Faeid? (Faeid.)” <http://www.treeleavesoracle.org/faeid/faeid.html>

82 Leaf McGowan, e-mail to the editor, sent 2010-12-31

83 The Silver Elves. “Gypsy Elves”



began to read fortunes at local flea markets for a little extra money while we lived in our van, gypsying or *rom-ing* about from place to place and friend to friend.”<sup>84</sup>

1986-07: In the 1986 Summer issue, pagan newspaper *Circle Network News* printed a full-page article by the Silver Elves, titled “Elven Group Dynamics and Bonding Ritual.” The first half of the article was about the Silver Elves group itself, and the latter half of the article was “a ritual ... written by Silver Flame called the ‘Meditations on the Seven-Pointed Star’ (the ‘Star of Elfland’).” Their address listed at the end was still in Guerneville, California.

The accompanying spot illustration shows a 7/2 obtuse heptagram rather than the 7/3 acute heptagram. The article also referred to the star as “the Elven Star of the Seven Sisters,” but it didn’t use the terms heptagram or septegram.

The first half of the article was a fairly concise summary of who the Silver Elves are, of which I provide an excerpt:

“We Silver Elves have what we like to refer to as the Impromptu Tradition. [...] This ritual form is also the root and heart of how we (the Silver Elves) formulate our elfin family-coven. Unlike many groups who demand that an aspirant serve a probationary period before being permitted to join them, these elves have no such requirement. Nor do we require that one must be an elf; we have lived with elf and gnome and faerie and pixie and all manner of folk [...] All we do require is that the seekers be sincere in their interest and that there be mutual respect and affection. [...] Since we confer no degrees and have no positions of authority other than momentary responsibilities for this or that task, we have no fear of anyone joining us for any purpose other than shared adventures. [...]

“In just the same way, we do not confer elfdom on anyone. We never anoint someone as an elf. It has always been our position that no one, absolutely no one, has the right to say who is or is not an elf save the individuals themselves. They and only they have the final word on whether they are elves, gnomes, pixies, men or women. We may sometimes have our opinions and intuitions, but only they know. Should they stay with us or go their way is of no consequence, for they are still elfin so long as they wish to be.”<sup>85</sup>

Years later, Sade Wulfkitn, a participant of the Tirnan Oc mailing list, wrote “[The Elven Star](#),” a commentary and incomplete summary (*not* an excerpt!) of the latter half of this article.<sup>86</sup> The Silver Elves tell me that they published other articles in *Circle Network News*, but the archives of that newspaper aren’t available to me locally. However, several far-away libraries do have it available. **Gentle reader, can you check your local libraries for this?**

1986-11: Around this time, after several months of living a nomadic life, the Silver Elves settled down.<sup>87</sup>

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84 The Silver Elves. “Gypsy Elves”

85 Zardoa Silverstar and Silver Flame of the Silver Elves, “Elven Group Dynamics and Bonding Ritual,” *Circle Network News* (Summer 1986)

86 Sade Wulfkitn, “The Elven Star.” *Synesthesia Symbiosis*. Rialian. n.d. <http://www.rialian.com/elvswulf.htm>

87 The Silver Elves. “Gypsy Elves”

## 1987

The Silver Elves (at their Guerneville, CA address) were listed in the contacts section of a book called *The Word: Welsh Witchcraft, The Grail of Immortality and the Sacred Keys*.<sup>88</sup> Also in non-fiction, Margot Adler published a new edition of *Drawing Down the Moon*. This one included the Silver Elves in the contacts section. They were described on page 522.

Around this time, someone called Feral the Faun lived with the Silver Elves, in the top floor of the house, and later moved out to “the vast wet mushroom land of the north”.<sup>89</sup> I wonder whether this Feral the Faun may be the same Feral Faun who was “a frequent contributor to anarchist publications in the United States from about 1982 to 1992,” many of whose writings are now available in online archives of ‘zines.<sup>90</sup> I do not know whether Feral identified as a faun,<sup>91</sup> or if this was simply a title.

At this time, the Silver Elves and Feral also knew someone in person named Pwcca, who “is a pwcca [sic ...] most pwccas take the form of horses and this one in particular was a unicorn).”<sup>92</sup> If I understand correctly, this is the earliest record I have found of someone who identifies as a unicorn. (Or, perhaps, as a horse or a pwca.<sup>93</sup>)

Also around this time, young Solon decided to become a ranger, so his family improvised the idea of the “Elf Scouts, which like Boy Scouts, gave one badges for doing and learning various activities. [...] we would let him pick out old military uniform patches or other patches at the flea market when he would accomplish a particular deed or feat.”<sup>94</sup>

From 1987 to 1989, the Faeid magical group that includes Tom Baurley “continued doing magical workings with the Fae and developing an understanding of the bridges between humankind and faerykind.”<sup>95</sup>

## 1989

Laurie Cabot listed the Silver Elves in the contacts section of her book on Pagan spirituality, *Power of the Witch*. The listing showed their Guerneville, CA address.<sup>96</sup>

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88 Taliesin Enion Vawr, Rhuddlwrn ap Gawr, and Merridden Gawr, *The Word: Welsh Witchcraft, The Grail of Immortality and the Sacred Keys* (Marietta, Georgia: Camelot, 1987) 595.

The book was republished in 2002 through Writers Club Press.

89 The Silver Elves. “Great conceptions” and “The magic bracelet.” *Magical Elven Love Letters, Vol. 1*. P. 215-217, and The Silver Elves, “True tales of the elves.” Retrieved 2000. <http://www.jps.net/elve/trutal.html> (defunct)

90 “Feral Revolution writings of Feral Faun.” <http://zinelibrary.info/feral-revolution-writings-feral-faun> and “Essays by Feral Faun.” [http://theanarchistlibrary.org/HTML/Feral\\_Faun\\_Essays.html](http://theanarchistlibrary.org/HTML/Feral_Faun_Essays.html)

91 A faun is woodland spirit from Roman mythology, equivalent to the satyrs of Greek myth. Both creatures are sometimes depicted as half human, half goat. Source: John Clute and John Grant, *The Encyclopedia of Fantasy* (New York: St. Martin’s, 1999) p. 838.

92 The Silver Elves, “True tales of the elves.” Retrieved 2000. <http://www.jps.net/elve/trutal.html> (defunct)

93 A pwca is a mischievous, shape-shifting entity from Welsh folklore. The anglicized spelling is “pooka,” and shares etymology as well as behavior with the English “Puck.” Source: Katharine Briggs, *An Encyclopedia of Fairies* (New York: Pantheon, 1977) p. 337-338.

94 The Silver Elves, “Elf Children.” <http://www.jps.net/elve/elfchildren.html> (defunct)

95 <http://www.treeleavesoracle.org/faeid/fellowship.html>

96 Laurie Cabot, *Power of the Witch: The Earth, The Moon, and the Magical Path to Enlightenment* (Delacorte Press, 1989) 310.

## 1990

The Silver Elves (at their Guerneville, CA address) were listed in the contacts section of a book called *Guide to the American Occult: directory and bibliography*.<sup>97</sup>

1990-02 and 1990-03: A student at the University of Kentucky who is named R'ykandar Korra'ti posted to alt.pagan and a few other newsgroups about a plan to start a listserv for people who identify as elves. Korra'ti told me in an e-mail,

“Before there was a list, there was a fair amount of private email going back and forth between myself and people who had responded to my newsgroup posts, and a few people I'd met before that. Those are not in the digest archives. I hope I have them somewhere, but I don't know that I do. There was also a little group of us partly online but mostly offline going back to the 1986-1987ish timeframe. And I've known what I was since forever, so.”<sup>98</sup>

Korra'ti had also communicated with the Silver Elves, and told me so in an e-mail.

1990-03-26: R'ykandar Korra'ti founded the *Elfinkind Digest*, a mailing list, and sent out the first one on this date. The list was publicly-joinable, not private. The web page of the Digest says,

“The first mailing list on the net for elves and others of the ‘otherkind,’ the Elfinkind Digest was established in 1990, operating from the University of Kentucky. Since then, it has moved a couple of times, but has remained in operation continually since then, on a two to three issue a week schedule. The list is not actively moderated, but is available only in digest form. [...] The Elfinkind Digest is a mailing list for, about and by elves and interested others. [...] This is not a list for or about role-playing or role-playing games; we're elves.”<sup>99</sup>

The standard welcome message sent to anyone who applies to subscribe to the mailing list says,

“This list was founded, by the current moderator, as a ‘somewhat dubious endeavor’ in the spring of 1990; the first actual digest was sent out to subscribers on March 26th of that year. Initially, I expected only to find other elves; as it turned out, I found a large number of people with a large number of self-identifications. The scope of the digest has officially been enlarged to encompass these other ‘others,’ though the name of the digest itself has remained unchanged. Likewise, for a very long time, the digest was relatively secretive in nature; while anonymity of the list membership remains, the existence of the list itself is no longer to be considered a private matter, and the list address may be handed out at will.”<sup>100</sup>

1990-04-18: In the listserv *Elfinkind Digest* #16 was the first use of the word “otherkind,” with a D, referring to real people who identify as other than human.<sup>101</sup> Korra'ti explained to me:

“First use of the word ‘otherkind’ is in *Elfinkind Digest* #16, dated 18 April 1990, coined in quotes as a term to include non-elf ‘others’ cropping up on the list, and was a specific branching off from the word ‘elfinkind.’ There was later some talk of renaming the digest to ‘The Otherkind Digest’ but that didn't happen.”<sup>102</sup>

97 Laird M. Wilcox, ed., *Guide to the American Occult: directory and bibliography* (Laird Wilcox Editorial Research Service, 1990)

98 R'ykandar Korra'ti, e-mail to editor, quoted with permission, sent 2010-07-22.

99 “The Elfinkind Digest.” Korra'ti. Updated 2008-07-16. <http://www.murkworks.net/~elflist>

100 “An Introduction to the Elfinkind Digest (Last updated June 11, 2006),” the standard welcome message sent to anyone who applies to subscribe to the mailing list, which can be viewed here: <http://www.murkworks.net/~elflist/intro.txt> Quoted with permission.

101 Lupa, *Field Guide*, 50. (Lupa's personal correspondence with Malcolm-Rannirl.)

102 Korra'ti, e-mail, 2010-07-22.

1990-07-09 or 10: On a listserve, the earliest use of the word “otherkin,” (as a variant of “otherkind”) referring to real people who identify as other than human. It’s in *Elfinkind Digest*, #71. The archive of this document is still extant, and I myself have seen and read this primary source.

During these years, it seems that the words “otherkin” and “otherkind” are being used interchangeably, and “otherkin” is the less common of the two. At this time, the variant wasn’t accompanied with a definition as though it was being newly introduced. It was just used as though its meaning was already understood by those involved.<sup>103</sup>

I asked Korra’ti to look through the archives to find out the circumstances under which the word was coined. Korra’ti graciously put me in touch with the person who coined (or, at least, who was the first person on record using) the words “otherkind” as well as “otherkin,” who turned out to be Torin / Darren Stalder, who was a bit surprised to hear about it.

Torin told me how the word came to happen: “From what I can remember, I got tired of typing elf/dragon/orc/etc.-kin and just used otherkin. It was convenience and practicality. [...] There wasn’t actual intent to form a new word; just shorthand.”<sup>104</sup>

1990-10-11: Members of the *Elfinkind Digest* listserve seriously discussed plans for arranging a gather (a group meeting in person). Several times during 1990, they had talked about possibly having a gather in the UK and US. R’ykandar Korra’ti told me, “Digest nr. 131 (11 October 1990) published the list of ‘invitations’ to host. Locations offered were in North Carolina, New York State, and New Jersey. Voting was held through private mail, with one write-in vote for my house.”<sup>105</sup>

1990-10-29: The *Elfinkind Digest* #143 announced that North Carolina won the vote as the place for the listserve members to gather. The event was scheduled.<sup>106</sup>

1990-11-??: A landmark in the formation of the furry fandom. Fans of a magazine called *Albedo*, an anthology of comics about human-like animals, created a newsgroup called alt.fan.albedo. Then, about in December, it was re-created as a more general group called alt.fan.furry, for discussion of human-like animals (furries) in art, fiction, and role-playing games. It wasn’t originally intended to be a place for spiritual or philosophical conversations, but some such concepts eventually emerged there, and they weren’t welcomed by participants who just wanted to talk about comic books.<sup>107</sup> **I’d like to know more about when and how the topic of animal spirituality first appeared in the furry fandom. Do you know, gentle reader?**

1990-12-28 to 31: R’ykandar Korra’ti told me that at this time, the *Elfinkind Digest* listserve held a gather in North Carolina, “with a total attendance of 9 [...] I was one of the 9. [...] As elves and dragons were both represented, I’d say it may qualify as the first Otherkind Gather.”<sup>108</sup>

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103 Lupa, *Field Guide*, 50. (Lupa cites this from a personal correspondence with Malcolm-Rannirl. I learned more specific details from my own personal correspondence with Malcolm-Rannirl.)

104 E-mail between the author and Torin / Darren Stalder. 2010-11-06 and 08. Quoted and named with permission.

105 Korra’ti, e-mail, 2010-07-22.

106 Korra’ti, e-mail, 2010-07-22.

107 “1990?: The first furry Usenet newsgroup, alt.fan.furry, is started by Peter da Silva in Houston as alt.fan.albedo. He changes the name to alt.fan.furry about a month later to make it more generic.” Quote from Fred Patten, “A Chronology of Furry Fandom.” *Yarf!* n.d. Retrieved 2008-07-17 from Web.

<http://yarf.furry.com/chronology.html> (defunct)

“Several suggestions were made for a separate funny animal comic group, and Peter da Silva created one in November of 1990 under the name alt.fan.albedo. [...] Alt.fan.furry had been suggested before the creation of a.f.a but was not preferred by Mr. de Silva. Tzoq created alt.fan.furry proper about a month later, partially due to low postings in a.f.a.” – “Alt.fan.furry.” *WikiFur, the furry encyclopedia*. Retrieved 2010-11-21 from

<http://en.wikifur.com/wiki/Alt.fan.furry>

In 1990, “alt.fan.furry [is] founded as alt.fan.albedo, main Usenet exchange for the European furries during the first half of the decade.” – “An Overview of the History of the European Furry Fandom.” <http://www.furry.de/furryhistory/>

108 Korra’ti, correspondence, 2010-07-22.

## 1991

During this year, “An inner circle / magical working group weaving Faery magic, came together to create The Tree Leaves’ Oracle, and remained a closed group of friends. They called themselves ‘The Tree Leaves’ Oracle.’”<sup>109</sup> They later called themselves the Faeids.

1991-01-11: In the *Elfinkind Digest* #183 was the first description of last month’s gather. “The long delay was due to the mail server being down for a few weeks.”<sup>110</sup>

1991-09-26: R’ykandar Korra’ti publicly posted an announcement about the *Elfinkind Digest*, “a small mail-based digest for elves and interested observers.” This post said that the *Digest* “has been in existence for a couple of years now, but has not been posted about in public before.”<sup>111</sup>

## 1992

The Silver Elves were described in a book, on “pages 100 to 107 in *Circles, Groves and Sanctuaries*, compiled by Dan and Pauline Campanelli (Llewellyn Publications, 1992), which contains an article by us [the Silver Elves] and photos us and our home/sanctuary as it existed at the time.”<sup>112</sup> I picked up a copy of *Circles, Groves and Sanctuaries* to see it for myself, and can confirm that the article in the book is as they describe it. In their part of the book, the Silver Elves explained their philosophy regarding some of the things depicted, and some of their adventures. They displayed a statue of

“the Black Buddha the patron and protector of the Shadows, the ninja. [...] While we are not ninja, we elfin share many qualities with the ninja. We are an elusive people who have learned through time to be both hidden and secretive... yet we accomplish this by being both open and obvious. People upon hearing that we are elves simply do not believe their own eyes and ears. They think that we are joking and we share their laughter.”<sup>113</sup>

1992?-??-??: According to Melishal, the word “Faeborn” was coined around this time to mean “A person that is a transmigrated soul of a non-human being from this world and/or other worlds that is of possible mythical/mystical origins, currently living in a human form.”<sup>114</sup> **I’d like to see some contemporary evidence of this, and a more specific date.**

1992-11-16: A landmark in the formation of the therian community. Creation of the alt.horror.werewolves newsgroup. It was originally intended to be a place for discussing werewolves in horror movies and in fiction. In conversation, the participants of this newsgroup abbreviate its name to AHWW or AHWw. Later, it will become a place where many people talk about the philosophy of identifying as an animal.<sup>115</sup>

109 <http://www.treeleavesoracle.org/faeid/fellowship.html>

110 Korra’ti, correspondence, 2010-07-22.

111 R’ykandar Korra’ti, “Small mail-based digest.” Online posting on 1991-09-26 to news: rec.games.frp. Retrieved 2010-08-23 from archive on Web: <http://groups.google.co.uk/group/rec.games.frp/msg/834976939ac48fcc?dmode=source&hl=en> and Lupa, *Field Guide*, 50.

112 The Silver Elves, *Elves in Paradise*.

113 Silver Elves, the, in an untitled article in Dan and Pauline Campanelli, *Circles, Groves and Sanctuaries* (Llewellyn Publications, 1992), p. 104

114 Melishal, “Faeborn vs. Otherkin.” 2002-06-21. *FAE*.

<http://www.promethianweb.com/fae/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=60&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0> (defunct)

115 KatmanDu, ed., “AHWW Full FAQ (AHWW ‘Old’ FAQ).” *The WEREWeb*. Utah. n.d. <http://www.swampfox.demon.co.uk/utlah/Community/fullfaq.html>



## 1993

The Silver Elves (at their Guerneville, CA address) were listed in the contacts directory of a book called *Parapsychology, new age, and the occult: a source encyclopedia*.<sup>116</sup>

From 1993 to 1994, the closed magical group in Eugene, Oregon that called itself the Tree Leaves' Oracle changed its name to "The Faeids." "Foundations of the Faeid Faith were begun, and several individuals came together once-in-a-blue-moon to work with the Fae. After some financial turmoil, the organizer moved away. The Faeids went defunct."<sup>117</sup>

1993-??-??: Sometime during this year, people on alt.horror.werewolves began claiming to be werewolves themselves, although the details of how this happened have become unclear. Polar said,

"Sometime in 1993, one of the posters to the [alt.horror.werewolves newsgroup] 'came out of the closet', so to speak, and stated that he, himself, felt spiritually like he was a werewolf. Several others said that they felt likewise, and soon the discussions on that group took a turn toward lycanthropy as a basis of personal spirituality, and thus the nature of AHWW took a turn in a very different direction than the original intention of the newsgroup. During this period (roughly 1993-1995), AHWW was a small, close-knit group. Having been on AHWW during this period marks one as a 'greymuzzle' [that is, an old regular participant of the community from the early days of the newsgroup] of the most venerable sort."<sup>118</sup>

VanZandt said, "According to AHWW lore, the first poster to bring up the concept of real Werewolves was a Therian called Otter."<sup>119</sup>

I remembered hearing somewhere that the first person to bring up this topic was a were-bat. Tornir the Leopardess e-mailed me with a guess about who VanZandt and I may have been thinking of: Otter is more likely OttO, and the were-bat would be Ron the Werebat (Ron Cass P.), who were both active on AHWW at the time, as can be told by the public archives that still remain. Unfortunately, these archives are so fragmentary that it's hard to tell just what they were talking about.<sup>120</sup> To me, it looks like they're telling tall tales about being physical shape-shifters, as a prank. I see that Ron the Werebat did contribute a section to the AHWW FAQ, a file still extant, but it's about werewolves in fiction.<sup>121</sup> Yaiolani's list of names used by participants of AHWW up to 1996 includes both OttO and Ron the Werebat.<sup>122</sup> Utlah's archive of WereCards doesn't include either of them, at least not by those names.<sup>123</sup>

Gentle reader, perhaps you can help solve some of these remaining mysteries. Who was the first one to post about personal therianthropy, exactly when? Did they discuss "real" werewolves (cryptozoology and claims of being physical shape-shifters), or sincere werewolf *spirituality or philosophy* within plausible bounds (that is, not claiming to be physical shape-shifters, just saying "I'm physically human, I feel like a wolf inside")? If this event isn't when that started yet, then when did that start? I want to know what kind of ideas therianthropy originated from. The therian community – unlike the other communities – seems to be based in neither Paganism nor New Age.

116 Cheryl Klein Lacoff, ed., *Parapsychology, new age, and the occult: a source encyclopedia* (Greenwich, CT: Reference Press International, 1993) 42, 525.

117 <http://www.treeleavesoracle.org/faeid/fellowship.html>

118 Polar, "Unofficial AHWW Archive." *Wolfcountry: The werewolf forest*. Lobocursor Lyceus. 1998-06. Retrieved 1999-10-02.

<http://www.furnation.com/lobo/forest/uh-AHWW.htm> (defunct)

119 Wolf VanZandt, "The Last Decade 1990 – 2000" *The Therian Timeline*. n.d. <http://community-2.webtv.net/WolfVanZandt/TheLastDecade1990>

120 Tornir the Leopardess, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-01-01 and 02.

121 AHWW FAQ files—part 1: the basics. <http://yaiolani.tripod.com/faqone.htm>

122 Yaiolani, "The list of were-names from AHWW (alt.horror.werewolves)." <http://yaiolani.tripod.com/list.htm>

123 Utlah, "Werecard archive." <http://www.swampfox.demon.co.uk/utlah/Werecards/index.html> (defunct)

As far as I am able to find, and as far as I have ever heard, this point in the newsgroup appears to be the earliest trace of any real, spiritual/philosophical therian, shifter, or seriously animal-identified community of people. However, some therians assert that therians have been around longer than this. Since there's nothing new under the sun, there must have been some people discussing an unusual idea like this earlier. If there were people on AHWW in the early Nineties who said they'd identified as animals for their whole lives, then there were probably groups of therians in the Eighties as well. Please let me know of any evidence that you're aware of regarding earlier communities of therians.

1993-06-15: In issue #37 of *The Electronic Foghorn: The official newsletter of the Fog City Nest, a Church of All Worlds Congregation*, sent out on the Church of All Worlds newsgroup (alt.religion.all-worlds), Tony N. interviewed Aeona Silversong, in which she told about her involvement in the Elf Queen's Daughters as well as the Church of All Worlds.<sup>124</sup>

1993-12-01: A person named ExistingPhantom created the alt.fan.dragons newsgroup. Originally, this newsgroup was intended to be a place for discussing dragons in any work of fiction. Later, it became a place where many people talked about the philosophy of identifying as a dragon. Its name was sometimes abbreviated to AFD, and it also later gained a variety of whimsical nicknames, such as Alfandria.<sup>125</sup>

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124 Tony N. "Foghorn #37." 1993-06-15. alt.religion.all-worlds Thanks to Leaf McGowan for bringing this to my attention.

125 ExistingPhantom. "The early history of AFD, as present [sic] by ExistingPhantom." *Dragonfire*. ExistingPhantom. n.d. <http://www.dragonfire.org/AfdEarlyHistory.html>



## 1994

1994?-??-??: The 1997 edition (version 97.1) of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) file for AHWW says that this is roughly around when were-creature spirituality started to be the *main* subject discussed there. (The FAQ says this happened about three years after the newsgroup's creation in late 1992.)<sup>126</sup> **I'd like to know some specific dates and discussions.**

1994-05-26: KatmanDu posted the first draft of the AHWW FAQ. Most of this draft talks about werewolves in legend and fiction, but it also had a section telling about how some of the AHWW participants say that they are werewolves:

“Do you mean to say that you folks actually believe you ARE werewolves? You'll come to find that there is no one answer to any question on AHWW. The concept of lycanthropy is held by some to be just an interesting myth, and to others as a means of explaining their world view; with many gradations of belief in-between. Suffice it to say that I personally have never seen a man transform into another animal; but not many on AHWW will rule that possibility out. When folks call themselves werewolves, they generally mean that they find the characteristics of lycanthropy intriguing and see examples of such in themselves. What those characteristics are and how they manifest themselves are, again, very personal and will no doubt vary from individual to individual.”<sup>127</sup>

So we do know that by this time, people on AHWW were claiming to be werewolves, but there is still question whether it was sincere personal therianthropy as we would recognize it.

1994-09-??: In alt.fan.dragons, people started making posts that say they are dragons. Discussion soon started to include role-playing games.<sup>128</sup> **Were any of them clearly talking about *seriously* identifying as dragons yet, not just role-playing as dragons? Or is this too vague to tell? I'd like to know exactly when that started. When was the earliest discussion on AFD where there could be no mistake that the participants were sincerely talking about spirituality and philosophy, not role-playing?**

1994-??-??: Participants of alt.horror.werewolves arranged a meeting together in person. Polar said, “A get-together for AHWW users, called a ‘Howl’, was first held in Autumn 1994 ...”<sup>129</sup>

The AHWW FAQ says,

“The first ‘Howl’, the 1994 Harvest Howl, was organized by Smash Greywolf in Ohio. A Howl is basically a gathering in the flesh (or fur) of readers of AHWW to socialize, get to know one another, howl at the moon, leap over raging bonfires, and to generally share the camaraderie that exists amongst members of the cyberpack. Camped out in the woods, as far from civilization as possible, watching the full moon dance over shimmering heat waves from the bonfire, surrounded by folks of a like mind... it's truly a recharge for batteries drained my mundane human existence. Howls are organized by whoever has the land and time to put one on. Ask on the group when and where the next one is; they're worth it, no matter the distance traveled to attend.”<sup>130</sup>

1994-12-??: According to Swiftpaw's article “Tracing the Origins of the Term ‘Therianthropy,’” this time was when a wendigo called James H. III was the first in AHWW to propose in that the animal-people call themselves “therianthropes,” as a more general term than “lycanthropy.” He said he hadn't seen anybody else using that word for themselves. He was active on various

<sup>126</sup> KatmanDu, “Core.”

<sup>127</sup> Thanks to Tornir Leopardess for sending me a copy of this document.

<sup>128</sup> ExistingPhantom.

<sup>129</sup> Polar.

<sup>130</sup> KatmanDu, ed., “AHWW Core FAQ.” *The WEREWeb*. Version 97.1. Utah. Updated 1997-02-03.

<http://www.swampfox.demon.co.uk/utlah/Community/corefaq.html>

newsgroups throughout 1994-1995, but I can't find any of his tracks after that: no activity, no current contacts. Swiftpaw wrote, "The word was received fairly well; by that point there were more than woofies [wolves and other canids] around. Katmandu was the first one to reply and really endorse the term to the newsgroup." Swiftpaw found 10 posts on AHWW using the word "therianthrope" in the year of 1994, all in December.

"In January [1995] the first werocard [questionnaire of participants of AHWW] with 'Personal Lycanthropy/Therianthropy' was posted. Everything before that had been 'Personal Lycanthropy.' [...] Werecards continued to use 'Personal Lycanthropy/ Therianthropy' until 1996, when Personal Therianthropy took over. The Physical Description section still said 'Were,' however, and it still does."

Swiftpaw said that "[b]etween 1994 and 1995, the word also picked up slang - therian and 'thrope. 'Were' was already in use."

Variations on "were" and "therianthrope" varied in popularity over the years; sometimes more the one, sometimes more the other. "One explanation for why the word 'therianthrope' was replaced by the word 'were' is given by Coyote; '...therianthropes (or weres... "therianthropy" is such a mouthful)...' [...] It's just easier to say 'were.'"<sup>131</sup>

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131 All quotes for this entry from Swiftpaw, "Tracing the Origins of the Term Therianthropy." 2003. Retrieved 2004-12-24. <http://www.otherwonders.com/swiftpaws/therian/old/termtherian.html> (defunct) Ketrino Ghoe graciously sent me a copy of this document, which led me to find an intact archive of the web-page.

## 1995

Scott Mandelker published a book about incarnated extraterrestrials based upon interviews with them, titled *From Elsewhere: Being E. T. In America*.<sup>132</sup> In addition to interviewees who said they had past lives as extraterrestrials, two of the interviewees said that they were angels (240-241), and one is mentioned who said she came from a “Cat Planet” (241).

Swiftpaw found that during 1995, the word “therianthrope” was used in 34 posts on AHW; “4 of these were the last question on a Werocard.”<sup>133</sup> The word had caught on quickly, and was already becoming a little more common.

From 1995 to 1997, the Faeids were active in this way:

“Some Inner groups of founders/members of The Tree Leaves’ Folk Fellowship started to utilize some faery practices in their Wiccan, Druid, Church of All Worlds, and NeoPagan practices in Tallahassee, Florida. Tom Baurley started to compile his Faery research, and decide if the Faeid Fellowship should be created. Busy with Tree Leaves, Druidism, and other Neo-Pagan organizing, Faeidism went solitary practice by him and others involved in the past. Communication with other Faeids began.”<sup>134</sup>

1995-??-??: Twenty-five of the participants of the AHW newsgroup filled out a survey that was created by Asikaa, called “The AHW Poll ’95.”<sup>135</sup> **Does anyone have an archive of the results of this survey?**

1995-??-??: Dymus the Daring posted a web-page called “The 100 Point Draconity Corruption Test,” with a check-list of items for measuring one’s familiarity with dragons and tendencies to embody dragon-like qualities and behaviors. Dymus clarified that the list was just a joke and shouldn’t be used as a serious tool to determine whether someone is draconic. Dymus wrote, “This test is purely for fun and entertainment. If you do not feel that your score is relative to your draconity then ignore it, and feel good in the knowledge that if you believe you are a dragon then you have something no test can measure.” Dymus was a participant of alt.fan.dragons, and was familiar with the idea of people who identify as dragons.<sup>136</sup> The presence of this test was evidence that the dragon community used the words “draconic” and “draconity” to describe identifying as a dragon at this time.

1995?-??-??: **In the winter or early spring of this year, Aria Lusina<sup>137</sup> creates the DarkFae-L listserve. I need much more information about this listserve, because it was an important one! The Yahoo port of it only lists 2004-09-03 as the group’s creation date, but I guess that refers only to the port.**

1995-01: Brian Reid ran a “survey ... based on a sample of data taken from various USENET sites” demonstrating which newsgroups were most popularly used,

“from the Network Measurement Project at the DEC Network Systems Laboratory in Palo Alto, California. ... Survey data is taken by having one person at each site run a program called ‘arbitron,’ which looks at the news or notes files and determines the newsgroups that the user has read within a recent interval. To ‘read’ a newsgroup means to have been presented with the opportunity to look at at least

132 Scott Mandelker, *From Elsewhere: Being E. T. In America*. New York, NY; Birch Lane Press, 1995.

133 Swiftpaw. “Tracing the Origins of the Term Therianthrope.”

134 <http://www.treeleavesoracle.org/faeid/fellowship.html>

135 Utah. “The AHW Poll ’97.” 1997-10. [http://www.swampfox.demon.co.uk/utlah/Community/a\\_poll1.html](http://www.swampfox.demon.co.uk/utlah/Community/a_poll1.html)

136 Dymus the Daring. “The 100 Point Draconity Corruption Test.” <http://www.armory.com/tests/draconity.html>

137 Aria Lusina, “Balance.” <http://www.tirnanoc.org/words5.htm> (defunct) Rialian also told me in an e-mail that Aria created DarkFae-L.

one message in it. Going through a newsgroup with the ‘n’ key counts as reading it.”<sup>138</sup>

The survey collected data for a few of the months in 1995. The top most popularly read newsgroups were primarily those themed around sexuality, fandoms, technical information, and humor. The relatively obscure alt.vampyres, alt.fan.dragons, and alt.horror.werewolves were not among the most popular, usually not in the top thousand. For this reason, they don’t appear at all in a few of the other surveys of most popular newsgroups that I’ve checked. The Citron.nl Usenet Statistics, the Millenniumet.com Usenet Statistics, and the Freenix.org Usenet Statistics all omit any newsgroups that aren’t in the top thousand most popular.<sup>139</sup>

During the month of January, alt.vampyres ranked the 788<sup>th</sup> most popular newsgroup of those included in Brian Reid’s Usenet Arbitron reports. (I’m not sure why it appears within the top thousand this time. Did it receive more traffic due to some event?) An estimated total number of 84842 people could read the group worldwide.<sup>140</sup> This “number is computed by multiplying the number of people in the sample who actually read the group by the ratio of estimated network size to sample size [and includes people who only] browse through it [a newsgroup] and see what is there.”<sup>141</sup> The actual number of readers in sampled population was 340. During this month, the newsgroup received 3966 messages (7.2 megabytes).

The Arbitron ranked alt.fan.dragons the 1901<sup>st</sup> most popular newsgroup of those included. An estimated total number of 41423 people could read the group worldwide, but the actual number of readers in sampled population was 166. During this month, the newsgroup received 2092 messages (3.7 megabytes).

