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1. To encourage and promote unbiased scientific investigation and research into Unidentified Flying Object phenomena.
2. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to Unidentified Flying Objects.
3. To co-ordinate UFO Research on a nation-wide scale and co-operate with persons and organisations engaged upon similar research in all parts of the world.

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THE BUFORA JOURNAL

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EDITORIAL

There is much talk in UFO circles of a 'New Age,' which, it is said, is about to dawn upon the World, with the flying saucers as its heralds. How much truth, if any, is there in this idea?

It is painfully obvious that the atomic and biological and chemical weapons which Science has made available to us could, if widely employed, bring about the collapse of our civilisation and perhaps destroy all life on this planet. If World War Three can be avoided, we still face the hazards of over-population and pollution of our environment. He would be an unholy optimist indeed who could affirm that the immediate outlook for *homo sapiens* is other than menacing in the extreme.

It is true that humanity has survived the collapse of earlier civilisations. Today, however, there are no hordes of healthy barbarians pressing forward to build anew on the foundations of our cities. Ours is a world-wide civilisation—the first of which history preserves any record—and if we fail we drag everything down with us.

I have often remarked that the human race is presently, in my view, at a critical stage in its development. The burning question of the time is this: do we now reach out to grasp the stars or fall back to bite the dust? Great opportunities are within our ambit, accompanied by correspondingly great perils.

This crisis in human affairs undoubtedly stems from the scientific and technological advances for which the two World Wars have been responsible. It can hardly be a mere coincidence that the UFOs appeared in large numbers in our skies soon after the ending of World War Two, to remain with us during these years of deepening tension. It may well be that our concern for the backward races of our own planet is duplicated on a cosmic scale by the concern of advanced alien races for humanity as a whole.

History reveals that the direct impact of a superior upon an inferior culture invariably spells disaster for the latter. For this reason alone, our well-meaning visitors would probably eschew direct contact with us, preferring to influence us for our good in indirect ways of which we may have little conception.

This, unfortunately, is not the complete picture. There is evidence that not all our visitors are well-meaning. Some of them would seem to be very much the reverse, so far as we are concerned. Any influence these might choose to exert upon us would hardly be of a beneficial nature.

When every allowance is made for such factors as pressure of population, the strains and stresses of urban life and so on, there are elements in the social phenomena of today which seem to point directly to outside, alien influences, constructive and destructive, at work in our society. Youth, in particular, appears to be a target for all sorts of forces and impulses, often obscure and probably not all terrestrial in origin.

It may be that some readers will object to these statements as unproven and extravagant. I can only reply that there are grave difficulties in the way of accounting for certain current social, (not to mention anti-social), manifestations in everyday terrestrial terms.

Today's crisis is really nothing new in human history. Man has always been a pawn in the Eternal Struggle between Light and Darkness. What we are witnessing around us is merely an intensification of a conflict which began in the Stone Age.

We have no reason to assume that the Struggle is peculiar to our tiny planet. What is happening now is that we are no longer fighting our own battle in an obscure outpost. We have been drawn into the mainstream of the War and must hasten to align ourselves with powerful allies to confront powerful foes.

The British UFO Research Association does not hold or express corporate views on UFO phenomena. The Editor and his contributors are solely responsible for views advanced over their names in this 'Journal.'

Articles and items for inclusion in the 'Journal' must be sent direct to the Editor and not to other BUFORA officers. Requests for permission to reproduce material from the 'Journal' should also be addressed to the Editor.

AN APOLOGY

This issue of BUFORA JOURNAL is for Spring/Summer 1971. The long Postal strike, also the work entailed in launching 'Project Warminster' and the unforeseen burden of assuming the post of the Association's Research Officer in succession to Stephen Smith, have obliged me to resort to this dovetailing. I trust that the membership will accept my apology for it and will regard the increased size of the issue as some compensation for the delay in publishing.

EDITOR.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1971

In accordance with the provision of Article 8(d) of the Constitution of the BUFORA, preliminary notification is given herewith that the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Saturday, October 2nd, 1971, at 6 p.m., at the Kensington Central Library.

