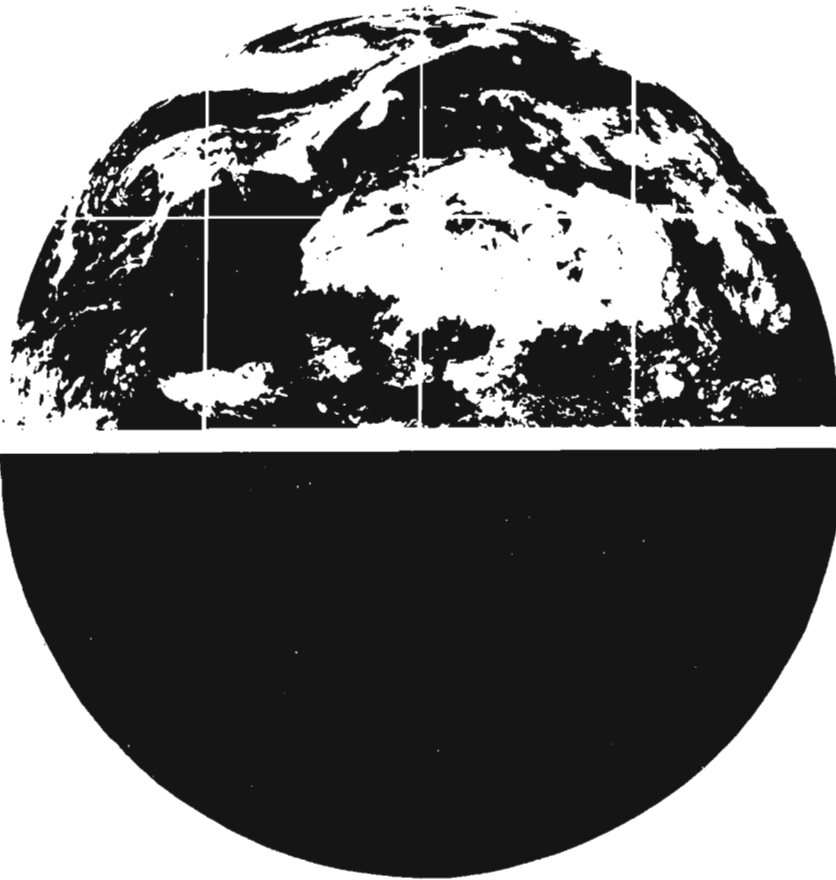


ISSN 0143-8840



The Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena

VOLUME 2 No 3 JULY 1982



The Journal of
Transient Aerial Phenomena

Devoted to the scientific study of unusual aerial phenomena

July 1982 Volume 2 Number 3

(Issue 6)

Published by the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association Limited

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The Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena is sent free to members of the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association and is sent on an exchange basis to individuals and organisations throughout the world. It may be purchased for £1.60 (£1.20 members and trade) plus 20p postage and packing.

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THE DARK SIDE OF THE UFO

ERNST BERGER* (MUFON)

ABSTRACT

BY SURVEYING 30 YEARS OF UFO LITERATURE AND STUDYING 100 AUSTRIAN UFO REPORTS IN THE FIELD, LUIS SCHONHERR AND ERNST BERGER HAVE FOUND A "DARK SIDE" IN UFO EXPERIENCES. IN THIS PAPER, THE LATTER SHOWS HOW PSYCHOSOCIAL INFLUENCES CAN BE TRACED IN PUBLISHED, OLD CASES AND STUDIED EXPERIMENTALLY BY MEANS OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY IN RECENT EVENTS. DETECTION OF THE "DARK SIDE" SHOULD RESULT IN A NEW, WITNESS-CENTERED INVESTIGATION TECHNIQUE PARTICULARLY FOR "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS" AND IN A DIFFERENT SCIENTIFIC ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE WHOLE UFO PHENOMENOLOGY. A REVIEW OF PAPERS INCLUDING "DARK SIDE" VIEWPOINTS IS GIVEN. THE MATERIAL BROUGHT UP BY THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES LENDS CREDIT TO THE AUTHOR'S OPINION THAT THE UFO PROBLEM IS PRIMARILY LINKED TO THE "HUMAN SELF-PORTRAIT" OF OUR TIME, I.E. THE DEGREE OF SCIENTIFICALLY-BASED AWARENESS THE UFO RESEARCHER HAS OF HIMSELF AND OF THE WITNESS. IT IS HYPOTHESIZED THAT PROGRESS IN THE PSYCHOSOCIAL DISCIPLINES WILL GRADUALLY BRIGHTEN THE "DARK SIDE" OF THE UFO AND SUBSTITUTE THE CRUDE, SPIRITISTIC APPROACH.

KEY - WORDS

Hallucinations; mirror-effect; parapsychology; psychological/psychiatric results; spiritistic views, subconscious material; UFO experience; visions; witness-centered investigation.

INTRODUCTION

"They are very much aware of the fact that the answer to many of these questions that they ask must transcend the information that's at hand. For if the information at hand were such that they would know the answer, they would not ask the question. So they are on the frontier, my friend, and it is a point of challenge" (2)

"In the meantime, we must satisfy ourselves by studying UFO reports, not UFOs. Reports are made by people and people are often mistaken about what they observe.... The witnesses I interviewed could have been lying, could have been insane, or could have hallucinating collectively - but I not think so" (18)

The basic question of UFO investigations is SCHÖNHERR's "question of reality" (31). Will it ever be possible to document the transitory phenomenon with instrumentation "in the right place at that right time"? Many details about UFO witnesses "lend a subjective reality to their UFO experience", but "the question we must

puzzle over is simply this: what level of objective reality"? (18).

HYNEK realizes "My experience with UFOs is secondhand, observed entirely through the eyes of others" (17). If you ask a Police investigator which way he looks at case reports he will respond "I first use my eyes to study the reporter. I will refuse to accept reports of people without that". The "Police approach", contrary to the "at face value approach" of UFO studies, yields two levels of reality - the psychosocial reality of the reporter which can be checked after the incident and the subjective reality of the witnessed incident. The latter roots in the psychosocial context and is shaped by it.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Over 100 Austrian field investigations including two so-called "local flap" studies done in the traditional, phenomenologically-orientated way (6) have left us with the impression that the standard investigation procedure is far from what is desirable. GRATTAN-GUINNESS is

right with his complaint: "Much information may be being lost because ufologists are not asking UFO witnesses relevant questions, or carrying out appropriate procedures... the interview of witnesses is regarded only as a search for information and opinions: no attempt is made to recreate the possible psychic state of mind of the witness" (11). IZZO has articulated the same point in his "State of Art" for 1977: "Very few students, however, ponder over the respective weight of roles played by the percipient and the perceived... the bearer of our information, the true independent variable in the UFO problem, the witness, did not arouse a similar attention (than the perceived thing - E.B.). The UFO is generally a source of profit whereas the percipient is not". (19)

Witness-centered investigation

Both for European and Australian cases (1,6,16,24) the percentage of single witness events lies close to 50% or even higher. HYNEK suggested to rate a single witness event automatically lower than a two or multiple witness event. (17). It is a valid idea to try to get several independent observation reports and compare them. However, as BLAKE has pointed out, this is not possible because "unless a multiple witness sighting involves independent witnesses it is a social situation ... The fact that most multiple witness sightings (about 97% - E.B.) are social situations deserves as much attention as the contents of the report" (9). Whereas few observation conditions are not social situations, every field investigations are. With a wealth of interesting examples WATZLAWICK, Palo Alto, illustrates the dependency of what we call "reality" on human communication (42). His book should be must reading for UFO investigating scientists.