The Arbitron ranked alt.horror.werewolves the 2648<sup>th</sup> most popular newsgroup of those included. An estimated total number of 24454 people could read the group worldwide, but the actual number of readers in sampled population was 98. During this month, the newsgroup received 1009 messages (1.9 megabytes).<sup>142</sup>

1995-01-?? to 02-??: Polar told of some events in alt.horror.werewolves during this and the following year:

“The turning point is probably the great ‘snowball fight’ that took place on the newsgroup in or about January-February 1995. During 1995 and 1996 AHWW grew rapidly and this rapid growth brought with it some of the things which have plagued many USENET groups: Flamewars, spam, and the like, which AHWW had stayed largely free of during it’s early years. Some of the original ‘greymuzzles’ became uncomfortable with the growing crowd and left the newsgroup during this period, while others stayed and many new people joined. ... [A second meeting in person, or ‘Howl,’ was held in] Spring 1995. At first it looked like it would be a semi-annual event for all of AHWW but soon the number of AHWW users became so many that the Howls became regional events held by anyone who wanted to put one on, and several were held each year. An AHWW Werezine was produced, with only one issue coming out (Winter/Spring 1995), consisting of werecards [that is, personal bios] of several who were active on AHWW at the time.”<sup>143</sup>

**I’d like some information about the Spring 1995 Howl, please! An exact date for it, at least.**

1995-02-06: A document called the “Elven Nation Manifesto” was cross-posted to eleven newsgroups. It was attributed to Adrian “Morningstar” M. in its signature line, and talked about the *Elven*

138 Brian Reid, “Usenet readership summary report for Jan. 95.” Retrieved 2008-03-28.

[http://www.tlsoft.com/arbitron/jan95/arbitron\\_stat\\_assumptions.html](http://www.tlsoft.com/arbitron/jan95/arbitron_stat_assumptions.html) (defunct)

139 “Historical Usenet archives and statistics.” [http://www.livinginternet.com/u/ua\\_old.htm](http://www.livinginternet.com/u/ua_old.htm)

140 “Complete stats for all groups in Brian Reid’s report.” Retrieved 2008-03-28. [http://www.tlsoft.com/arbitron/jan95/jan95\\_long.html](http://www.tlsoft.com/arbitron/jan95/jan95_long.html) (defunct)

141 Brian Reid, “Usenet readership summary report for Jan. 95.”

142 “Complete stats for all groups in Brian Reid’s report.” Retrieved 2008-03-28. [http://www.tlsoft.com/arbitron/jan95/jan95\\_long.html](http://www.tlsoft.com/arbitron/jan95/jan95_long.html) (defunct)

143 Polar.

*Nation* mailing list. It described parting the Veil to the Otherworld so that the Fae can live among us. It didn't use the word "otherkin." You can read the document itself, in its entirety, [here](#).<sup>144</sup> Vashti wrote some commentary on the Manifesto and why it is historically significant:

"This document was interesting in several ways: firstly, although it included a real name and a postal address, as well as a partial email address, it was posted through the anonymous remailer at anon.penet.fi. Secondly, several of the common themes in the modern otherkin movement are visible in it, such as the concept that elves have something significant to contribute to the world, and mention of the 'Veil to the Otherworld', or the invisible boundary between the real world and the magical world of faerie. Since it was posted to eleven newsgroups, it also violated Usenet's cross-posting etiquette, which was far more strictly observed at the time than it is today. On Usenet itself, the document was universally panned and considered to be either a troll or an attempt to frame an innocent party. However, enough people contacted the original author of the *Elven Nation* post in good faith for a mailing list to spin off from it. At least one person considered it to have played a part in their awakening."<sup>145</sup>

By the way, about the Elven Nation mailing list... when was it created, and closed, and what significant things happened in between? I see that a little of it is preserved [on Rialian's web-site](#), but no dates.<sup>146</sup>

1995-02-16: After the "Elven Nation Manifesto" was posted, it was discussed on the *Elfinkind Digest* listserve. "The first reference to the Elven Nation Manifesto appearing on Usenet is in Digest nr. 959, dated 16 February 1995. It references an alt.pagan posting of the Manifesto made on 6 February 1995, by someone who was not a listmember."<sup>147</sup>

1995-02-22: R'ykandar Korra'ti said, "I reposted the [Elven Nation] manifesto to *Elfinkind Digest* nr. 961 on 22 February 1995."<sup>148</sup>

1995-03: During the month of March, Brian Reid's Abitron ranked alt.vampyres the 1099<sup>th</sup> most popular newsgroup of those included. An estimated total number of 53910 people could read the group worldwide, but the actual number of readers in sampled population was 186. During this month, the newsgroup received 5587 messages (9.3 megabytes).

The Arbitron ranked alt.fan.dragons the 2050<sup>th</sup> most popular newsgroup of those included. An estimated total number of 30143 people could read the group worldwide, but the actual number of readers in sampled population was 104. During this month, the newsgroup received 2782 messages (4.9 megabytes).

The Arbitron ranked alt.horror.werewolves the 2541<sup>st</sup> most popular newsgroup of those included. An estimated total number of 22318 people could read the group worldwide, but the actual number of readers in sampled population was 77. During this month, the newsgroup received 1389 messages (2.6 megabytes).<sup>149</sup>

1995-03-?: Jakkal described the small volume of activity on AHWW during the early part of 1995: "At the time, maybe 30... 40 people posted to the group. I do recall going to AHWW several times a week, just to find 2 or so new posts. It was a quiet time, it was a peaceful time. But those times ended abruptly..."<sup>150</sup>

144 <https://groups.google.com/group/alt.magick/msg/e5adba21569abd19?dmode=source&hl=en&pli=1>

145 Vashti.

146 Rialian, ed., "Elven Nation Transcripts." *Synasthesia Symbiosis*. Rialian. n.d. <http://www.rialian.com/elvsnatn.htm>

147 Korra'ti, correspondence, 2010-07-22.

148 Korra'ti, correspondence, 2010-07-22.

149 "USENET readership report for March 1995." Retrieved 2008-04-04. [http://www.tlsoft.com/arbitron/mar95/mar95\\_readership.html](http://www.tlsoft.com/arbitron/mar95/mar95_readership.html) (defunct)

150 Jakkal, "Foundation's Edge: The History of the Online Were-Community." 1999. <http://www.were.net/foundation.shtml> (defunct) Retrieved 2001-06-20.

Wolf VanZandt graciously sent me a copy of this document from his personal collection, which led me to find an intact archive of the web-page. Note that some copies of this document are attributed to Jakkal, and some to Pinky da WereWoof, which was a former user-name of Jakkal. Same person.



1995-03?-20?: Around this time, a con artist visited AHWW. He claimed to sell the secret to physical shapeshifting. He scammed a dozen or two therians out of their money and personal possessions. Jakkal,<sup>151</sup> Yaiolani,<sup>152</sup> and Greene<sup>153</sup> all publicly mention this event.

I've collected much more information about this event, but I need to interview some contemporaries to make sure that I have my facts straight. The public writing on this event is euphemistic and vague, and I don't want to perpetuate rumors with my guesses. **Gentle reader, if you remember this important event, please tell me all you know.**

1995-05: During the month of May, Brian Reid's Arbitron ranked alt.vampyres the 1116<sup>th</sup> most popular newsgroup. An estimated total number of 68699 people could read the group worldwide, but the actual number of readers in sampled population was 181. During this month, the newsgroup received 2680 messages (4.9 megabytes).

The Arbitron ranked alt.fan.dragons the 2026<sup>th</sup> most popular newsgroup. An estimated total number of 44787 people could read the group worldwide, but the actual number of readers in sampled population was 118. During this month, the newsgroup received 3234 messages (6.6 megabytes).

The Arbitron ranked alt.horror.werewolves the 2395<sup>th</sup> most popular newsgroup. An estimated total number of 37955 could people read the group worldwide, but the actual number of readers in sampled population was 100. During this month, the newsgroup received 1297 messages (2.6 megabytes).<sup>154</sup>

1995-06-01: White Wolf Gaming Studio published *Changeling: The Dreaming*, a role-playing game (with pencil and paper, like *Dungeons and Dragons*) part of the "World of Darkness" dark fantasy line, which had started with *Vampire: The Masquerade* (1991) and also included *Werewolf: The Apocalypse* (1992). According to Nick Mamatas, the game

"sent shock waves through the online Otherkin community in the 1990s. *Changeling* is a game about normal people who suddenly realize they are faeries with the power and need to bring magic back to a cold, soulless world. Malcolm-Rannirl, the administrator of [www.otherkin.net](http://www.otherkin.net), explains that the game did 'a reasonable job of drawing together various mythological components,' but that it also led to a fair number of 'wannabes' deciding they were elves when they were really just human geeks."<sup>155</sup>

These games are fictional – any resemblance to real persons living or dead is coincidental, and all that – but some otherkin have speculated about what real persons may have inspired those fictions. The game authors themselves say the game wasn't inspired by otherkin. Mamatas says that

"Rich Dansky, a human being who worked on the game, ran into Otherkin through a listserv called darkfae-l. The game 'had just come out and there was apparently a rampaging debate on the list over how the folks at White Wolf had gotten so much of their existence right,' Dansky says. 'Finally, one of the list members came to the obvious conclusion that we'd gotten it right because we ourselves were in fact changelings.' Dansky denies having any pixie genes."<sup>156</sup>

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151 Jakkal, "Foundation's Edge: The History of the Online Were-Community." 1999. <http://www.were.net/foundation.shtml> (defunct) Retrieved 2001-06-20. Wolf VanZandt graciously sent me a copy of this document from his personal collection, which led me to find an intact archive of the web-page. Note that some copies of this document are attributed to Jakkal, and some to Pinky da WereWoof, which was a former user-name of Jakkal. Same person.

152 Yaiolani, "Are werewolves territorial? (Are we territorial?)" n.d., circa 1998. *The Werewolf and Shapeshifter Codex*. <http://yaiolani.tripod.com/artc013.htm>

153 Greene, *The Magic of Shapeshifting*, 162.

154 "USENET readership report for May 95." Retrieved 2008-02-08. <http://www.tlsoft.com/arbitron/may95/FullReport.html> (defunct)

155 Nick Mamatas, "Elven Like Me: Otherkin Come Out of the Closet," *Village Voice* 2001-02-13. Retrieved 2010-08-23 from Web archive: <http://www.villagevoice.com/2001-02-13/news/elven-like-me/>

156 Mamatas.

1995-07: During the month of July, Brian Reid's Arbitron ranked alt.vampyres the 1088<sup>th</sup> most popular newsgroup. An estimated total number of 30132 people could read the group worldwide, but the actual number of readers in sampled population was 163. During this month, the newsgroup received 2930 messages (5.1 megabytes).

The Arbitron ranked alt.horror.werewolves the 2319<sup>th</sup> most popular newsgroup. An estimated total number of 15343 people could read the group worldwide, but the actual number of readers in sampled population was 83. During this month, the newsgroup received 1215 messages (2.4 megabytes).

The Arbitron ranked alt.fan.dragons the 2087<sup>th</sup> most popular newsgroup. An estimated total number of 17376 people could read the group worldwide, but the actual number of readers in sampled population was 94. During this month, the newsgroup received 2887 messages (6.4 megabytes).<sup>157</sup>

1995-07: The third revision of the alt.vampyres FAQ written and maintained by Travis C. dates from this time. It's the earliest version of the FAQ still extant.<sup>158</sup> This FAQ explained why the newsgroup title spells vampire with a Y: "'Vampyre' is an older spelling of vampire, which was used in the 1700s and 1800s. Its use in the group's title is to provide a more 'gothic' feel and to help keep newbies from finding this group."<sup>159</sup> Their obscurity was intentional. The FAQ expresses skepticism about whether vampires exist, and said that "The people on this group who write as if they were vampires are not intending to mislead anyone; they are doing it purely for entertainment, creating a sort of interactive story in this group." In other words, role-play. The FAQ also asserted that "Most, if not all" of the newsgroup participants have played White Wolf's *Vampire* role-playing game. The FAQ includes a section on psychic vampires.<sup>160</sup>

1995-09-??: I asked Baxil the Dragon if he remembered when and how the word "draconity" came to be used on alt.fan.dragons as a word for spiritually identifying as a dragon. He replied,

"The term 'draconity' itself dates back to at least September 1995, since *The Draconity FAQ* was written based on my experiences in alt.fan.dragons and I picked up the word almost immediately upon arriving there; and its ultimate origin quite possibly predates the Internet, since it's simply built off of the Latin root 'draco(n)' for dragon."<sup>161</sup>

1995-10-??: Tiernan begins publishing *TirNanOc* (TNO), an online mailing list for elves. "TirNanOc began in October 1995 as a digest email list dedicated to the magickal and mystic traditions of the Elven and Otherkindred and their Humankin friends."<sup>162</sup> This first issue includes a short tongue-in-cheek list of characteristics of elves, titled "You Could Be Elven If...", written by Tiernan and Robin.<sup>163</sup> It started "with about 21 subscribers," and during the next five years, it becomes popular, eventually with "almost 140 subscribers."<sup>164</sup>

1995-11?: Aeona Silversong of the EQD said, "The last of the public letters [from the EQD] was a couple of elf letters in *Green Egg Magazine*. One in the Faerie issue of years ago. In this particular letter, I spoke about reconnecting with the Tookes and they had passed on the Elf Queen's Daughters

157 "USENET readership report for Jul 95." Retrieved 2008-02-08. <http://www.tlsoft.com/arbitron/jul95/FullReport.html> (defunct)

158 Travis C. with commentary by Kitsune, "Oldest known alt.vampyres FAQ." <http://www.altvampyres.net/newsgroup/faq/archive/>

159 Travis C.

160 Travis C.

161 Baxil, posted 2010-07-20. <http://waywind.livejournal.com/893914.html?thread=3447002#t3447002> (A comment on a public blog post about this project)

162 Tiernan. *TirNanOc*. n.d. Web. Retrieved 1998-12-06. <http://www.tirmanoc.org> (defunct)

163 Tiernan and Robin. "Humor: You Might Be Elven If..." *Otherwonders Resource Center (ORC)*. Magpie. Retrieved 2002-03-13.

<http://www.otherwonders.com/orc/humor/ycbei.html>

Tiernan. "TirNanOc, Issue #101." 1997-09. Retrieved 2010-10-28 from an archive: <http://www.lavendise.com/TirNanOc/other101.htm>

164 Tiernan, "Farewell from TirNanOc." Retrieved 2000-05-20 from <http://www.tirmanoc.org> (defunct)



to me as they had moved into other directions.”<sup>165</sup> The Silver Elves e-mailed me and said that Aeona refers to EQD letters published in *Green Egg* “sometime in 1995, 6, or 7.”<sup>166</sup>

The article in question was in this winter’s issue of *Green Egg* (Volume 28, Issue 111), a Faerie themed issue, with the words “The Elf Queen’s Daughters” right on the cover.<sup>167</sup> (As for the back cover, it wore a full-color ad for *Changeling: The Dreaming*, curiously enough. The magazine reviewed the game on p. 55, too. Apparently White Wolf wanted Pagan gamers, or vice versa.) Aeona Silversong was listed as a staff member of the magazine (Adv. Manager, Classifieds),<sup>168</sup> and wrote a two-page article for it titled “The Elf Queen’s Daughters.”<sup>169</sup> The article was ornamented by seven-pointed stars and an I Ching hexagram, and the text used some vocabulary from Tolkien. The article listed a mailing address for the Elf Queen’s Daughters in Redwood Valley, CA.<sup>170</sup> Aeona’s article described the reunion this way:

“At the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual CAW Grow Closer Festival [when was that?] I was reunited with my SISTER-LOVER-WATER-BROTHER, Dweil. The dream continues to unfold, more connections, and amazingly, the Tookes are once again a part of my life. It is with their blessing that the Elf Queen’s Daughters will again dance openly through the Mists of Faerie.”<sup>171</sup>

There were more writings by and about other real elf and Fae people in this issue. Maerian Morris wrote about how she thought of herself and others as Faeries. As a child, she and a couple of her friends shared an unusual fondness for nature, and so they “imagined” that they were different because they were “Faeries,” and some fantasy authors must also carry that “Faerie Blood” because they understood. Morris explained that when men intruded upon wild spaces and the Faeries hid,

“Some of our [Faerie] ancestors found it necessary to hide themselves within the very Blood of the Conquerors. Lodged somehow within the DNA was a trigger ... waiting, ready to emerge and define itself once again when the time was right. And here we are! [...] This issue of *Green Egg* is dedicated to us and to our Kindred.”<sup>172</sup>

Fathom Hummingbear told what was either an anecdote or fictional story, without stating which, of wearing an elf costume and accidentally invoking an elf spirit, who offers to teach the protagonist how to be an elf during nature-walks. The author remarked that “for years after, people would look at me and say, at the oddest times, ‘you really do look like an elf!’ – though I wore no costume, ever again.”<sup>173</sup>

In another article, Francesca Dubie wrote that she has

“Fey blood in my veins ... a fortune teller told me that my work this lifetime is to bring the Faerie magic to the human race. She told me of a lifetime long ago when I was a half-breed: half human, half magical being ... Unknown to her, when I was given that psychic reading, I was celebrating the five year anniversary of my school where I teach the Fey magic. Now, it’s been ten years that I’ve run this school [ ...] because my blood is part Fey, I don’t always know how to bring this magic to those who are more human than me. The psychic reader summed it all up: There is a breed of Witches always known to talk to the Fey Folk, and to have Fey blood in their veins. The God, Dagda, drew a veil between humans and the Fey folk because

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165 Aeona Silversong, e-mail to Tree Leaves Folk Fellowship. Sent 2002-03-02. Thereafter posted to public web-site as “Elf Queen’s Daughters.” *Faetid*. Retrieved 2005-02-11. <http://faetid.com/private/elfqueens.html#contacted> (defunct)

166 The Silver Elves, e-mail, 2011-01-24

167 *Green Egg* 1995 Winter 28:111

168 *Ibid.*, p. 1.

169 Aeona Silversong, “The Elf Queen’s Daughters.” *Green Egg* 1995 Winter 28:111, p. 28-29.

170 *Ibid.*

171 *Ibid.*

172 Maerian Morris, “From the editor: Here we are!” *Green Egg* 1995 Winter 28:111, p. 2.

173 Fathom Hummingbear, “Slumming it in Faerie.” *Green Egg* 1995 Winter 28:111, p. 12-13.

their destinies were no longer to be intertwined. The Goddess has charged me to help bring the Fey magic back through that veil, so that we as humans can be renewed with the starry-eyed mysticism of the ‘little people’ [...] I try to offer my students a glimmer of that [Faerie magic], touch their DNA with my Faerie breath so their racial memory will wake up—so that their blood will remember just a little bit how it flowed when they were Fey.”<sup>174</sup>

The school Dubie referred to is “3<sup>rd</sup> Road, a San Francisco-based school for Pagan religion and center for personal transformation,” est. 1986.<sup>175</sup>

Morning Glory Zell wrote about some social connections:

“I have been privileged to know many wonderful mortals who have spent their lives in intimate knowledge and conversation with the Fair Folk through the Feri Tradition in Witchcraft: including Francesca Dubie, teacher and seer; Eldri Littlewolf, wild woman and sister; Grand Master Victor and his Lady Wife Cora Anderson, wise man and wise woman extraordinaire; and of course, the late and lamented Gwydion Pendderwen. Additionally, my friendship with Aeona Silversong and Arwen and Elanor of the Elf Queen’s Daughters goes back to my early Tolkien phase and has had its own delightful impact on my mythology.”<sup>176</sup>

I highly recommend this issue for those interested in otherkin, particularly elves and Fae. It’s available for free in the public online [archives of Green Egg](#).<sup>177</sup>

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174 Francesca Dubie, “Story of a Fey sorceress.” *Green Egg* 1995 Winter 28:111, p. 15.

175 Ibid.

176 Morning Glory Zell, “Etiquette in Fairy Land.” *Green Egg* 1995 Winter 18:111, p. 24.

177 “Back issues.” *Green Egg*. <http://www.greeneggzine.com/issues.html>

## 1996

Daniel Cohen published *Werewolves*, a non-fiction book on werewolves which described werewolf spirituality in AHWW, but focused on a participant who claimed to be a physical shape-shifter.<sup>178</sup> Later, a few people visited the newsgroup and asked to be taught how to physically shape-shift on account of having read this book, much to the newsgroup's consternation.

Swiftpaw found that during 1996, the word "therianthrope" was used in 174 posts on AHWW; "17 of these were the last question on a Wrecard."<sup>179</sup> Jakkal described this year in the AHWW community:

"In early 1996, more wereforums started to pop up. Most of them died, and AHWW remained the 'core' spot on the 'net for therianthropy. The AHWW IRC servers were running strong, as this was the main form of 'chat' for the werecommunity. By this time, the IRC channel had moved through 3 different servers, the first on the public Efnets servers, the other two hosted by general weres that could run one at the time." Creation of the Pshift IRC channel, *The Shifting FAQ*, and a web-site called *The Shifter's Handbook*. Jakkal said, "The handbook is still up today [in 1999], and one of the best places for information on awereness [sic. understanding of one's animal side] on the 'net."<sup>180</sup>

1996-??-??: According to Pagan author Willow Polson, in "about 1996" was the earliest surviving recorded use of the word "otherkin." This is when the word first appeared publicly on the Internet, at least as could still be found in 2003.<sup>181</sup> This is false. I've discovered that the earliest surviving recorded use of the word "otherkin" was actually much earlier, in 1990.

1996-??-??: Jakkal wrote a short essay called "Buyer BeWere: Con-Artists Are Out There," which warned about scams that targeted "weres." Although "Buyer BeWere" doesn't specifically say this, Jakkal's other article "Foundation's Edge" said that "Buyer BeWere" referred to the scam in 1995.<sup>182</sup>

1996-??-??: Jakkal wrote an essay called "Shifter's Disease/Doubter's Disease." This essay described "Medical Student's Disease," in which a student deludes himself into thinking that some of his ordinary discomforts are symptoms of a serious illness that he was studying. Jakkal then compared "Medical Student's Disease" to a phenomenon in which "'weres' have associated their own normal traits and habits with that of shifting." Jakkal used the phrase "shifter's disease" to describe situations where "weres" think that they're shape-shifting, but they're just experiencing ordinary conditions, not really shifting.<sup>183</sup> **Did Jakkal coin the phrase "shifter's disease," or did somebody else coin it earlier?**

1996-03-??: Jakkal said, "The First official AHWW T-shirt was produced. Thanks to Moonshadow for making the shirt and having the print work done. [Jakkal] drew the design, which had one werereature each to represent many werereatures of a similar species."<sup>184</sup> **Can any Weres share a picture of this shirt?**

1996-03?-??: Yaiolani created a reference website for the therian community, called *The Werewolf and Shapeshifter Handbook* (later retitled *The Werewolf and Shapeshifter Codex*). Yaiolani wrote,

"At that time it was not yet [hosted] on lycanthrope.org, but was an annex on my personal home pages. ... The first version consisted of that information which I kept hearing again and again from many different shifters. That first core went through quite a number of changes, expanding, deleting unneeded material, re-organizing, and

178 Daniel Cohen, *Werewolves* (Cobblehill, 1996)

179 Swiftpaw. "Tracing the Origins of the Term 'Therianthropy.'"

180 Pinky (Jakkal). "Foundation's Edge."

181 Willow Polson, *The Veil's Edge: Exploring the Boundaries of Magic* (Citadel Press, 2003) 95.

182 Pinky (Jakkal). "Buyer BeWere: Con-Artists Are Out There." 1996. Retrieved 2001-04-21. [www.were.net/~pinky/pinkyessays.html](http://www.were.net/~pinky/pinkyessays.html) (defunct)

183 Pinky (Jakkal). "Shifter's Disease/Doubter's Disease." 1996. Retrieved 2001-04-21. [www.were.net/~pinky/pinkyessays.html](http://www.were.net/~pinky/pinkyessays.html) (defunct)

184 Pinky (Jakkal). "Foundation's Edge."

changing location. At its largest, it was a whopping 150 pages when printed up, but the most popular version was only 30 pages long ...”<sup>185</sup>

1996-03: In the March-April issue of *Green Egg* magazine (1996 29:112) Aeona Silversong is still on staff, and wrote another article titled “The Elf Queen’s Daughters” on p. 34, which is also accompanied with seven-pointed stars, I Ching hexagram, and their Redwood Valley, CA address. The article gives instructions on communicating with *devas* (spirits, as written about in the Findhorn books) of various friendly plants to learn about saving Mother Earth. Also uses phrases from Tolkien.

Pages 63-64 printed a reader’s letter signed BALANCE/GAIA/FEY/ELF describing an alternative history involving Fey and Elven ancestors for humans. The author claims these are common to all people, but also indicates his/her self as “a Mortal; a Faery ... the last Fey.”

1996-04-03 to 11: EuroHowl ’96, a week-long “howl” (meeting held in person) of participants of alt.horror.werewolves, many of whom identify as (were-)animals. EuroHowl ’96 is the first of these meetings held in Europe.<sup>186</sup>

1996-04-25: Earliest known update of Baxil’s web-site about personal draconity, *The Dragonslair*. [www.ecis.com/~ddragon/default.html](http://www.ecis.com/~ddragon/default.html) (defunct, but most content has migrated to <http://www.tomorrowlands.org>) Baxil says that he has lost record of when he created the site, but it’s at least this old.<sup>187</sup>

1996-05: *Green Egg* magazine May-June 1996 29:113. Aeona Silversong was still on staff, and wrote another article titled “The Elf Queen’s Daughters” on p. 35. This letter recounted a grim time in her life, in which her prayer to Varda gave her hope and healing.

1996-06-??: Creation of the alt.lifestyle.furry newsgroup. It was a spin-off of alt.fan.furry, and it was for people who identify as “furries” themselves, which includes role-play, animal totems, animal spirituality, and spiritual therianthropy. Alt.fan.furry itself was supposed to remain a place for discussing human-like animals (“furries”) as they appear in art, secular literature, and entertainment.<sup>188</sup>

1996-07: *Green Egg* July-August 1996, volume 29, issue 114. Aeona Silversong still on staff (Classifieds), and wrote another article titled “The Elf Queen’s Daughters” on p. 52. This letter told a tale of an alternative history, from abiogenesis by means of love from beyond the stars, to Faerie culture in the Ice Ages, and then a hopeful look at a future of intercultural harmony and space travel.

1996-08-07: Creation of [The Alt.fan.dragons site: Dragonfire.org](http://www.dragonfire.org) web-site,<sup>189</sup> as a companion to the newsgroup alt.fan.dragons.

1996-09-??: VanZandt said, “In September, the IRC channel #pshift is formed as an alternate to AHWW to allow free discussion of Were issues including the possibility of pshifting [physical shapeshifting]. Skeptics are originally barred but later, in 1997, a new rule is added allowing skeptics inside.”<sup>190</sup>

1996-09: *Green Egg* September-October 1996, volume 29, issue 115. Aeona Silversong still on staff (Adv. Manager, Classifieds). No “Elf Queen’s Daughters” letter this time. Leaf McGowan later

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185 Yaiolani, “About the updating (About the *Werewolf and Shapeshifter Codex*: 10-year anniversary edition updates).” Circa 2003.

<http://yaiolani.tripod.com/update.htm>

186 Utah, “Utah’s EuroHowl ’96 Report.” *The WEREWeb*. Utah. n.d. <http://www.swampfox.demon.co.uk/utlah/EuroHowls/Report96-1.html> “EuroHowl ’96.” *The WEREWeb*. <http://www.swampfox.demon.co.uk/utlah/EuroHowls/EuroHowl96.html>

187 Baxil, comment on my blog entry about this project.

188 “alt.lifestyle.furry,” *WikiFur, the furry encyclopedia*. <http://en.wikifur.com/wiki/Alt.lifestyle.furry>

189 ExistingPhantom. *The Alt.fan.dragons site: Dragonfire.org*. <http://dragonfire.org>

190 VanZandt, “Last Decade.”

remarked on this, “After this issue, Aeona’s group seemingly disappeared and no longer published another article. (A total of 4 columns).”<sup>191</sup>

1996-10-??: Jakkal said, “Howls, meaning real life were gatherings, became very popular during this time. I myself went to my first howl, the SC Howl, in October of 1996.”<sup>192</sup>

1996-10-13: Earliest known update of Baxil’s web page *The Dragon Code*, which is a set of abbreviations for concisely describing a dragon persona. Baxil has lost the creation date for this project, but told me that the web-page goes back at least to this date, “since my Code feedback page (which was <http://www.ecis.com/~ddragon/dcfeedback.html> [defunct ...]) shows a letter received re: the Code on that date.”<sup>193</sup> *The Dragon Code* has migrated since then and can now be found at <http://www.wyrm.org.uk/dc/>

1996-11-??: Creation of the web-site FurNation.com, which will later host many personal web-sites of participants of the furry fan community.<sup>194</sup> It will also host several personal sites of some spiritual therianthropes, otherkin, and draconic people who feel comfortable in the furry community.

1996-12-??: Polar tells of some problems in alt.horror.werewolves during this time:

“After a series of flamewars in 1996 several groups of friends, including a lot of the ‘greymuzzles’, spun off from AHWW to some private IRC channels and mailing lists. Others drifted away from AHWW toward other existing online forums such as the anthromorphic animal role-playing game, FurryMUCK. [...] AHWW suffered attacks from a group of rogue trollers and spammers called the Meowers, who are apparently an off-shoot of the group who were based out of the alt.syntax.tactical newsgroup and regularly target USENET groups for hostile takeover by flooding them with crossposts of a juvenile nature. The first Meower attack took place in December, 1996.”<sup>195</sup>

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191 Leaf McGowan, “Elf Queen’s Daughters and the Silver Elves.” Revised 2011-02. <http://www.technogypsie.com/faerie/?p=93>

192 Pinky (Jakkal). “Foundation’s Edge.”

193 Baxil, comment on my blog entry about this project.

194 “History of FurNation,” *WikiFur*. [http://en.wikifur.com/wiki/History\\_of\\_FurNation](http://en.wikifur.com/wiki/History_of_FurNation)

195 Polar.



## 1997

Jakkal described this year for the AHWW community:

“AHWW has grown significantly, some 200+ Weres now frequent the Usenet group. But with popularity comes a price. Many fights took place in 1996 and 1997, as did spam, and the infamous meow-spammers. Weres were bashing Weres, and the beliefs of others. AHWW was no longer the ‘haven’ it once was. Many Greymuzzles left, forming their own packs, pun not intended. The newbies were all that was left, as the old and wise members took their leave, they too took the survival of AHWW. The earlier years of AHWW are now referred to as ‘The Golden Years.’ [...] Also in 1997, SlashNet was formed as the main AHWW spinoff. Slash was the predecessor of WereNet. SlashNet offered a private newsgroup server for Weres to escape the Usenet Meowers. The service flourished for over a year, but soon the same old and tired members couldn’t think of any fresh topics, and the service was closed due to lack of use. The WereNet BBS was formed in lieu of the SlashNet Newsgroups in the hope we can still provide a safe haven for Weres to discuss their nature. In 1997, SEVERAL howls were being hosted. I myself [Jakkal] hosted the first NCHowl. I believe 5 howls were hosted that year, although I didn’t make it to any but my own. A word of advice to others, I suggest you go to a howl before you attempt to host one. It’s difficult finding a good spot in the woods that will accommodate over 10 Weres and their vehicles, not to mention picking them up if they take public transportation. Howls are worth the great deal of effort that go into them however.”<sup>196</sup>

**Gentle reader, are you able to tell me the dates of these Howls?**

In 1997, Jakkal wrote an essay about Walk-Ins, which was another, older, unusual spiritual self-identification. The existence of this essay at that time shows that the AHWW community was aware of the Walk-In subculture, and that therianthrope philosophy may have been influenced by that of the Walk-Ins.<sup>197</sup>

Swiftpaw found that in the year of 1997, the word “therianthrope” was used in 541 posts on AHWW; “29 of these were the last question on a Werocard.”<sup>198</sup>

1997-01-15: Baxil’s *ClawWrite Reference Page* was actively updating. Baxil has lost record of the date on which the web-page was created, but it’s at least this old. <http://www.ecis.com/~ddragon/clawwrite.html> (defunct, but site has migrated to a new location since then: <http://www.tomorrowlands.org/draconity/clawrite> )

1997-01-16: At this time, there was a web page that talked a little about participants of alt.fan.dragons who sincerely identified themselves as dragons in spirit, though not in body, and didn’t consider themselves to be role-playing. This was on a web-site about *The Dragon Code*. Baxil told me of this page, which he had written:

“[T]here was a page up specifically discussing the ‘d’ tag for how seriously one took their draconity in real life [...] Excerpt: ‘MANY OF THE ALT.FAN.DRAGONS COMMUNITY DO REALLY BELIEVE THEY ARE DRAGONS IN REAL LIFE. I am one. This is not to say we look down and see scales, but it is something that is REAL to us.’”<sup>199</sup>

196 Pinky (Jakkal). “Foundation’s Edge.” VanZandt’s “Last Decade” cites the same information from Jakkal’s article.

197 Pinky (Jakkal). “Walk-Ins and Walk-Outs.” 1997. Retrieved 2001-04-21. <http://www.were.net/~pinky/pinkyessays.html> (defunct)

198 Swiftpaw. “Tracing the Origins of the Term ‘Therianthrope.’”

199 The page in question: Baxil. “Before you put ‘d’ in your code... (Draconity Index).” *The Dragon Code*. Baxil. Updated 1997-01-16. Retrieved 1997-06-06. [http://www.ecis.com/~ddragon/code\\_d.html](http://www.ecis.com/~ddragon/code_d.html) (defunct)

The commentary is from Baxil, in a comment on a public blog entry about this project, posted 2010-07-20:

<http://waywind.livejournal.com/893914.html?thread=3447514#t3447514>

As of this writing, [the latest version of \*The Dragon Code\*](#) no longer includes a page with an explanation similar to the one shown here.<sup>200</sup>

1997-01-19: A participant of the alt.horror.werewolves newsgroup who is called Joshua Lion Templin wrote an essay titled “A short view on modern contherianthropy,” in which Templin coined and defined the word “contherianthropy.”<sup>201</sup> Ever since then, the word has occasionally appeared in most glossaries of therian jargon.