Nominations for the offices of President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, also for the eight remaining seats on the National Executive Committee, should reach the Hon. Secretary in writing not later than Saturday, August 7th, 1971. Resolutions to be debated at the A.G.M. should reach the Hon. Secretary by that date.

Only members of the Association in good standing, i.e., in possession of a valid membership card, are entitled to be present and vote at the A.G.M.

POSSIBLE BRITISH UFO VISITATIONS FROM THE SEVENTH TO THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY A.D.

Many celestial prodigies described in the ancient records relate unquestionably to natural phenomena, such as fireballs, meteors, the aurora borealis and the like. Others are of more dubious vintage and here and there we encounter a narrative which equates very well with modern UFO reports.

I have collected together some of the more interesting and thought-provoking accounts and leave it to 'Journal' readers to place such interpretations as they may choose upon each of them.

In every case I have been at pains to indicate the source of the report and to render it as exactly as possible. There is no excuse whatsoever for the practice, adopted by certain UFO writers, of supplying free renderings of ancient texts in which the happenings are 'slanted' to convey an acceptable picture of UFOs as currently understood.

J.C-B.

From : The " Annals " of Tighernac O'Braien.

Year A.D. 674—" In this year a thin and tremulous cloud, a kind of rainbow, appeared at the fourth watch of the night on the fifth day before Easter, proceeding from the east, and turned into the colour of blood."

Year A.D. 746—" Dragons were seen in the heavens."

Year A.D. 748—" Ships were seen in the air with their men."

From : The " Anglo-Saxon Chronicle."

Year A.D. 793—" . . . dragons were seen flying in the air."

From : The " Chronicon " of Roger of Wendover.

Year A.D. 796—" In the same year small globes were seen about the Sun."

From : " The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle."

Year A.D. 1032—" In this year appeared the wilde fyr such as no man before remembered: and moreover it did harm in many places."

Year A.D. 1078—" and wilde fyr came in many places and burned many towns; and many boroughs were burnt."

Note by J. Cleary-Baker—Most commentators attempt to explain " wilde fyr " as lightning or heath-fires—as if neither had been seen in England prior to 1032! There are a number of instances, historical *and* modern, in which UFOs have apparently caused conflagrations, whether accidentally or by design it is impossible to say.

From : " Lestorie des Engles " of Geoffrey Gaimar.

Year A.D. 1067—" In this year, truly, several people saw a sign; in appearance it was fire: it flamed and burned fiercely in the air; it came near to the earth and for a little time quite illuminated it; afterwards it revolved and ascended up on high, then descended into the bottom of the sea; in several places it burned woods and plains In the country of the Northumbrians this fire showed itself; and in two seasons of one year were these demonstrations."

From : The " Annales Sex Regum Angliae " of Nicholas Trivet.

Year A.D. 1168—" An earthquake took place on the 13th of the kalends of March and a globe of fire was seen moving in the air."

From : The " Annals of Ireland."

Year A.D. 1173—Londonderry, February 10th. " . . . a large body of fire moved over the town and remained in the south-east; and all the people rose from their beds, for they thought it was the day, and it continued so eastward along the sea."

From : The " Chronica " of Roger de Hoveden.

Year A.D. 1200—" In the same month of December, a little before the Nativity of the Lord, there appeared by night in the Province of York five moons in the heavens, at about the first watch of the night. The first appeared in the North, the second in the South, the third in the West and the fourth in the East, the fifth in the middle of the first four, having with it many stars: and this latter one with its stars, made the circuit of the four moons previously mentioned five or six times. The phenomenon appeared in sight . . . for a period of one hour."

From : Ms. Chronicle of the 13th Century by Julius Cotten.

Year A.D. 1202—" And fferthermore ffoules were ye seyn ffleyinge in the eyre and beryng coles in her bylles, that weren cause of brennyng off many houses."

From : The " Annales Prioratus de Dunstaplia."