To neglect the psychosocial dimension of the reports and concentrate on UFO phenomenology alone leads out onto thin ice (Figure 1). Thus, we modified our field investigation procedures towards witness-centered investigation. After the routine checks on conventional

explanations have run without result, our attention is full on the witness(es):

On May 29 1977, at 0030 CET, a radio mechanic apprentice lying in bed of his home at Lower Austria, with TV set off after a local blackout at 2330 was startled to see a 50 centimeters big "hollow globe" made up of "red bars" indoors. The witness suspecting a fire jumped out of bed and hit the shape with leg. It dimmed gradually "into nothing". The traditional investigation gave site measurements, no traces and details of the blackout (it lasted until 2346). A witness-centered investigation in a Vienna psychiatry lab involved psychological tests and an electronencephalogram. It showed a normal intelligence, but a tendency to hide paranoid ideas. The EEG recorded with a 16 channel polygraph was at the border of the norm. We cannot be sure the case happened as the witness claims it did, but it was no simple psychotic product (17).

A similar investigation on an alleged close encounter north-east of Vienna used a full clinical examination of the witness in the same lab in December 1979. EEG, CFF and test results as well as a psychiatric exploration desintegrated the homogenous picture of the case and will be published in "Austrian Abstracts".

RESULTS

"Mankind is not disturbed by things but by the way it looks at things", says EPIKTET. Compared to technical aspects, the psychosocial dimension of UFO phenomena has received only marginal interest until 1977.

A summary of results is given by SPRINKLE (36): People who study UFOs show personal integrity; UFO landing witnesses compared with the rest of the US population do not show deviations in age, sex, occupation and activity; psychiatric case studies by SCHWARZ did not trace psychopathological reactions (33) and the latter claimed that no UFO-induced paranoia has been observed in clinical psychiatry (34). On the other hand, WALKER presented a case study of a UFO alcoholic hallucination in the 1968 US Congress Hearings with a detailed routine for medical, neurophthalmologic, neurologic and psychiatric witness examinations(40). In 1970, SCHÖNHERR speculated about hallucinatory

elements: "Hallucinations are a side effect caused by the conditions (force field) in the vicinity of the UFO ... in such a way that subconscious or unconscious images may reach the centre of perception, and become indistinguishable from a real experience" (30)

Cases of paranoid episodes involving UFO researchers have been published in book form (BENDER, KEEL). Only in 1959, Hans Bender, Western Germany's leading parapsychologist, remarked that "... the UFO phenomena show some similarities to controversial paranormal appearances, especially to the physical ones, i.e. the poltergeist. One is tempted to speak of a spook in the sky ..." (4)

Even if we suppose the UFO as an object did not show up in 'SCHWARZ' material contrary to the fundamental work of JUNG (20), the inability of the former author to recognize psychopathological phenomena highly similar to UFO details and effects, and vice versa, is striking, e.g. RAYNES and FICKETT write on the Trip Pond, Maine, case: "... on several occasions saw what appeared to be white snow flakes coming down around them and overhead black cubes and spheres flying in the direction of the pond, while silver spheres whizzed in all directions. W alone witnessed a red face-like outline as well as what looked like the beak of a giant bird that flew across the sky and dived into the pond. On the night of October 27, P was watching television in the living room of Mrs W's home when he saw a black cube-shaped object 'tumbling' in the air. It seemed to disappear through a wall. A few minutes later what looked like 'golden wires' appeared over the television set..." Wires, cubes, spheres, snowflakes are classical elementary hallucinations of the sense of sight. SCHWARZ, in his comment on the case, asks: "Was this reality, or hallucination?" (35).

Under the psychiatric viewpoint, the classification of "strangeness" (17) loses its scientific value. Hallucinative pictures like the Trip Pond affair rate high on the "strangeness" scale per definition, since they are vivid intrapsychic pictures, united to logic. However, the "question of reality" is

something else.

Polygraph examinations and hypnotic regressions have been applied to CE III witnesses and yielded strong emotional disturbances associated with the report and an equally strong belief of the witnesses in the reality of what they saw. According to JASPERS, high subjective evidence for its reality is a constitutional factor for hallucinations. Internal consistency of a report or a series of reports is no criterium for its objective reality, i.e. being not delusional, in psychiatry. "Hearing, sight, touch, smell - everyone of those senses furnished me with false data for my reasoning", a healed paranoiac is quoted by THALMAR (37). Or, as ARNOLD expressed it: "We can only understand the problem of hallucinations when we realize that the 'normal, objective' world has the same subjective perceptive value as the hallucinated, for both are equal psychic appearances ..." (3).

LAWSON's hypnotic sessions with "imaginary abductees" (21) have revealed that the singularly shallow character of the "real abduction" narratives, similar to banalities encountered in spiritistic "messages" may be reproduced easily by using the high degree of suggestibility present during hypnotic trance to "synthesize" a CE III. The unconscious is not the factual reporter technically trained people hope it could be. LA TOURETTE gives a cynical, but true picture of "demons" "unearthed" in hypnosis: "Who has committed the crime does not have claws nor a tail nor horns and need not come from hell. Should I add especially that the victim is always the hypnotized and the devil the hypnotist?" (22). It seems this 1894 contribution was forgotten later on, unfortunately. HAINES, author of two outstanding psychological books on UFOs (14,15) has developed a special UFO drawing procedure and found upon its application "that there are not any readily discernable differences between the eyewitnesses and the non eyewitnesses UFO drawing... This does not prove that the two participants groups come from the same population sample or that all UFO witnesses may be merely portraying" (13), but, as everybody knows 'how UFOs look like', it is impossible to separate fact from imagination in the investigative process without information on the mental state and

attitudes of the drawing person. RIFAT presents an "induced dream hypothesis" for CE III witness reports (26). By interfering with the witnesses' brain an "LSD-like experience" is induced, producing the bizarre elements reported by the person involved. Experimental studies of KLÜVER and SIEGEL found similar hallucinated shapes for different exogenic reactions, including electric stimulation of the brain: Bars, filigranes, honeycombs, chess boards, spider webs, tunnels, funnels, corridors, cones, vessels and spirals with intensive colours and symmetrical arrangements (39). Bars, cones, spirals and other symmetric forms with "psychedelic colours" were reported by a Graz, Austria, "local flap" witness to us.

DISCUSSION

BESSLER has pointed out the typical appearance of "phantom ships": "Nearly always ... phantom ships are seen suddenly and at full size, apparently approaching from the vicinity and disappearing equal suddenly after a few seconds, scarcely minutes without moving away ... Their manoeuvres challenge all laws of physics ... like a picture with wrong perspective ... In relation to its presumable distance it is much too large and even if every detail, every yard, is visible, it appears flat, picture-like and unspatial ..." (8).