The word doesn’t appear in the glossary at the end of Rosalyn Greene’s *The Magic of Shapeshifting*, 2000, where it would have been on page 232, given alphabetical order, although several other words and phrases in her glossary are the same as those used in the online therian community. I wonder if this means that Greene had left the online part of the therian community before 1997.

Thanks to Earth Listener for showing me another web-page that gave a specific date for when this essay was created.<sup>202</sup>

1997-02-03: KatmanDu released version 97.1 of the AHWW Core FAQ.<sup>203</sup>

1997-02-16: Lion Templin wrote an essay titled “Fun with faith – the fallacy of therianthropy.”<sup>204</sup>

1997-02-23: Lion Templin wrote an essay titled “Proving individual contherianthropy.”<sup>205</sup>

1997-05-11: Lion Templin wrote an essay titled “Building blocks to contherianthropy.”<sup>206</sup>

**1997?-06?-??:** In the summer of 1997, participants of the *DarkFae-L* mailing list coined the word “glamour-bomb.” A glamour-bomb is a numinous prank or public artwork meant to encourage belief in fairies and magic.<sup>207</sup>

The *Glamourbombing: Intro & FAQ* says,

“From 1995 to 1998, I created and maintained a mailing list called ‘DarkFae’. It became a nexus for people interested in faerie, magic, alchemy, and many related esoteric subjects. Around 1997, from a dialogue among members of the forum, there arose the concept of glamour bombing. Immediately this concept met with wide approval and enthusiasm among the members of the DarkFae forum, and collectively they set out to perform simultaneous glamour bombings on the Summer Solstice.

“Initial glamour bombs were intended to take place at significant times, such as solstices and equinoxes (at such moments when the veil is thinnest), but in time the concept came to be more loosely an everyday activity. Any opportunity to bring wonder and magic into the world is a good one.

“Before the end of the decade, I closed the *DarkFae-L* list, and glamour bombing was preserved in the individual activities of the former members. The original vision of glamour bombing has found a new home at the Glamour Bombing Livejournal community.”<sup>208</sup>

**Gentle reader, perhaps you can tell me these things: the exact date of creation and closing of the list, more information about the circumstances under which glamour bombing was originally**

200 Wyrn, ed., *The Revised Dragon Code*. 2.6. Wyrn. Updated 2004-01-10. <http://www.wyrn.org.uk/dc>

201 Joshua Lion Templin. “A Short View On Modern Contherianthropy.” *Shifters.org: get real....* 1997. Retrieved 2001-02-02.

<http://www.shifters.org/awereness/lion1.shtml> (defunct)

202 Lion Templin, “Lion Templin’s Archive of Animal Spirituality Essays.” 2003. Retrieved 2005-12-11. <http://www.leonine.com/~lion/cthwww/> (defunct)

203 “AHWW Combined FAQs.” <http://www.swampfox.demon.co.uk/utlah/Community/combfaq.html>

204 “Lion Templin’s Archive of Animal Spirituality Essays.”

205 “Lion Templin’s Archive of Animal Spirituality Essays.”

206 “Lion Templin’s Archive of Animal Spirituality Essays.”

207 Ambiana Wolfkitten. “Glamourbombing: definition / origins.” *Eristic.net: starlight awakening*. n.d. <http://www.eristic.net/fey/gbomb/gbombing.php>

“Glamourbombing – Community Profile.” 2005-09-25. <http://community.livejournal.com/glamourbombing/profile>

“Glamourbomb.” *Wikipedia*. Updated 2010-06-11. <https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/Glamourbomb>

208 “Glamourbombing: Intro & FAQ.” *Glamourbombing Community Homepage*. n.d. <http://wildmuse.net/glamourbombs/index.html>



conceived, who *in particular* coined the word, and a little information about the Summer Solstice (1997?) glamour bombings. Also, maybe I'm overlooking something obvious, but I can't seem to find a name for the author of the passage quoted above... so, then, who created DarkFae-L?

1997-08-??: Polar said of this time,

“Throughout 1997, AHWW limped along, with most of the ‘greymuzzles’ gone, a whole new batch of newcomers occupying the group, the spiritual discussions taking a back seat to a lot of pointless back-and-forth arguing over the same three or four topics [...] Another Meower flooding attack, beginning in August 1997 and as of this writing (June 1998) continuing to this day, finished off what was left of the newsgroup, and it became largely unusable. Most of the serious discussions moved to the aforementioned private and semi-private forums [...]”<sup>209</sup>

VanZandt said that in 1997, “the Flame Wars [long-term crude arguments] begin on AHWW that eventually lead to its demise.”<sup>210</sup> This means only the end of the newsgroup being useful as an active hub of the shifter community, not the demise of the shifter community itself. The community of people themselves simply moved to other places to hold their discussions.

1997-08-16: EuroHowl '96, the second week-long meet-up for participants of alt.horror.werewolves in Europe.<sup>211</sup>

1997-09-03: “The Heart’s Dream Werecommunity” (for participants of alt.horror.werewolves) was proposed and planned during 1996 and 1997. They planned to buy some land, make an “intentional community,” and do some farming. Its mailing list contained 30 interested people as of 1997-09-03, according to its web-site.<sup>212</sup>

Coyote Osborne was one of the people involved with the project at the time, so I e-mailed him to ask how it turned out. He replied,

“Sadly, it turned out the way most such projects do - did not progress past the planning stages, because too many people wanted too many different things. Fortunately, nothing ended with hard feelings, and I think we all learned a lot. And while people kept saying ‘commune,’ what we were really going for was an ‘intentional community.’”<sup>213</sup>

I talked with another person who was involved with it (and who wishes to remain anonymous) who echoed these feelings, saying,

“The HD project never got off the ground. There was a fair bit of discussion on several private mailing lists, but it eventually died out with nothing having been done. [...] The reasons the idea died are all the usual ones associated with loosely organized attempts at utopian communities: a lack of resources, a lack of agreement on where and how to start, and a lack of organization. Discussion on HD started in 1996 and saw varying amounts of activity until the discussion ground to a halt in 2000. There was a list split in early '99 in an effort to get a core group together that could actually kick the project off, but nothing came of it.”

**Gentle reader, if you were involved with this project, would you please share some remarks?**

1997-10-??: Fifty-six of the participants of the AHWW newsgroup filled out a survey this October, called “The AHWW Poll '97.” The survey author said, “I estimate about two thirds of the [participants of the news]group replied to the poll, so it’s a very good representation of the pack.”

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209 Polar.

210 VanZandt, “Last Decade.”

211 Utlah, ed., “EuroHowl '97.” *The WEREWeb*. Utlah. n.d. <http://www.swampfox.demon.co.uk/utlah/EuroHowls/EuroHowl97.html>

212 *Heart’s Dream*. Coyote Osborne. n.d. Retrieved 1998-12-02. <http://www.mindspring.com/~stygian/HDream> (defunct)

213 Coyote Osborne, e-mail to the editor, sent 2010-07-21. Quoted with permission.

The majority surveyed were American heterosexual male students. Ages spanned from 13 to 52, but most were in their mid-twenties. I have heard that this is typical of most surveys of newsgroup participants in the 1990s.

Most of the participants of the survey identified as wolves (38 people, making up 68% of the survey participants), with foxes coming in second (16%). A total of twenty different kinds of animals were represented, but the other kinds were represented by only two or three people each, unless if you were to group all the felines together, in which case they would be the third most common. (These results resemble—but are not identical to—Greene’s estimate of what kinds of animal-sides are most common among therians. She may or may not have based her estimate upon this survey. In any case, she doesn’t mention any survey.)<sup>214</sup>

Most of the survey responses are as one would expect, except that 93% of the survey participants said they included meat in their diets, which Utlah called an “eyebrow raiser. I would have expected a greater number of vegetarians in the group,”<sup>215</sup> on account of the participants’ professed fondness for animals.

1997-10-01: Lion Templin wrote an essay titled “Awereness [sic] indicator test battery.”<sup>216</sup>

1997-11-??: An in-person gathering of participants of AHWW, called Texas Meow.<sup>217</sup>

1997-11-30: Lion Templin wrote an essay titled “Attention elders.”<sup>218</sup>

1997-12-??: The web-site MakeList.com began offering the service of hosting e-mail-based mailing-lists for free. In 1998-06, it becomes eGroups.com, and in 2000-08 it becomes Yahoo! Groups, which also absorbed OneList.com. Under any of these names, these services host many mailing-lists about otherkin, over the years. The service continues, but the web addresses change.

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214 Greene, *The Magic of Shapeshifting*, 139-140

215 Utlah. “The AHWW Poll ’97.” 1997-10.

216 “Lion Templin’s archive of animal spirituality essays.”

217 WolfFang, “WolfFang’s WereCard.” 1998. <http://www.swampfox.demon.co.uk/utlah/Werecards/wolffang.html> (defunct)

218 “Lion Templin’s archive of animal spirituality essays.”

## 1998

Publication of Roy Wilkinson's *Are You A Unicorn? The Mission and Meaning of Unicorns*, a handbook for people who are unicorns (or lions) at heart.<sup>219</sup>

Activity within the AHWW newsgroup did poorly during this year. According to Jakkal,

"[v]ery few posts were on topic, and those that were on topic were the first to be flamed. Many other groups spawned from the group. Many new message boards were founded, other chat rooms were made. AHWW at this point was a meeting place, not a discussion forum. Weres would find AHWW and through it they would learn about the other forums, which they stuck with. I believe the current count of other were-groups in 1998 was 12. But, those were just the ones I knew about."<sup>220</sup>

Gentle reader, if you know, would you please tell me the names and founding dates of those other were-groups?

Swiftpaw found that during the year of 1998, the word "therianthrope" was used in 549 posts on AHWW; "139 of these were the last question on a Wercard."<sup>221</sup>

1998-??-??: Some gatherings of weres. Jakkal said, "I hosted the second annual NChowl in this year, which definitely had its problems. I believe 7 other howls were held, I managed to make it to one other that year."<sup>222</sup> Gentle reader, when and where were these other Howls held?

1998-??-??: Creation of the web-site The Gryphon's Guild at <http://gryphonguild.org> (defunct. Content has migrated to <http://www.gryphguild.org>) The site was mostly for people who like artwork and literature about gryphons, but some participants said they *are* gryphons or other mythological beings. Some of them seriously meant that they are gryphons in spirit, while other participants were only role-playing as gryphons, which was a confusing state of affairs. Alt.fan.dragons had much the same problem, at the time. In both cases, it didn't seem as though the participants minded much, judging by the lack of rants about role-players mingling with sincere gryphon or dragon people.

1998-??-??: Creation of *Otherkin Resource Center (ORC)* web-site by Magpie Hrafnisdottir (who formerly went by Valinde Wilwaren). The ORC was an important part of the otherkin community during the years that it lasted.<sup>223</sup>

1998-??-??: Earliest archived update of *The Satyr's Glen*, the personal web-site of an otherkin who identifies as a satyr.<sup>224</sup> When was the site created?

1998-??-??: Creation of *The Shadow Wulfs Den* site.<sup>225</sup>

1998-01-01: On Telnet, the *Alfandria MUCK* began. It was derived from the newsgroup alt.fan.dragons and was played in by many of the same people.<sup>226</sup> As a MUCK, it was – and is – a place for free-form role-play games in an interactive environment that can be modified and expanded upon by all the users. As I understand it, the idea was that some of the participants use this MUCK simply for role-play and chat, but some others use role-play there so they can freely express and explore the draconic part of themselves.

219 Roy Wilkinson, *Are You A Unicorn? The Mission and Meaning of Unicorns*. (Kaysville, UT: Unicorns United, 1998)

220 Pinky (Jakkal). "Foundation's Edge."

221 Swiftpaw. "Tracing the Origins of the Term 'Therianthrope.'"

222 Pinky (Jakkal). "Foundation's Edge."

223 The original web address of the *Otherkin Resource Center (ORC)* was absinthia.com/otherkin (defunct), as Jarandhel Dreamsinger told me, adding, "Sadly, this version of the site is no longer available through archive.org due to a robots.txt file exclusion." Jarandhel is also the one who told me about the site author's name-change.

224 *The Satyr's Glen*. <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Parthenon/8651/> (defunct)

225 *The Shadow Wulfs Den*. <http://www.geocities.com/pilotwolf143/> (defunct)

226 "Alfandria." *WikiFur: the Furry Encyclopedia*. <http://en.wikifur.com/wiki/Alfandria>

- 1998-01-11: Creation of KaniS's [Draconic.com](http://www.draconic.com) site, a web-site for talking about draconic spirituality.<sup>227</sup>
- 1998-02: Dan O'Dea wrote to me saying that he "found the online Otherkin community in Feb 1998. The mailing lists that I joined included TNO [TirNanOc], DarkFae, TwilightFae, and MidnightVoices. Many were on onelist.com, which later became part of egroups.com, and then yahoo.com."<sup>228</sup>
- 1998-02-09: Newsgroup alt.culture.vampyres was created as a spinoff from alt.vampyres. Alt.culture.vampyres existed for the discussion of vampires as they are in real life, and not for discussion of vampires in role-playing games and fiction. The alt.culture.vampyres FAQ says,
- "alt.culture.vampyres is a place for those who are involved with blood-fetish activities, people who just have a taste for blood, people who live vampiric lifestyles, people who think they're vampires, people who *know* they're vampires, vampires, vampires who think they're people, and people who want to argue with people believing in any of the above. ... Alt.vampyres has arrogant people who believe *in* vampires. Alt.culture.vampyres has arrogant people who believe they *are* vampires."<sup>229</sup>
- 1998-02-24: A Were named SabreLion created the Were Code or Were Geek Code. This is a type of "signature code," which is a string of characters that contain a concise description of a person, which they include in their signature file when posting on newsgroups or forums. The first signature code was called the Geek Code, and was used for summarizing one's interest in different high-tech hobbies. Signature codes became popular during the latter half of the Nineties, and many varieties of them emerged, although relatively few of them caught on.
- SabreLion explained, "It seems like everyone nowadays has a so-called 'Geek Code' on UseNet. I thought it was about time that the 'Were community' have something similar of its own for WereNet and/or AHWW usage. If it's been done before, I'm sorry, but it wasn't publicized enough."
- The first release of the Were Code started at version 0.8b. SabreLion wrote, "Why start at 0.8b? Don't ask me. Anyway, this version is text based [that is, distributed in .txt file format] and still just a pure hack of the furry geek code."<sup>230</sup> The Furry Geek Code came out in 1996 and was somewhat widely used by participants of the furry fandom.
- (Actually, Blackfang had independently created a similar project called the "WereCode" sometime during this decade. It, too, was based on the Furry Code. Blackfang's WereCode v0.5 was included in the "AHWW Combined FAQ." I haven't seen either of these codes used much, but they were both developed for use on AHWW.)
- 1998-03-03: SabreLion updated the Were Code to version 0.9c, putting it in an HTML document instead of just in a .txt document. He said this change was "The first incarnation in HTML! Lots of new stuff added."<sup>231</sup>
- 1998-04-1: Baxil's article "Forty-foot winged reptiles need your love, too: One Nexxxus staffer speaks out for belief, tolerance, and the crusade against society's ... err ... dehumanization" was printed ~~in the *Daily Nexxxus*~~ "in the April Fool's issue of the UC Santa Barbara *Daily Nexus*, the paper's actual title (the extra X's were an April Fool's thing as well)."<sup>232</sup> The article was partly a joke, and partly about draconic spirituality.

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227 KaniS, "Updates." *Draconic.com*. KaniS. Web. <http://www.draconic.com/updates>

228 Dan O'Dea, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-05-27

229 Alt.culture.vampyres FAQ, version 2.3. <http://earthops.org/a-c-v/faq.html>

230 SabreLion. "Were Geek Code" or "The WereNet 'Geek Code.'" *WereNet*. Jakkal. Updated 1999-08. <http://www.were.net/werecode.shtml> (defunct) Retrieved 2001-02-13.

231 SabreLion. "Were Geek Code."

232 Baxil, comment on a public blog entry about this project, posted 2010-07-20.

1998-05-08 to 21: Roy Wilkinson created the [UnicornsUnited.com](http://UnicornsUnited.com) web-site for people who are unicorns at heart. The site goes along with his book titled *Are You A Unicorn?* The site helps unicorns get in touch with one another.

1998-05-11: Creation of [OtherkinGazette](http://OtherkinGazette), an online mailing list for otherkin.<sup>233</sup>

1998-05-17: A unicorn otherkin called Fadeyr (also going by Avenger or Uneairkagh) created a web-site for unicorn otherkin, called *Always Believe*. (The site is now defunct, but it was located at the web address [alwaysbelieve.net](http://alwaysbelieve.net).) During this month, several unicorn otherkin join the forum on that site. Fadeyr had not known of any other people who called themselves unicorns before this, as he explained to me in an e-mail.<sup>234</sup>

1998-06-??: *Walking the Thresholds*, an annual otherkin gather. I am not sure, but this may have been the first of the *Walking the Thresholds* gathers.<sup>235</sup> Dan O’Dea told me,

“There were TWO ‘Walking The Thresholds’ over Summer Solstice of 1998. The Fae-Hearth council that was organizing the gather split. One group held an event at Starwood, and the other at 4QF [Four Quarters Farm]. The Starwood group/event only lasted that one year, but it was the one that I attended. It was organized by Syleniel (then Sileniel), Ashran, Sadie, and Sindar. There were about 30 people in attendance over the weekend, with about 20 there for all the weekend.”<sup>236</sup>

Eyovah wrote about his remarkable “awakening” experience, which happened during a magical experiment at this gather:

“Summer 1998 I went to Rialian’s Otherkin Gathering at Four Quarters Farm PA. [...] A friend of Rialian, Leon, set up this reiki matrix thing he created. [...] With that center stone it supposedly made it easier to see your otherkin form, if you had one. I saw it having some affects with Rialian and others to see their etheric/energetic shapes. I saw Rialian become more elf like, pointed ears, cheekbones and all. [...] I stepped in the matrix. [...] Next thing I know, Rialian and Chaos-Magician saw me changing shape with a sound of surprise. I found myself playing with the energy. I felt bigger, and a feeling of wings... large wings. [...] I felt like I was exploring sensations of a new body. Rialian and Chaos-Magician told me they saw me as a kind of dragon shape [...]”<sup>237</sup>

1998-06-28: Creation of Usenet newsgroup [alt.mythology.mythic-animals.gryphons](http://alt.mythology.mythic-animals.gryphons), for discussion of gryphons and other mythological animals.<sup>238</sup> According to its FAQ file, many of the participants of this newsgroup role-played as gryphons, but some of them also “strongly feel that they are gryphons (or dragons or mushrooms or other species) in heart, spirit, mind or body.”<sup>239</sup>

1998-07-28: Summer Canadian Howl was held in Pickering and Bancroft, Ontario for several days. Six good-humored wolf-therian friends hiked through the woods (sometimes barefoot), played on a paddleboat, and swam in a lake.<sup>240</sup>

1998-08-28: Jarandhel Dreamsinger tells me this was the date for the earliest archived conversation on the private Elenari-only online mailing list *elenari-l*. The Elenari are otherkin who identify as elves from a certain shared otherworldly background. **When was the mailing list created?**

Dan O’Dea also notes, “The Elenari list did exist in the Summer of ’98, and I did join it that Summer. It was preceded by a cc: list named ‘Alfheim-List,’ with most of the same

233 *OtherkinGazette*. 1998-05-11. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/otherkingazette>

234 Fadeyr, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-10-16

235 Baxil, comment on a public blog entry about this project, posted 2010-07-20.

236 Dan O’Dea, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-05-27

237 Eyovah, “The Awakening of a Dragon.” *Eyovah’s Awakenings*. 1999. <http://rialian.com/dragonawakepublic.htm>

238 Polenth, “The Newland Eyrie.” *Polenth’s Weyr*. <http://www.polenth.demon.co.uk/gryphon/eyrie.html> (defunct)

239 Polenth, “Newland FAQ v1.0.” *The Newland Eyrie*. <http://www.polenth.demon.co.uk/gryphon/faq.html> (defunct)

240 RavenWolf, “Summer Canadian Howl.” <http://www.fortunecity.com/meltingpot/anderson/576/ch1998.html>



members.”<sup>241</sup> I’d like to know about any earlier Elenari communities or writings. When can the concept be said to have started?

1998-09: Starting around this time, some furry fans created a group called “Burned Fur,” which ranted against spirituality and sexuality in the furry fandom. This group initially attracted a great deal of activity, and expressed hostility toward alt.lifestyle.furry and similar groups. In “An informal history of furry fandom,” Simo says,

“The majority of this rant [which started Burned Fur] is against Furry Spiritualists, the weres, otherkin, and therianthropes. [...] It is indeed fortunate that this whole business was almost completely confined to the ‘Net. The extreme antagonism between Burned Furs and their opponents did not intrude into real life. Fur cons went on as before, no riots broke out, no cons were cancelled or forced out of hotels. [...] After so many posts, so much flaming, search engines started returning Furry web sites when words like ‘perversion’ [etc] were entered. When you seemingly have so many within the fandom claiming that the fandom is full of pervs, you will be believed. After all, you should know. All the wrong sorts of people did notice.”

According to Simo, by speaking out against things they didn’t like in the furry fandom, Burned Fur inadvertently spread the exact negative reputation for the furry fandom that they didn’t like, and this is why the furry fandom suffered negative attention for a long time, longer than Burned Fur itself was around. The group Burned Fur endured for only a few more years until it gradually fizzled out from lack of interest, disappearing in 2001.<sup>242</sup> The furry fandom became a socially acceptable target for the rest of the Internet to harass for several more years longer than that.

1998-10-11: Baxil created [The Draconity FAQ](#).<sup>243</sup> This is a document about people who identify as dragons in spirit, though their bodies are human. It became one of the most well-known documents in the draconic community.

1998-??-??: “Avellana is a project to start an intentional community for furrries/weres/dragons/otherkin.”<sup>244</sup> People started to discuss plans for Avellana “in late 1998.”<sup>245</sup> About a dozen people were interested or involved.<sup>246</sup> The project was initially called the “United Order of Furrries,” but they agreed to change the name to “Avellana,” from the scientific name for the hazel tree, *Corylus Avellana*, due to the magical folklore regarding that type of tree.<sup>247</sup> They expected that they would probably choose a location for Avellana somewhere in the USA.<sup>248</sup>

1998-12-06: Web-site [TirNanOc.org](#) was actively updating. This was the earliest that the site can be found through archive.org, but it seems to have been around for a while before then. (When was the web-site itself created?) At that time, its home page said,

“TirNanOc began in October 1995 as a digest email list dedicated to the magickal and mystic traditions of the Elven and Otherkindred and their Humankind friends. Since then, it has grown to encompass a web-site, a webring and an IRC channel. The list moved a few months ago to a LISTSERV format in order to keep up with the growth in membership, and with this move to a new web server the TirNanOc web-site will have even more resources to offer.”

241 Dan O’Dea, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-05-27

242 Simo. “An Informal History of the Furry Fandom.” *The Best Page in Furrydom*. 2009. Retrieved 2010-11-21. [http://www.furrydolphin.net/2009\\_files/furry-history.html](http://www.furrydolphin.net/2009_files/furry-history.html)

243 Contemporary document history was located at [http://www.ecis.com/~ddragon/faq/faq\\_history.html](http://www.ecis.com/~ddragon/faq/faq_history.html) (defunct, but the site has migrated to a new location since then: <http://www.tomorrowlands.org/draconity/faq>)

244 Polenth, “Contents.” *Polenth’s Weyr*. <http://www.polenth.demon.co.uk/deep.html> (defunct)

245 Polenth, “Avellana.” *Polenth’s Weyr*. <http://www.polenth.demon.co.uk/avellana/avellana.html> (defunct)

246 Polenth, “Avellana members.” *Avellana*. <http://www.polenth.demon.co.uk/avellana/members.html> (defunct)

247 Polenth, “Avellana social organization.” *Avellana*. <http://www.polenth.demon.co.uk/avellana/social.html> (defunct)

248 Polenth, “Avellana locale,” *Avellana*. <http://www.polenth.demon.co.uk/avellana/locale.html> (defunct)

1998-12-23: Creation of [Real Dragon](#), an online mailing list “for those who are truly Draconic (Dragon Otherkin, Dracanthropes, etc.) and not a role-play list,” as it said in its description page.<sup>249</sup>

1998-12-31: Lion Templin wrote a short work of fiction “WereFairies,” lampooning therianthropy.<sup>250</sup>

## 1999

Doreen Virtue published *Healing with the Angels*, a book that has a chapter on “incarnated elementals,” people who identify as mythological beings.<sup>251</sup>

The character of the AHWW newsgroup changed. Jakkal said of that time,

“Many of the members are newbies, and newbies helping newbies identify awereness [sic] is like leaving a 6 month old cub in charge of the pack as the older members run away. The new weres have no idea of what it’s like to be ‘awere’ [sic] anymore. In today’s terms, to be a were only requires you to ‘like’ an animal, not truly be it. Now you just need to buy jewelry or T-shirts with your wereside animal to be considered ‘awere’ [sic]. It’s our job as the ‘greymuzzles’ to amend this. [...] *The Anti-Were/Furry Resource* was born, and is hosted on WereNet today [in 1999 ...] At least 7 new weresites with online forums were thusly produced, spreading out the weres even moreso than necessary. Perhaps all this ‘spreading’ out will allow the numbers to be smaller, as with the ‘Golden Years’ of AHWW [before 1997, when the newsgroup had few participants]. In my honest opinion, the spreading out is breeding ignorance, and more newbies teaching newbies. Other sites were made, including several ‘weretests’. [...] For the majority of 1999, I was working on this WereNet site to help others [...] We soon hope to make WereNet the spot for therianthropic education, but be warned, we won’t butter you up and call you a were to make you feel better.”<sup>252</sup>

Swiftpaw found that during the year of 1999, the word “therianthrope” was used in 929 posts on AHWW; “144 of these were the last question on a werecard.”<sup>253</sup>

Around that time, or at least in the late Nineties, the Silver Elves switched to sending out their letters by e-mail instead of snail mail, which they had been doing continuously ever since the late Eighties, “at an admittedly whimsical rate.”<sup>254</sup>

1999-??-??: Lupa said, “*Kinships*, published by Angelic Press, ran from 1999 to 2002 as a print magazine by and for Otherkin.”<sup>255</sup> The official web-site for *Kinships* said,

“*Kinships* started in 1999 when Katrina Joyner and Rick Silva met and decided to form a partnership. Katrina let Rick into her small business, Pentegram Komix and Graphix. With a public Otherkin demand for their own magazine, Katrina and Rick stepped up to the task and a full-fledged magazine was born. *Kinships* was the first in print magazine for Otherkin and other ‘people who exist anyway.’ Over the following two years, *Kinships* acquired a subscriber base and found distributors like Barnes and Nobles. The magazine was being sent to places like England and Australia.”<sup>256</sup>

1999-??-??: Around this time, “The dead #pshift chat is revived as the popular #Werechat.”<sup>257</sup>

249 *Real Dragon*. 1998-12-23. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/realdragon>

250 “Lion Templin’s archive of animal spirituality essays.”

251 Doreen Virtue, *Healing with the Angels*. (Carlsbad, CA: Hay House, 1999)

252 Pinky (Jakkal). “Foundation’s Edge.”

253 Swiftpaw. “Tracing the Origins of the Term ‘Therianthropy.’”

254 The Silver Elves, *Letters*, Vol. 1. 275, and the Silver Elves, e-mail to the editor, 2011-01-24.

255 Lupa, *Field Guide* 51.

256 “About *Kinships*.” *Yet Another Otherkin Site*. Updated 2004. Web. Retrieved 2004-08-12. <http://anotherotherkin.tripod.com/Kinships/about.htm> (defunct)

257 VanZandt, “Last Decade.”



- 1999-?-?: Sometime during 1999, the Otherkin Resource Center (ORC) web-site was created at [absinthia.com/otherkin](http://absinthia.com/otherkin) (defunct)
- 1999-01-22 to 23: Kinvention North, an otherkin gather.<sup>258</sup>
- 1999-03-06: The [Elven Realities](#) online mailing list was created (or, at least, this was when it was ported to a new server) for people who are elves, and people who are interested in elves.<sup>259</sup>
- 1999-02-02: Creation of [Lunar Wolves](#), an online mailing list “for people who believe that they are Werewolves or other creatures of the night (vampires, otherkin, etc) or are supporters of our kind,” as it says on its description page.<sup>260</sup>
- 1999-03-06: Arethinn says this was the date of the first post on the *Elven realities* mailing list.<sup>261</sup>
- 1999-03-09: Arethinn edited and posted the first version of “[You might be otherkin if...](#)” which is a satirical, tongue-in-cheek list of characteristics of otherkin. This was an expanded version of an earlier document, “You could be elven if...”, by Tiernan and Robin. For the next couple of years, several people contribute more ideas to the “You might be otherkin if...” list, but it also became evident that there was a problem: some readers took the list seriously, not as humor. This was because the document mingles serious items (such as phantom limbs, and other experiences common among otherkin) together with whimsical items and in-jokes (such as a fondness of Dave Bowie, or being offered a job as “Santa’s Helper”).<sup>262</sup>
- 1999-03-23: Creation of [LostKinProject](#), an online mailing list “to provide help to those otherkin (be they elf, dragon, were, or any other type) who are aware of what they are but do not have any proof, even for themselves. Our goal is to discover ways to bring these proofs to our attention and hopefully catalog and reproduce the experience in others,” as it said on its description page.<sup>263</sup>
- 1999-03-30: Creation of [Otherkind-Hosts: nonhumans in the system](#), an online mailing list. As it said on its description page:
- “Discussions between and about people who have more than one mind per body, of which one or more is not entirely human. Whilst the list is open to multiples of all varieties, be aware that most of the list members are also Otherkin. This list is also for exploring the differences in different types of multiplicity, and is also appropriate for people who are ‘one person’ who just want to understand people who have more than one mind/spirit/soul/whatever in them.”<sup>264</sup>
- 1999-05-?: At this point, Yaiolani posted a new, revised version of *The Werewolf and Shapeshifter Codex* (formerly *The Werewolf and Shapeshifter Handbook*), which had been absent from Lycanthrope.org for “more than a year” (meaning it vanished in 1998 or 1997). Yaiolani had taken it down because of unwanted attention and the availability of similar resources, but then wrote “Some of the reasons I took it off the Internet have now changed, so here it is again.” Yaiolani notes that during the absence of the official version, therians had been privately circulating or publicly posting versions of it from their own archives, sometimes after having written in some unattributed additions of their own. Yaiolani views this with easygoing amusement, writing, “I encourage plagiarism of this website and always have!”<sup>265</sup>
- 1999-05-01: Polson said, “The first nation-wide ‘glamourbomb’ campaign, in 1999, featured ideas such as arranging pennies in complex sigils on sidewalks and placing notes with sayings like ‘your wings are real’ inside fantasy novels at a library.”<sup>266</sup> It was the United Glamour Campaign for

258 From the 1996 archive of Rialian’s site: <http://rialian.com/elves3-1996.htm>

259 “Elven Realities.” <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elven-realities>

260 *Lunar Wolves*. 1999-02-02. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LunarWolves>

261 Arethinn, e-mail to the editor, sent 2010-12-31

262 Arethinn, ed. “You Might Be Otherkin If...” <http://otherkin.net/harmonyDiscord/humour//youMightBelf-full.html>

263 *LostKinProject*. 1999-03-23. <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/lostkinproject>

264 *Otherkind-Hosts: nonhumans in the system*. 1999-03-30. <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/otherkind-hosts>

265 Yaiolani, “About the updating.” Circa 2003. <http://yaiolani.tripod.com/update.htm>

266 Polson 96.

- Beltaine '99. (Beltaine is a holiday on the first of May, or for the early part of the month.) The glamourbomb events were planned ahead in March, and the site included a list of thirty-five international locations that were being glamour-bombed. They were spread across the USA, Canada, the UK, and Australia.<sup>267</sup>
- 1999-05-03: Creation of [Elven Guild](#) online mailing list for people who are elves or who are interested in elves.<sup>268</sup>
- 1999-05-28 to 31: Dancing the Endless Dream, an annual otherkin gather, was held this year in Enchanted Rock State Park.<sup>269</sup> Dan O'Dea said this was the first of these gathers, and it was held "over Memorial Day weekend, organized by Syleniell/Sileniel and Ashran."<sup>270</sup>
- 1999-05-28 to 31: A Gathering of Faerie Folk. A fairy-themed gather in southeastern Ohio, for elven and fey otherkin, among other people.<sup>271</sup>
- 1999-06-16 to 17: Walking the Thresholds #2, an otherkin gather.<sup>272</sup>
- 1999-06-23: "Creation of [...] online mailing list Vorgenhunting, for discussion of the Vor'jen, Corruption, UnLife, Darkfire, UnMaking and related subjects, by Jarandhel Dreamsinger."<sup>273</sup>
- 1999-06-24: Creation of [Elenari and Friends](#), an online mailing list. As it said on its description page: "This is a public list, open to all otherkin and humans, dedicated to bringing the Elenari community together and any friends that are interested."<sup>274</sup>
- 1999-06-24: Creation of [Elf Help](#), an online mailing list. As it said on its description page: "(s)Elf Help is a list designed for the Otherkin Community."<sup>275</sup>
- 1999-07-17 to 24: [EuroHowl '99](#), the third meet-up of participants of AHW in Europe.<sup>276</sup>
- 1999-07-19: Wyrms took over hosting and maintaining the [Dragon Code](#).<sup>277</sup>
- 1999-07-25: Celebrate the Circle, a Unitarian Universalist Pagan group in Durham, NC, presented a [learning circle about "Otherkin Energy"](#) hosted by Eyovah (Barton), an otherkin dragon.<sup>278</sup>
- 1999-08-??: Jakkal edited and posted a version of SabreLion's Were Geek Code, updating it and adapting it for use on WereNet.<sup>279</sup>
- 1999-08-20: Lion Templin wrote an essay titled "Three lies of therianthropy."<sup>280</sup>
- 1999-08-29: Celebrate the Circle, a Unitarian Universalist Pagan group in Durham, NC, presented a learning circle about "Otherkin Energy II - Elvinkin."<sup>281</sup>
- 1999-09-??: Creation of the Crisses' [Kinhost.org](#).<sup>282</sup>

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267 Web-site for the glamour-bomb event: <http://www.geocities.com/area51/labyrinth/1459/Glamour99.htm> (defunct).