Year A.D. 1217—" . . . and then on the vigil of SS. Simon & Jude, there was seen by certain canons of Dunstable to be visible a certain immense cross passing through the air with a great glory from the eastern to the western parts."

From : A 15th Century Ms. Chronicle in English.

Year A.D. 1220—" Upon Seynt Luky's Day . . . fyrye Dragons and wykked Spyrites weren seyn, merveyllously ffleyng in the eyre."

From : The " Annales Monasterii de Waverleia."

Year A.D. 1222—" Dragons were seen by several people flying hither and thither in the air."

From : : The " Annals of Ireland."

Year A.D. 1224—" An awful and strange shower fell in Connaught, extending over Hy Maine, Sodian, Hy Diarmada and other parts, followed by terrible diseases and distempers among the cattle that grazed on the lands where the shower fell; and their milk produced, in the persons who drank it, extraordinary internal diseases."

From : The " Annals of Loch Ce," (Ireland).

Year A.D. 1245—" Poisonous snow fell in the night of the festival of St. Nicholas, which took off the heels and toes of those that walked on it."

Note by J. Cleary-Baker—These instances, especially that of 1224, suggest to me the dumping of radioactive waste from UFOs.

From : The " Chronica Majori " of Matthew of Paris.

Year A.D. 1254—(January 1st) ". . . there appeared in the air, marvellous to relate, a kind of large ship, elegantly shaped, equipped and of marvellous colour."

(March 12th)—" . . . when a certain ship appeared in the air, or a cloud resembling a ship, but stupendous."

Note by J. Cleary-Baker—It seems that severe frost prevailed unabated in the land between the two appearances of this aerial object. It may be, however, that the writer has duplicated a single apparition in his account, either having been misled by his sources or in order to enhance the dramatic value of the narrative.

From : The " Lanercost Chronicle."

Year A.D. 1285—" . . . a flaming globe crossed a neighbouring river and two villas at half-a-league's distance were reduced to ashes."

From : The " Florentii Wigorniensis Chronicon."

Year A.D. 1287—" On the morrow of the octave of the Epiphany, sudden flashes of light were seen which much terrified the beholders."

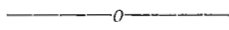
From : Robert of Reading's "Continuator" of Matthew of Westminster's "Chronicle."
Year A.D. 1322—" . . . on the fourth day of November at the first hour of the night, in the western parts beyond the City of London near the village of Uxbridge, there appeared in the air to many beholders a wonderful sign. For a certain pile of fire in the size and shape of a small boat, pallid but of a livid colour, rising up from the south and crossing the firmament with a slow and steady motion, set its course towards the north. Out of the front of this pile another very fervent fire of a red colour and of greater quantity, similar in shape to the former, burst forth immediately with bright beams and great speed flying through the air, which were seen quickly meeting against each other by many beholders . . . The blows of which conflict and the sound of the crashes were heard at a distance from the beholders . . . "

From : The "Eulogium Historiarum."
Year A.D. 1361—" In this year on the 25th February at midnight, in the rarified air, there appeared a certain luminous cloud like fire, and in the brightness of it were seen men."

From : John Malvern's "Continuator" of Higden's "Polychronicon."
Year A.D. 1385—" Also on the fifteenth day of July, at London and likewise at Dover, there appeared after sunset a kind of fire in the shape of a head in the south part of the heavens, stretching out to the northern quarter, which flew away, dividing itself into three parts, and travelled in the air like a bird of the woods in flight. At length they joined in one and suddenly disappeared."

From : The "Chronicon" of Henry Knighton.
Year A.D. 1387—" And on the 14th of the month of October there appeared in the County of Derby a certain small cloud about the sixth hour, so it was said, and it rained blood over a space as great as a bowshot in circuit."

From : The "Continuator" of Henry Knighton's "Chronicon."
Year A.D. 1388—" In the month of April a flying dragon was seen in many places in England."