Similar effects have been noticed in ghost apparitions on land. Abnormally large objects and UFO close encounter scenes are also candidates.

In a speculative article GUERIN has stated flatly "Psychiatry, which knows nothing whatsoever about the symptomatology of UFOs ..." (12). He is a physicist and, it seems, knows little whatsoever about psychiatry. Quoting WALTER that "the description of UFOs don't obey the laws which psychoanalysis has proposed to cover material produced from the unconscious ... but (the UFOs) display a very large number of purely physical features of no great symbolical importance". GUERIN overlooks the facts that the unconscious is unfortunately for the technician - not limited to producing

symbolic material but also works creative giving rise to problem solutions by "inspiration" and that the sudden perceptive "recognition" of certain, i.e. technical, Gestalt features is no conscious process itself, as is seen in lab experiments and by the psychopathology of recognition, e.g. the "déjà vu".

SEARGENT comments on the psychic aspects of UFO sightings (27) by quoting TYRELL that "visible apparitions behave as a rule ... with regard to the lighting of the scene, the distance of the percipient, and the presence of intervening objects, exactly as any material person would do" (38). This corresponds to one type of optical hallucinations. SEARGENT links VAN DUSEN's work about hallucinations to VALLEE's "Magonia" world and especially to contactee messages.

The author's contacts with several national groups have shown a rising tendency to see UFOs as something psychic, parapsychological, and dissatisfaction with physical hypotheses. SPRINKLE puts it the following way: "However, the paradox of UFO evidence suggests that UFO investigators may continue to be frustrated in their attempts to 'prove' the existence of flying saucers ..." (36). Phrases like "programmed non-evidence", "Trojan Horse" or "deliberate deception by trans-spatial creatures" are symbolic for despair and frustration over the phenomenologically-based odyssey.

BRAND-SCHNEIDER of MUFON-CES gave details on a Rorschach test and a "hypnotic regression" done with one of the two witnesses of a CE III at Langenargen, Bavaria. Neurotic problems and an observation trauma were indicated. The hypnotic session details were rated hallucinatory by MUFON-CES after consultation of a psychiatrist. Structural features of the "beings" correspond with the frog Kermit of the popular "Muppets Show" on TV. SCHNEIDER compiled a number of contributions about effects of electromagnetic fields on the brain and hallucinatory components in UFO reports. Cases are reviewed under headings "hypnagogic imagery", "illusional hallucinations" etc (23). Classification should be reserved to cases where a psychiatric exploration and/or tests are available. For instance, negative effects on mood and

vegetative functions will be observed by amateur investigators, but a hypomaniac state is likely to be rated "good health" As a first guess in field investigations we recommend to ask relatives not involved in the UFO sighting whether the mental state of the witness has shown any alterations before, during and after the UFO experience. Nevertheless, the best thing to do in "stranger" cases would be a full psychiatric exploration.

The "Mirror effect"

The presence of hallucinatory components in many UFO experiences is suggested by a number of circumstances. Mythological UFO hypotheses have tried to integrate aberrant details on the ground of a superior intelligence, a "deus ex machina" making everything possible. This has led into a "circulus vitiosus" away from scientific methodology. Behavioral scientists have demonstrated now that they can study the "dark side" of the UFO with their tools. Although physical trace cases and other data, such as radar returns, furnish us with a physical, objective component, the anecdotal material of the witness reports is responsible for the social impact of the UFO theme. What can be done with the old reports where psycho-social data are missing or spurious? The author has hypothesized together with SCHÖNHERR that psychic elements, thoughts, wishes, experiences and models of the witness as well as shapes of his everyday surroundings existing in his memory before the encounter may flow into the UFO experience to form parts of the phenomenal details. We called this "the mirror effect". It is confirmed by the "artificial UFO" experiments of LAWSON (21) and HAINES (13). SCHALLENBERG has shown similar processes in a 20th Century case study on European religious visions and their witnesses (28). On the cultural-mythological dependence of hallucinatory material a case published by SEITZ can be of interest: A member of the Brazilian Waika indians who had been baptised and schooled by missionaries took part in drug rites of his tribe to contact the "haeculi", ghosts of their ancestors. Instead of "haeculi" he saw the angels of his Christian education (29).

One must not forget the discovery of FREUD that it is material of the subconscious or repressed to the unconscious which will have the greatest pathological influence, in our case as hallucination stimulator and modulator. Therefore one cannot expect that this sort of data will reveal itself automatically in technical case studies. Consequently there are rather few cases in the older lite literature where the hallucinatory stimulus is manifest. SCHÖNHERR quotes some of them in his recent contribution to UPIAR (32). In the following, a few Austrian examples of the "mirror effect" are given:

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1955 Mr W of Vienna

The witness writes he encountered a landed object near Arbesthal, Lower Austria, while driving through the woods on his motorcycle. He noticed a ramp and door and drove right inside at full speed. Inside he talked with 5 or 6 "occupants", giving then a detailed description of social problems on earth and how they could be changed. "The answer of my discussion partners was that I ... had to be the leader in such an action whereby they broke out in tears when I disputed with them too violently". In his report Mr W gives a short curriculum and indicates he had problems under the Nazi regime, was not employed after the war, and still feels being persecuted by Nazi agents(41).

It is interesting to notice that the central problem of his life, social isolation and paranoid political ideas, re-shaped into a glorious role in his alleged encounter. The report was rated a delusional product of an abnormal personality by our psychiatric expert.

JANUARY 1975 Josef P

At Traunstein, Lower Austria, an old man described a number of "sky clocks". He saw then as enormous objects with multi-coloured clockhands appearing and disappearing in the sky at dusk from his front porch. After some time we heard of his heavy drinking and of "ghost" observations he had made in his room. Observing the rising Jupiter with him he did not see a point of light but a "clock" plus "umbrella" and "a worker with a broom" on top of his alcoholic hallucinosis. A pensioned

sacristan, with the church tower and its clockhands in his field of vision from the porch, he had described the phenomena's clockhands in positions telling the correct time of his observations (5).

JULY 11 1979 Mrs M

An old lady reported "Skylab" in a lit-up cloud and "four bright balls moving past" to the south-west of Prebbaum, Lower Austria, at 0300 CET. She had been waking up at this early time (sudden wake-up between 00 and 06 CET is a typical Austrian pattern). The central object had the dark shape of "Skylab" and a huge size. The case occurred few days before the expected crash of Skylab parts and the shape was in all paper media with strong, negative emotions. At 0300 in the morning, the moon was behind a broken cloud cover in the region of "Skylab". Twilight and mental state were ideal for an illusion widening into hallucinatory details.

Another indication for the existence of the "mirror effect" is the "recognizing" of certain object features by the witness in course of a second observation in a different place. A witness watching three red, overlapping globes associated with a deep roaring sound from her Hollabrunn home in August 1972 remarked in our 1975 investigation she had seen "precisely the same object" again near Güssing, Burgenland, in February 1973. The 1972 sound had been the same as with an earthquake she witnessed at Neukirchen in April 1972. The connecting line between two alleged observations of this kind is not the surroundings or the phenomenon, but the witness.