268 "Elven Guild." <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elvenguild/>

269 <http://www.elenari.net/Dancing/dancinggold.html>

270 Dan O'Dea, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-05-27

271 "A Gathering of Faerie Folk." <http://www.infinet.com/~ossion/faeriefolks.html> (defunct).

272 "Walking the Thresholds 6." n.d. Rialian. <http://www.rialian.com/elvsgath2003.htm>

"Walking the Thresholds II." n.d. Rialian. <http://www.rialian.com/gathering.htm> Thanks to Arethinn for correcting the date.

273 Jarandhel Dreamsinger, comment on a public blog entry for this project, posted 2010-07-24.

<http://waywind.livejournal.com/893914.html?thread=3450330#3450330>

274 *Elenari and Friends*. 1999-06-24. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elenari-and-friends>

275 *Elf Help*. 1999-06-24. <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/ElfHelp>

276 Utlah, "EuroHowl '99." *The WEREWeb*. Utlah. 1999. <http://www.swampfox.demon.co.uk/utlah/EuroHowls/EuroHowl99.html>

277 Wyrms, ed. *The Revised Dragon Code*. <http://www.wyrms.org.uk/dc>

278 Dick Merritt, ed., "CTC Learning Circles 1998-99." *Celebrate the Circle*. n.d. <http://www.angelfire.com/nc/celebratethecircle/LearningCircles/LC1998-99.html>

Jarandhel Dreamsinger told me that the Barton listed on this site is indeed the same individual as Barton "Eyovah," saying: "The 1999 Celebrate the Circle learning circle hosted by Barton was definitely Eyovah. He was heavily involved with that group and is still mentioned posthumously on their members page: <http://www.celebratethecircle.org/members>. There's also a continuing scholarship fund in his name (<http://www.carolinaspiritquest.org/spring/2010/scholarship.html>) to allow people otherwise unable to afford the annual Carolina Spirit Quest event to come anyway."

279 SabreLion.

280 "Lion Templin's archive of animal spirituality essays."

281 "CTC Learning Circles 1998-99."

- 1999-09-12: Lynx Canadensis wrote article “Were-words 1: Phenotype or Anima?” about what to call the animal side.<sup>283</sup>
- 1999-09-18: Lynx Canadensis wrote article “What does it mean to be a Were - and is Were the word to use?”<sup>284</sup>
- 1999-09-19: Lynx Canadensis wrote article “Were-words 2: Theriopsyche & Theriopneuma,” proposing some words for the animal side.<sup>285</sup>
- 1999-10-10?: Around this time, *The Shapeshifter and Werewolf Handbook: Fact, Folklore, Lycanthropy* appeared on [Lycanthrope.org](http://Lycanthrope.org).<sup>286</sup> Some of the handbook is about werewolves in literature and legend, but other parts of the handbook are writings about participants of [alt.horror.werewolves](http://alt.horror.werewolves) and people who identify themselves as shifters.
- 1999-10-12: Creation of [Otherkin Theology](#), an online mailing list. As it said on its description page: “The purpose of this list is to give Otherkin a place to discuss the effect Awakening has had on their religious beliefs.”<sup>287</sup>
- 1999-11-02: Creation of [Fae Mirror](#), an online mailing list. As it said on its description page: “This list is intended for the discussion of magic, reality, and other matters relevant to interdimensional beings or work. This is not for role-playing or cheap thrills. Humans and Otherkin alike are invited should they have reason or desire.”<sup>288</sup>
- 1999-11-10: Creation of [NewKin](#), an online mailing list for otherkin. It described itself this way:  
 “This is the basic, most fundamental level of otherkin list you can find. No question is too frequently asked, nor too stupid. More advanced or specialized topics may, however, be directed at more advanced or specific lists, so that the list can better serve the newly awakened. [...] This is a gentle, supporting environment for the newly awakened.”<sup>289</sup>
- 1999-11-10: Creation of an online mailing list called [Otherkin](#) for having general otherkin discussions.<sup>290</sup>
- 1999-11-10: Creation of [Kin Frontiers](#), an online mailing list for advanced otherkin discussions.<sup>291</sup>
- 1999-11-10: Creation of [Otherkin Café: Endless Otherkin Silliness](#), an online mailing list for having relatively silly discussions related to otherkin.<sup>292</sup>
- 1999-11-20: Creation of the Therians’ Campfire online mailing-list for therians.<sup>293</sup>
- 1999-11-30: Creation of an online mailing list called [CrimsonKrystal](#). Its description said its purpose was “to bring together the otherkin and vampire communities in a spirit of peace that should always exist.”<sup>294</sup>
- 1999-12-05: Celebrate the Circle presented a learning circle about “Otherkin Energies: DragonKin.” It was “facilitated by Bart [Eyovah, a dragon otherkin]. Dragon discussion: Continuation of the Otherkin talk. Will talk about dragons in general. What it feels like to embody dragon energy,

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282 The Crisses, “Updates.” [Kinhost.org](http://Kinhost.org). The Crisses. 1999-09. Web. Retrieved 2002-02-05. <http://kinhost.org/updates.html>

283 Lynx Canadensis, “Were-words 1: Phenotype or Anima?” [wildideas.net/template/library/letters/werewords1.html](http://wildideas.net/template/library/letters/werewords1.html)

284 Lynx Canadensis, “What does it mean to be a Were - and is Were the word to use?” 1999-09-18.

<http://wildideas.net/template/library/letters/weremeaning.html>

285 Lynx Canadensis, “Were-words 2: Theriopsyche & Theriopneuma.” 1999-09-19. <http://wildideas.net/template/library/letters/werewords2.html>

286 *The Shapeshifter and Werewolf Handbook*. <http://www.lycanthrope.org/~humbird/handbook.htm> (defunct).

287 *Otherkin Theology*. 1999-10-12. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/otherkin-theology>

288 *Fae Mirror*. 1999-11-02. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Fae\\_Mirror](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Fae_Mirror)

289 *NewKin*. 1999-11-10. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NewKin>

290 *Otherkin*. 1999-11-10. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Otherkin>

291 *Kin Frontiers*. 1999-11-10. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/KinFrontiers>

292 *Otherkin Café: Endless Otherkin Silliness*. 1999-11-10. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OtherkinCafe>

293 Lone Wolf, “The Were and Fur Communities.” *Lone Wolf’s Den*. <http://wolfden.critter.net/community/campfire.htm>

294 *CrimsonKrystal*. 1999-11-30. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/crimsonkrystal>

to be draconic, to have in your energetics of past lives. Some discussion of dragon lives and worlds. Dragon Sorcery. Dragons in mythology, paganism, etc.”<sup>295</sup>

1999-12-07: Baxil posted version 1.2a of “The Draconity FAQ,” which remains the latest version for the next decade. (Aside from when he updated the links on 2005-01-10, which he didn’t count as a document version upgrade.)

1999-12-15: Creation of [NotHuman](#), an online mailing list “for otherkin, vampires, psychics, weres, magi, fae and anyone friendly to such,” as it said on its description page.<sup>296</sup>

1999-12-24: Creation of [Blessed- Beings](#), an online mailing list, which said its “purpose is to bring together any otherkin or otherworld beings.”<sup>297</sup>

1999-12-24: Jakkal updated “The Shifting FAQ” (in some versions called “The Shifter’s FAQ”). This document told about different kinds of shifters (including therians, lifestylers, totemists, trans-species, and contherianthropes) and different kinds of shift (including astral shift, dream shift, phantom shift, and notably the bilocation shift). I’m not sure when the Shifter’s FAQ was created, but the earliest version of it that I can find at the same web address is from 1999-07-21; that early version was short and didn’t include contherianthropes or bilocation shifts, which were added in the December revision.<sup>298</sup>

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295 “CTC Learning Circles 1998-99.”

296 *NotHuman*. 1999-12-15. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NotHuman>

297 *Blessed- Beings*. 1999-12-24. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Blessed- Beings>

298 Retrieved 2001-06-18. [www.were.net/~pinky/shifters.html](http://www.were.net/~pinky/shifters.html) (defunct)

## 2000

Rosalyn Greene published *The Magic of Shapeshifting*, a non-fiction book that said it's a handbook for "shifters," people who are partially animal in spirit, and identify as animals.<sup>299</sup> In this book, Greene indicated unmistakable familiarity with AHWW by means of using the same jargon, and describing concepts and experiences often discussed there, and at least one recognizable person and event from AHWW. She cited Cohen's chapter about AHWW, so she knew AHWW existed. However, Greene never directly named AHWW, nor any web-sites, nor contemporary people, not even by pseudonyms, and not even in her footnotes or bibliography.

Swiftpaw found that during the year of 2000, the word "therianthrope" was used in 2440 posts on AHWW, which is the record. "62 of these were the last question on a Wercard."<sup>300</sup>

Leaf McGowan started an organization for Faeids called the Faeid Fellowship. "During a walkabout, the merge of Tom Baurley/Leaf McGowan in Canada, decision to bring the Faeid Fellowship was brought to light after a Festive gathering at Wild Magic, at Elflore, Lothlorien Nature Sanctuary in Indiana, the Fae requested the bridges needed building."<sup>301</sup>

2000-??-??: Around this time, the web-site [Pathwayz.org](http://Pathwayz.org) was created. It was "a search engine and community for weres, furies, and Otherkin." It had an extensive directory of links. (defunct)

2000-??-??: Apparently, Roy Wilkinson arranged (or was otherwise involved in) a unicorn gather this year. From 1999 to 2008, his [UnicornsUnited.com](http://UnicornsUnited.com) web-site displayed a banner that says "2000 year of the gathering."

2000-01-12: Creation of [Kin Gathering Forum](http://KinGatheringForum.com), an online mailing list "for discussions of any issues brought up in relation to Otherkin Gatherings and MiniMeets."<sup>302</sup>

2000-01-13: Release of version 3.0 Beta of the "[Crisses' Otherkin and Awakening FAQ](http://www.astraeasweb.net/plural/cris-otherkinfaq-old.html)."<sup>303</sup>

2000-01-19: Creation of *Elenari Nexus* at [elenari.net](http://elenari.net). The Elenari "are Elves of similar philosophies, cultures and worldviews who have been born into human bodies here on Earth," as the site said on its front page.

2000-01-21: Creation of *Visions: The Lost Works of C. Clark* personal site, which talked a little about otherkin.<sup>304</sup>

2000-01-31: Creation of the *Hart and Ale* online mailing list, which says that it was "for those of the Otherkin community online to express themselves freely, in whatever manner they choose. It adheres to no topic and welcomes all equally. Flames are allowed, but be prepared to be responded to in kind. Although the 'setting' is that of a rough-and-tumble Inn set in a fantasy medieval world, it is NOT a roleplaying list."<sup>305</sup> Moderated by Syleniell, this mailing list ended up getting deleted sometime around 2002.

2000-02-10: Creation of [Awakening Outgrowth](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AwakeningOutgrowth), an online mailing list "To discuss anything related to Awakening as Otherkin."<sup>306</sup>

2000-02-18: Creation of [Otherkin Gathering](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OtherkinGathering), an online mailing list.<sup>307</sup>

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299 Rosalyn Greene, *The Magic of Shapeshifting* (Boston, MA: Weiser Books, 2000)

300 Swiftpaw, "Tracing the Origins of the Term 'Therianthrope.'"

301 "About the Faeid Fellowship." <http://www.treeleavesoracle.org/faeid/fellowship.html>

302 *Kin Gathering Forum*. 2000-01-12. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Kingatheringforum>

303 The Crisses, "Crisses' Otherkin and Awakening FAQ 3.0 Beta." 2000-01-13. <http://www.astraeasweb.net/plural/cris-otherkinfaq-old.html>

304 *Visions: The Lost Works of C. Clark*. [http://www.geocities.com/sydney\\_14063/](http://www.geocities.com/sydney_14063/) (defunct)

305 "Hart and Ale." Retrieved 2002-02-13 from <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HartAndAle/> (defunct)

306 *Awakening Outgrowth*. 2000-02-10. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AwakeningOutgrowth>

307 *Otherkin Gathering*. 2000-02-18. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OtherkinGathering>



- 2000-03-27: Tirl Windtree first wrote “What is an Otherkin?” This essay lists “a few main viewpoints on why a particular person considers themselves something Other.” Tirl continues revising this essay over the years, eventually changing the title to “What are Otherkin?”<sup>308</sup>
- 2000-04-14: Some therians got together in person at the Easter Meet 2000, held in Reading in the UK, a rainy holiday in a chalet by a lake.<sup>309</sup>
- 2000-04-15: Creation of [True Wyrms](#), an online mailing list for dragon otherkin.<sup>310</sup>
- 2000-04-19: Eyovah passed on. His friends created an online memorial at <http://eyovah.otherkin.net>.
- 2000-04-28: The domain [Shifters.org](#) was created on this date by Jakkal. For a few years, this site had a collection of many writings on therianthropy, and was a major hub of the community. **Was the site actually around earlier than then, prior to the domain’s creation date?**
- 2000-05-??: Jakkal and Blackwolf purchased the Shifters.org web domain to host the “Shifting FAQ.”<sup>311</sup>
- 2000-05-12: Creation of [OtherGround](#), an online mailing list for otherkin, vampires, and furies.<sup>312</sup>
- 2000-06-15 to 18: [Walking the Thresholds #3](#), an otherkin gather. Camping at Four Quarters Farm in Artemas, PA, which was enjoyable even in the inhospitable weather. “52 people showed up from all around the world. And the Rains came down. And the Campfire was not drowned, though there was a Moat surrounding it. We now have 27 words for rain. But still, people were glad they were there, glad they saw each other.” The gather included a memorial for Eyovah.<sup>313</sup>
- 2000-05-26 to 29: Dancing the Endless Dream, an annual otherkin gather, was held in Cleburne State Park, TX.<sup>314</sup> Dan O’Dea says this is the “[s]econd Dancing the Endless Dream, over Memorial Day weekend, organized by Syleniell/Sileniel and Ashran.”<sup>315</sup>
- 2000-06-23: Creation of the [Therianthropy.org](#) web domain, which hosts the Awareness [sic] Forums.
- 2000-06-23: Creation of [Otherkin Reiki](#), an online mailing list.<sup>316</sup>
- 2000-06-24: Razza Wolf wrote “‘Werewolf’ and thoughts on Were Culture,” warning that it may be unwise to call one’s self a werewolf.<sup>317</sup>
- 2000-06-29: Creation of [UK Otherkin](#), an online mailing list.<sup>318</sup>
- 2000-06-29: Creation of [Otherkin.net](#) domain, a web-site which became a significant hub of the otherkin community for the rest of the decade... and, hopefully, even longer yet. This isn’t the date the site itself was created, however; the content was originally at <http://members.home.com/otherkin/> (defunct), but **I don’t know when it was created**, only that its earliest archived update was 2000-06-04.
- 2000-07-??: Denver Dragon Gather.<sup>319</sup>
- 2000-08-17: Creation of Baxil’s *The Tomorrowlands Project* site at <http://www.tomorrowlands.org>. He began to migrate content from his old site to this new one. This includes *The Draconity* FAQ as well as a new project: a public fictional story-world about supernatural therianthropy in an urban-fantasy setting.

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308 Tirl Windtree, “What is an Otherkin?” Posted 2000-03-27. Retrieved 2004-08-07. <http://www.otherkin.net/articles/what-old.html>

309 Razza Wolf, “Easter Meet 2000 – the Unseen Report.” <http://razza.were.net/articles/easter00.html> (defunct)

310 *True Wyrms*. 2000-04-15. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/truewyrm>

311 Jakkal. “On the inside.” <http://www.shifters.org/ontheinside> (defunct)

312 *OtherGround*. 2000-05-12. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/otherground>

313 “Walking the Thresholds #3.” *Elven Realities*. Rialian. n.d. <http://www.rialian.com/elvsgathwt3.htm>

314 “Dancing Through Dreams of the Past. (Dreams Danced in the Past).” *Dancing the Endless Dream*. Syleniell. Updated 2010-03-01.

<http://www.eleanari.net/Dancing/dancinggold.html>

315 Dan O’Dea, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-05-27

316 *Otherkin Reiki*. 2000-06-23. <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/otherkinreiki>

317 Razza Wolf, “‘Werewolf’ and thoughts on Were Culture.” [razza.were.net/articles/werewolf.html](http://razza.were.net/articles/werewolf.html) (defunct)

318 *UK Otherkin*. 2000-06-29. <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/ukotherkin>

319 Baxil, in a comment on a public blog post about this project.

- 2000-09-11: Creation of a French-language online mailing list for otherkin and vampires, [Empyrée](#). *“Empyrée à deux centres d'intérêts : les vampires réels et plus largement les incarnés ('otherkin') : ceux dont l'âme diffère du corps ; la prim'histoire, ces théories remettant profondément en cause les thèses officielles sur l'Histoire pré-antique.”*<sup>320</sup>
- 2000-09-14: Creation of [ThresholdShift](#), a mailing list for therianthropes.<sup>321</sup>
- 2000-09-27: Creation of [AlterWorlds](#), an online mailing list for otherkin and beings who are hosted or channeled.<sup>322</sup>
- 2000-12-16: LiveJournal.com, a social blog-hosting web-site, introduced a new feature: site members can create “communities.” Many users could post their writings to a single “community” and correspond together there. As a place for group discussion, LiveJournal “communities” had some traits in common with web-forums and newsgroups. During this decade, otherkin create many such communities on LiveJournal.<sup>323</sup>

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320 *Empyrée*. 2000-09-11. <http://fr.groups.yahoo.com/group/empyree>

321 *ThresholdShift*. 2000-09-14. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/thresholdshift/>

322 *AlterWorlds*. 2000-09-27. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Alterworlds>

323 Brad Fitzpatrick, “Communities.” *News*. 2000-12-26. <http://news.livejournal.com/23987.html>



## 2001

Carla Rueckert published *A Wanderer's Handbook: An Owner's Manual for ETs and Other Spiritual Outsiders*, for an audience of people who identify as extraterrestrials.<sup>324</sup>

The Silver Elves self-published an anthology of their writings: *The Magical Elven Love Letters, Vol. 1*. “Since 1979 we have been publishing the Magical Elven Love Letters. For years our kindred have asked us about seeing past letters. Now, in a 300 page compendium we have gathered all the letters we have published from their very beginning in 1979, up to and including some of our very early internet letters. A beautiful book filled as well with elfquotes and photos of our wondrous kin.”<sup>325</sup>

The Silver Elves also self-published *A Book of Elven Runes: an oracle of Faerie*, which gives instructions for making a set of runes of the Silver Elves’ own design (not Futhark runes) for divination, philosophy, and magic. I own a copy of each of these two books.

Swiftpaw found that during the year of 2001, the word “therianthrope” was used in 353 posts on AHW, startlingly less than last year’s peak of 2440 such posts. “16 of these were the last question on a Wereward.”<sup>326</sup>

2001-??-??: Creation of the FAE (“Faeborn and Astral Entities”) web-site for otherkin and magic-users. According to the FAE Board of Directors,

“FAE began as a net community early in 2001 with the intention of offering a place for discussion for ‘people like us’ in Houston and the surrounding areas. At the time, the site was not well known, and open by invite only. In late 2001, with many changes happening in communities similar to the concept of the FAE site, FAE opened its doors to the general public, offering the message boards as a resource for all to utilize.”<sup>327</sup>

2001-??-??: Creation of *The WereList* web-site at <http://werelist.org>. This became one of the more significant hubs of the therianthrope community.

2001-??-??: *Walking the Thresholds #6*, an otherkin gather.<sup>328</sup>

2001-01-26: Creation of online mailing list *OlderKin*, “for those Otherkin who are in this life—and chronologically over the age of thirty.”<sup>329</sup>

2001-01-26: Creation of online mailing list *NYkin*, for otherkin in the TriState area.<sup>330</sup>

2001-01-28: Frustrated by readers mistaking a humorous but potentially confusing tongue-in-cheek document for a serious, informative document, Arethinn revised the “[You might be otherkin if...](#)” list, and posted version 2.0 of it, having now “deleted some [list items] that are overly silly, irrelevant, misleading, in-joke-ish or incomprehensible, edited others to be clearer, and generally tried to bring it up to more ‘public consumption’ standards.”<sup>331</sup>

2001-02-08: Release of version 4.0.1 of the “[Crisses’ Otherkin FAQ](#),” which was significantly different from its previous iterations.

“[T]he former format of the FAQ became unwieldy, and the answers became outdated as information was shared and processed in the community, troves of new members

324 Carla Rueckert, *A Wanderer's Handbook: An Owner's Manual for ETs and Other Spiritual Outsiders* (Louisville, KY: L/L Research, 2001)

325 Source of quote: The Silver Elves, “Elven Love Letters Volume 1.” *Elves in Paradise*. The Silver Elves. N.d.

<http://silverelves.angelfire.com/HAelfletters1.html>

The book itself: The Silver Elves. *The Magical Elven Love Letters, Vol. 1*. Sebastopol, CA: Silver Elves Publications, 2010.

326 Swiftpaw. “Tracing the Origins of the Term ‘Therianthrope.’”

327 FAE Board of Directors, “FAE Public Announcement #1,” 2003-06-16 FAE, Inc.

<http://www.promethianweb.com/fae/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=93&mode=flat&order=0&thold=0> (defunct)

328 <http://www.rialian.com/elvsgath2003.htm>

329 *OlderKin*. 2001-01-26. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OlderKin>

330 *NYkin*. 2001-01-26. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nykin>

331 Eshari, ed. “You Might Be Otherkin If...” <http://otherkin.net/harmonyDiscord/humour/youMightBelf-full.html>

joined, and more lists collaborated on their findings. Due to this, a major overhaul of the FAQ was called for, and the committee decided that some questions were better off dropped because they didn't seem relevant to the purpose of the new 'Otherkin FAQ'."<sup>332</sup>

2001-02-08: The article "[Herding Cats: A Model of Distributed Leadership](#)" was posted on Otherkin.net. This said that one of the strengths of the otherkin community is the lack of formally designated leaders; we have a different, more open kind of system instead.<sup>333</sup>

2001-02-20: Nick Mamatas's article "Elven Like Me: Otherkin come out of the closet" printed in *The Village Voice*.<sup>334</sup>

2001-03-??: Publication of a magazine article about otherkin. Polson wrote of it, "In a 2001 article in *Fate* magazine, author Cara Des'tai describes these people who understand themselves to be elves, dragons, and other kinds of what people would call 'mythological' creatures: 'Who and what are these "otherkin" and "fey"?'"<sup>335</sup>

The article was from the March issue, and is called "The Internet Goes Mythic." A copy is archived here: <http://www.eristic.net/fey/info/fatearticle.php>

This *Fate* article mentions something intriguing, an event which I want to include in this timeline, if somebody could tell me more: "The beginnings of a separate otherkin community are now whispered about on the Internet, and there appear to be pockets of nonhuman groups forming spontaneously around the world. One researcher in Canada has found several such groups, each of about 15 members living in a small region or a single town." What researcher is this?

2001-03-04: Creation of [Otherkin](#) community on LiveJournal.<sup>336</sup> I think this may be the very first otherkin-themed community on LiveJournal. It is still one of the most active.

2001-03-16? to 18?: A convention of otherkin and vampires called Kinvention North was held in Ontario. In the "timeline of the vampire community" in an appendix of *The Psychic Vampire Codex* (2004), Belanger wrote that in the 2001 Kinvention, "An open dialogue is established between the vampire and Otherkin communities".<sup>337</sup>

2001-03-30: Creation of *OutlawKin* online mailing list for otherkin to have lawless and rebellious discussions.<sup>338</sup> Moderated by Syleniel, this group was deleted sometime around 2003.

2001-04-07: Creation of online mailing list [Shadow Folk](#), which described itself as "a guild of Elven/Otherkin who feel dedicated to creating and raising positive energy in the world by secretly helping, guarding, and protecting those wild places and helpless beings that need our aid. Our mission is to bring magick back to humanity and our Earth by conducting our activities in secret..."<sup>339</sup>

2001-05-26 to 29: *Dancing the Endless Dream: A Sayuneldi Retreat*. This was an annual otherkin gather, held that year at Mother Neff State Park.<sup>340</sup> Dan O'Dea told me that was the "Third Dancing the

332 The Crisses. "Crisses' Otherkin FAQ v 4.0.1." *Astraea's Web*. Astraea. Updated 2001-02-08. Retrieved 2010-10-15.

<http://www.astraeasweb.net/plural/cris-otherkinfaq.html>

333 "Herding Cats: A Model of Distributed Leadership." 2001-02-08. Retrieved 2004-08-13. <http://www.otherkin.net/articles/catHerding.html>

334 Nick Mamatas. "Elven Like Me: Otherkin come out of the closet." *Village Voice*. Retrieved via the Web on 2010-08-27.

<http://www.villagevoice.com/issues/0107/mamatas.shtml>

335 Polson. 93, 173.

336 *Otherkin*. 2001-03-04. <http://community.livejournal.com/otherkin/profile>

337 Michelle A. Belanger, *The Psychic Vampire Codex: A Manual of Magick and Energy Work* (York Beach, ME: Weiser, 2004) 163.

Arethinn told me a more specific date: "It was in mid-March, although I don't recall the exact date, probably 16th-18th. [...] After the first one they were always in March. Although it's defunct it still has its webpage on otherkin.net, <http://kinvention.otherkin.net/>."

338 "OutlawKin." Retrieved 2002-09-14 from <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/outlawkin> (defunct)

339 *Shadow Folk*. 2001-04-07. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ShadowFolk>

340 "Dancing through Dreams of the Past."

- Endless Dream, over Memorial Day weekend, organized by Syleniel/Sileniel and Dan O’Dea.”<sup>341</sup> [Syleniel wrote in detail](#) about who attended and how things went.<sup>342</sup>
- 2001-05-27: Creation of [Gryphon Guild](#) community on Livejournal.<sup>343</sup>
- 2001-06-07: *FAE: Faeborn and Astral Entities* web-site was created.<sup>344</sup>
- 2001-06-23: Creation of online mailing list [West Kin](#), for otherkin on the west coast of the United States.<sup>345</sup>
- 2001-06-26: A dragon otherkin, Pattarchus StormWind, translated Baxil’s *Draconity FAQ* into German. Pattarchus also launched *Nexus-Draconis*, a website for the German dragon community.<sup>346</sup>
- 2001-07-11: Tirl and Mike Windtree wrote an article called “[The Harmony of Discord](#),” on the importance of disagreement and argument in the otherkin community.<sup>347</sup>
- 2001-07-12: Creation of online mailing list [Aussie Kin](#), for otherkin who live in Australia.<sup>348</sup>
- 2001-07-20: Creation of online mailing list [Wolf Kin Forum](#), for wolf otherkin of all kinds.
- 2001-07-28: Creation of online mailing list [AngelKin](#), for otherkin who identify as angels or angel-like beings.<sup>349</sup>
- 2001-08-03: Creation of online mailing list [AussieGather 2002](#), for planning a gathering of otherkin in Australia.<sup>350</sup>
- 2001-08-03: Creation of [Alfandria \(alt.fan.dragons\)](#) community on Livejournal. This was a spin-off of Alt.fan.dragons, the Usenet newsgroup where dragon role-play and personal draconity were discussed.<sup>351</sup>
- 2001-08-18: Creation of online mailing list [Otherkin Order](#).<sup>352</sup>
- 2001-09-19: Tirl, a designer of Otherkin.net, wrote an article called “[Find Your Own Truth](#),” which advises that in order to be yourself, you must seek your own learning, as well as maintaining humility because neither you nor anybody else is an expert.<sup>353</sup>
- 2001-09-19: Tirl writes an article called “[The Death of the Otherkin Community](#),” which said that there has never exactly been a “community” of otherkin, because we don’t have that much in common, and so we don’t do large groups for long.<sup>354</sup>
- 2001-09-15: Creation of [once\\_winged](#) community. It’s for people who feel as though they have wings. Some of the participants say that they think the wings are real, just non-physical, existing on a higher level of existence, such as the astral plane.<sup>355</sup>
- 2001-10-08: Dan O’Dea told me of a second Dancing the Endless Dream for this year: “Dancing 2001 gather over Columbus Day weekend, which became the FAE annual retreat in 2002; organized by FAE.”<sup>356</sup>

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341 Dan O’Dea, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-05-27

342 Syleniel. “Dancing the Endless Dream 2001.” *Dancing the Endless Dream*. Syleniel. 2001-05-30.

[http://www.elenari.net/Dancing/Dancing2001/syleniel\\_dancing\\_2001.html](http://www.elenari.net/Dancing/Dancing2001/syleniel_dancing_2001.html)

343 *Gryphon Guild*. 2001-05-27. <http://community.livejournal.com/gryphonguild/profile>

344 *FAE*. <http://www.promethianweb.com/fae/> (defunct)

345 *West Kin*. 2001-06-23. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WestKin>

346 <http://www.nexus-draconis.de/FAQ.html> Date from my personal correspondence with Pattarchus.