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PRESS RELEASE. September 19, 1970

In 1957, fragments from an exploded unidentified flying object (UFO) were recovered by observers on a beach near Ubatuba, Brazil. Some of the fragments were obtained by APRO and were subjected to various chemical analyses in the course of the following 12 years in the laboratories of the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, The Dow Metal Products Co. and the University of Colorado UFO Project (1966-68). The material was found to be magnesium of an unusually high purity.

More recently, in 1969, APRO proceeded with a structural analysis of the material and two Consultants in Metallurgy undertook the study. Modern materials science is based on the premise that the properties of a material depend solely on its structure; chemical composition is important only to the extent it affects structure. The Ubatuba magnesium fragments were found to be *directionally solidified castings*. Directional solidification is currently being actively investigated in many countries since it has been found that the strength of directionally solidified metals is far superior to normal random-grain castings. However, directional solidification was not being studied in 1957, when the fragments were retrieved. This may be interpreted as meaning that the fragments belonged to a vehicle from a more advanced civilization.

The APRO scientists who undertook the study on the Ubatuba magnesium were Dr. Walter W. Walker, Associate Professor of Metallurgical Engineering, The University of Arizona, Tucson, and Dr. Robert W. Johnson, Head of the Advanced Materials Division, Materials Research Corporation, Orangeburg, New York.

The Ubatuba magnesium is the only physical evidence known to exist which indicates an extraterrestrial origin for some UFOs. Up to the present, APRO has approximately 20,000 reports of UFO observations, received from over 50 countries during the past 19 years. Correlations of these reports have indicated some patterns of intelligence behind UFO performances and behaviour. A project is currently underway to computerize all the existing reports, thus enabling more expedient acquisition of the various kinds of data and allowing far more comprehensive correlations.

It is APRO's position that the UFO phenomenon is important enough to warrant a scientific and objective investigation, regardless of its nature or origin. Although the Ubatuba magnesium is a very strong indication of extraterrestrial origin for some UFOs, there is no absolute proof that this is the case.

On the other hand, considering the age of our galaxy (the Milky Way), the number of probable planets bearing intelligent life with an advanced technology and the number of star travelling civilizations, there is no reason why extraterrestrial intelligence could not visit us at this time. Although *homo sapiens* does not yet have the engineering capability to undertake inter-stellar travel, there are no known physical laws which would ultimately make inter-stellar travel impossible.

It is therefore important that research on the extraterrestrial hypothesis be conducted, regardless of whether some believe this is "probable" or "improbable." APRO is bringing to bear the various scientific disciplines on the problem. Only in this way will definite answers be forthcoming.

Future progress bulletins will be released pertaining to studies being undertaken related to the extraterrestrial hypothesis on unidentified flying objects.

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE UFOs?

In the latest issue of 'PURSUIT' (Vol. 4, No. 1, Jan. 1971), the Journal of the Society for the Investigation of the Unexplained, Columbia, New Jersey, edited by Ivan T. Sanderson, the following contribution appeared under their Ufology section. We have taken the liberty of printing it 'in toto' as its significance and importance relative to recent hypotheses on the phenomena is considerable . . .

“ We are being asked ever more frequently why we appear to be decreasingly interested in this phenomenon. The appearance is valid; in some respects. This does not mean that we have lost all interest in the subject; far from it. The reasons for our current attitude are twofold.

“ First, we are frankly bored with what are called mere “ sightings ”—a word which we abominate anyway. They are endlessly repetitious, though we would be the first not only to admit, but to point out, that no two are alike. In fact, we have a feeling that every damned one ever recorded is intrinsically different. Nonetheless, recording the cases as of now serves only one purpose. This is to accumulate as much data as possible for the computerized analysis that is being undertaken by The Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, Inc., of 3910 E. Kleindale Road, Tuscon, Arizona 85712 (phone: (602)-7938-125).

“ We say this because we now believe it to be quite useless waiting for one of these things to “ land ” and be captured or properly examined. If this could be accomplished, it would have been done long ago. Further, we have very good reason for thinking that it cannot be hoped for in present circumstances, and that it would not be comprehended if it were. But more on this aspect of the matter in a minute.