For higher than average intelligent witnesses, the field investigator should ask about structured objects: "What did the thing resemble for you? Can it be that you have seen this shape before? Does this shape or its resemblance have a special, even absurd, meaning or an emotional importance for you? Why?" The questions should be asked at the end of the investigation, after the technical part.

UFO reports are dependent on psychosocial variables. Acceptance or refusal

of the reports by our society is a function of culture and technology. The existing gap between culture and technology has provoked a paradox situation: Bizarre UFO reports are refused by scientific authorities, the opinion leaders of technology, but are simultaneously accepted by many because they appeal to unconscious needs. Why is this possible? We know, or rather a technical elite on which we rely knows a variety of physical theories and their practical applications. Although they have helped to make (mostly western) life more easy, the physical approach cannot solve central human problems. With a rising standard of living dissatisfaction in this technical "inability" results condensing into anti-scientific, occult movements. What paralyzes "UFology" is nothing more than the old conflict spiritism versus animism encountered in parapsychology long ago which has no scientific solution. Belief in a supernatural intelligence cannot be "proved" or "disproved" in terms of modern science, which is based on a different paradigm. To say it polemical, it seems to us that the "new age of darkness", the "new regression in human thought" UFO spiritists like COLEMAN, CLARK, GUERIN, KEEL, MICHEL, VALLEE and others fear from UFO manipulation on our world is rather a projection of their own fearful way of thinking into our restless reality. To get into a "new dark age" we need no "UFO intelligence". Our own "intelligence" is enough for the purpose.

We, human beings with unconscious feelings and wishes, are the dark side of the UFO mystery. The more we learn about ourselves we will realize about the true meaning of what goes on under the terminus UFO.

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C U R V E D A N D ' R O P E - L A D D E R ' L I G H T B E A M S

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THE PHENOMENON OF SOLID OR COHERENT LIGHT IS NOW WELL ESTABLISHED IN UFO LITERATURE. THE BEAMS DESCRIBED BY EYEWITNESSES ARE CHARACTERIZED AS TUBES OF LIGHT, SOMETIMES COMPARED WITH A NEON TUBE, PROPAGATING SLOWLY AND OFTEN PRESENTING A TRUNCATED APPEARANCE. THE BEAMS HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS CASTING NO SHADOW, APPEARING TO 'PASS THROUGH' SOLID OBJECTS. SEVERAL CASES HAVE NOW BEEN NOTED IN WHICH THE BEAM IS DESCRIBED AS UNROLLING 'LIKE A ROPE LADDER' OR ROPE BEING UNCOILED. THIS PARTICULAR FEATURE NOW APPEARS TO PRESENT A DISTINCT VARIATION OF THE TYPE AND WORTHY OF SOME CLOSER ATTENTION. THE FOLLOWING CASES INCLUDE SEVERAL IN WHICH VARIOUS CURVED LIGHT BEAMS HAVE ALSO BEEN DESCRIBED. IT IS POSSIBLE, IN CONCLUSION, TO CONSIDER HOW THE PHENOMENA DESCRIBED AS CURVED AND ROPE LADDER LIGHT BEAMS MAY HAVE A COMMON ORIGIN.

1956 SEPTEMBER - SERDON, LOIRET, FRANCE

After the car engine had stopped for no apparent reason, the driver and passenger noticed a round nebulous object in the sky. The object was dark, stationary and made no sound. A light appeared from the object after about five minutes. The light 'came down quite slowly, not straight down like the beam of a projector but unrolled like a rope ladder - like a rope being uncoiled'. The two witnesses, who had got out of the car as soon as the engine had failed, noted that everything illuminated by the beam had its colours changed. A field of maize nearby turned a harsh blue colour. A hand of one of the witnesses turned a lemon yellow colour as it was caught by the beam, and a slight tingling sensation was felt. After a while the object rose vertically, performed a right angled turn and vanished silently in the direction of Les Bordes, a village on the River Loire. It later became known that a dairyman at Les Bordes had reported a similar experience and that his vehicle had also been immobilized. (1)

1965 SEPTEMBER - COL D'ASPIN, FRANCE

Two UFOs were seen to send a 'slow flash of lightning' to the ground. As described by the witnesses, "during a couple of seconds nothing happened, then to our great consternation out of this light came a white, threadlike light, zigzag - shaped with sharp angles which slowly

started falling vertically downward like a rope ladder being unrolled from a roof". (2)

1967 AUGUST 29 - OKA, CANADA

A beam of 'solide light' came out of the top of the UFO and rose slowly to a height of about twelve metres, after which it started to spread out and fall down creating a transparent bell-shaped 'wall' around the object. Where the wall hit the ground it cut out a luminous circular region with a diameter of about eighty metres. The witness compared the phenomenon to a fluid curtain surrounding a fountain. (3)

1970 JANUARY 1 - VANCOUVER, CANADA

An anomalous object emitted a curved beam downwards. The beam was not in one piece, but chopped. The witness stated "It was a beam of light similar to a very thin neon tube and it consisted of pieces, like the dashes and dots of the Morse code. It came down following a curve and then, in a flash, it completely disappeared". (4)

1971 OCTOBER 30 - TOCOPILLA, CHILE

A curved light beam - "Suddenly a light beam came out of the craft - this light beam was curved, somewhat like a jet of water coming out of a garden hose". (5)

CURVED AND 'ROPE-LADDER' LIGHT BEAMS/GEOFFREY FALLA

1972 JULY 4 22.45 ELLEZELLES,
NEAR RENAIX, BELGIUM

A young farmer was in a field adjoining his farm when he noticed brief projections of bluish light beams coming from a stationary luminous 'cloud'. The beams of light, which were in the shape of arcs of a circle, came down to the ground at three points disposed in a circle around him. A further strange feature noted was that the beams became wider until about one metre from the ground when they shrank in volume, only touching the ground with a very reduced point of light. The beams then withdrew again into the sky and a reversed process was observed. The phenomenon was repeated a number of times for about half a minute and was confirmed by a neighbour some distance away.

Other sightings of unidentified luminous objects were reported from widespread areas of Belgium during the same evening. (6)

1973 OCTOBER 29 00.30 TRAUNSTEIN, AUSTRIA

On a clear night a yellow-orange globe of light with fuzzy edges was seen stationary in the sky. Two beams of curved light were seen to emerge, slowly projected upwards from the main body of the object. The two witnesses likened the appearance to a pair of snail feelers. The beams, which were also yellow-orange in colour, 'crept up slowly' before bending outwards high up. The beams then stopped moving, the tips turned a faint green colour and as a green mist fell sideways the beams disappeared. After about five seconds the process was repeated. The 'feelers' were clear and well defined, while short beams were also noted projecting downwards from the bottom of the object.

At 0200 a disc-shaped object was seen, enveloped in a diffuse yellowish light. The object appeared to have a domed structure on its upper surface and from this two 'feelers' of curved light were emitted, the tips again becoming green before vanishing. Several other unidentified objects were observed in the vicinity of this object.