347 Tirl and Mike Windtree, “The Harmony of Discord.” 2001-07-11. Retrieved 2004-08-15. [www.otherkin.net/articles/harmonydiscord.html](http://www.otherkin.net/articles/harmonydiscord.html)

348 *Aussie Kin*. 2001-07-12. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/aussiekin>

349 *AngelKin*. 2001-07-12. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/angelkin>

350 *AussieGather 2002*. 2001-08-03. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ausgather2002>

351 *Alfandria (alt.fan.dragons)*. 2001-08-03. <http://community.livejournal.com/alfandria/profile>

352 *Otherkin Order*. 2001-08-18. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OtherkinOrder>

353 Tirl and Mike Windtree. “The Harmony of Discord.” 2001-07-11. <http://otherkin.net/articles/squat.html>

354 Tirl, “The death of the otherkin community.” <http://otherkin.net/articles/death.html>

355 *once\_winged*. 2001-09-15. [http://community.livejournal.com/once\\_winged/profile](http://community.livejournal.com/once_winged/profile)

356 Dan O’Dea, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-05-27

- 2001-10-31: The Otherkin Resource Center (ORC) closed its old address at [absinthia.com/otherkin](http://absinthia.com/otherkin) (defunct) and moved to <http://www.otherwonders.com/otherkin> (defunct), and changed its main topic. “The emphasis of the ORC has gone from being about otherkin to being about magickal people of all kinds who are interested in learning more about themselves and about magick in the Here and Now.”<sup>357</sup> Magpie, the person in charge of ORC, had written a month earlier that she had chosen to disassociate herself from the term “otherkin” due to its lack of clear definition, although she still felt that she was “a magickal being.”<sup>358</sup>
- 2001-11-14: Creation of online mailing list [Council De Draconius](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CouncilDeDraconius), for dragons and otherkin.<sup>359</sup>
- 2001-11-17: Creation of online mailing list [Anglasei](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Anglasei), “an Otherkin Group for those of us who don’t know what we are.”<sup>360</sup>
- 2001-12?-??: Yaiolani removed most of *The Werewolf and Shapeshifter Codex* from public view in either this or the next month, or perhaps in the spring of 2003,<sup>361</sup> and replaced the missing pages with a page that explained that although the author was glad to have helped people, the author wanted to discourage therians from taking the site as if it was “doctrine.”<sup>362</sup>
- 2001-12-25: SnowSpectre wrote the first draft of a document called “Unified Theory of Therianthropy – v1.0.” This said that Jungian archetypes play a major part in why people identify as specific animals, mythological creatures, or vampires. I’m not aware of any later drafts being posted.<sup>363</sup>

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357 *Otherkin Resource Center (ORC)*. Retrieved 2001-10-31.

<http://www.otherwonders.com/otherkin/index.html> (defunct)

Retrieved 2001-10-31.

<http://www.otherwonders.com/otherkin/changes.html> (defunct)

358 Magpie, “What =is= ‘otherkin’?” 2001-09-26. <http://otherkin.livejournal.com/15575.html>

359 *Council De Draconius*. 2001-11-14. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CouncilDeDraconius>

360 *Anglasei*. 2001-11-17. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Anglasei>

361 Yaiolani, “About the updating.” Circa 2003. <http://yaiolani.tripod.com/update.htm>

362 Yaiolani, “Why this page isn’t here.” Circa 2002. <http://yaiolani.tripod.com/whygon.htm>

363 SnowSpectre. “Unified Theory of Therianthropy – v1.0.” *Swiftpaw’s Tree*. Swiftpaw. Created 2001-12-25. Retrieved 2003-04-28.

<http://www.otherwonders.com/swiftpaws/therian/unifiedtheory.html> (defunct)

## 2002

Douglas Rushkoff published *Cyberia: Life in the Trenches of Hyperspace*, a non-fiction book about “cyberculture” (contemporary subcultures based around technology, computers, recreational drugs, and futurism). While interviewing assorted other unusual people, the author talks in person to a neo-pagan “who believes he’s a direct descendant of the magical ‘Shee’ [sic. Sidhe] beings, is Green Fire, an impish and androgynous twenty-something-year-old whose Peter Pan gestures belie the gravity with which he approaches his mission: to save the planet by bringing back the Shee, the ancient fairie race that originally inhabited Ireland...”<sup>364</sup> **Anybody familiar with this Green Fire? Is he part of the otherkin community?**

Doreen Virtue publishes *Earth Angels: A Pocket Guide for Incarnated Angels, Elementals, Starpeople, Walk-Ins, and Wizards*, a book on people who believe that they are reincarnations of (or incarnations of incorporeal) angels, elves, fairies. The author also includes incarnated extraterrestrials (starseeds).<sup>365</sup>

Swiftpaw found that during the year of 2002, the word “therianthrope” was used in 126 posts on AHWW; “14 of these were the last question on a Werocard.”<sup>366</sup>

2002-??-??: Tornir creates and maintains the *Therianthropic Resources Site: Information For & About Shapeshifters in Fiction and Reality* web-site, which is a bibliography expanding from the book-list in the AHWW Resource FAQ. It’s primarily a list of books about animals and physical shape-shifters.<sup>367</sup>

2002-??-??: Some changes on the FAE web-site for otherkin and magic-users.

“In early 2002, FAE began to alter internally, as the founders of the site began to think more deeply about what their goals were and began to refine their focus. ... FAE became a resource intended to help FAEborn on their path of self discovery, as well as a resource for intelligent discussion, shared resources, and spiritual growth. ... In later 2002, the FAE founders began to once more rethink the services they sought to provide. ... Recognizing that the internet world is only a small portion of the real world, and understanding that many FAEborn are not online, or not actively involved in online communities, the founders began to approach the re-creation of FAE from this angle.”<sup>368</sup>

2002-??-??: *Walking the Thresholds* #5, an otherkin gather.<sup>369</sup>

2002-??-??: Temporary ending of publication of otherkin print magazine *Kinships*. They said, “Through unfortunate circumstances, [magazine founders] Rick and Katrina had to part ways and *Kinships* as a magazine ended in 2002.”<sup>370</sup>

2002-01-15: Creation of online mailing list [Great Lakes Area Otherkin](#).<sup>371</sup>

2002-01-16: Tirl and Flip Windtree wrote an article called “[Just Be: Otherkin and Evolution](#),” about the definition of “otherkin” as a label, and some of the problems with labels.<sup>372</sup>

364 Douglas Rushkoff, *Cyberia: Life in the Trenches of Hyperspace* (Clinamen, 2002) 145.

365 Doreen Virtue, *Earth Angels: A Pocket Guide for Incarnated Angels, Elementals, Starpeople, Walk-Ins, and Wizards* (Hay House, 2002)

366 Swiftpaw. “Tracing the Origins of the Term ‘Therianthrope.’”

367 Tornir (Tor'nier'en Ka-qu'az), ed. *Therianthropic Resources Site: Information For & About Shapeshifters in Fiction and Reality*.

<http://www.nanopardus.freemove.co.uk/books/index.html> (defunct)

368 FAE Board of Directors, “FAE Public Announcement #1,” 2003-06-16 FAE, Inc.

<http://www.promethianweb.com/fae/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=93&mode=flat&order=0&thold=0> (defunct)

369 “Walking the Thresholds #6.”

370 “About Kinships.” *Kinships Newsletter*. <http://anotherotherkin.tripod.com/Kinships/about.htm> (defunct) and Lupa, *Field Guide*. 51.

371 *Great Lakes Area Otherkin*. 2002-01-15. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/greatlakesareaootherkin>

372 Tirl and Flip Windtree, “Just Be: Otherkin and Evolution.” <http://otherkin.net/articles/justBe.html>



- 2002-01-19: Creation of online mailing list [African Elves](#), “a group for black people and people of color, especially those of us of African descent that identify as being elven or some form of otherkin and/or have a interest in elves, fairies, and other kindred fae creatures.”<sup>373</sup>
- 2002-02 or 04: Around this time, the *Vorgenhunting* online mailing list disappeared. The administrator, Jarandhel, tells me that the “List went defunct and was deleted in approximately 2002 sometime between February and April if memory serves... afraid I can’t be more specific. My original backups were lost in a hard drive failure years ago, and I’ve only gotten a few back from old list-members, nor do the list pages on Yahoo! Groups seem to have been caught by webcrawler [automatic archive].”<sup>374</sup>
- 2002-02-03: Creation of online mailing list [Winged Chat](#), “A place for all varieties of winged OtherKin”.<sup>375</sup>
- 2002-02-04: Creation of online mailing list [Ohio Kin](#), for otherkin who live in Ohio.<sup>376</sup>
- 2002-02-09: Rannirl Windtree wrote an article called “[Here and Now](#),” explaining that some otherkin *don’t* believe themselves to be physically human.<sup>377</sup>
- 2002-02-13: Creation of online mailing list [Dragon’s Sky](#), “a place for Dragon Otherkin to come and gather.”<sup>378</sup>
- 2002-02-14: Creation of online mailing list [Cyber Alfheim](#), “for all of those who believe themselves to be reincarnated Elves, Faeries, Dwarves, Gnomes, Tuatha De Dannan, Dryads, Satyrs, Anunnaki, Nephilim, Dragons, Gryphons, Unicorns, or otherwise assorted Otherkin trapped in Human form.”<sup>379</sup> (In my experience, several of the otherkin types in that example are rare to the point that I’ve only heard rumors of one of each, if any, and no public essays by them.)
- 2002-02-26: Creation of online mailing list [Elf We Are](#), for elf otherkin.<sup>380</sup>
- 2002-03-02: The Faeid Fellowship, having “placed an internet plea to get in touch with any of the remaining members of the Elf Queen’s Daughters,”<sup>381</sup> received an e-mail from Aeona Silversong.<sup>382</sup>
- 2002-03-12: Creation of online mailing list [The Rock and Hard Place Tavern](#), “for otherkin or humans who are seeking answers or have answers to share.”<sup>383</sup>
- 2002-03-15: Creation of online mailing list [Hobbit Otherkins](#), “For everyone with hobbit-blood in their veins or any otherkin for that matter”.<sup>384</sup>
- 2002-04-12: Tirl wrote an essay called “[That Life isn’t This Life](#)” on Otherkin.net, cautioning otherkin not to base judgments on their prior incarnations.<sup>385</sup> Around this time, Tirl and Flip Windtree wrote another article titled “[Just be: Otherkin and evolution](#),” exploring the debate over the word otherkin.<sup>386</sup>

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373 *African Elves*. 2002-01-19. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/africanelves>

374 Jarandhel Dreamsinger, comment on a public blog entry about this project, posted on <http://waywind.livejournal.com/893914.html?thread=3450330#3450330>

375 *Winged Chat*. 2002-02-03. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wingedchat>

376 *Ohio Kin*. 2002-02-04. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ohio\\_Kin](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ohio_Kin)

377 Rannirl Windtree, “Here and Now.” <http://otherkin.net/articles/hereNow.html>

378 *Dragon’s Sky*. 2002-02-13. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DragonsSky>

379 *Cyber Alfheim*. 2002-02-14. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cyber\\_alfheim](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cyber_alfheim)

380 *Elf We Are*. 2002-02-26. <http://movies.groups.yahoo.com/group/Elfweare>

381 Leaf McGowan, “Elf Queen’s Daughters and the Silver Elves.”

382 Aeona Silversong of the EQD, e-mail to Tree Leaves Folk Fellowship. Sent 2002-03-02. Thereafter posted to public web-site as “Elf Queen’s Daughters.” *Faeid*. Retrieved 2005-02-11. <http://faeid.com/private/elfqueens.html#contacted> (defunct)

383 *The Rock and Hard Place Tavern*. 2002-03-12. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Rock\\_and\\_HardPlace](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Rock_and_HardPlace)

384 *Hobbit Otherkins*. 2002-03-15. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hobbit-otherkins>

385 Tirl. “That Life isn’t This Life.” 2002-04-12. Retrieved 2004-08-15. [www.otherkin.net/articles/thisThat.html](http://www.otherkin.net/articles/thisThat.html)

386 Tirl & Flip Windtree, “Just be: Otherkin and evolution.” [otherkin.net/articles/justBe.html](http://otherkin.net/articles/justBe.html)



2002-05-24 to 27: Dancing the Endless Dream: A Magical Retreat, an annual otherkin gather, this year held at Indian Springs Campgrounds near Kountz, TX.<sup>387</sup> Dan O’Dea said this was the “Fourth Dancing the Endless Dream, over Memorial Day weekend, organized by Syleniel/Sileniel, Dan O’Dea, & FAE.”<sup>388</sup>

Dan O’Dea reported: “About 18 people this time [...] Very unstructured this year, as an experiment, but I think we’ll go back to slightly structured for next year. We held an interesting ritual based on elven magick as recalled by some people from Til’quintas. It went well, and effects were perceived by people who normally aren’t Sighted [...]”<sup>389</sup>

Syleniel described this gather:

“We had a wonderful and very non-human opening ritual Friday night to set the tone, led by Aiaquel, Melishal, Dan and myself with Cyth. NeDaeren and Dorram taking the role of guardian. [...] We took the biggest group spirit-walk I’ve ever been in, around the fire Sunday night. [...] All in all, we did enough energy and magical work to wear at the reserves of even the old timers [...]”<sup>390</sup>

2002-05-31: Creation of online mailing list [Anti-Fluff DragonKin](#). Its description: “Are you a dragon (dragonkin, draconic otherkin)? Are you tired of the kids under 18 [...] whose biggest problems are normal HS-related [redacted]? Looking for a place with adult conversation? Or... are you an atheist or agnostic and getting a bit put out because everyone else is some sort of neopagan? Fluffiness is not allowed here.”<sup>391</sup>

2002-06 to 09: “Leaf McGowan takes the Faeid Fellowship on Pagan Tour to Pagan Spirit Gathering (Ohio), National Rainbow Gathering (Michigan), Ragnarok Festival (Ohio), Sirius Rising (NY), Starwood (NY), Dragon Dance (MO), Los Angeles (CA).”<sup>392</sup>

2002-06-01: Final update of *The Shadow Wulfs Den* personal site.<sup>393</sup>

2002-06-03, completed in August: During the summer of 2002, Dayve J. “Kaltezar” H. worked with a graphic artist to design the Otherkin Emblem (also called the Otherkin Sigil or Otherkin Logo). This graphic is intended to convey the meaning of otherkin clearly and accurately, but without being overt.

“[...] if you were to show [the seven-pointed star] to a complete stranger, do you think they could possibly pull ‘otherkin’ from it? I didn’t think so [...] I’m not sure there is any religion in the world, which comes close to the diversity of otherkin. Trying to group it all together in one small symbol proved to be nearly impossible. [...] Most have said it’s the best thing they’ve seen thus far as any attempt to organize the belief into one simple graphic.”

Kaltezar chose representational images for the emblem to communicate what otherkin is about. “While there are only three ‘species’ represented in the picture, it shows the diversity in which the belief exists.” These are an elf, a dragon, and a wolf, which are some of the most common kinds among otherkin, and sufficient to embrace identifications with animals as well as legendary beings.

The emblem is meant to be publicly displayed, but not profited from nor altered. Through the merchandise printer CafePress.com, Kaltezar begins to sell window-stickers printed with this emblem.<sup>394</sup>

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387 <http://www.elenari.net/Dancing/dancinggold.html> and

<http://www.promethianweb.com/fae/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=54&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0> (defunct)

388 Dan O’Dea, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-05-27.

389 Dan O’Dea, “Dan’s Story.” *Dancing the Endless Dream* 2002. 2002. [http://www.elenari.net/Dancing/Dancing2002/dan\\_dancing\\_2002.html](http://www.elenari.net/Dancing/Dancing2002/dan_dancing_2002.html)

390 Syleniel, “Syleniel’s Story.” *Dancing the Endless Dream* 2002. 2002. [http://www.elenari.net/Dancing/Dancing2002/syleniel\\_dancing\\_2002.html](http://www.elenari.net/Dancing/Dancing2002/syleniel_dancing_2002.html)

391 *Anti-Fluff DragonKin*. 2002-05-31. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/antifluffdragonkin>

392 <http://www.treelavesoracle.org/faeid/fellowship.html>

393 *The Shadow Wulfs Den*.

- 2002-06-03: Creation of the [Faeid](#) community blog on Livejournal.<sup>395</sup>
- 2002-06-07: Creation of [Therianthropy](#) community on Livejournal.<sup>396</sup>
- 2002-06-17: Creation of online mailing list [Otherkin Survivors of Abuse](#).<sup>397</sup>
- 2002-06-21: Melishal wrote the article “Faeborn vs. Otherkin,” defining these terms and explaining the difference between them.<sup>398</sup>
- 2002-07-03: Creation of Otherkin.com web-domain. Note that this is unrelated to the sites using the Otherkin.org and Otherkin.net domains.
- 2002-07-08: Creation of online mailing list [Demonic Entities](#), for otherkin who identify as demons.<sup>399</sup>
- 2002-07-19: Creation of online mailing list [Eastern Otherkin](#), for otherkin from eastern Asia.<sup>400</sup>
- 2002-07-20: Creation of online mailing list [Carolina Otherkin](#).<sup>401</sup>
- 2002-07-20: Creation of online mailing list [Otherkin Teens](#).<sup>402</sup>
- 2002-07-28: “Creation of online mailing list [WanderingPaths](#), for general discussion of otherkin topics, by Jarandhel Dreamsinger.”<sup>403</sup>
- 2002-08-30 to 09-02: Melishal wrote in the FAE news page about a gather held during Labor Day Weekend, at McKinney Falls State Park near Austin.<sup>404</sup>
- “The First Annual FAE Gather/Retreat was a roaring success... We had a small group of people this year, but that small group of people worked well together ... The sun was a little too hot, but the water hole was great. The weekend started out with an exciting flow of energy during our Beginning Ritual. ... [B]etween the awesome food and the cooling swims we did several workshops. We did an Energy Perception workshop. ... We then did a workshop on Basic Meditation led by Dan O’Dea ... This was followed by a workshop/discussion on Past Life Regression led by Syleniel. ... On the second full day we did three more workshops ... We started with a workshop on manipulating Energy. ... [Next,] a workshop on Herbs, led by LunaFaye [and then] a healing demonstration from Syleniel.”<sup>405</sup>
- 2002-08-20: Creation of online mailing list [VampKin](#), for otherkin who identify as psi vampires or dark fae.<sup>406</sup>
- 2002-09-16: Creation of online mailing list [Otherkin Gathering](#).<sup>407</sup>
- 2002-09-18: A raven therianthrope named Reemul passed away. He had been active in the therian community, including on AHWW, since the early Nineties.<sup>408</sup>

394 Dayve J. H., aka Kaltezar. “Otherkin Emblem.” <http://kaltezar.furvect.com/otherkin.html>

395 *Faeid*. <http://faeid.livejournal.com/>

396 *Therianthropy*. 2002-06-07. <http://community.livejournal.com/therianthropy/profile>

397 *Otherkin Survivors of Abuse*. 2002-06-17. <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/kinsurvivors>

398 Melishal, “Faeborn vs. Otherkin.” 2002-06-21. *FAE*.

<http://www.promethianweb.com/fae/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=60&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0> (defunct)

399 *Demonic Entities*. 2002-07-08. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/demonic\\_entities](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/demonic_entities)

400 *Eastern Otherkin*. 2002-07-19. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eastkin>

401 *Carolina Otherkin*. 2002-07-20. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eastkin>

402 *Otherkin Teens*. 2002-07-20. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/otherkin\\_teens](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/otherkin_teens)

403 *WanderingPaths*. Jarandhel Dreamsinger. 2002-07-28. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WanderingPaths>

Quote from Jarandhel Dreamsinger’s comment on a public blog post about this project:

<http://waywind.livejournal.com/893914.html?thread=3450330#3450330>

404 Specific event dates and location came from this post: Melishal, “Announcements: Official Fae Gather/Retreat.” 2002-06-21.

<http://www.promethianweb.com/fae/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=index&catid=&topic=16> (defunct)

405 Description of event came from this post: Melishal, “Announcements: First Annual FAE Gather/Retreat.” 2002-09-03. *FAE*.

<http://www.promethianweb.com/fae/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=76&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0> (defunct)

406 *VampKin*. 2002-08-20. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/vampkin>

407 *Otherkin Gathering*.

408 “In memory of Reemul.” <http://www.lynxspirit.com/memorial.html>

- 2002-10-02: Creation of online mailing list [Ohio Werres](#), for werewolves and other were-creatures who live in Ohio.<sup>409</sup>
- 2002-10-05: Creation of online mailing list [Elven Memories](#), “For Elven otherkin.”<sup>410</sup>
- 2002-10-14: Dan O’Dea says this was the “First FAE retreat, over Columbus Day weekend, organized by FAE.”<sup>411</sup>
- 2002-10-17: Creation of online mailing list [The Elven High Council](#), for otherkin.<sup>412</sup>
- 2002-10-18: Creation of online mailing list [LonelyKin](#), for otherkin who feel lonely.<sup>413</sup>
- 2002-??-??: Near the end of this year, merchandise printer CafePress.com “decided to append a \$25 fee to any account which didn’t meet a minimum profit margin” so Kaltezar removed his Otherkin Emblem from sale, and deleted his CafePress account.
- 2002-10-25 to 28: Brit Howl ’02 held. <sup>414</sup>
- 2002-11-06: Lion Templin wrote “The unified theory of core animal spirituality.”<sup>415</sup>
- 2002-11 to 12: “Faeid Fellowship relocates with the Tree Leaves’ Oracle/Fellowship to Seattle, Washington. First Faeid Meet n’ Greet at Edge of Circle Books in Seattle. Presence at Yule Feast 2002 (Olympia, WA), and Concentric Circles (Redmond, WA). Research Journal activated.”<sup>416</sup>
- 2002-11-01: Creation of online mailing list [Fallen Angelics](#), for otherkin who identify as fallen angels.<sup>417</sup>
- 2002-11-04: Kaltezar updated the page for the Otherkin Emblem with instructions for how to make the emblem into a window-sticker for one’s own self, by cutting it out of vinyl film. At that time, he was not selling the emblem printed on stickers.

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409 *Ohio Werres*. 2002-10-02. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ohio-werres>

410 *Elven Memories*. 2002-10-05. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elvenmemories>

411 Dan O’Dea, e-mail to the editor, 2011-05-27

412 *The Elven High Council*. 2002-10-17. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/The-Elven-High-Council>

413 *LonelyKin*. 2002-10-18. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LonelyKin>

414 Razza Wolf, “Brit Howl ’02 Report.” <http://razza.were.net/articles/brithowl02-01.html> (defunct)

415 “Lion Templin’s archive of animal spirituality essays.”

416 <http://www.treeleavesoracle.org/faeid/fellowship.html>

417 *Fallen Angelics*. 2002-11-01. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Fallen\\_Angelics](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Fallen_Angelics)

## 2003

Publication of Willow Polson's *The Veil's Edge: Exploring the Boundaries of Magic*, a non-fiction book on pagan spirituality that had a chapter on "otherkin," using that word, defining it, and talking about the history of the subculture.<sup>418</sup> It also mentioned the Silver Elves.<sup>419</sup>

Raven Kaldera published *Handfasting & Wedding Rituals*, a non-fiction book that uses and defines the word "otherkin."<sup>420</sup>

2003-??-??: Creation of [The Draconity Resource Project](#) web-site, which collected philosophical writings by various dragon otherkin.<sup>421</sup>

2003-??-??: Around this time, a symbol for therianthropy was designed in the Awereness forums that are hosted on Therianthropy.org. The symbol is called the theta-delta, and interlaces two Greek letters: the theta (a circle with a dash in the center), meant to represent the human element and/or the soul; and the triangular delta, to represent the animal element and change. The forum thread discussing its creation was later lost in a system crash.<sup>422</sup> **Gentle reader, are you able to supply a more specific date or archived thread for this event? It's absent from the usual archiving services.**

2003-??-??: Swiftpaw posted a document called "Tracing the origins of the term 'Therianthropy,'" which thoroughly describes the recent history of that word's use among AHWW participants to refer to themselves.<sup>423</sup>

2003-01-23: Earliest available archive of [AlwaysBelieve.net](#) (defunct), a web-site for unicorn otherkin. Contemporary mirrors of the site<sup>424</sup> also have no earlier archives available than this. **When was this site created?**

2003-02-04: Creation of [The Dragons](#) community on LJ for draconic people.<sup>425</sup>

2003-02-04: Creation of online mailing list [UnicornPeople123](#) (Ethis'an Lora).<sup>426</sup> Some of the participants were people who are unicorns in spirit.<sup>427</sup>

2003-03-03: Creation of online mailing list [Indiana Otherkin](#).<sup>428</sup>

2003-03-16: Creation of online mailing list [Elven Glade](#), "for all True Elves and Otherkin".<sup>429</sup>

2003-03-23: Creation of online mailing list [Southern California Otherkin](#).<sup>430</sup>

2003-03-31: Creation of online mailing list [Pittsburgh Otherkin](#).<sup>431</sup>

2003-04-04: The FAE Board of Directors announced that FAE, "Faeborn and Astral Entities," on this date had legally become a non-profit corporation, filing number 800191654, and was now called FAE, Inc, "The Foundation for Awakening and Enlightenment."<sup>432</sup>

418 Willow Polson, *The Veil's Edge: Exploring the Boundaries of Magic* (Citadel Press, 2003)

419 Ibid., p. 96.

420 Raven Kaldera, *Handfasting & Wedding Rituals: Welcoming Hera's Blessing* (Llewellyn, 2003) 219.

421 Avatara Raki, ed., *The Draconity Resource Project*. Avatara Raki. 2003. <http://www.weyr.org/drp>

422 "Theta-Delta." *Therian.Wikia: the open and public resource on therianthropy*. <http://therian.wikia.com/wiki/Theta-Delta>

"Therian Symbol." *Therian.Wikia*. [http://therian.wikia.com/wiki/Therian\\_Symbol](http://therian.wikia.com/wiki/Therian_Symbol)

423 Swiftpaw. "Tracing the origins of the term 'therianthropy.'" <http://www.otherwonders.com/swiftpaws/therian/old/termtherian.html> (defunct) retrieved 2004-12-24

424 At <http://home.attbi.com/~avenger42/frames.htm> (defunct) and <http://avenger42.home.comcast.net/frames.htm> (defunct)

425 *The Dragons*. 2003-02-04. [http://community.livejournal.com/the\\_dragons/profile](http://community.livejournal.com/the_dragons/profile)

426 *UnicornPeople123*. 2003-02-04 <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/unicornpeople123/>

427 Bronze Mistral. "Unicorns?" *Otherkin*. 2003-02-21. <http://otherkin.livejournal.com/125848.html>

428 *Indiana Otherkin*. 2003-03-03. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IndianaKin>

429 *Elven Glade*. 2003-03-16. <http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/elvenglade01>

430 *Southern California Otherkin*. 2003-03-23. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SoCalKin>

431 *Pittsburgh Otherkin*. 2003-03-31. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pittsburghotherkin>

432 FAE Board of Directors. "FAE Public Announcement #1," 2003-06-16 *FAE, Inc*.

<http://www.promethianweb.com/fae/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=93&mode=flat&order=0&thold=0> (defunct)

- 2003-04-06: Tirl Windtree wrote an article titled "[What are otherkin?](#)" which offers a few definitions for what otherkin are. It's a rewrite of Tirl's earlier article, "What is an otherkin?"<sup>433</sup>
- 2003-05-03: Reklaw, who isn't otherkin, wrote "[Otherkin: a short introduction](#)" on *Kuro5hin*.<sup>434</sup>
- 2003-05-04: Creation of online mailing list [The Fur Lounge](#), "A community for otherkin (especially furs/furrs/furres), friends of kin, and those who just want to learn more about the subject."<sup>435</sup>
- 2003-05-23 to 26: Dancing the Endless Dream: A Retreat for Magical Souls, an annual otherkin gather. This is the fifth one, and this time it was held in Bastrop State Park, Austin, Texas,<sup>436</sup> during "Memorial Day weekend, organized by Syleniell/Sileniel, Dan O'Dea, & FAE."<sup>437</sup>
- 2003-06-?: Judging by Archive.org, the Lycanthrope.org domain expired around this time. Formerly, it had hosted writings by therians. The site then remained blank for a couple of months, and was then taken over Bears.org, a site about ursine mythology and biology, but not therianthropy.
- 2003-06-03: Creation of online mailing list [Otherkin of Illinois](#).<sup>438</sup>
- 2003-06-05 to 08: [Walking the Thresholds #6](#), an otherkin gather. Camping in Four Quarters Farm in Artemas, PA.<sup>439</sup>
- 2003-06-08?: Judging by its listing on Archive.org, it was around this time that the front page of [Lycanthrope.org](#) was replaced with the message "This domain is no longer in service"
- 2003-06-11: Creation of Portuguese-language online mailing list [Otherkins](#).<sup>440</sup>
- 2003-07-24: Creation of online mailing list [Dragon Spirit](#), for discussion of anything dragon related, including otherkin.<sup>441</sup>
- 2003-08-06 to 14: The Russian therianthrope community held its first gathering, Howl 2003 (Boñ 2003) by Lake Onega at Petrozavodsk, Republic of Karelia, Russia.<sup>442</sup>
- 2003-08-17: Creation of online mailing list [Enyala Mar Arda \(Remember Home Realm\)](#), "for Otherkin of all sorts... and for Humans who are willing to learn."<sup>443</sup>
- 2003-08-19: Creation of online mailing list [Humanity Sucks](#), a place for otherkin to have uncensored arguments about "Human Bashing here as well as, at times, generally violent and politically incorrect topics."<sup>444</sup>
- 2003-09-26: "Creation of <http://wanderingpaths.bravepages.com> [defunct], a website for the WanderingPaths mailing list and general discussion of otherkin, by Jarandhel Dreamsinger."<sup>445</sup>
- 2003-10-07: On an informal encyclopedic website called *h2g2* (the Earth edition of the *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*) Wolf in the Shadows wrote an article titled "[Otherkin](#)," introducing the people.<sup>446</sup>
- 2003-10-13: Dan O'Dea said this was the "Second FAE retreat, over Columbus Day weekend, organized by FAE."<sup>447</sup>
- 2003-10-24: Creation of online mailing list [Dark Elven Otherkin](#).<sup>448</sup>

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433 Tirl Windtree, "What are otherkin?" 2003-04-06. [otherkin.net/articles/what.html](http://otherkin.net/articles/what.html)

434 Reklaw, "Otherkin: A short introduction." *Kuro5hin*. 2004-05-03. <http://www.kuro5hin.org/story/2003/5/22/03514/1997>

435 *The Fur Lounge*. 2003-05-04. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TheFurLounge>

436 "Dancing through Dreams of the Past."

437 Dan O'Dea, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-05-27

438 *Otherkin of Illinois*. 2003-06-03. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/otherkin\\_IL](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/otherkin_IL)

439 *Walking the Thresholds #6*. 2003. <http://www.rialian.com/elvsgath2003.htm>

440 *Otherkins*. 2003-06-11. <http://br.groups.yahoo.com/group/otherkins>

441 *Dragon Spirit*. 2003-07-24. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Dragon-Spirit>

442 "Howl 2003." <http://www.therianthropy.ru/index.php?page=howls&subpage=howl1>

443 *Enyala Mar Arda (Remember Home Realm)*. 2003-08-17. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Enyala\\_Mar\\_Arda](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Enyala_Mar_Arda)

444 *Humanity Sucks*. 2003-08-19. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/humanity\\_sucks](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/humanity_sucks)

445 Jarandhel Dreamsinger's comment on a public blog post about this project.

446 "Otherkin," by Wolf in the Shadows. 2003-10-07. [bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/A1152983](http://bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/A1152983)

447 Dan O'Dea, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-05-27.

448 *Dark Elven Otherkin*. 2003-10-24. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/darkelvenotherkin/>



- 2003-10-31 to 11-02: Las Vegas Gather, an otherkin gather. Camping in Red Rock National Park in Las Vegas.<sup>449</sup>
- 2003-11-03: As part of a project to design a symbol for therianthropy, artist Twilight Stray created a set of symbols that can be re-combined and customized to suit each therian's species or aesthetic preferences, a very appropriate feature for symbolizing the individualistic nature of therianthropy. The recurring elements of these symbols are a crescent moon (representing change), a spiral (representing spirit), and an animal's footprint (signifying the animal side). If not a footprint, some other defining part of the animal's physiology is depicted instead, such as a horn or fin. Unfortunately, this resource is no longer available online, live or in archive.
- 2003-12-14: Creation of [The Kindred](#) community on LJ, for otherkin.<sup>450</sup>
- 2003-12-14: *Horizons: Empire of Istaria* (later renamed *Istaria: Chronicles of the Gifted*), a MMORPG (a computer game that can be played online with others) that was unusual because players could play as a dragon character, was eagerly anticipated by members of Draconic.com (a web-site for otherkin dragons). Shortly after the game was released, Draconic.com members created a draconic guild within the game on this date. Members voted to name the guild "Otherkin Alliance." Unfortunately, *Horizons* hadn't developed the game-play for dragon characters much, and many basic features weren't implemented yet, and weren't added for a long time. In disappointment, most of the guild members gave up on the game after about three months.<sup>451</sup>
- 2003-12-25: Creation of online mailing list [Colorado Kin](#), for otherkin who live in Colorado.<sup>452</sup>

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449 "Otherkin Gathers." *Otherkin.net*. <http://www.otherkin.net/community/gathers>

450 *The Kindred*. 2003-12-14. [http://community.livejournal.com/the\\_kindred/profile](http://community.livejournal.com/the_kindred/profile)

451 KaniS. "Draconic Horizons Guild," "Draconic guild created," "More Horizons recruiters, icons, game copy for sale," and "Horizons and another dragon game." *Draconic News*. <http://draconic.org/default.php?maxNewsDate=2004-03-06>

Goldkin Drake, in a comment on a public blog entry about this project, posted 2010-07-20.

