Dead or alive, a monumental hack

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The Beatles' latest album, Abbey Road, is spread out and inspected on the jacket of the album. John, in general, seems to be the one to whom the deaths started with. An unheard-of singer, Billy Shears, plays music, then once very distinctly. Then in "Glass Onion," Paul: OPD 1966

At the top of page 22, the mystic hand again appears over Paul's head. Perhaps the most striking of the visual clues, though, is on page 23. Three Beatles are red roses: Paul in white, Ringo in black, and he carries a black shroud. The first vocal clue, and proof that it isn't all coincidence is at the very end of "Strawberry Fields Forever." After the horns finish footling, fading, and "turning around," a world voice says clearly, "I buried Paul." Play it at 43 rpm to get the words clearly; then at 33 rpm the effect is morbid.

"The Beatles contains several allusions to the accident. "Don't Pass Me By'' says, "I'm sorry I doubted you/ I was so unfair/ you were in a car crash and you lost your hat," which seems a rather specific before-and-after reference to the accident. In "Dear John" John estatates 'I'd rather be your eyes," etc. But in the Liverpool pub days of the "Twins," Lennon called Paul "Prudence.

The deepest and most interesting allusion is "Glass Onion," with its allusion that "the walrus is Paul." Some investigators claim that "walrus" is phonetically similar to the Greek for coral. Actually, it's closer to sailor, meaning a crystaline stone used by the Ethiopians to enclose their mummies. An onion (which is layered made of glass is therefore similar to a crystalline mummy, a "walrus.

"In Magical Mystery Tour," John sings, "I am the walrus," but Little Nicola says, "No you're not!" The song ends with a voice audibly saying "Bury me, bury me" with time in the pub as well. Indeed, in "Glass Onion," which contains other allusions to death and burial ("I told you how Strawberry Fields"), John says, "Looking through a glass onion... here's another clue for you all: the walrus.

Grave disturbed On the same album, "Revolution Number 9" takes the form of Lennon's psychotic, prophetic vision in which he makes his first attempts at ex-}

Dear questionable McCartney's death has still not been conclusively proven; indeed, he claims he's still alive. In addition, the pictures in Magical Mystery Tour, show Paul playing left-handed bass; if they came from the film, then a look-alike must have done an awfully good job of taking ambidextrous ability. If that were the case, we would seem to lack an explanation for the halt to return. It also seems likely that a fatal automobile accident, particularly one involving such a well-known person, could not have been hidden by everyone, including the British government.

Nonetheless, the fact remains that for three years the Beatles have been repeatedly hiding and saying that Paul McCartney is dead. One can dig and dig and come up with countless symbolic expressions, and stretch things to come up with countless more examples that verge on the ridiculous. The overarching question mark, though, in the whole thing is the lack of a rational motive. One finds it hard to imagine the Beatles saying, "Paul's dead! Let's back the world." But, dead or alive, it is a monumental, hack.

The Beatles' next album, Get Back is scheduled to appear during that Messianic season, Christmas. It consists of old (pre-Pepper) Beatles' songs and some new ones in the old style, now that McCartney is resurrected and the group is again intact.

The license is yours. Let's take three years; Christ rose after being dead for three days.

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