On November 17 at about 1800 a similar phenomenon was observed again. a total of nine persons saw the object which varied in size and colours as it emitted a pattern of curved light beams. (7)

1977 MAY 21 2245 POOLE, DORSET

A number of witnesses observed an unidentified aerial phenomenon. One of the witnesses noticed several 'dancing discs' in the sky, then saw a silvery-grey disc shaped object which appeared suddenly behind cloud. The object, slightly larger than a full moon, later became an orange colour and had two antenna - like protrusions on the top. These antennae, which may have been short beams of light, vanished when from the centre underside of the object a whitish beam of light appeared and extended swiftly to the ground, the end of the beam being plainly visible during its transit. After a few seconds the beam 'switched off'. The object performed a banking manoeuvre and sped away. No sounds were heard.

Two other witnesses were returning home at about 2310 when a beam of intense silvery-white light struck the bonnet of the car. The beam came from a brilliant hemispherical source. One of the witnesses described how a 'hole' had seemed to appear in the sky from which the beam of light fell to the ground. This was likened to the appearance of a carpet or rope ladder rapidly extending downward, and appeared to emanate from a flat disc 'like the bottom of a metal cup'. Both witnesses agreed that the beam appeared to be about two feet in width with very clear cut edges. It seemed to 'cut through' the terrain obliterating everything in its path yet illuminating nothing. The end of the beam was clearly visible and this was circular. (8)

1981 JUNE 15 22.45 RAWTENSTALL, LANCS

Four separate groups of witnesses observed an object traversing the Rossendale Valley. Two of the witnesses, near a dry ski-slope, described the object which came straight towards them as a golden oval shape with two white lights on the underside. The

CURVED AND 'ROPE-LADDER' LIGHT BEAMS/
GEOFFREY FALLA

object dropped a 'ladder' into woods by the slope - a streamer of light that unfolded. The main object changed course to head south down the valley before it vanished after two minutes. (9)

1981 OCTOBER 26 06.45 KEIGHLEY, YORKSHIRE

Two objects described as 'planked shaped' with a bright light at the top of each, were seen low in the sky. The witness watched the objects for between a quarter and half an hour until they started to 'cloud over' and curl up on themselves 'like hedgehogs rolling up into a ball'. This process was quite slow, leaving the two balls of light still remaining. The objects faded out with the approach of daylight. (10)

Several of these cases draw a direct comparison between the phenomenon observed and the appearance of a rope ladder unrolling, the remainder describing various curved beams. It has been suggested that a curved light beam is better understood if the light emitting process is envisaged as being present at all points along the beam, rather than produced from a particular source in the usual way. Theoretical explanations of the process include that by French researcher Jean Goupil, suggesting that the tubes of light are torodial discharges of a magnetic field. (11) Such a beam could reconstitute itself on the other side of a solid object, thereby giving the described appearance of light penetration. Interactions of a modulated electromagnetic wave could produce the observed effects.

It is hoped that the descriptions of curved and 'rope ladder' light beams and associated effects may help in the understanding of the wider category of

reports described as solide light beam phenomena. No doubt other cases of this type remain to be discovered.

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- (2) Jan Heering. UFO Phenomena Int. Annual Review, (UPIAR) Vol II, No 1, 1977. Editecs, Bologna, ITALY. Lumieres dans la Nuit (LDLN) II, 93, p 12.
- (3) Jan Heering, UPIAR. Phenomenes Spatiaux, 1968, 18, pp 12-14.
- (4) Jan Heering, UPIAR. Phenomenes Spatiaux, 1971, 27, pp 7-9.
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- (6) BUFORA Journal, Vol 5, No 1, p 6. FSR Case Histories 16, pp 1-5. Inforespace (1972) 6, pp 16-18.
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- (8) FSR Vol 23, No 4, pp 3-6.
- (9) Jenny Randles, Northern UFO News No 87.
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B U F O R A NEWS

UNITED KINGDOM 3RD INTERNATIONAL UFO
CONGRESS - 1983

In keeping with its published aims to promote and encourage scientific interest and research into reports of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), BUFORA LTD is pleased to announce that it will hold its 3rd International UFO CONGRESS on the 27th, 28th and 29th AUGUST 1983.

This prestigious 3-Day event, which will be held in a custom-built, air-conditioned luxury venue situated near High-Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, is fully expected to be the premier European ufological event of the year with the emphasis being placed firmly upon quality of content and with contributions from leading international researchers.

Applications to present papers at the Congress are invited from serious researchers and group representatives.

Papers should be in the order of either 20, 30 or 60 minutes in length and time will be allowed at the end of each paper for questions from the floor. Exceptionally, papers may be of a longer duration. In all cases a synopsis of the paper to be presented should be sent, in the first instance, to the selection panel at the following address for acceptance. Speakers should indicate the approximate duration of their papers when submitting their synopsis, and early submission is recommended.

Further press releases will follow as information becomes available.

Congress Secretariat:

5 Vardens Road, London SW11 1RQ
Great Britain.

KENSINGTON LECTURES 1982

Saturday September 04, 1900h

There's more to UFO than meets the eye

Speaker: Peter Warrington

Saturday October 02, 1900h

Averley Abduction - a new look

Speaker: Andy Collins

MANCHESTER SEMINAR

Saturday October 09,

"Investigator & Witness"

Venue: University of Manchester

The seminar includes lectures and practical exercises. Advance bookings to:

Peter Warrington
5 North Avenue
Borage
Manchester M19 2WR

(please enclose £2 (£1.50 BUFORA and ASSAP members) fee when booking).

HYPNOTIC FANTASIES

STEUART CAMPBELL*

TALES OF UFO ENCOUNTERS TOLD UNDER HYPNOSIS PROLIFERATE, AND IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHAT RELIANCE CAN BE PUT IN THE HYPNOTIC TECHNIQUE. WORK IN THE USA SHOWS THAT BOTH FANTASY AND FABRICATION STRONGLY INFLUENCE THE STORY TOLD BY HYPNOTIZED SUBJECTS, AND THAT NOT EVEN EXPERTS CAN TELL FACT FROM FICTION. GREAT CARE IS NEEDED IN ORDER NOT TO INFLUENCE THE SUBJECT AND TO CAUSE HIM TO TELL A STORY THAT THE HYPNOTIST WANTS TO HEAR. SOME PROCEDURAL RULES ARE NOTED, AND THE OPINION OF AN EXPERT THAT HYPNOTIC RECALL SHOULD NOT BE USED IN SO-CALLED UFO ABDUCTION CASES.

At the 1982 BUFORA Conference in Edinburgh, Harry Harris introduced a woman who claimed to have encountered aliens (associated with a spacecraft). Her account derived partly from alleged memories 'recalled' under subsequent hypnosis, and Harris believed that these 'memories' were genuine. During discussion, it emerged that he had not heard of the Lawson experiment in America, and Jenny Randles doubted the relevance of the experiment to UFO cases.

This matter is of considerable importance to ufology. It is important to know whether or not we can trust hypnosis. Already I have claimed that the account of the Janos People is derived, not from real events, but from a fantasy which evolved under hypnosis. (1)

In May 1977, the UFO movement's growing reliance on hypnosis to support tales of UFO abductions was shaken by a paper published by Alvin H Lawson, a Professor of English at California State University, Long Beach. (2) He reported on an experiment in which imaginary UFO abductions were induced hypnotically in a group of subjects who were then questioned about their experience. The hypnosis was administered by William C McCall, an MD with clinical experience in its use. Writer John DeHerrera was also associated with the experiment.