<http://waywind.livejournal.com/893914.html?thread=3446746#3446746>

452 *Colorado Kin*. 2003-12-25. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Colorado\\_Kin](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Colorado_Kin)



## 2004

Oberon Zell-Ravenheart (formerly Tim Zell, famous for creating the living goat-unicorns, and *Green Egg*) published *Grimoire for the Apprentice Wizard*, a non-fiction magic handbook, which included a few paragraphs about psychic vampires, therianthropes, and otherkin in the real world.<sup>453</sup>

Publication of *Fireborn: The Fire Within*, a fantasy role-playing game (pencil and paper, same sort of thing as *Dungeons & Dragons*) about dragons reincarnated as humans in the modern day, where they experience flashbacks to their past lives. It's a work of fiction.<sup>454</sup>

Michelle Belanger published a revised edition of *The Psychic Vampire Codex: A Manual of Magick and Energy Work* through Red Wheel/Weiser. This book is primarily about the real vampire community and their magical techniques. The book mentions "otherkin" a few times, defining them in the glossary as

"Individuals who do not identify themselves strictly as human. Some feel that their difference is purely spiritual, while others believe there is a genetic difference between themselves and humanity. Otherkin differentiate themselves from the New Age concept of extraterrestrials, identifying instead with mythological beings."<sup>455</sup>

Lorne Dawson published *Religion Online: Finding Faith on the Internet*, a book on religion that defines the word "otherkin" in a footnote on page 172.<sup>456</sup>

Copyright date of an eBook called *Therianthropy: An Insight Into The Animal Within*, second edition, by Nehi the Ganchark. Nehi is a wolf therianthrope familiar with the online therian community: the book links to WereList.com and Shifters.org on page 126, and uses several permutations of the theta-delta symbol as a printing ornament. In the technical notes on the final page, page 28, it says "This book is ultimately intended for print, with a cover and pages in between." **I'm curious, but I haven't been successful in finding more information about the book or the author. Has this book gone into print since then? What was the date for the first edition? Anyone have an e-mail, web-site, or other connections for Nehi?**

2004-??-??: Revival of print magazine *Kinships*. During its 1999-2002 run, it was for otherkin. After its revival, it was "as an Otherkin-friendly publication that prints both fiction and nonfiction."<sup>457</sup> "It's 2004, and *Kinships* is making a small comeback as a desktop magazine/newsletter. The same dream still lives - *Kinships* remains an Otherkin-friendly paper with emphasis on metaphysical living and philosophies."<sup>458</sup>

2004-01-??: Aussie Gather 2004, an otherkin gather in Sydney.<sup>459</sup>

2004-01-30: Creation of [Kinnecting](#) LJ community for otherkin.<sup>460</sup>

2004-01-30: Creation of online mailing list [Kinnecting](#), "an Otherkin research, resource and networking community ... a satellite group to the 1,015 member strong, Kinnecting MSN Otherkin group".<sup>461</sup>

2004-02-02: Sprite Rêvenchate wrote an article called "Identifying Your Otherkin Species: Ten Tips for the Terminally Tantalized," which recommends several ways for new otherkin to do research and introspection.<sup>462</sup>

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453 Oberon Zell-Ravenheart. *Grimoire for the Apprentice Wizard* (Franklin Lakes, NJ: New Page, 2004), p. 289.

454 *Fireborn: The Fire Within* (Fantasy Flight Games, 2004)

Extensive review by Baxil, an otherkin dragon: <http://baxil.livejournal.com/tag/fireborn>

455 Michelle A. Belanger, *The Psychic Vampire Codex: A Manual of Magick and Energy Work* (Boston, MA: Weiser, 2004). 247.

456 Lorne Dawson, *Religion Online: Finding Faith on the Internet* (Routledge, 2004) 172.

457 Lupa, *Field Guide* 51.

458 "About Kinships."

459 "Otherkin Gathers."

460 *Kinnecting*. 2004-01-30. [http://community.livejournal.com/\\_kinnecting\\_/profile](http://community.livejournal.com/_kinnecting_/profile)

461 *Kinnecting*. 2004-01-30. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Kinnecting/>

- 2004-02-18: Creation of [Homestead](#) community on Livejournal. It's a spin-off from the Usenet newsgroup alt.lifestyle.furry.<sup>463</sup>
- 2004-02-26: [Kinhost.org](#) site changes to wiki format.<sup>464</sup>
- 2004-03-02: Creation of [Draconics](#) community on LJ for people who identify as dragons.<sup>465</sup>
- 2004-03-02: Creation of [We Are Dragons](#) community on LJ for people who identify as dragons.<sup>466</sup>
- 2004-03-08: Creation of [Therianthropy.ru](#), a Russian-language web-site about therianthropy. Over the years, this site gains a forum, produces some excellent articles, and successfully arranges some Howls.
- 2004-03-09: Creation of [0\\_winginchair\\_0](#) community on Livejournal, for sharing humorous anecdotes about being otherkin, such as finding that one's phantom wings are uncomfortable when leaning back in a chair. Thus the title.<sup>467</sup>
- 2004-03-09: Creation of [anotherkin](#) community on Livejournal.<sup>468</sup>
- 2004-03-09: Creation of [kin\\_r\\_us](#) community on Livejournal.<sup>469</sup>
- 2004-03-12 to 14: KinVention North, an annual otherkin gather in a hotel in Ontario.<sup>470</sup> In an article called "The Otherkin Avatar Project," Michelle Belanger described how she designed the closing ritual that she performed for that year's KinVention, in which she created otherkin-related sigils for each of the seven points of the elven star.<sup>471</sup>
- 2004-03-19: Lion Templin wrote essay "Identity in animal spirituality – growth and declaration in an online community."<sup>472</sup>
- 2004-03-27: Creation of online mailing list [Remembering Elves](#), "for those who believe that they may be an Elf or Otherkin."<sup>473</sup>
- 2004-04-07: Creation of online mailing list [Arcadia Rising](#), "for Otherkin of all species and races."<sup>474</sup>
- 2004-04-18: Creation of online mailing list [The Unfading Ones](#), "A general otherkin list intended to discuss everything related to the subject of being otherkin in Mississippi".<sup>475</sup>
- 2004-04-28: Creation of [Otherkin Research](#) community on LJ.<sup>476</sup>
- 2004-05-01: Creation of online mailing list [Goodly's Draconic Group](#). "So if you are a dragon or any form of otherkin, come and join."<sup>477</sup>
- 2004-05-11: Creation of online mailing list [Alicorn River](#).
- "Alicorn River was the message board for the now shut down 'Always Believe' Unicorn only web-site. It was left in the care of the very able Unicorn, Lilly~Rose. This community has joined in the rest of the other Unicorn communities at the UCoU

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462 Sprite Rêvenchate, "Identifying Your Otherkin Species: Ten Tips for the Terminally Tantalized." Retrieved 2004-08-15.

[www.otherkin.net/articles/identifying.html](http://www.otherkin.net/articles/identifying.html)

463 *Homestead*. 2004-02-18. <http://community.livejournal.com/homestead/profile>

464 "Update Log 2004." *Kinhost.org*. The Crisses. <http://www.kinhost.org/wiki/Crisses/UpdateLog2004>

465 *Draconics*. 2004-03-02. <http://community.livejournal.com/draconics/profile>

466 *We Are Dragons*. 2004-03-02. [http://community.livejournal.com/we\\_are\\_dragons/profile](http://community.livejournal.com/we_are_dragons/profile)

467 *0\_winginchair\_0*. 2004-03-09. [http://community.livejournal.com/0\\_winginchair\\_0/profile](http://community.livejournal.com/0_winginchair_0/profile)

468 *\_anotherkin\_*. 2004-03-09. [http://community.livejournal.com/\\_anotherkin\\_/profile](http://community.livejournal.com/_anotherkin_/profile)

469 *\_kin\_r\_us\_*. 2004-03-09. [http://community.livejournal.com/\\_kin\\_r\\_us\\_/profile](http://community.livejournal.com/_kin_r_us_/profile)

470 "Otherkin Gathers."

471 Michelle Belanger, "The Otherkin Avatar Project." *Rending the Veil*. 2008-12-29. <http://www.rendingtheveil.com/the-otherkin-avatar-project/>

472 "Lion Templin's archive of animal spirituality essays."

473 *Remembering Elves*. 2004-03-27. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rememberingElves>

474 *Arcadia Rising*. 2004-04-07. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/arcadiarising>

475 *The Unfading Ones*. 2004-04-18. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UnfadingOnes>

476 *Otherkin Research*. 2004-04-28. [http://community.livejournal.com/o\\_k\\_research/profile](http://community.livejournal.com/o_k_research/profile)

477 *Goodly's Draconic Group*. 2004-05-01. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GDragons>

(United Council of Unicorns). This is not an RPG. We are Unicorn Otherkin trying to understand ourselves and the world around us.”<sup>478</sup>

The mailing list’s self-description must have been written during 2005, after *Always Believe* shut down. The creator of *Always Believe*, Fadeyr, told me in an e-mail that “the United Council of Unicorns was an attempt by certain members of AB [that is, *Always Believe*] to start up their own community when AB shut down.”<sup>479</sup>

2004-05-21: Creation of online mailing list [The Dragons’ Universe](#), “a group of Dragons and Otherkin of various races”.<sup>480</sup>

2004-05-28 to 31: Dancing the Endless Dream, an annual otherkin gather in Texas. This was the sixth time it has been held, and that time it was in Birch Creek State Park, Somerville, TX,<sup>481</sup> “over Memorial Day weekend, organized by Syleniell, Dan O’Dea, & FAE.”<sup>482</sup>

2004-06-03 to 06: *Walking the Thresholds 7*, an otherkin gather. Camping in Four Quarters Farm.<sup>483</sup>

2004-06-21: Creation of online mailing list [Pittsburgh on the Flipside](#). “A place to be yourself, and connect with otherkin in Pittsburgh area.”<sup>484</sup>

2004-07-07: Creation of online mailing list [HOKS: Haven Of Kindred Spirits](#). “Our Kind are of many walks... we are vampire (vampyre), otherkin, donors, pagan...”<sup>485</sup>

2004-07-21: As part of a project to design a symbol to represent therianthropy, a therianthrope artist named WatergazerWolf designed a “[Therian Flag](#),”<sup>486</sup> and encouraged other therians to [design their own personal variations](#) on that flag.<sup>487</sup> The flag was a red banner, with a paw print in the middle, and feather ornaments hanging from it.

2004-08-02: Creation of online mailing list [Draconic](#), for dragon otherkin.<sup>488</sup>

2004-08-04: Creation of [Plant Otherkin](#) community on LJ, for people who identify as a form of plant life, rather than animals.<sup>489</sup> Only one or two plant otherkin end up posting on there.

2004-08-06: Creation of [Dream Shifting](#) community on LJ, for therianthropes to tell about transformations that happened within their dreams at night.<sup>490</sup>

2004-08-22: The Brazilian band “The Otherkins” performed two songs at Festival de Bandas Ilha 10 +. Of the twenty participating bands, they came in third place.

Their first album was called “One,” partially because these letters are in the word “otherkin,” the band says.<sup>491</sup>

The band described themselves as “a 3-piece electronic punk-rock band from Rio de Janeiro. They claim to be from out of this world and bring with them their music.”The band members are Denis K., Fernando M., and Bruno R.; Veronica M. handled the e-mail from their fans.<sup>492</sup>

The band members described themselves in detail on their profile page, but none of them mentioned anything about their otherkin identities. It’s possible that none of the band members

478 *Alicorn River*. 2004-05-11. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alicornriver/>

479 Fadeyr, e-mail to the editor, 2011-10-16

480 *The Dragons’ Universe*. 2004-05-21. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/thedragonsuniverse/>

481 “Dancing through Dreams of the Past.”

482 Dan O’Dea, e-mail to the editor, 2011-05-27.

483 *Walking the Thresholds 7*. <http://www.rialian.com/elvsgath2004.htm> Rialian e-mailed me to correct the location.

484 *Pittsburgh on the Flipside*. 2004-06-21. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Pittsburgh\\_on\\_the\\_flipside/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Pittsburgh_on_the_flipside/)

485 *HOKS: Haven of Kindred Spirits*. 2004-07-07. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HOKS/>

486 WatergazerWolf, “Therian Flag.” <http://watergazerwolf.deviantart.com/art/Therian-Flag-Design-9103026>

487 WatergazerWolf, “Therian Flag: Create Your Own.” <http://watergazerwolf.deviantart.com/art/Therian-Flag-CREATE-YOUR-OWN-9102952>

488 *Draconic*. 2004-08-02. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Draconic/>

489 *Plant Otherkin*. 2004-08-04. [http://community.livejournal.com/plant\\_otherkin/profile](http://community.livejournal.com/plant_otherkin/profile)

490 *Dream Shifting*. 2004-08-06. [http://community.livejournal.com/dream\\_shifting/profile](http://community.livejournal.com/dream_shifting/profile)

491 Denis Kandle. “Últimas Novidades.” *Otherkin: o bom e novo rock’n’roll*. Updated 2004-09-24. Retrieved 2004-10-14.

<http://tranzine.democlub.com/otherkin/novidades.html> (defunct)

492 “Profile.” *Otherkin*. Retrieved 2004-11-03. <http://tranzine.democlub.com/otherkin/profile.html> (defunct)

are, themselves, otherkin. Maybe they just chose “The Otherkins” as a band name because they thought it was an interesting idea. They do know what “otherkin” means, because their profile page includes an excerpt from Otherkin.net. The plural form of “otherkins” is an artifact of the Portuguese- and Spanish-speaking parts of the otherkin community.

- 2004-09-16: Creation of online mailing list [House of Lost Souls](#), for otherkin, vampires, and lycanthropes.<sup>493</sup>
- 2004-10-03: Kaltezar noticed that CafePress had changed its policies again, so Kaltezar returned to selling window-stickers of Otherkin Emblem, “being sold at zero profit to myself.” As of 2010, the Otherkin CafePress store is still active, and also sells buttons, mugs, and shirts with the symbol.
- 2004-10-11: Dan O’Dea says this was the “Third FAE retreat, over Labor Day weekend, organized by FAE.”<sup>494</sup>
- 2004-10-12: Creation of online mailing list [Shades of the Rainbow](#), for otherkin and vampires.<sup>495</sup>
- 2004-10-14: Creation of web-site Otherkin Alliance (OKA) at <http://www.otherkinalliance.org/><sup>496</sup>
- 2004-10-24: Creation of online mailing list [Dragon Clan](#), “for those who know they are dragons or are dragon-lovers.”<sup>497</sup>
- 2004-11-17: Creation of mailing list [alithil \(Alithil i’Lara\)](#) for unicorn otherkin.<sup>498</sup> Around the same time, members create a web-site counterpart to the mailing list, also titled [Alithil i’Lara](#). The site contains profiles for a few of the unicorn otherkin who use the mailing list.<sup>499</sup>
- 2004-12-??: Akhila wrote “[Labels](#),” an article saying that jargon may be unhelpful to therians.<sup>500</sup>
- 2004-12-15: Otherkin site <http://wanderingpaths.bravepages.com> migrates to a new host: <http://wanderingpaths.heliwood.org/><sup>501</sup>
- 2004-12-27: “Migration of the WanderingPaths mailing list from Yahoo! Groups to Google Groups. <http://groups.google.com/group/wanderingpaths/>”<sup>502</sup>
- 2004-12-28: Creation of online mailing list [Vampires and Otherkin Coffee Shop](#).<sup>503</sup>

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493 *House of Lost Souls*. 2004-09-16. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/House\\_of\\_lost\\_souls/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/House_of_lost_souls/)

494 Dan O’Dea, e-mail to the editor, 2011-05-27.

495 *Shades of the Rainbow*. 2004-10-12. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Shades\\_Of\\_The\\_Rainbow](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Shades_Of_The_Rainbow)

496 This date is according to Otherkin Alliance site author Adnarel in comments on a public blog entry about this project, posted 2010-07-18. <http://waywind.livejournal.com/893914.html?thread=3442906#3442906>

497 *Dragon Clan*. 2004-10-24. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dragonclan>

498 *Alithil (Alithil i’Lara)*. 2004-11-17. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alithil>

499 *Alithil i’Lara*. 2004. <http://alithil.bravehost.com>

500 Akhila, “Labels.” [akhila.feralscribes.org/essays/labels.php](http://akhila.feralscribes.org/essays/labels.php)

501 Jarandhel Dreamsinger, comment on a public blog entry about this project, 2010-07-24.

<http://waywind.livejournal.com/893914.html?thread=3450330#3450330>

502 Jarandhel Dreamsinger, comment on a public blog entry about this project, 2010-07-24.

503 *Vampires and Otherkin Coffee Shop*. 2004-12-28. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VampiresOtherkinCoffeeShop/>

## 2005

A journalist named Christine Wicker published *Not In Kansas Anymore*, a non-fiction book that is an outsider's view of various occult subcultures, including otherkin. Wicker visited vampires, an otherkin gather, and the Silver Elves.<sup>504</sup>

This year, the Silver Elves self-published a magic handbook: *An Elfin Book of Spirits: Evoking the Beneficent Powers of Faerie*.<sup>505</sup>

Lady CG printed *Practical Vampirism for Modern Vampyres*, a non-fiction book that was mostly for vampires, but also mentioned "otherkin".<sup>506</sup>

Anya Bast published *Ordinary Charm* and *Blood of an Angel*, which are some supernatural romance novels about a fantasy version of "OtherKin," with that capitalization. That word was fictionalized and used in the book for supernatural persons who do not resemble real otherkin. This seems to be the start of a trend. In the next few years, several more romance novelists begin using the word "otherkin" as well, to describe characters who can physically shape-shift, among other special effects.<sup>507</sup>

According to Ketrino Ghoe, sometime during 2005, some therianthropes called into a radio show and talked about therianthropy:

"Some therians believe it is better if we stay secret. This was made apparent when there was a 2005 radio show about werewolves and a werewolf/therian was interviewed. When it was time for calls, a few therians called in and yelled at the interviewee, telling him that 'no self-respecting werewolf would do what he is doing' and that the world didn't need to know about us. On the other hand, some therians called in and said that what the interviewee was doing was a good thing. The humans who called in seemed generally interested and non-skeptical to the situation once they heard what the interviewee had to say. Unfortunately, many of the people who called in were therians and very few humans got the chance to ask questions."<sup>508</sup>

Unfortunately, Ketrino didn't name the radio show's title, host, channel, date of broadcast, callers, or anything specific. **What radio show was this, and when? Does anybody have a recording, script, or any primary sources proving that this radio show happened at all? (Or, if it did, that therians were actually calling in, and it wasn't just, say, an April Fool's Day episode about fictional werewolves?)**

2005-01-01: Windrider posted a definition for "[Otherkin](#)" on the *Everything2* web-site.<sup>509</sup>

2005-01-30: Creation of online mailing list [Dragon's Den Draconian Society](#), for vampires, otherkin, and draconians.<sup>510</sup>

2005-02-05: "Creation of Google Groups online mailing list [Vor'jenhunting](#) by Jarandhel Dreamsinger, a replacement for the earlier Yahoo Group mailing list Vorgenhunting."<sup>511</sup>

2005-02-26: Creation of online mailing list [The House of Twilight](#), "a group for Otherkin, with a focus on those of a fae nature."<sup>512</sup>

2005-03-11 to 13: KinVention North, an otherkin gather in Ontario.

504 Christine Wicker, *Not In Kansas Anymore: A Curious Tale of How Magic Is Transforming America* (HarperSanFrancisco, 2005)

505 Review by Lupa: <http://paganbookreviews.com/2007/06/17/an-elfin-book-of-spirits-the-silver-elves/>

506 Lady CG, *Practical Vampirism for Modern Vampyres* (Lulu, 2005)

507 Anya Bast, *Ordinary Charm* (Ellora's Cave, 2005)

Anya Bast, *Blood of an Angel* (Ellora's Cave, 2005)

508 Ketrino Ghoe, "What is therianthropy?" 2006-08. <http://ketrino.angelfire.com/therianthropy2.htm>

509 Windrider, "Otherkin." *Everything2*. 2005-01-01. <http://everything2.com/title/Otherkin>

510 *Dragon's Den Draconian Society*. 2005-01-30. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DragonsDenDraconianSociety>

511 *Vor'jenhunting*. 2005-02-05. <http://groups.google.com/group/vorjenhunting/>

Quote from Jarandhel Dreamsinger, comment on a public blog entry about this project.

512 *The House of Twilight*. 2005-02-26. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/houseoftwilight/>



- 2005-03-15: Creation of online mailing list [Inhuman Circle](#), for talking about “not quite human people, as I call it, be they Otherkin, Were creatures, vampires, fae, and anything I left out” as it says in its description page.<sup>513</sup>
- 2005-03-24: In *The Battalion* (est.1893), the student newspaper of Texas A&M University, Sonia Moghe wrote an article titled “Get furry: Aggies release their animalistic nature.” Note that “Aggie” is slang for students of that university. The article emphasized an interpretation of furriness as sexuality, but mentioned animal spirituality as well:
- “Jones describes himself as being an ‘otherkin,’ a person who believes he or she was an animal in a past life and still carries its spirit. Jones believes he is a raptor, and wishes he had a tail and scales so he could be more like the animal he has always admired. He tries to assimilate the raptor way of life into his own because he believes it's better than the human way of life.”<sup>514</sup>
- 2005-04-12: Creation of online mailing list [Antelope Valley Otherkin](#).<sup>515</sup>
- 2005-04-12: Creation of online mailing list [Portland Otherkin](#).<sup>516</sup>
- 2005-04-18: A new bit of jargon for the therianthropy community, the word “suntherian” was coined by WordWolf on this date, to mean a person whose animal side “is integrated into his baseline personality [and he] can feel them both at the same time, human and animal.” Variations “suntherianthrope” and “suntherianthropy” appear later.<sup>517</sup>
- 2005-04-19: Creation of online mailing list [Northern California Otherkin](#).<sup>518</sup>
- 2005-04-21: Creation of *AlterSpirit* community on Livejournal.
- 2005-05-??: Fadeyr’s web-site for unicorn otherkin, *Always Believe*, permanently closed down during this month, “due to personal problems,” Fadeyr says.<sup>519</sup> A small community of thirty-three unicorns had depended on the site’s forum. Fadeyr wrote to me saying that the site’s “dissolution ... scattered everyone into either obscurity or their own attempts to create a forum.”<sup>520</sup>
- 2005-05-14: Creation of online mailing list [Northwest Kin](#), “for Otherkin located in the Pacific Northwest”.<sup>521</sup>
- 2005-05-26: The Brazilian music band “The Otherkins” posted some of their songs on another web-site.<sup>522</sup>
- 2005-05-27 to 30: Dancing the Endless Dream: The Seventh Dancing. Otherkin camping in Texas<sup>523</sup> “over Memorial Day weekend, organized by Syleniel, Dan O’Dea, & FAE.”<sup>524</sup>
- 2005-06-01: FAE, Inc. registered the faeinc.info web domain, and moved to there from its former web address at promethianweb.com/fae. At this point, the front page of the web-site—after the usual “This is not an RPG” disclaimer—includes this sentence: “We are not an Otherkin site,

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513 *Inhuman Circle*. 2005-03-15. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Inhuman\\_circle/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Inhuman_circle/)

514 Sonia Moghe, “Get furry: Aggies release their animalistic nature.” *The Battalion*. 2005-03-24. Reposted by Procyon, “Campus newspaper article on furies at Texas A&M.” 2005-03-26. *Flayrah*. <http://www.flayrah.com/2083>

515 *Antelope Valley Otherkin*. 2005-04-12. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/antelopevalleyotherkin/>

516 *Portland Otherkin*. 2005-04-12. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pdx\\_otherkin/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pdx_otherkin/)

517 WordWolf, “Suntherian.” *Christian Therianthropy* (message board). 2005-04-18.

<http://werecoat.proboards.com/index.cgi?board=discussion&action=print&thread=304>

Quote from Elinox, comment on a public blog entry about this project, 2010-07-21.

<http://waywind.livejournal.com/893914.html?thread=3449050#3449050>

518 *Northern California Otherkin*. 2005-04-19. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Nor\\_Cal\\_Otherkin/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Nor_Cal_Otherkin/)

519 Fadeyr, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-10-17

520 Fadeyr, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-10-16

521 *Northwest Kin*. 2005-5-14. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/norwes\\_kin/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/norwes_kin/)

522 “The Otherkins.” *Download.com Music*. Updated 2005-05-26. Retrieved 2008-02-28. [http://music.download.com/theotherkins/3600-8605\\_32-100698338.html](http://music.download.com/theotherkins/3600-8605_32-100698338.html) (defunct)

523 *Dancing through Dreams of the Past*.

524 Dan O’Dea, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-05-27



nor do we associate with the term Otherkin,” and an explanation that the site is primarily for people who have a “core non-human mystical soul.” Later, in about 2006, the site changes so that only paid members have full access to all of the site’s features, including the ability to read articles that were formerly visible to the public. A few months after that, the site vanishes. **Gentle reader, can you tell me why FAE, Inc. changed and vanished, after they’d put so much work into it?**

- 2005-06-09 to 12: [Walking the Thresholds 8](#), an otherkin gather. Camping in Four Quarters Farm.<sup>525</sup>
- 2005-07-01 to 12: The Russian therianthrope community held their second gathering, Howl 2005, at Ozero Isetskoye (lake) by Verkhnyaya Pyshma, Province of Sverdlovsk, Russia.<sup>526</sup>
- 2005-07-13: Creation of [Unicorn Spirits](#) community on LJ, for unicorn otherkin.<sup>527</sup>
- 2005-07-14 to 18: Dragon Gathering, a draconic otherkin gather. Camping in Tennessee.<sup>528</sup>
- 2005-07-29: Creation of Ketrino’s *The WereLair* site.<sup>529</sup>
- 2005-08-18: Editors of WikiFur, a wiki for the furry fandom, created an article called “[Otherkin](#).”<sup>530</sup>
- 2005-08-22: O. Scribner created [Theri There](#), an online comic about the experiences of real therianthropes and otherkin.<sup>531</sup>
- 2005-10-05: Artist Robin Ward presented a solo art show called “Otherkin,” which explored the intersection between human and animal behavior. The artist mentioned being inspired by, but did not define, the concept of otherkin as people who feel like animals.<sup>532</sup>
- 2005-10-14: Creation of [OtherChristians](#) community on LJ, for otherkin who are also Christians.<sup>533</sup>
- 2005-10-31 to 11-2: Hidden Hallow Gathering, an otherkin gather. Camping in Pennsylvania.<sup>534</sup>
- 2005-11-28: An anonymous researcher called Kinfo who has been drafting a book about otherkin made a blog post revealing that Kinfo has collected about 400 responses to Kinfo’s survey.<sup>535</sup>
- On page 33 of *A Field Guide to Otherkin* (2007), Lupa wrote, “I collected surveys [from Otherkin] for over a year and got less than 150; the most I’ve ever heard of another researcher getting is around 400.” I asked Lupa who she was talking about, and she told me that Kinfo is the researcher in question.
- 2005-12-04: Creation of *House Lion’s Den* web-site (now defunct).<sup>536</sup>
- 2005-12-04: Lupa wrote an essay titled “The Reincarnation Theory of Otherkin” on *WitchVox*. This essay told about some common reasons that otherkin give when explaining where they came from and why they’re here.<sup>537</sup> *WitchVox* is a NeoPagan community web-site, est. 1997.

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525 “Walking the Thresholds 8.” Rialian. <http://www.rialian.com/elvsgath2005.htm>

526 “Howl 2005.” <http://www.therianthropy.ru/index.php?page=howls&subpage=howl2>

527 *Unicorn Spirits*. 2005-07-13. [http://community.livejournal.com/unicorn\\_spirits/profile](http://community.livejournal.com/unicorn_spirits/profile)

528 “Otherkin Gatherers.”

529 Ketrino, *The WereLair*. <http://www.geocities.com/queenwolf2007/> (defunct), but the site is currently active at a new location:

<http://ketrino.angelfire.com>

530 “Otherkin.” *WikiFur*. 2005-08-18. <http://en.wikifur.com/wiki/Otherkin>

531 O. Scribner, *Theri There*. 2005-08-22. <http://therithere.comicgen.com>

532 Mark Van Proyen, “Robin Ward at Lisa Dent.” *Art in America* Oct. 2005: 189. Expanded Academic ASAP.

Laura Janku, “Otherkin at Lisa Dent.” *Art on Paper*. May/June 2005, 80-81.

Jordan Essoe, “Robin Ward at Lisa Dent Gallery.” April 2005, 16-17. *Artweek*.

Clark Buckner, “Otherkin.” February 2005, 75. *San Francisco Bay Guardian*.

Robin Ward’s web-site, which includes local copies of the aforementioned articles: <http://www.omphalos-art.com/>

533 *OtherChristians*. 2005-10-14. <http://community.livejournal.com/otherchristians/profile>

534 “Otherkin Gatherers.”

535 <http://kinfo.livejournal.com/6169.html>

536 *House Lion’s Den*. 2005-12-04. <http://www.geocities.com/houselionsden/news.html> (defunct)

537 Lupa, “The Reincarnation Theory of Otherkin.” 2005-12-04. [http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt\\_va.html?a=usor&c=words&id=10338](http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_va.html?a=usor&c=words&id=10338)

## 2006

At least eleven books were printed or published this year that at least mentioned otherkin, therians, or similar people who identify as animals or otherworldly creatures.

Frances Di Lauro published an academic anthology on religion, *Through a glass darkly*. This contained a research essay about otherkin by Danielle Kirby, titled “Alternative worlds: Metaphysical questing and virtual community amongst the otherkin.”<sup>538</sup>

Michelle Belanger published *Psychic Dreamwalking: Explorations at the Edge of Self*, a non-fiction book that mentioned otherkin.<sup>539</sup>

Robert Fiske published *Dictionary of Disagreeable English*, a non-fiction book that used the word “otherkin” on page 47.<sup>540</sup>

Sebastiaan Van Houten printed *The Vampyre Almanac 2006*, a book that mentioned otherkin.<sup>541</sup>

Lupa published *Fang and Fur, Blood and Bone: A Primal Guide to Animal Magic*, an occult non-fiction book that has a chapter on spiritual therianthropy.<sup>542</sup>

Ebon Lupus printed *Poems of the Wolf*, a book of poetry and other creative works by a wolf therianthrope.<sup>543</sup>

Linda S. Godfrey published *Hunting the American werewolf*, a non-fiction book that talked about spiritual therianthropes on pages 213-223.<sup>544</sup>

Luc Reid published *Talk the talk: The slang of 65 American subcultures*, a non-fiction book on slang that contained a definition of therianthropy.<sup>545</sup>

Chantal Bourgault du Coudray published *The curse of the werewolf*, a non-fiction book about werewolves which talked about alt.horror.werewolves and its concept of “spiritual therianthropy.”<sup>546</sup>

Doreen Virtue published *Goddesses and Angels: Awakening your inner high-priestess and “source-ress,”* in which she interviewed and surveyed a few people who identified as mer-people, dolphins, and other aquatic creatures.

Adler published a new edition of *Drawing Down the Moon*. In this one, she adds a listing for the Elf Queen’s Daughters in the directory.<sup>547</sup>

2006-01-01: Fadeyr created *To Be Unicorn*, a web-site and forum for unicorn otherkin. It was a replacement for his previous web-site *Always Believe*.<sup>548</sup> *To Be Unicorn* was located at <http://home.comcast.net/~uneairkagh/> (defunct).

2006-??-??: Ketrino wrote article “Werewolves, shapeshifters, and therianthropes: Is there a difference?”<sup>549</sup>

2006-01-??: Clodaus founded a web forum and organization called “The Otherkin Community.”<sup>550</sup>

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538 Danielle Kirby, “Alternative Worlds: Metaphysical Questing and Virtual Community amongst the Otherkin.” *Through a glass darkly: reflections on the sacred: collected research by Frances Di Lauro*. Sydney: Sydney University Press, 2006.

539 Michelle Belanger, *Psychic Dreamwalking: Explorations at the Edge of Self* (Weiser, 2006)

540 Robert Hartwell Fiske, *Dictionary of Disagreeable English: A Curmudgeon’s Compendium of Excruciatingly Correct Grammar* (Writer’s Digest, 2006) 47.

541 Sebastiaan Van Houten, *The Vampyre Almanac 2006* (Lulu, 2006)

542 Lupa, *Fang and Fur, Blood and Bone: A Primal Guide to Animal Magic* (Stafford, UK: Megalithica, 2006)

543 Ebon Lupus, *Poems of the Wolf* (Lulu, 2006)

544 Linda S. Godfrey, *Hunting the American Werewolf* (Trails Media Group, 2006) 213-223.

545 Luc Reid, *Talk the Talk: The Slang of 65 American Subcultures*. (Writers Digest, 2006)

546 Chantal Bourgault du Coudray, *The Curse of the Werewolf: fantasy, horror and the beast within*. (New York: I.B. Tauris, 2006) 143, 146, 181.