Lawson reported that not only were the subjects able to improvise answers about what had happened to them aboard the imaginary flying saucer, but their stories 'showed no substantive

(substantial?) differences' from tales in the UFO literature by persons who claimed to have actually experienced an abduction. This prompted Lawson to observe, 'The implications of the study for future hypnotic regression of Close Encounter cases and for abduction cases now deemed of the highest credibility, are unclear at this time'.

The controversy that then erupted was reviewed by Philip J Klass. (3) James A Harder of the University of California at Berkeley (engineer) claimed that Lawson's paper might lead naive readers to think that there is a strong case that all UFO abduction reports are imaginary, and criticized Lawson for failing to point out that while 'real' abductees were convinced that their experiences were real, 'imaginary' abductees were not so convinced.

Lawson offered a revised paper on the same experiment at the August 1978 meeting of the American Psychological Association. He stuck by his original report that there were 'no substantive (sic) differences' in the accounts given by 'real' and 'imaginary' abductees. But he added that despite the many similarities, there are crucial differences - such as alleged physical effects and multiple witnesses - which argue that UFO abductions are separate and distinct from imaginary and hallucinatory experiences'. However, Lawson also warned that, 'one should be cautious about the results from hypnotic regression in UFO case investigations ... A witness can lie, or believe his own lies, and thus invalidate any investigation. A more common result may be that hypnotized witnesses subtly confuse

their own fantasies with reality - without either the witness or the hypnotist being aware of what is happening'.

Martin T Orne, past President of the International Society of Hypnosis and Director of the Institute of Pennsylvania Hospital's unit for experimental psychiatry, is an internationally recognized authority on hypnosis. He has completely demolished the basic premises upon which some ufologists (e.g. Harder and Sprinkle) have operated in using hypnosis in an effort to substantiate tales of UFO abductions. (4) While he did not discuss the misuse of hypnosis in UFO cases, it is obvious that his warnings and recommended safeguards apply to ufology as well as to forensic science.

Orne cited experiments showing that 'it is possible for an individual to feign hypnosis and deceive even highly experienced hypnotists ... Further, it is possible for even deeply hypnotized subjects to willfully lie!' He warned that psychologists and psychiatrists are not particularly adept at recognizing deception, and that the average hotel manager is considerably more adept. Relatively few of those who are experienced in the use of hypnosis have been trained to become adept at recognizing manipulation and deception. 'Consequently, they have little experience or concern about being deceived or used'.

Orne cautioned that 'Hypnotic suggestions to relive a past event, particularly when accompanied by questions about specific details, puts pressure on the subject to provide information for which few, if any, actual memories are available. This situation may jog the subject's memory and produce some increased recall, but it will also cause him to fill in details that are plausible but consist of memories or fantasies from other times!! He added, 'It is extremely difficult to know which aspects of hypnotically aided recall are historically accurate and which aspects have been confabulated ... There is no way ... by which anyone - even

a psychologist or psychiatrist with extensive training in the field of hypnosis - can for any particular piece of information determine whether it is an actual memory versus a confabulation unless there is independent verification'. He cited experiments by others that show that 'free narrative recall will produce the highest percentage of accurate information but the lowest amount of detail. Conversely, the more an eyewitness is questioned about details, the more details will be obtained - but with a marked decrease in accuracy', (Examination of transcripts of hypnosis sessions with 'abductees' reveals that great pressure was applied for details rather than allowing the subject to use free narrative).

Orne's paper suggests that the use of hypnosis by pro-UFO investigators can generate what he calls 'pseudo-memories', which may enable a subject to tell a convincing story later when not under hypnosis. Such 'pseudo-memories can and often do become incorporated into the individual's memory store as though they had actually happened ... If a witness is hypnotized and has factual information casually gleaned from newspapers or inadvertent comments made during prior interrogation or in discussion with others ... many of these bits of knowledge will become incorporated and form the basis of any pseudo-memories that develop'.

'Furthermore, if the hypnotist has beliefs about what actually occurred, it is exceedingly difficult for him to prevent himself from inadvertently guiding the subject's recall so that he (the subject) will eventually 'remember' what he, the hypnotist, believes actually happened'.

Orne noted that 'the more frequently the subject (describes) the event, the more firmly established the pseudo-memory will tend to become. In the experimental demonstration, we are dealing with an essentially trivial memory about which the subject has no inherent motivations. Nevertheless the memory is created by a leading question, which, however, on casual observation, seems innocuous'. Orne warns, 'Hypnosis has not resulted in accurate memories but rather has served to produce consistent memories'.

Orne suggested four important procedural safeguards:

- 1) Hypnosis 'should be carried out by a psychiatrist or psychologist with special training in its use'.
- 2) The hypnotist 'should not be informed about the facts of the case verbally; rather he should receive a written memorandum outlining whatever facts he is to know, carefully avoiding any other communication which might affect his opinion ... It is extremely undesirable to have the individual conducting the hypnotic sessions to have any involvement in the investigation of the case'.
- 3) 'All contact of the psychiatric or psychologist with the individual to be hypnotized should be videotaped from the moment they meet until the entire interaction is completed. The casual comments which are passed before or after hypnosis are every bit as important to get on tape as the hypnotic session itself. (It is possible to give suggestions prior to the induction of hypnosis that will act as post-hypnotic suggestions'). Orne also recommended that tape recordings of prior interrogations be made 'because the interactions which have preceded the hypnotic session may well have a profound effect on the sessions themselves'. He cautioned that a subject may unwittingly have been given clues to certain information 'which might then be reported for apparently the first time by the witness during hypnosis'.
- 4) 'Nobody other than the psychiatrist or psychologist and the individual to be hypnotized should be present in the room before and during the hypnotic session. This is important because it is all too easy for observers to inadvertently communicate to the subject what they expect, what they are startled by, or what they are disappointed by'.

The Editor of The Skeptical Inquirer asked a noted hypnosis expert, Ernest R Hilgard (Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Stanford University, a former

president of the International Society of Hypnosis and a member of the National Academy of Science), to comment on the use of hypnosis in UFO abduction cases. Hilgard wrote, 'The use of hypnotic recall as evidence in UFO abduction cases is an abuse of hypnosis. It is an abuse, first, because of the role that fantasy plays for all hypnotically responsive subjects and, second, because abundant evidence exists that fabrication can take place under hypnosis. For example, under hypnosis I implanted in a subject a false memory of an experience connected with a bank robbery that never occurred, and the person found the experience so vivid that he was able to select from a series of photographs a picture of the man he thought had robbed the bank! At another time, I deliberately assigned two concurrent - though spatially very different - life experiences to the same person and regressed him at separate times to that date. He gave very accurate accounts of both experiences, so that a believer in reincarnation, reviewing the two accounts, would have suspected that the man really had lived the two assigned lives. These particular examples have not been published, but many similar accounts have been. For example, it has been shown experimentally that, while acting the part of a spy, a subject can hold a 'cover' when posing as a citizen of another nation and in an occupation not his own. Under hypnosis, the person does not give himself away. (5) The role of fantasy in hypnosis has been amply documented by Josephine R Hilgard. (6)(7)

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- (2) 'What can we learn from hypnosis of imaginary 'abductees'?' (publication not known). See also 'Hypnosis of imaginary UFO abductees' in UPIAR-UFO Phenomena International Annual Review, 1979 Vol III.
- (3) 'Hypnosis and UFO Abductions' in The Skeptical Inquirer, Vol V/3, Spring 1981, pp 16-24.
- (4) 'The Use and Misuse of Hypnosis in Court' in International Journal of Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis, October 1979.

- (5) Orne, M T (1971) 'The potential Uses of Hypnosis in Interrogation' in A D Biderman and H Zimmer (eds.). The Manipulation of Human Behaviour, New York, Wiley.
- (6) Hilgard, J R (1979) Personality and Hypnosis: A Study of Imaginative Involvement, 2nd ed., Chicago, University of Chicago Press
- (7) 'Hypnosis gives rise to fantasy and is not a truth serum' in The Skeptical Inquirer, Vol V/3, Spring 1981, p 25.

TELEVISION

The BBC-2 Science series "HORIZON" plan to start their 1982 season in the early Autumn with a major documentary on UFOs. Most of the film has been obtained in the USA, although some sequences on a photographic hoax case from Warminster are included.

In the material presently being edited for transmission are interviews with Allan Hendry and Dr J Allen Hynek regarding an American investigation. Sceptics Phillip Klass and Robert Schaeffer given their reasons for rejecting UFOs as a novel phenomenon. Dr Alvin Lawson discusses his theory that UFO abduction memories under hypnosis are stimulated by the Birth trauma. And some original film is promised depicting the Piezo-electric effect in action under laboratory conditions. Dr Michael Persinger believes this to be responsible for many UFO experiences.

Extensive analysis has been conducted on the famous New Zealand movie film case and Dr Bruce Maccabee talks about this new work.

The final conclusion of the researchers, and producers, which may or may not be reflected in the programme, is that UFOs are regarded almost as a religious belief by many individuals!

SALZBURG SEMINAR

F I R S T

I N T E R N A T I O N A L U P I A R C O L L O Q U I U M

O N

H U M A N S C I E N C E S A N D U F O P H E N O M E N A

SALZBURG (AUSTRIA)

J U L Y 26 - 29 1982

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

SUPPORTING INSTITUTION

UPIAR

SCIENTIFIC SECRETARIAT

R. FARABONE
P.O. BOX 10611
I 20110 Milano
(Italy)

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

A.G. KEUL
Meidlinger Hauptstrasse 82/19
A-1120 Wien
(Austria)

SALZBURG SEMINAR

INTRODUCTION

Last three years have shown a consistent increase in the number of papers and books dealing with psychological and sociological components of UFO reports. A major emphasis on eyewitness testimony and mechanisms of perception has grown up as well.

Nevertheless such topics as experimental psychology, sociology, epistemology, to say the most important only, are still far from having been fully considered. Thus holding a seminar specifically focusing on the implications of human sciences for a better understanding of so-called UFO phenomena seems a timely and needed decision toward a global re-formulation of our current concepts on this subject.

A maximum of forty (40) participants, including speakers, will be admitted to the Colloquium, based upon their professional qualifications and interests. Researchers and students interested to attend should submit to this purpose a short Curriculum Vitae in English or French within May 31 to the Scientific Secretariat.

PRELIMINARY LIST OF SCIENTIFIC TOPICS

1. Experimental Psychology and UFO/IFO Phenomena
2. UFO/IFO phenomena and Perception: Theory and Experiments
3. Problems of Method: the Epistemological context
4. Case Histories: the psychiatric and sociocultural involvement

PROCEEDINGS

The proceedings of the Colloquium will be published by UPIAR and be booked in advance (please fill in the related side of the tear-off portion).

ABSTRACTS

Researchers interested to present an original paper or a short communication inherent one or more aspects of the Colloquium should send a full Abstract in English or French no later than May 31 1982 to the Scientific Secretariat. A special form for submitting Abstracts is herewith enclosed for Authors usage. Full manuscripts in English or French should be submitted afterwards, but anyhow no later than May 31 1982 to the same address.

ENQUIRIES

All enquiries about the Colloquium should be addressed to the Scientific Secretariat.

LOCATION

The site of the Colloquium will be in the Zistelalm Hotel at Salzburg, Austria.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Official languages will be English and French. No simultaneous translation will be provided.

SALZBURG SEMINAR

REGISTRATION

An official registration and booking form together with the Preliminary program will be mailed to those who return the tear-off portion of this announcement within May 31 1982.

Registration fee: US \$30.00 or equivalent local currency. This amount, which covers pre-booking at Zistelalm Hotel and a contribution to the publication of the proceedings, must be remitted by cheque or international money order no later than May 31 to:

Dr. Alexander G. KEUL
Meidlinger Hauptstrasse 82/19
A-1120 Wien
(Austria)

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

Both travel and accommodation expenses are to be charged to each attendant (speakers included). Information on different kinds of accommodation can be requested to the Local Organizing Committee.

HOTEL RATES

Hotel rates about US \$30.00 for single rooms, full pension, per day.

NEW RESEARCH BODY

The ORGANISATION for **SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION** of AERIAL PHENOMENA (formed by the merger of F.U.F.O.R. and the M.A.P.P.I.T. Resources Centre), issues two new publications at six-monthly intervals.

The OSEAP Journal is published in April and October by the Organisation for Scientific Evaluation of Aerial Phenomena. Editorial enquiries should be addressed to the Editorial Board, 170 Henry Street, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 4BQ. The cost of joint subscription to OSEAP Journal and OSEAP Resources Centre up date is £5.00 per annum in the U.K. (£6.00 for overseas subscribers by International Money Order) and comprises two issues of each publication sent post free per year. Remittances should be by crossed cheque or postal order made payable to "OSEAP" and sent to 170, Henry Street, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 4BQ.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

'Natural' Theory - rebuttal

Mr Campbell, an obviously first-class investigator, is understandably on less firm ground when advocating theoretical explanations that, as he must be aware, fail to explain. One naturally admires his addiction to high standards - the exception rather than the rule in this intractible subject.

Campbell complains about the alleged unreliability of the data which are, after all, all one has to go on. If these, however, should prove to be essentially of a psychological rather than of a physical nature, the charge of malobservation or mis-reporting could become much less meaningful. Are UFOs ordinary (or even extraordinary) solid physical "objects" as familiar to ordinary Science?

There is, moreover, the UFO Phenomenon, and it is the latter which constitutes, in the opinion of some, the "greatest scientific problem of our time": it is, presumably, the reason why Stuart Campbell and others (including myself) are in the business. It includes, whether we like it or not, such bizarre features as humanoids and abduction scenarios (which need not, of course, be taken at face value), while its wider parameters embrace S.F., Parapsychology, Folklore elements, and (perhaps) Jungian archetypal images - to the firm exclusion of leylines, dragons, and Atlantis!