547 Adler, 531.

548 Fadeyr, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-10-16

549 Ketrino, “Werewolves, shapeshifters, and therianthropes: Is there a difference?” [ketrino.angelfire.com/wwssandtherisdifference.html](http://ketrino.angelfire.com/wwssandtherisdifference.html)

550 “The Otherkin Community, Inc.” [http://www.otherkincommunity.org/wiki/The\\_Otherkin\\_Community](http://www.otherkincommunity.org/wiki/The_Otherkin_Community)

- 2006-01-01: A therianthrope named Quil wrote an article titled “[Animality Defined](#).”<sup>551</sup>
- 2006-03: The Vampire & Energy Work Research Survey (VEWRS) conducted by Suscitatio [Enterprises, LLC](#), began to collect survey responses from vampires, otherkin, therianthropes, and energy workers from March 2006 to March 2009, by which time it had collected 955 responses.<sup>552</sup>
- 2006-05-09: Creation of [OtherkinLounge](#) community on LJ.<sup>553</sup>
- 2006-06-08 to 11: [Walking the Thresholds 9](#), an otherkin gather. Camping in Four Quarters Farm.<sup>554</sup>
- 2006-06-18: Sandstorm created [Therianthrope & Otherkin Book Club](#) community.<sup>555</sup>
- 2006-05-26 to 29: Dancing the Endless Dream: Eighth Dancing. Otherkin camping in Texas<sup>556</sup> “over Memorial Day weekend, organized by Syleniell/Sileniel and Dan O’Dea.”<sup>557</sup>
- 2006-08: The Advanced Vampirism & Energy Work Research Survey (AVEWRS) conducted by [Suscitatio Enterprises, LLC](#), began to collect survey responses from vampires, otherkin, therianthropes, and energy workers from August 2006 to 2009, by which time it had collected 515 responses.<sup>558</sup>
- 2006-08-14: Creation of [H U S H: Home of Unicorns in Spiritual Harmony](#), an online mailing list “for those who consider themselves unicorns deep inside or are true friends of unicorns.” It’s run by Roy Wilkinson, author of the book *Are You A Unicorn?*<sup>559</sup>
- 2006-09-24: Creation of [Therian Thoughts](#) community.<sup>560</sup>
- 2006-10-22: Lupa wrote an essay titled “Otherkin and the Pagan Community” on *WitchVox*. This essay is an introduction to otherkin, written for a Pagan audience.<sup>561</sup>
- 2006-12-09: Final update of [The Draconity Resource Project](#) web-site.<sup>562</sup>
- 2006-12-18: A newspaper called the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* ran an article about dragons in various movies and books. It included a blurb about Draconic.com, saying,
- “Draconic claims to be the largest online community of otherkin dragons – ‘otherkin’ being people who believe themselves to be something other than human. ‘Are you a dragon? I am,’ site founder Chris Dragon (a k a KaniS) says. ‘That’s why I’ve created this site. ... I think that dragon spirits have always been here, but it has only been since the age of the Internet that we could easily find one another.’ He obviously believes strongly in those statements, because elsewhere on the site, in rules for new members to the forum, it warns, ‘Do not lie or pretend to be something you are not in order to get attention. ... And do not try to teach others “how to be a dragon.”’”<sup>563</sup>

The article quoted directly from the website. They didn’t interview or notify the website author.

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551 Quil, “Animality Defined.” <http://www.absurdism.org/therianthrope/defined.html>

552 Suscitatio Enterprises, LLC. <http://www.suscitatio.com/>

553 OtherkinLounge. 2006-05-09. <http://community.livejournal.com/otherkinlounge/profile>

554 *Walking the Thresholds 9*. <http://www.rialian.com/elvsgath2006.htm>

555 *Therianthrope & Otherkin Book Club*. 2005-06-18. [http://community.livejournal.com/t\\_o\\_book\\_club/profile](http://community.livejournal.com/t_o_book_club/profile)

556 “Dancing through Dreams of the Past.”

557 Dan O’Dea, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-05-27.

558 <http://www.suscitatio.com/>

559 *H\_U\_S\_H: Home of Unicorns in Spiritual Harmony*. 2006-08-14. [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/H\\_U\\_S\\_H/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/H_U_S_H/)

“Unicorn Otherkin.” *WikiFur*. [http://en.wikifur.com/wiki/Unicorn\\_Otherkin](http://en.wikifur.com/wiki/Unicorn_Otherkin)

560 *Therian Thoughts*. 2006-09-24. <http://community.livejournal.com/therianthoughts/profile>

561 Lupa, “Otherkin and the Pagan Community.” 2006-10-22. [http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt\\_va.html?a=uswa&c=words&id=11030](http://www.witchvox.com/va/dt_va.html?a=uswa&c=words&id=11030)

562 Avatara Raki, ed., *The Draconity Resource Project*. <http://www.weyr.org/drp>

563 Randy A. Salas. “A Quest for Dragons.” 2006-12-18. *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. <http://www.modbee.com/life/mondaylife/story/13124129p-13771601c.html> (defunct) Retrieved from KaniS’s archive of the article, 2006-12-31.

## 2007

Wolf therian and pagan author Lupa published *A Field Guide to Otherkin*, a book entirely on the subject of otherkin, vampires, and therianthropes. She drew her information from surveys of them, so that her book reflects their actual diversity of beliefs and opinions. At that time, she also printed a couple of short books on therianthropy, intended for a smaller audience: *The Lupa Liturgy*, and also *Shamanism, and Therianthropy: Magical Techniques for Your Therioside*.<sup>564</sup>

Some other non-fiction from this year that mentions otherkin, therianthropes, or similar people who identify as animals or otherworldly creatures: Doreen Virtue published a revised edition of her earlier book *Earth Angels*. This time, it was under the title *Realms of the Earth Angels: More Information for Incarnated Angels, Elementals, Wizards, and Other Lightworkers*.<sup>565</sup> The material is more organized, and she added some information about mer-people which she had previously written in her 2006 book *Goddesses and Angels*. (154-156). Paul Bibeau published *Sundays with Vlad*, a non-fiction book that uses the word “otherkin” on page 167. It’s in a block quote describing an online mailing list. The word isn’t defined there, and it doesn’t seem to be mentioned again.<sup>566</sup> Jonathan Maberry published *The Cryptopedia: A Dictionary of the Weird, Strange & Downright Bizarre*, a non-fiction book that defined “otherkin” on pages 114-115.<sup>567</sup> Christopher Penczak published *Ascension Magick*, a non-fiction occult book that mentioned “otherkin” on page 416.<sup>568</sup> Taylor Ellwood published *Inner Alchemy*, a non-fiction occult book that used the word “otherkin.”<sup>569</sup>

Some fiction from this year that uses the words “otherkin” or similar: Delilah Devlin publishes *Into the Darkness*, a book that mentions “otherkin” on page 30. It is the first book of the Otherkin series.<sup>570</sup> Elizabeth Bear publishes *Whiskey and Water*, a fantasy novel that includes a character who identifies as “otherkin,” by that name.<sup>571</sup> Roland Amago publishes *Moonlight Meow*, a fantasy comic book about physical shape-shifters who use the slang of the real-world spiritual therianthropy community.<sup>572</sup>

2007-02-19: Dan O’Dea says this was the “First ‘A Gathering Echo’ gather, over President’s Day weekend, organized by Dan O’Dea and SidheLady.”<sup>573</sup>

2007-03-09: Creation of [Zeta StarChildren](#) online mailing list, for “Zeta starchildren” or “grey alien otherkin,” who are “a seemingly very rare species of otherkin and starchildren.”<sup>574</sup>

2007-05-20: *Forest of the Unknown* (an online message board about therianthropes, otherkin, and vampires) was declared “dead” by the administrator, as in abandoned and inactive.<sup>575</sup>

2007-05-24 to 28: Dancing the Endless Dream: Ninth Dancing. Otherkin camping in Texas<sup>576</sup> “over Memorial Day weekend, organized by Syleniel and Dan O’Dea.”<sup>577</sup>

2007-06-07 to 10: [Walking the Thresholds X: The Unknown Quantity](#), an otherkin gather. Camping in Four Quarters Farm.<sup>578</sup>

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564 Lupa, *A Field Guide to Otherkin* (Stafford, UK: Megalithica, 2007)

Lupa, *The Lupa Liturgy* (Lulu, 2007)

Lupa, *Shifting, Shamanism, and Therianthropy: Magical Techniques for Your Therioside* (Lulu, 2007)

565 Doreen Virtue, *Realms of the Earth Angels: More Information for Incarnated Angels, Elementals, Wizards, and Other Lightworkers* (Hay House, 2007)

566 Paul Bibeau, *Sundays with Vlad: From Pennsylvania to Transylvania, One Man’s Quest to Live in the World of the Undead* (Three Rivers Press, 2007) 167.

567 Jonathan Maberry, *The Cryptopedia: A Dictionary of the Weird, Strange & Downright Bizarre*. (Citadel, 2007) 114-115.

568 Christopher Penczak, *Ascension Magick: Ritual, Myth & Healing for the New Aeon* (Llewellyn, 2007) 416.

569 Taylor Ellwood, *Inner Alchemy: Energy Work and the Magic of the Body* (Megalithica, 2007) 105.

570 Delilah Devlin, *Into the Darkness* (Avon Red, 2007) 30.

571 Elizabeth Bear, *Whiskey and Water* (Roc Trade, 2007) 12.

572 Roland Amago, *Moonlight Meow, Vol. 1*. (Seven Seas, 2007)

573 Dan O’Dea, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-05-27.

574 *Zeta StarChildren*. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/zetastarchildren/>

575 “Forest of the Unknown.” *Therian.Wikia*. [http://therian.wikia.com/wiki/Forest\\_of\\_the\\_Unknown](http://therian.wikia.com/wiki/Forest_of_the_Unknown)

The forum itself: *Forest of the Unknown*. <http://forestunknown.proboards.com/index.cgi?>

576 “Dancing through Dreams of the Past.”

577 Dan O’Dea, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-05-27.



- 2007-06-11: Writing of "[A femmekin glossary](#)," a list of jargon used by Aristasian otherkin.<sup>579</sup>
- 2007-06-18: An experimental/gothic/metal music band from the UK called [Otherkin](#) created a MySpace account.<sup>580</sup>
- 2007-06-29 to 07-01: *Company of Others*, an otherkin gather in Washington state.<sup>581</sup>
- 2007-07-??: Fadeyr's second web-site for unicorn otherkin, *To Be Unicorn*, permanently closed,<sup>582</sup> due to "lack of participation by the members," Fadeyr says.<sup>583</sup>
- 2007-07-??: *Alfandria MUCK* went offline due to a system crash. It remained offline until 2009.
- 2007-08-06 to 13: The Russian therianthrope community held their third gathering, Howl 2007, at the Altai Mountains, Chemalsky District, Russia.<sup>584</sup>
- 2007-08-30: On BBC Radio 4, broadcast of a play about "otherkin." It's called [Looking for Angels: Otherkin](#), by Laura Wade. A description of this work of fiction:
- "Ash is a displaced spirit, an angelic whose phantom wings require her to rip holes in the back of every jumper she owns. Her human body looks quite ordinary but her true form is more beautiful than anything dreamed up by fantasy writers. She meets Neil, a dragon who needs help to unlock his memories."<sup>585</sup>
- 2007-09-14 to 16: MythiCalia, a weekend otherkin-gather in a campground. "[I]t was held at Huddart County Park in Woodside. [...] This one was fairly large as they've gone, about 15 people IIRC [if I remember correctly] although not all present at the same time."<sup>586</sup>
- 2007-09-29: A news article mentioned dragon people. "Sun scene briefs" in *The Winchester Sun* of Kentucky mentioned that on October 4, "dragon master Logan Shen" would deliver a free lecture at Clark County Public Library about dragons in folklore, history, and ritual. The article says "You will learn about draconity (people who believe they are dragons)."<sup>587</sup>
- 2007-11-29: The Werelist web-site for therianthropes at werelist.net crashed. According to Therian.Wikia,
- "In late 2007, The Werelist experienced an extended downtime, in which the site's data had been wiped. [Site owner and administrator Coyote Osborne] made an announcement on the LiveJournal page saying that he no longer had the time or will to administrate the web-site."<sup>588</sup>
- "[...] Coyote made an announcement that he would no longer be the admin of, or even a major part of Werelist anymore. He has found a well paying job, but one which consumes too much of his time for him to really work on Werelist. This comes after the site being down for over 2 months, after the server broke and all data was lost."<sup>589</sup>
- 2007-12-08: Preliminary release of a Russian-language web-site about therianthropy, <http://therian.spb.ru> (defunct) titled Сообщество териантропов Санкт-Петербурга и Северо-Запада (*The Therianthrope Community of St. Petersburg and the Northwest*). This site continued to be very active for the rest of the month, producing articles such as "O

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578 *Walking the Thresholds Z: The Unknown Quantity*. <http://www.rialian.com/elvsgath2007.htm>

579 "A femmekin glossary." [otherkin.wordpress.com/2007/06/11/a-femmekin-glossary/](http://otherkin.wordpress.com/2007/06/11/a-femmekin-glossary/)

580 "Otherkin." Created 2007-06-18. MySpace. <http://www.myspace.com/thecursedring>

581 Baxil, comment on a public blog entry for this project, posted 2010-07-20.

582 Fadeyr, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-10-16

583 Fadeyr, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-10-17

584 "Howl 2007." <http://www.therianthropy.ru/index.php?page=howls&subpage=howl3>

585 "Looking for Angels: Otherkin." Writ. Laura Wade. *Afternoon Play*. BBC Radio 4. 2007-08-30. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007x5bf>

586 "Otherkin Gathers." This listing describes a different date and location.

Arethinn gave corrections and details in a comment on a public blog post for this project, on 2010-08-20.

<http://waywind.livejournal.com/894892.html?thread=3464108#3464108>

587 "Sun scene briefs." *The Winchester Sun*. September 27, 2007. Retrieved November 24, 2011 via *NewsBank Access World News* online database.

588 "Coyote (Werelist admin)." *Therian.Wikia*. [http://therian.wikia.com/wiki/Coyote\\_%28Werelist\\_admin%29](http://therian.wikia.com/wiki/Coyote_%28Werelist_admin%29)

589 "News: Coyote throws in towel." *Therian.Wikia*. 2007-11-29. [http://therian.wikia.com/wiki/News%3ACoyote\\_throws\\_in\\_towel](http://therian.wikia.com/wiki/News%3ACoyote_throws_in_towel)

териантропии” (*About Therianthropes*) and “Почему Териантропия - Не Субкультура” (*Why Therianthropy isn't a Subculture*).<sup>590</sup>

## 2008

Non-fiction books from this year: Wagner James Au published *The Making of Second Life*, a non-fiction book about a virtual reality setting. The book used the word “otherkin” on page 76.<sup>591</sup> Anita Revel published *The 7-Day Chakra Workout*, a book on chakras mentions the “otherkin subculture” on page 85.<sup>592</sup> Matthew Ikonen printed *Warlocks Handbook*, an occult book that used the word “otherkin” on page 88.<sup>593</sup> Raven Digitalis published *Shadow Magick Compendium*, a non-fiction book that mentioned Lupa’s *Field Guide to Otherkin* on page 106.<sup>594</sup>

Fiction books about “otherkin” published this year: Nina Bangs published *Eternal Pleasure*, a supernatural romance novel that centers around a fictionalized version of “otherkin,” by that name, although they have so little resemblance to real otherkin that they should probably be called something else.<sup>595</sup> Delilah Devlin published second book in the “Otherkin Series” supernatural romance novels, *Seduced by Darkness*. This also contained a fictionalized version of “otherkin.”

The Silver Elves moved during this year. “In 2008, we [the Silver Elves] relocated to Hawaii where we are currently working on the *Magical Elven Love Letters, vol. 3, An Elfin Book of Dreams: An Oracle of Faerie*, and *The Elfin Book of Changes*.”<sup>596</sup>

2008-??-??: Apparently, Roy Wilkinson arranged (or was otherwise involved in) a unicorn gather this year. The front page of his web-site, [UnicornsUnited.com](http://UnicornsUnited.com), shows a banner that says “2008 Year of the Gathering.”

2008-01-10: Creation of [OtherkinPhenomena.org](http://OtherkinPhenomena.org), a web-site with forums and articles about otherkin.

2008-01-24: Creation of a Brazilian Portuguese-language blog about therianthropy, titled *Therian Círculo* (Therian Circle), and created by a trio of therians: Centauros, Luna, and ‘.A+A.’ This blog produced many posts about therianthrope philosophy for the next couple of years.<sup>597</sup> On this date they wrote an article titled “[Introdução à Introdução](#) (Introduction to the introduction),” which explained what therianthropy is not.<sup>598</sup>

2008-01-25: Therian Círculo wrote “[Introdução à Therian Comunidade](#) (Introduction to the therian community),” summarizing what therian philosophy is and how it began.<sup>599</sup>

2008-01-26: Therian Círculo wrote “*Desvalando o idioma da Theriantropia* (The language of therianthropy),” a glossary of therian jargon.<sup>600</sup>

2008-02-16: Lanina said that at this time,

“I [Lanina] started the Swedish language therian and otherkin forum, [therian.forumer.com](http://therian.forumer.com). It was intended to be a gathering place for all ‘kin who speak a Scandinavian language, as those are mutually understandable when written. But only

590 Сообщество териантропов Санкт-Петербурга и Северо-Запада (*The Therianthrope Community of St. Petersburg and the Northwest*). Updated 2008-08-02. Retrieved 2008-02-13. <http://therian.spb.ru> (defunct)

591 Wagner James Au, *The Making of Second Life: Notes from the New World* (HarperBusiness, 2008) 76.

592 Anita Revel, *The 7-Day Chakra Workout* (ChakraGoddess.com, 2008) 85.

593 Matthew Ikonen, *Warlocks Handbook* (Lulu.com, 2008) 88.

594 Raven Digitalis, *Shadow Magick Compendium: Exploring Darker Aspects of Magickal Spirituality* (Llewellyn, 2008) 106.

595 Nina Bangs, *Eternal Pleasure* (Leisure, 2008)

596 *Elves in Paradise*.

597 *Therian Círculo* (*Therian Circle*). Created 2008-01-25. <http://therianbrasil.blogspot.com/>

598 Therian Círculo, “Introdução à Introdução.” 2008-01-24. <http://therianbrasil.blogspot.com/2008/01/introduo-introduo.html>

599 Therian Círculo, “Introdução à Therian Comunidade.” 2008-01-25. <http://therianbrasil.blogspot.com/2008/01/introduo.html>

600 Therian Círculo, “*Desvalando o idioma da Theriantropia*.”



Swedes registered as members. It was the most active during 2008 and beginning of 2009, but is now [in 2010] pretty dead.”<sup>601</sup>

2008-03-10: Creation of [Project Shift](#) community on LJ, for therianthropes.<sup>602</sup>

2008-05-23 to 26: Dancing the Endless Dream: Tenth Dancing, an otherkin gather. Camping in Texas, organized by Sylaniel<sup>603</sup> and A’hri’l.<sup>604</sup>

2008-06-??: Creation of the [Unicorn Grove](#), a forum for unicorn otherkin.<sup>605</sup>

2008-06-03: Ketrino wrote “Discrimination via labels,” explaining that otherkin or therian is just a label.<sup>606</sup>

2008-06-12 to 15: [Walking the Thresholds Eleven](#), an otherkin gather. Camping in Pennsylvania.<sup>607</sup>

2008-06-18: On this date, “[Dreamhart.org](#) domain name was purchased by Jarandhel Dreamsinger, and [wanderingpaths.heliwood.org](#) migrated to a new host at [wanderingpaths.dreamhart.org](#). The main domain, [dreamhart.org](#), was left under construction. [...It’s] important to note that the content on Dreamhart.org didn’t just spring into being in 2008.”<sup>608</sup>

2008-06-18: Elinox wrote “[Terms](#),” an article on jargon used in the therian community.<sup>609</sup>

2008-07?: Lanina said,

“That summer we had, as far as I know, the first official Swedish howl, the invitation was posted on [therian.forumer.com](#) and [werelist.com](#). We were 4 persons meeting up in Stockholm. The participants were two males and two females (myself included) from around the country, all identifying as wolf therians or werewolves. The gathering only lasted for a day, during which we went swimming on a beach outside of town. We also had a barbecue.”<sup>610</sup>

2008-07-24 to 27: Company of Others 2008, an otherkin gather. They planned to camp in Washington state. However, Lupa tells me that the event was canceled.<sup>611</sup>

2008-08-02: *The Therianthrope Community of St. Petersburg and the Northwest* web-site produced a couple of articles about therianthropy: “Фантомные Крылья” (Phantom Wings) about aspects of Western philosophy and beliefs, and “Форумы” (Forum) about the Russian animal community.<sup>612</sup>

2008-08-03 to 10: The Russian therianthrope community held Howl 2008 at the Kola Peninsula.<sup>613</sup>

2008-10-17 to 19: KinSouth Swamp Gather, an otherkin gather. Camping in Florida.<sup>614</sup>

2008-10-31: Dan O’Dea says this was the “Second ‘A Gathering Echo,’ over Samhain weekend, organized by Dan O’Dea and SidheLady.”<sup>615</sup>

2008-11-17: MSN Groups closed, meaning that all groups hosted on it disappeared or were optionally migrated to a new site called Multiply.<sup>616</sup> This includes the *Kinnecting MSN Otherkin* group,

601 Lanina, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-01-02.

602 *Project Shift*. 2008-03-10. <http://community.livejournal.com/projectshift/profile>

603 “Otherkin Gathers” and “Dancing through Dreams of the Past.”

604 Dan O’Dea, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-05-27.

605 Date from “Unicorn Otherkin.” *WikiFur*. [http://en.wikifur.com/wiki/Unicorn\\_Otherkin](http://en.wikifur.com/wiki/Unicorn_Otherkin) Unicorn Grove itself: <http://unicongrove.subject-expert.com/>

606 Ketrino, “Discrimination via labels.” [ketrino.angelfire.com/disvial.html](http://ketrino.angelfire.com/disvial.html)

607 *Walking the Thresholds Eleven*. <http://www.rialian.com/elvsgath2008.htm> and “Otherkin Gathers.”

608 Jarandhel Dreamsinger, comment on a public blog entry, posted 2010-07-24.

609 Elinox, “Terms.” <http://lupineinstincts.webs.com/terms.htm>

610 Lanina, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-01-02.

611 Date from “Otherkin Gathers.” Lupa gave me the details in a comment on a public blog entry about this project, posted 2010-07-18.

<http://waywind.livejournal.com/893914.html?thread=3443162#3443162>

612 Сообщество териантропов Санкт-Петербурга и Северо-Запада (*The Therianthrope Community of St. Petersburg and the Northwest*). Updated

2008-08-02. Retrieved 2008-02-13. <http://therian.spb.ru> (defunct)

613 “Howl 2008.” <http://www.therianthropy.ru/index.php?page=howls&subpage=howl4>

614 “Otherkin Gathers.”

615 Dan O’Dea, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-05-27.

located at <http://groups.msn.com/otherkin> (defunct). **What other MSN groups for otherkin and therians disappeared at this time?**

2008-11-29?: Around this time, Lanina “started [a website](#),<sup>617</sup> intended to give some basic information about therianthropy and otherkin in Swedish.”<sup>618</sup>

2008-12-13: In response to Will Ferrell’s comedy film *Elf*, the *Star-News* of Wilmington, North Carolina ran an article about elves in media and folklore. The article included a reference to otherkin: “Just add ears: There is a small group of humans in this country who believe they are elves and modify their ears with latex to look like pointy elf ears. The Silver Elves group in Hawaii created a 30,000-plus word Elfin language called Arvyn.”<sup>619</sup>

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616 Jason Kincaid, “Confirmed: Microsoft Gives Up On MSN Groups, Hands It Off To Multiply.” *Washington Post*. October 15, 2008.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/15/AR2008101503025.html>

617 <https://sites.google.com/site/terianinfo>

618 Lanina, e-mail to the editor, 2011-01-02.

619 Amanda Greene, “In the movies, elves—like rats—usually get the raw end of the deal.” *Star-News*. December 13, 2008. Retrieved November 24, 2011 via the *NewsBank Access World News* online database.

## 2009

At least fourteen books mentioned otherkin this year. In non-fiction: Danielle Kirby published her essay on otherkin, "From pulp fiction to revealed text: a study of the role of text in the otherkin community," in an academic book, *Exploring Religion and the Sacred in a Media Age*.<sup>620</sup>

Also in non-fiction: Rev. Criss Ittermann printed *The Crissing Link*, which talks about otherkin a little.<sup>621</sup> "The Slayer" published *The Vampire's Bible*, a book that uses the word "otherkin" on page 45.<sup>622</sup> Zack Parsons published *Your Next-Door Neighbor is a Dragon*, a non-fiction humor book that interviews and mocks two otherkin and some furies.<sup>623</sup> Marilyn Schrock printed *Wake Up, Church! The Enemy is Within Your Gates*, a book that uses the word "otherkin" on page 28.<sup>624</sup> Gede Parma published *Spirited: Taking Paganism Beyond the Circle*, a book that used the word "otherkin" on page 8.<sup>625</sup> Joseph Laycock published *Vampires Today*, a non-fiction book that defined words "otherkin" and "therian" on page 105... and quoted Lupa on therianthropy on page 151.<sup>626</sup> Ethan Gilsdorf published *Fantasy Freaks and Gaming Geeks*, a non-fiction book that mentioned "the Otherkin Resource Center (ORC)" on page 57, which is strange, because that web-site has been gone for many years by now... ever since the site closed on 2001-10-31. I think I know why: that was the site mentioned in the *Village Voice* article (from 2001-02-13).<sup>627</sup> Emily A. Georges printed *The Pocket Book of Paranormal Trivia*, a non-fiction book that defines the word "otherkin" on page 26, and describes the therian subculture on page 21.<sup>628</sup> Publication of *Llewellyn's 2010 Witches' Spell-A-Day Almanac*, a non-fiction book on paganism that defined "glamour bombing" on page 34, with a description that sounds like a tamer version of the description printed in *The Veil's Edge*.<sup>629</sup>

In fiction: Kate Wild published *Firefight*, a fiction novel that used the word "otherkin" on page 82.<sup>630</sup> Jess Cochran prints *Amethyst Circle*, a novel that uses the word "otherkin" on page 107.<sup>631</sup> Nina Bangs publishes *Eternal Craving*, a supernatural romance novel that uses the word "otherkin."<sup>632</sup> M. L. N. Hanover published *Unclean Spirits*, a novel that mentioned the words "otherkin" and "therian" on pages 118-119.<sup>633</sup>

2009-02-13: An otherkin website called <http://www.otherkincommunity.net> (The Otherkin Community, Inc.) "has been officially registered as a not-for-profit corporation under the State of New York."<sup>634</sup> The site founder, Clodaus, claimed this is "the first non-profit organization partially devoted to Otherkin."

In a sense, it's the *second* non-profit partially devoted to otherkin, but this depends upon definition. The first one was FAE, Inc., which legally became a non-profit corporation in 2003.<sup>635</sup> However, FAE, Inc. later claimed that it was strictly for Fae-born, defined as people who were otherworldly beings in previous incarnations, and that Fae-born were not synonymous with

620 Danielle Kirby, "From pulp fiction to revealed text: a study of the role of text in the otherkin community." *Exploring Religion and the Sacred in a Media Age*. Eds. Christopher Deacy and Elisabeth Arweck. (Surry, England: Ashgate, 2009) 141-154.

621 Rev. Criss Ittermann, *The Crissing Link: Poetic License: A poetic journey through the labyrinth of multiplicity* (CreateSpace, 2009)

622 The Slayer, *The Vampire's Bible* (CreateSpace, 2009) 45.

623 Zack Parsons, *Your Next-Door Neighbor is a Dragon* (Citadel Press, 2009)

624 Marilyn Schrock, *Wake Up, Church! The Enemy is Within Your Gates* (Creation House, 2009) 28.

625 Gede Parma, *Spirited: Taking Paganism Beyond the Circle* (Llewellyn Publications, 2009) 8.

626 Joseph Laycock, *Vampires Today: The Truth about Modern Vampirism* (Praeger, 2009) 151.

627 Ethan Gilsdorf, *Fantasy Freaks and Gaming Geeks: An Epic Quest for Reality among Role Players, Online Gamers, and Other Dwellers of Imaginary Realms* (The Lyons Press, 2009) 57.

628 Emily A. Georges, *The Pocket Book of Paranormal Trivia: Contains 200 Q & A's* (CreateSpace, 2009) 21, 26.

629 *Llewellyn's 2010 Witches' Spell-A-Day Almanac* (Llewellyn, 2009) 34.

630 Kate Wild, *Firefight* (The Chicken House, 2009) 82.

631 Jess L. Cochran, *Amethyst Circle: A Vampire Willows Novel, Book 1* (CreateSpace, 2009) 107.

632 Nina Bangs, *Eternal Craving* (Leisure Books, 2009) 19.

633 M. L. N. Hanover, *Unclean Spirits* (Pocket, 2009) 118-119.

634 Clodaus. "The Otherkin Community, Inc!" 2009-02-13 <http://www.otherkincommunity.net/topic2264>

635 FAE Board of Directors. "FAE Public Announcement #1," 2003-06-16 FAE, Inc.

<http://www.promethianweb.com/fae/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=93&mode=flat&order=0&thold=0> (defunct)

- otherkin, who are more diverse in beliefs, and don't necessarily believe in reincarnation. FAE, Inc. eventually stated that it was not associated with otherkin at all. (Furthermore, as of this writing, FAE, Inc. seems to have vanished without a trace, whereas the Otherkin Community, Inc. is still active.) Since FAE, Inc. claims that it's not for "otherkin" per se, then maybe the Otherkin Community, Inc. is technically the first after all.
- 2009-02-19: "[Wanderingpaths.dreamhart.org](http://Wanderingpaths.dreamhart.org) content was migrated to a new wordpress design at the main domain [Dreamhart.org](http://Dreamhart.org) and the scope of the site was expanded though it remains heavily focused on otherkin."<sup>636</sup>
- 2009-03-04: "[Austin Otherkin meetup.com group](http://AustinOtherkinmeetup.com)<sup>637</sup> formed, organized by Dan O'Dea and SidheLady."<sup>638</sup> On the same day, "[North Houston Otherkin meetup.com group](http://NorthHoustonOtherkinmeetup.com)<sup>639</sup> formed, organized by Dan O'Dea and SidheLady."<sup>640</sup>
- 2009-03: Suscitatio Enterprises, LLC., closed to further responses to the VEWRS and AVEWRS surveys, having collected a combined total of over 1450 survey responses, which Suscitatio says is the "largest and most in-depth research study ever conducted on the real vampire/vampyre community or subculture."<sup>641</sup>
- 2009-03-11: Miss Serena wrote "[An Aristasian glossary](#)," a list of jargon used by Aristasian otherkin.<sup>642</sup>
- 2009-03-15: Creation of [Dragon's Eye](#), personal web-site of a dragon otherkin.<sup>643</sup>
- 2009-04-01: The Otherkin.org web domain was purchased by another group who turned it into a dating site. If this was an April Fool's Day joke, it didn't end with the season, because as of 2010-07-18, that's still what the domain looks like. Note that otherkin.org shouldn't be confused with otherkin.net, which is still a hub of the otherkin community. This particular .org domain name has migrated from one owner to the next very often, sometimes several times within a single year, as can be seen through Archive.org.
- 2009-05-22 to 25: [Dancing the Endless Dream: Eleventh Dancing](#). Camping in Texas, organized by Syleniel, who declared that this eleventh annual gather is the final one: "Dancing is officially retired."<sup>644</sup>
- 2009-07-02: Publication of an adult trading-card game called "Furoticon," which "confusingly appropriates the word 'otherkin' to mean one of four 'genders' for its fictional characters: male, female, herm, or otherkin."<sup>645</sup> According to [the game's listing](#) on *BoardGameGeek*, that gender includes mythicals and aliens.<sup>646</sup>
- 2009-07-05 and 06: Alfandria MUCK was brought back online again from back-up, under new ownership, after having been offline since mid-2007.<sup>647</sup>
- 2009-09-04 to 07: A Gathering Echo 2009, an otherkin gather. Camping out in Texas.<sup>648</sup> Dan O'Dea says this was the "Third 'A Gathering Echo,' over Labor Day weekend, organized by Dan O'Dea and SidheLady."<sup>649</sup>
- 2009-09-24 and 27: MythiCalia, an otherkin gather. Camping out in northern California.<sup>650</sup>

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636 Jarandhel Dreamsinger, comment on a public blog entry, posted 2010-07-24.