Finally, there can be no doubt that UFOs are basically a post-war phenomenon. Its prevalence being so gargantuan and worldwide, one forester's tree, however magnificent, hardly makes a wood. Isolated instances of rare natural occurrences? NO! Neither, despite appearances, from Outer Space.

Manfred Cassierer
London
April 1982

'In appreciation'

With many thanks we acknowledge the receipt of your review(2/1) of May 1981. We consider that your Journal is making an important contribution to the scientific ufology. It's of high quality!

We would be glad to receive further (and past, if it's possible?) issues of your publication in exchange for our bulletins on UFOs from Argentina.

Let me thank you in advance for your kindness in sending me, in the future, your magnificent publication.

If you require any information regarding Argentina UFO situation, please ask and we shall do our best to answer.

A Agostinelli
Argentina
September 1981

'Papagiannis'

Michael Papagiannis claimed that either the Galaxy is teeming with intelligent life, and even our own solar system has been colonized, or there is no other intelligent life in the Galaxy! Surely he underestimated the problems of interstellar travel? A 500-year expedition to a star 10 light years away is hardly undertaken lightly, or cheaply. Just think of the psychological and cultural problems of such a community, cut off from the rest of its race, and faced with the problem of committing younger generations to the goal of the initial generation. Think of the changes that have taken place on Earth in the last 500 years - 1482 was in the Dark Ages! Mankind (or any other race) will not want to travel to the stars until it can be done within the span of one individual's lifetime. (Strangely Papagiannis did not discuss the possibility of constant 1G acceleration so reaching a speed near that of light when time can be slowed to allow the crew to survive the voyage - this is

the only acceptable way to travel to the stars, with present technology).

One race might colonize the entire Galaxy (say in 10 million years), provided its civilization lasts that long. Sagan's estimate is that civilizations last about 10 thousand years, in which time they would not have colonized very much of the Galaxy! There may be no sign of aliens because their civilizations collapsed before they could reach us.

If the Galaxy is full of aliens, then it is also full of intelligent signals via EM radiation (e.g. radio). (It is naive to believe that intelligent races would not use EM signalling, even though such signals would be very slow). The absence of such signals does not mean that there are no aliens, but it might mean that there are not very many of them, or that they are not in our neighbourhood.

Papagiannis assumed that aliens would naturally inhabit our asteroid belt, and that if none are found there, then there are no alien civilizations in the whole Galaxy! This is a ridiculous argument. Why should an alien culture bother to come to our system if not to explore the inner planets and colonize them? It is naive to expect them to sit out in the asteroids making no contact at all with us. Would we behave in this way when (if) we reach another star system? Papagiannis' notion that the aliens would have become so acclimatized to their space colony that they would prefer to remain in it, is also naive. What intelligent beings would decline to live on the surface of a planet when they have the choice? If, as he supposed, the aliens arrived before the rise of mankind, then there was nothing to prevent them from colonizing Earth itself. We must conclude that aliens visiting the solar system would make for Earth, where they would expect to find life and habital conditions.

In short, Papagiannis' arguments are specious, unsound, speculative, implausible and naive, and his views contribute nothing to serious discussion of the problem of whether or not alien cultures exist at the present time. The

failure to find an alien culture in our asteroid belt will tell us nothing about aliens or their existence. Mankind may be alone in the Galaxy, but we shall not know whether or not this is true until we have explored the whole Galaxy, or until we encounter aliens.

Steuart Campbell
Edinburgh
February 1982

P.S. Since there is no evidence that UFOs have any connection with aliens, I must ask what Papagiannis' article was doing in JTAP, and I deplore the frequent repeats from the Quarterly Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society. If JTAP exists to discuss matters not discussed elsewhere, how is it that matters discussed elsewhere are repeated in JTAP? Each Journal should restrict itself to its own specialized subject, and not to do so blurs the distinction between Journals.

Aims and scope of the Journal

Research and investigation into unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena has progressed from the early days of wild speculation into an area where scientific analysis and evaluation methods can be applied to a number of specified areas.

It is realised that ufological research is subject to a great deal of speculative comment, much of which lies on the boundaries of current scientific thought. Many existing scientific institutions accept limited discussion of UFOs and related phenomena where it has some bearing on their discipline. The Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena (Journal TAP) offers a forum for scientists and researchers to present ideas for further discussion, results of investigations and analysis of statistics and other pertinent information.

Journal TAP aims to meet a wide range of discussion by incorporating an approach with breadth of scope, clear and topical comment conducted with scientific rigour. It intends to offer a truly international forum enabling researchers throughout the world to publish results in an authoritative publication which should serve to further knowledge of the cosmos and benefit mankind in so doing.

Notes for contributors

The Editorial Board will be pleased to receive contributions from all parts of the world. Manuscripts, preferably in English, should be submitted in the first instance, to the Editor-in-chief, 40 Jones Drove, Whittlesey, Peterborough, PE7 1UE, United Kingdom.

Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced on one side of A4 size paper with wide margins and submitted in duplicate. While no maximum length of contributions is prescribed, authors are encouraged to write concisely.

The author's name should be typed on the line below the title. The affiliation (if any) and address should follow on the next line. The body of the manuscript should be preceded by an abstract of around 100 words giving the main conclusions drawn.

All mathematical symbols may be either hand-written or typewritten, but no ambiguities should arise.

Illustrations should be restricted to the minimum necessary. They should accompany the script and should be included in manuscript pages. Line drawings should include all relevant details and should be drawn in black ink on plain white drawing paper. Good photoprints are acceptable but blueprints or dyeline prints cannot be used. Drawings and diagrams should allow for a 20 per cent reduction. Lettering should be clear, open, and sufficiently large to permit the necessary reduction of size for publication. Photographs should be sent as glossy prints, preferably full or half plate size. Captions to any submitted photograph or illustration should be appended and clearly marked.

In the interests of economy and to reduce errors, tables will, where possible, be reproduced by photo-offset using the author's typed manuscript. Tables should therefore be submitted in a form suitable for direct reproduction. Page size used should be A4 and width of table should be either 10.5 cm or 22 cm. Large or long tables should be typed on continuing sheets but identifying numbers should be placed on the upper right-hand corner of each sheet of tabular material.

Reference to published literature should be quoted in the text in brackets and grouped together at the end of the paper in numerical order. A separate sheet of paper should be used. Double spacing must be used throughout. Journal TAP references should be arranged thus :

- (1) Jacques Vallee: 1965. *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*, vii, Henry Regnery, Chicago.
- (2) David Haisell: 1980. Working Party Report, *Journal TAP* 1/2, pp36-40

With the exception of dates which should be presented in the astronomical convention viz : 1977 August 06, no rigid rules concerning notation or abbreviation need be observed by authors, but each paper should be self-consistent as to symbols and units, which should all be properly defined. Times however should be presented in astronomical form using the 24 hour clock and Universal Time (UT) where possible. If local time is used, this should be specified viz 19h 15 GMT.

The Editorial Board shall have the right to seek advice from referees on suitability for publication and may, on their recommendation, accept, seek revision of or reject manuscripts. If considered unsuitable for Journal TAP, the Editor-in-chief reserves the right to forward manuscripts to the Editor of *Bufora Journal* for consideration. The Editor-in-chief's decision will be final.

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