637 Austin Otherkin meetup. <http://www.meetup.com/Austin-Otherkin>

638 Dan O'Dea, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-05-27.

639 North Houston Otherkin meetup, <http://www.meetup.com/North-Houston-Otherkin>

640 Dan O'Dea, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-05-27.

641 <http://www.suscitatio.com/>

642 Miss Serena, "An Aristasian glossary." [aristasia-central.com/encyclopaedia/tiki-index.php?page=An%20Aristasian%20Glossary](http://aristasia-central.com/encyclopaedia/tiki-index.php?page=An%20Aristasian%20Glossary)

643 *Dragon's Eye*. 2009-03-15. <http://dragon-eye.angelfire.com/>

644 *Dancing the Endless Dream*. Syleniel. <http://www.elenari.net/dancing.html>

645 Cerulean, comment on a public blog entry, posted 2010-07-18. <http://waywind.livejournal.com/893914.html?thread=3443930#t3443930>

646 "Furoticon." *BoardGameGeek*. <http://www.boardgamegeek.com/boardgame/57135/furoticon>

647 Arcturax, "It's up!" *Alfandria*. 2009-07-05. <http://community.livejournal.com/alfandria/57871.html>

648 "Otherkin Gatherers."

649 Dan O'Dea, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-05-27

2009-10-05 to 16: The Russian therianthrope community held Howl 2009, which was a trip to several locations in Israel.<sup>651</sup>

2009-10-26: GeoCities was a popular free host for personal web-sites since 1994, but it ended on this date. All personal sites hosted on it disappeared. Among these were some sites about otherkin and therians... accounting for many of the dead web addresses in this timeline. Before they disappeared, I searched for and archived them, as detailed in my [first](#)<sup>652</sup> and [second](#)<sup>653</sup> articles on the topic. In my [third article](#),<sup>654</sup> I created a chart of where each of the sites were migrating. You can view some archived GeoCities pages through [archive.org](#), [reocities.com](#), or [oocities.org](#), but not all of them have been so preserved.

2009-11-15: In a news article about *Twilight* fans and vampire-related groups and subcultures printed in *The Sunday Telegraph*, there was a brief mention of otherkin: “The Sydney Sheol Vampire Coven is an online meet-up group created last May with 35 members. Its home page states the coven is for ‘Real Vampires, Donors, Otherkin, Pagans, Witches, friends-family or such, and those who are curious’.”<sup>655</sup>

2009-12-20: Arcadian Solstice Gather held in afternoon for otherkin in the Boston area.<sup>656</sup>

2009-12-27: A group of wolf therians calling themselves the Mountain Tooth Pack acquired their own web sub-domain, MountainTooth.net.<sup>657</sup> They made clear that they’re about spiritual therianthropy, and that this isn’t role-playing. Some background about their group:

“The Mountain Tooth Pack was created around 2005 [...] the pack consisted of very little amounts of members, and they were local. It was good and then [...] Things fell apart. [...] I decided to recreate the pack. Now, people from around the world could represent and be involved with the pack. [...] My name is Euipoi, Alpha female of Mountain Tooth. [...] Please remember this is a full pack, it is not a sub-pack.”<sup>658</sup>

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650 “Otherkin Gathers.”

651 “Howl 2009.” <http://www.therianthropy.ru/index.php?page=howls&subpage=howl5>

652 O. Scribner, “Geocities disappearing; download your favorites now.” *Otherkin News*. 2009-05-28. [http://community.livejournal.com/otherkin\\_news/1869.html](http://community.livejournal.com/otherkin_news/1869.html)

653 --, “Geocities closing in October; how to download sites.” *Otherkin News*. 2009-07-18. [http://community.livejournal.com/otherkin\\_news/2612.html](http://community.livejournal.com/otherkin_news/2612.html)

654 --, “Otherkin sites migrating from Geocities.” *Otherkin News*. 2009-01-31. [http://community.livejournal.com/otherkin\\_news/5043.html](http://community.livejournal.com/otherkin_news/5043.html)

655 Brittany Stack, “Vampire clubs, covens and lairs spring up following Twilight craze.” November 15, 2009. *The Sunday Telegraph*, through [news.com.au](http://www.news.com.au/story/0,27574,26351872-36398,00.html). <http://www.news.com.au/story/0,27574,26351872-36398,00.html>

656 “Otherkin Gathers.”

657 Spirit Euipoi. “Hello Members.” *Mountain Tooth: News*. 2009-12-27. <http://pack.mountaintooth.net/news.php>

658 “About.” *Mountain Tooth: An Online Wolf Therianthrope Pack*. <http://pack.mountaintooth.net/page.php?17>



## 2010

2010-01 and 02: After James Cameron's film *Avatar* came out, there was a sudden appearance of one person claiming that he was an otherkin who identifies as Na'vi in spirit. He remained active only during these two months, although he was *very* active during them. There are some clues that this was just a prank put on to make fun of otherkin. [See my post on Otherkin News for details.](#)<sup>659</sup>

2010-01-05: Merisida, a mermaid otherkin, began writing a German-language [blog](#).<sup>660</sup>

2010-03-23?: A caller on *Loveline* (a syndicated radio show) explained that she was a wolf therian, furry, and fursuiter, and discussed identity and sexuality. [Flayrah, a furry news blog, has the NSFW details.](#)<sup>661</sup>

2010-04-07: Lanina tells me that on this day Thomas Lerner published the article "["Ibland får jag lust att yla som en varg"](#)"<sup>662</sup> ("Sometimes I get the urge to howl like a wolf") "in *Dagens Nyheter*, Sweden's largest newspaper ... The picture is strangely enough wrong, there was another picture there earlier. The article is based on a interview with me [Lanina]."<sup>663</sup> In the article, Lanina met with the journalist in a café in Stockholm, and she described the basics of what it's like to be a therian.

Lanina also told me about an unfinished follow-up to this article:

"just a couple of days later another journalist (from *Aftonbladet*, evening tabloid) called me and wanted to do another article. On my request, he interviewed not only me, but also other Swedish therians, because I felt that I shouldn't be speaking alone for the community. But the *Aftonbladet* article was never printed, I've tried to get in contact with the journalist, but I haven't got any answer about the article."<sup>664</sup>

2010-05-23: The Mountain Tooth pack created *The Therian Guide*, a web-site about therianthropy. The site described itself this way: "This site is here to help people who want to follow this way of therianthropy. However, if something doesn't feel right to you, take time to think about it. I encourage everyone to follow their own path on therianthropy, and this is a simple guide to help you all out." It has articles—written by Spirit Euipoi—introducing basic concepts about therianthropy, such as "What is a Therianthrope?" and "Types of Shifting."<sup>665</sup>

2010-09-06: Dan O'Dea says this was the "Fourth 'A Gathering Echo,' over Labor Day weekend, organized by Dan O'Dea and SidheLady."<sup>666</sup>

2010-09-22: The death of Starblade Enaki (Matthew F.). Starblade considered himself a dragon, and was involved in the otherkin and furry communities. The furry news blog, *Flayrah*, tells [the short version](#),<sup>667</sup> with links to the obituary, and the original news articles that tell the circumstances of his death, which were unrelated to otherkin issues, so far as I know. As for who Starblade was in life, Baxil wrote [a eulogy](#)<sup>668</sup> describing Starblade's contributions and challenges.

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659 O. Scribner, "Na'vi otherkin quickly appear." *Otherkin News*. 2010-01-28 [http://community.livejournal.com/otherkin\\_news/4632.html](http://community.livejournal.com/otherkin_news/4632.html)

660 Merisida. *Mermaid Otherkin*. <http://mermaid-otherkin.blogspot.com>

661 Laurence "GreenReaper" Parry. "Therian calls Loveline; describes erotic side of furry." *Flayrah*. March 23, 2010. <http://www.flayrah.com/c/therian-calls-loveline-describes-erotic-side-furry>

662 Thomas Lerner, "Ibland får jag lust att yla som en varg," 2010-04-07. *Dagens Nyheter*. <http://www.dn.se/insidan/insidan-hem/ibland-far-jag-lust-att-yla-som-en-varg>

663 Lanina, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-01-02.

664 Lanina, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-01-02.

665 *The Therian Guide*. Created 2010-05-23. <http://therianguide.mountaintooth.net/>

666 Dan O'Dea, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-05-27

667 Laurence "GreenReaper" Parry. "Dragon otherkin Starblade, 26, stabbed to death." Oct 4, 2010. *Flayrah*. <http://www.flayrah.com/3157>

668 Baxil. "A eulogy of sorts." Oct 5, 2010. <http://baxil.livejournal.com/295058.html>



The phrase “F\*\*\* you, I’m a dragon” has been attributed to Starblade, but Baxil points out that there’s no evidence for this, so it’s more likely that a non-otherkin coined the phrase to ridicule Starblade,<sup>669</sup> sometime around 2003.<sup>670</sup>

2010-09-26: *The Sydney Morning Herald* (est. 1831) [ran an article](#)<sup>671</sup> about the vampire subculture’s presence on the Internet, mentioning otherkin as well.

“Researcher Danielle Kirby used the ‘Otherkin’, who meet in an online forum and believe they are partially or entirely non-human, to examine the phenomenon. In her paper, she found about 800 members of the Otherkin network, including those who identified as dragons, elves, vampires, fairies and angels. The internet had helped concentrate their underlying broadly neo-pagan beliefs, she said.”

This probably refers to Kirby’s essay “Alternative Worlds: Metaphysical Questing and Community amongst the Otherkin” in the anthology *Through A Glass Darkly: Reflections on the Sacred*.<sup>672</sup>

2010-10-29: *Metro Vancouver*, a free newspaper, printed a brief, polite, and somewhat confusing article about otherkin, titled “[Otherkin remove masks for Halloween](#),” by Sarah Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald interviewed three people, but apparently only one of the interviewees was an otherkin, and the other two weren’t obvious choices for people to ask about this subject.<sup>673</sup>

2010-11-04: Lanina told me that

“the article in *Dagens Nyheter* made a popular Swedish tv-show (*Parlamentet*) joke about therianthropes, although they don’t use the word. The show is based on mostly political comedy, but also jokes about other recent events. In the episode of [today’s date], shown on TV4 and probably available on their website, or at least their collection DVDs, they refer to the DN article and crack some jokes about ‘the wolf-girl.’ One of them goes ‘Well, we might find it strange when a human behaves like a wolf, but that’s nothing compared to how surprised a wolf would be!’”<sup>674</sup>

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669 Ibid.

670 <http://knowyourmeme.com/memes/fck-you-im-a-dragon>

671 Saffron Howden and Alicia Wood. “Dark arts take root in online church.” September 26, 2010. *The Sydney Morning Herald*. <http://www.smh.com.au/technology/technology-news/dark-arts-take-root-in-online-church-20100925-15rl4.html>

672 Danielle Kirby. “Alternative Worlds: Metaphysical Questing and Community amongst the Otherkin.” *Through A Glass Darkly: Reflections on the Sacred*. Frances Di Lauro, ed. Sydney: Sydney University Press, 2006.

673 Sarah N. Fitzgerald. “Otherkin remove masks for Halloween.” October 29, 2010. *Metro Vancouver*. Retrieved November 5, 2010 from Web: <http://www.metronews.ca/vancouver/local/article/676709--otherkin-remove-masks-for-halloween> ...I posted about this previously on the Otherkin News blog: 2010-11-05 [http://community.livejournal.com/otherkin\\_news/6667.html#cutid1](http://community.livejournal.com/otherkin_news/6667.html#cutid1)

674 Lanina, e-mail to the editor, sent 2011-01-02.

## 2011

New fiction: Ashlyn Nafina printed a novel, *To Dream, Perchance to Soar*, which deals with otherkin themes in an urban fantasy setting.<sup>675</sup>

During this year, an otherkin community blossomed on the blog-hosting site Tumblr.com. This included the creation of a blog called *'Kin Speak*, which people can post to anonymously, allowing candid discussions of many topics that people would ordinarily be too shy to address, including outsiders sharing the secret that they think of themselves as otherkin, and conversations about taboo topics that nonetheless have a place within the otherkin experience.<sup>676</sup> In the last couple of months of the year, the otherkin community on Tumblr comes to be constantly vandalized and trolled (harassed), but the otherkin there don't falter in their high level of activity.<sup>677</sup> Meirya wrote of the otherkin community on Tumblr during this year, and how it differs from any before, saying:

“The subset of the otherkin community on Tumblr has been fascinating to watch. It's different than anything I've seen in the 'kin community thus far. They're focused on activism (with some cross-over with the social justice community), affirmation and validation of otherness (sometimes going so far as to use the term 'non-human' instead), and the nature and experiences of being otherkin in today's world and culture. In some ways, it seems like a reaction against the trends of the bulk of the otherkin community to say 'you're just human now, deal with it.' They're doing some very intriguing work and talking about otherkin from different angles than I'm used to seeing.”<sup>678</sup>

During the latter half of this year, I became very active with researching current events in or related to the otherkin community, and began posting regularly to the *Otherkin News* blog.<sup>679</sup> As a result, I have more information about events during the latter half of 2011 than the early half.

2011-01: Media. Someone claiming to be from a casting department spammed the otherkin and therian forums to search for someone to interview for a purported documentary TV show about otherkin that would air on the Animal Planet channel. I haven't heard whether this turned out to be authentic or a scam fishing for personal information, as the communities suspected.<sup>680</sup>

2011-07: Pantairin of Chimera wrote an article titled “*Cladotherianthropy*,” which is an introduction to the concept of a cladotherianthrope, one whose animal side is a generalization of all animals within a taxa, such as an entire genus, rather than a species.<sup>681</sup>

2011-07: Citrakāyah wrote an article called “*Motionless claws*,” describing what it's like to be a cheetah therianthrope.<sup>682</sup>

2011-08-14: *The Boston Herald* said that in Las Vegas, self-proclaimed mer-people and mer-people fanciers attended the first annual Mer-Con 2011, the world's largest mermaid convention. They swam in a tank while wearing fish tails, and competed in the International Mermaid Pageant. Other attendees were mermaid-focused painters, authors, tail-makers, and other artisans.<sup>683</sup> Some self-proclaimed mer-people are performers, like those of the Weeki Wachee mermaid performances, but others express a lifelong desire to become real mer-people, or who assert that they are now real mer-people. The mermaid community isn't connected with the otherkin or

675 Tsu (Avianthrophile), “To dream, perchance to soar: a new otherkin novel.” 2011-12-07. <http://otherkin-news.livejournal.com/15717.html>

676 “Frequently Asked Questions.” *Kin Speak*. <http://kinspeak.tumblr.com/faqs>

677 Tsu, “Occupy the otherkin tag.” 2011-11-30. <http://swanblood.tumblr.com/post/13568627529>

678 Meirya, “Link roundup and some news.” 2011-11-26. *Beyond Awakening*. <http://thehornedgate.wordpress.com/2011/11/26/link-roundup-and-some-news>

679 *Otherkin News*. <http://otherkin-news.livejournal.com>

680 O. Scribner, “Scam: Otherkin TV documentary.” 2011-01-08. *Otherkin News*. <http://otherkin-news.livejournal.com/7407.html>

681 Pantairin of Chimera, “Cladotherianthropy.” 2011-07. <http://houseofchimeras.livejournal.com/80355.html>

682 Citrakāyah, “Motionless claws.” 2011-07. <http://animal-quills.dreamwidth.org/3747.html>

683 “1st mermaid convention makes a splash in Las Vegas.” 2011-08-14.

[http://news.bostonherald.com/entertainment/lifestyle/view/201108141st\\_mermaid\\_convention\\_makes\\_splash\\_in\\_las\\_vegas/srvc=home&position=recent](http://news.bostonherald.com/entertainment/lifestyle/view/201108141st_mermaid_convention_makes_splash_in_las_vegas/srvc=home&position=recent)

- therian communities. The existence of a separate mermaid community could explain the rarity of mermaids in the otherkin community. See [my post on Otherkin News](#) for more information about this event.<sup>684</sup> Later, a participant called [Mermaid Shelley reflected on this](#) and other events in the mermaid community during 2011.<sup>685</sup> The mermaid community isn't connected with the otherkin or therian communities, and is news to me and to the rest of the otherkin I've talked to.
- 2011-08-24: A vampire named Aura Escher wrote an article called "[The parable of the were-duck](#)," which criticizes therians for claiming to be animals, saying that therians are not animals in any real way.<sup>686</sup>
- 2011-08-29: Media. A polite article introducing otherkin to outsiders was published in a Polish-language women's online magazine, *We-Dwoje*, which is otherwise mostly about fashion and health. The article is "[Otherkin – dziwactwo czy fantastyczny sposób na życie? \(Otherkin – a quirk, or a fantastic way to live?\)](#)," by Ewelina Czarnecka.<sup>687</sup>
- 2011-09: Crime. According to CBS and MSNBC, Stephanie P., 18, was charged with accessory to the murder of Jacob H., 16 in July. One of six suspects for involvement in the murder, Stephanie told the news station that she believes herself to be part vampire and part werewolf. She is not known to have been involved with the vampire or therianthrope communities. Months later, she was ruled mentally unfit to stand trial, a ruling which the vampire community saw as troubling.<sup>688</sup> For a collection of all news articles on this topic, see [the forum thread](#) on the Atlanta Vampire Alliance (AVA) Media Center forums, with **trigger warnings** for what the articles describe: murder, rape, violence, blood-drinking, teenagers in a cult, and animal sacrifice, some of which is described in semi-graphic detail.
- 2011-09-27: Rua, a sidhe otherkin, wrote an article titled "[Transspecies diagnosis](#)," arguing that if we could get transspecies formally recognized as a mental "disorder," it would be a step toward getting otherkin accepted as real.<sup>689</sup>
- 2011-10-02: First post on a blog called [Kin Diet](#), which displays a selection of recipes intended to please various types of otherkin and therians.<sup>690</sup>
- 2011-10-04: Media. On Sweden's channel 5, a TV series titled *Outsiders* aired an episode about the furry fandom. This includes at least one furry fan who is also a therian.<sup>691</sup> [Later](#), on 2011-11-19, in acknowledgment of this episode, a newspaper editor publicly blogged a joke about killing a child who comes out as trans-species.<sup>692</sup>
- 2011-10-05: An otherkin called Feathertail wrote "[Feathertail's otherkin FAQ](#)."<sup>693</sup>
- 2011-10-17: Feathertail began writing a series of articles called "The skeptical otherkin," which address skeptical views of otherkin.<sup>694</sup>
- 2011-10-21: Feathertail began writing about plans to create an OpenID system for on-human avatars in virtual and augmented reality, as a way for otherkin to achieve mainstream recognition.

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684 O. Scribner, "A convention of mermaids and mermen." 2011-12-30. *Otherkin News*. <http://otherkin-news.livejournal.com/8327.html>

685 Mermaid Shelley. <http://mermaidshelly.blogspot.com/2011/12/2011-in-retrospect.html>

686 Aura Escher, "The parable of the were-duck." 2011-08-24. <https://savampyrenews.wordpress.com/2011/08/24/the-parable-of-the-were-duck>

687 Ewelina Czarnecka, "Otherkin – dziwactwo czy fantastyczny sposób na życie? (Otherkin – a quirk, or a fantastic way to live?)" 2011-08-29. *We-Dwoje*. <http://www.we-dwoje.pl/otherkin-;dziwactwo;czy;fantastyczny;sposob;na;zycie,artykul,9740.html>

688 Deacon Gray, "A dangerous precedent." *The Graveyard Press*. 2011-12-22. <http://thegraveyardpress.wordpress.com/2011/12/22/a-dangerous-precedent>

689 Rua, "Transspecies diagnosis." 2011-09-27. <http://iamsidhe.blogspot.com/2011/09/transspecies-diagnosis.html>

690 *Kin Diet*. <http://kindiet.tumblr.com>

691 O. Scribner, "Swedish TV program about furry fans." 2011-11-22. *Otherkin News*. <http://otherkin-news.livejournal.com/12105.html>

692 Tsu (avianthroophile), "Swedish newspaper posts otherkin hate joke on their official blog, community suggests protest." *Otherkin News*. 2011-12-07.

<http://otherkin-news.livejournal.com/15969.html>

693 Feathertail, "Feathertail's otherkin FAQ." 2011-10-05. <http://feathertail.dreamwidth.org/142156.html>

694 Feathertail, "The skeptical otherkin #1: 'Otherkin are delusional.'" 2011-10-17. <http://feathertail.dreamwidth.org/144840.html>

- 2011-10-24: A demon otherkin named Spectrum\_X declared plans to create a web-site called the *Species Modification Directory*, listing costume and surgical methods for transforming one's appearance into the semblance of another creature.<sup>695</sup> The web-site began to be constructed during this year.
- 2011-10-25: A otherkin called Tsu wrote an article titled "Redefining p-shifting," arguing that otherkin should consider surgery and virtual reality as a real way to attain physical transformation.<sup>696</sup>
- 2011-10-26: The editor Tsu called for submissions for the first issue of *The Forest Voice*, a 'zine for nonhumans.<sup>697</sup>
- 2011-10-30: On the anonymous forum *Kin Speak*, an anonymous bird otherkin wrote "[Non-human](#)," an essay about why we should not call ourselves "non-human."<sup>698</sup>
- 2011-11: Earth Listener of Chimera wrote an article titled "[Certata: From the blue fleet](#)," describing what it's like to be a blue glaucus sea-slug therian.<sup>699</sup>
- 2011-11-12: Tsu created "[Otherkin troll bingo!](#)" which listed phrases that people most commonly use to discredit otherkin, followed by a list of short responses from an otherkin correcting misconceptions in all of those.<sup>700</sup>
- 2011-11-13: A TV documentary aired on Channel 4. It's about the Crimson Blood Wolf Pack in San Antonio, Texas, some of whom identify as werewolves, some as vampires.<sup>701</sup> See my [post on Otherkin News](#).<sup>702</sup> Merticus of the Atlanta Vampire Alliance [condemned the documentary](#) for showing unsafe and unsanitary bloodletting practices.<sup>703</sup>
- 2011-11-13: A Neo-Pagan named BellaDonna Saberhagen published an article titled "[Confessions of a former otherkin](#)" on *Witchvox*, a significant Neo-Pagan web-site.<sup>704</sup>
- 2011-11-17: The Silver Elves returned one of their books to print: *An Elfin Book of Spirits: Evoking the Benificent Powers of Faerie*.<sup>705</sup>
- 2011-11-19: After the documentary about furies aired on the Swedish TV channel 5, "a blog belonging to the editorial staff of the 'Young people' part of the local Swedish paper *Norrköpings Tidningar* (NT), [posted] an article joking about what might happen if species change was possible." The newspaper editor said jokingly that if her own grandchild ever said he wanted to change his species, then she would poison him with arsenic. A therian named Susitar didn't think this joke was funny, and so translated it to English, asking the therian community to contact the newspaper to complain.<sup>706</sup>
- 2011-11-28: Tsu wrote an article titled "[If otherkin feelings were a 'normal human experience' shared by most people...](#)" listing ways in which mainstream culture would be extremely different if it were true that the experiences of otherkin were commonplace. This was written as a retort to outsiders' ignorant claims that the experiences of otherkin are no different from the experiences of everybody else.<sup>707</sup>

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695 Spectrum\_X, "Species mod directory and kin should have a *Wild Hunt* equivalent." 2011-10-24. <http://spectrum-x.dreamwidth.org/50690.html>

696 Tsu, "Redefining p-shifting." 2011-10-25. <http://becomeyourfursona.dreamwidth.org/16734.html>

697 Tsu, 2011-10-26. <http://swanblood.tumblr.com/post/11945507305>

698 "Non-human." 2011-10-30. <http://kinspeak.tumblr.com/post/12122639053/non-human>

699 Earth Listener of Chimera, "Certata: From the blue fleet." 2011-11. <http://houseofchimeras.livejournal.com/90660.html>

700 Tsu, "Otherkin troll bingo!" 2011-11-12. <http://swanblood.tumblr.com/post/12707164419>

701 "Teenage vampires." 2011-11-01. *Channel 4 Press*. <http://www.channel4.com/info/press/programme-information/teenage-vampires>

702 O. Scribner, "Channel 4 documentary about Wolfie Blackheart's pack." 2011-11-06. *Otherkin News*. <http://otherkin-news.livejournal.com/10657.html>

703 Merticus, "Statement to media & interested parties. (11.13.11 – Vampire Reality Bites for Channel 4 – Teenage Vampires Documentary.)" 2011-11-14. *Atlanta Vampire Alliance media center forums*.  
<http://www.atlantavampirealliance.com/forum/index.php?PHPSESSID=f4c7aa94d142a11e9a78fe299de11ba1&topic=2506.0>

704 BellaDonna Saberhagen, "Confessions of a former otherkin." 2011-11-13. *Witchvox*.  
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705 O. Scribner, "Silver Elves book returns to print." 2011-11-28. *Otherkin News*. <http://otherkin-news.livejournal.com/14533.html>

706 Tsu (Avianthropophile), "Swedish newspaper posts otherkin hate joke on their official blog, community suggests protest." 2011-12-07. <http://otherkin-news.livejournal.com/15969.html>

707 Tsu, "If otherkin feelings were a 'normal human experience' shared by most people..." 2011-11-28. <http://swanblood.tumblr.com/post/13475903537>

- 2011-12: Feathertail convinced the blog-host Dreamwidth.org to remove speciesist language from their diversity statement.<sup>708</sup>
- 2011-12-06: Meiryra wrote an article called "[Theories of causes of otherkin](#)," various ways that people explain why and how they are otherkin, whether spiritual or secular. This is a newer but simpler version of an earlier article by Meiryra, "[Otherkin and therian theories of cause or origin](#)," 2006. An anonymous sidhe replied with an [additional item for the list](#).
- 2011-12-06 and 2011-12-15: Lupa wrote a pair of articles called "[Shapeshifting into Kin: Part one](#)"<sup>709</sup> and "[Part two](#)."<sup>710</sup> **Trigger warnings:** pictures of animal pelts and nudity.
- 2011-12-12: Deacon Gray wrote an article called "[Vampires at Occupy](#)," interviewing two anonymous vampires at the occupy campaign in Boise, Idaho.<sup>711</sup>
- 2011-12-20: *The Forest Voice*, an independent magazine "for those among us who are nonhuman in nature," released its first issue, "Walking Man's Road," as a free downloadable computer file (PDF) designed to be printed out on letter-size paper.<sup>712</sup> It's listed on [ZineLibrary](#),<sup>713</sup> and the file itself was hosted on [Mediafire](#).<sup>714</sup>
- The editor of the magazine, Tsu, will be accepting art, articles, and other media for the next issue. The submission deadline for the upcoming Spring issue is on 2012-03-01. [See this post for details](#).<sup>715</sup>

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708 O. Scribner, "Speciesist language removed from diversity statement." 2011-12-29. <http://otherkin-news.livejournal.com/17101.html>

709 Lupa, "Shapeshifting into Kin: Part one." <http://nature.pagannewswirecollective.com/2011/12/06/shapeshifting-into-kin-part-one/>

710 Lupa, "Shapeshifting into Kin: Part two." <http://nature.pagannewswirecollective.com/2011/12/15/shapeshifting-into-kin-part-two/>

711 Deacon Gray, "Vampires at Occupy." 2011-12-12. <http://thegraveyardpress.wordpress.com/2011/12/12/vampires-at-occupy/>

712 O. Scribner, "Forest Voice zine released." 2011-12-20. *Otherkin News*. <http://otherkin-news.livejournal.com/16331.html>

713 Tsu (Swanblood), "The Forest Voice #1: Walking Man's Road." *ZineLibrary.info*. 2011-12-20. <http://zinelibrary.info/forest-voice-1-walking-mans-road>

714 "theforestvoice\_issue1\_winter2011-2012.pdf." *MediaFire: File sharing made simple*. <http://www.mediafire.com/?cf1cx3ydeavg54r>

715 Tsu (Avianthrophile), "The Forest Voice #1 is out! ^v^" *Otherkin*. 2011-12-20. <http://otherkin.livejournal.com/562625.html>



## Help Needed

This timeline is a work in progress. Within the timeline, details where I would appreciate help finding more information will be printed in red letters. Gentle reader, if you can offer any of the following information, then I will credit you on the title page. There are many events where I need to know on what date they happened, or other information about them. Here's a list of some of the things that I'm looking for. (It's also my own to-do list for this project. I'm researching as many of these questions on my own as I can, but the project will progress more quickly if I'm not doing it all alone.)

I'm especially interested in events in groups that were pre-Internet, or who didn't (or don't) have much Internet presence. I'm not sure how to find out about them, to begin with! Things that happen on the Internet tend to leave a record behind them, and it's been easier for me to find those.

I've found lots of evidence of elfinkind prior to the Nineties, but none at all of therians. Were there no therian communities in the Eighties?

I'd like to be able to list more events that happened in "real life," not just on the Internet. I want to be able to jot down a few distinct characteristics of individual meet-ups, what makes each that year's meet-up unique. I'd like to know about any furry, pagan, fantasy, and sci-fi conventions that happened to include a panel or demonstration about therianthropes or otherkin.

Who/when coined or appropriated various pieces of slang and jargon used in the therianthrope and otherkin communities?

If you know about any mailing lists or web-sites (and their dates of creation, transformation, and/or deletion), gatherings, or any other event that I haven't included... then please e-mail me about them. I want this timeline to be as complete as possible.

I want to include more foreign-language events in this timeline, not just English.

The *Fate* article mentions something intriguing, an event which I'd like to include in this timeline, if somebody could tell me more: "The beginnings of a separate otherkin community are now whispered about on the Internet, and there appear to be pockets of nonhuman groups forming spontaneously around the world. One researcher in Canada has found several such groups, each of about 15 members living in a small region or a single town." What researcher is this?

Would somebody else please write a short entry for the timeline about the Wolfie Blackheart incident of 2010, with links to all the published news articles (not web pages or blogs, just news articles)? I don't have the stomach to research it myself.

If I've listed a site as dead, and you know of someplace where it's live, having migrated... then please tell me.

Tell me about articles that were written or events that happened within the past year, and I'll list them on the [Otherkin News](#) blog as well as in this timeline.



## Glossary

**Alfandria.** The most commonly-used of the many nicknames for the newsgroup alt.fan.dragons. For a while, the members had competed in creating nicknames for the newsgroup and the setting in which they roleplayed. Some of the other nicknames were more whimsical than comprehensible.

**AHWW, or AHWw.** Abbreviation for newsgroup alt.horror.werewolves.

**EQD.** Abbreviation for the Elf Queen’s Daughters.

**Faeborn** (variations: Fae-born, FAEborn). According to Melishal, someone coined this word in about 1992 to mean “A person that is a transmigrated soul of a non-human being [...] of possible mythical/mystical origins, currently living in a human form.”<sup>716</sup>

**Gather.** A planned event in which many otherkin meet together in person.

**Glamour-bomb.** Any numinous prank or public artwork intended to encourage belief in fairies and magic. Coined on DarkFae-L mailing-list in 1997.

**Greymuzzle.** Slang from the AHWW community for someone who has been participating in the AHWW community since its early days, prior to 1996. Sometimes it’s also used to describe someone who has been involved in the community for more than a couple of years, not necessarily on the newsgroup, but on other mailing lists and forums connected to it.

**Howl.** A planned event in which many therianthropes meet together in person. Coined in 1994 on alt.horror.werewolves.

**Kin.** Sometimes used as an abbreviation of “otherkin.”

**Otherkin.** People who identify with creatures other than humans. Opinions differ about whether this should include vampires and therianthropes. Coined in 1990-07-09 in the *Elfinkind Digest* listserv. The plural is generally understood to be “otherkin,” but after about 2002 the variant plural “otherkins” is

sometimes used, particularly in the Spanish and Portuguese speaking parts of the community.

**Otherkind.** People who identify with creatures other than humans, but who aren’t necessarily elves either. (The word “otherkin” originated as a variation upon this word.) Coined in 1990-04-18 in the *Elfinkind Digest* listserv.

**Suntherian.** A type of therianthrope whose inner “animal side” is equally integrated with her or his “human side” at all times, in such a way that the therianthrope never dramatically shifts between the two extremes. Coined by WordWolf on 2005-04-18. Variations “suntherianthrope,” “suntherianthropy,” and “syntherianthrope” appear later.

**Therianthrope.** In folklore, any supernatural being who has traits from both humans and animals simultaneously or a shape-shifter who alternates between a human and an animal form. Some real people who identify as animals have adopted this word for themselves, starting in 1995.<sup>717</sup> Sometimes abbreviated to “therian” or “theri.” Adjectival form is “therianthropy.”

**Were.** Derived from “were-wolf,” members of alt.horror.werewolves used “were” to refer to people who identify as animals of any species, including wolves. It was commonly used from about 1994 to 2002, but is now less favored, partly because (if you look at its etymology) “were” doesn’t mean “shape-shifter,” but rather “man.”

716 Melishal, “Faeborn vs. Otherkin.” 2002-06-21. *FAE*.  
<http://www.promethianweb.com/fae/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=60&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0> (defunct)

717 Swiftpaw. “Tracing the Origins of the Term Therianthropy.”

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## About the Author

O. Scribner  
has been involved in the community for over ten years.  
Contributions to the community include  
*The Otherkin and Therianthrope Book-list*, and  
a comic called *Theri There*.