“ Let it be said that, while we say we are bored with “ sightings ” reports as a steady diet, we are increasingly keen to collect them, just as an entomologist does up to tens of thousands of specimens of the same species of insect, because this is the only way by which one may classify variations; and by classifying variations, we almost invariably bring to light hitherto unknown and unsuspected facts. But for this kind of investigation computers are essential, so we shoot everything we receive on to A.P.R.O.

“ The second reason for our *apparent* indifference to this matter of late is quite different, and this is only an appearance indeed, for it actually lies very near to the core of our own work and the kind of investigation that we, SITU, are set up for. This may come as a bit of a shock to those of you whose primary interest is ufology, but it should be stated bluntly. It is simply that, after very mature consideration, and an enormous amount of discussion and debate, we, as a body, feel that at least one sound, logical, and scientifically acceptable explanation of and for the phenomenon has now been offered; and, in view of this, we, as a scientifically based and oriented organization, feel that we should concentrate all our attention and energy on this theory with a view either to producing worthwhile suggestions for those elaborating it to consider, or to collect measurable evidence of its invalidity.

“ This, in turn, should not be construed to mean that we are no longer interested in other theories. We most certainly welcome any and all, however crazy they may appear, because we have now entered the second stage of the old fundamental ‘ What-How-Why ’ procedure. To reiterate; we now have enough ‘ whats ’ to analyse and should therefore proceed to examine all the possible ‘ hows.’

“ So far there is only one theory that has come to our attention that meets all the very stringent strictures that we place upon any and every theory. As far as we know, this was the first mooted by Luis Schonherr in four articles in the *Flying Saucer Review*, of London, dated March-April 1963; January-February 1964; November-December 1965; and November-December 1968. We say ‘ mooted ’ because Mr. Schonherr actually speculated upon only one aspect of this concept—

the physical one. This suggestion does not, however, appear to have been considered up to the present, though it forms a cornerstone of what we call (for convenience and easy reference only) The New Theory.

“ This has now been put forward by more than half a dozen advanced scientists, several technologists, and four or five workers in other fields, notably journalism. Each has come to the same point independently. This we consider to be of the utmost significance, perhaps of an even higher degree than the standing of the scientists involved. These are primarily the Frenchmen, Drs. Jacques Vallee and Aime Michel; and among the independents, whom we refuse to refer to as ‘ amateurs,’ John A. Keel, and Gordon Creighton. The technologists, while all of the highest standing also, have not as yet published on the matter—as is their wont! The ‘ theory’ can be very simply stated, but the ‘ mechanics’ of it are enormously complicated and very advanced. However, the hypothesis on which they are based are all established and proven—at least mathematically—and, in turn, form the bases of Quantum Physics. We have arranged for one of our members (No. 208), a nuclear physicist, to write up these technicalities for our next issue. For now, let it be stated as follows.

“ UFOs, and several other types of ‘ items ’ may be projections from another, or other, space-time-continua that may be said—for simplicity’s sake—to exist and run on parallel lines to the one that we are in. (Of course the word ‘ parallel ’ is an over-simplification and, if taken literally, very misleading. Also, it might be better to say a ‘ space-time-gravity ’ cosmos).

“ This is an old theory but the current approach to it is novel in that these projections are now being conceived of as holograms in form but material in content. In other words, they ‘ come through ’ from other space-time-gravities and go back into them; and can do so at any time-speed up to, and possibly surpassing, that of light. In other words, they are teleports. The most fascinating aspect of this New Theory is, however, something corollary to this rather simple concept, and this is where we come in.

“ Teleportation or ITF, meaning instant transference, is a term devised to cover the ‘ transference ’ of solid matter through solid matter. Now, it would appear that this is a phenomenon that is fairly widespread and by no means infrequent in nature. But then again, as those who have propounded this New Theory suggest, it now looks very much as if it can also be contrived artificially and purely mechanically. Thus, the theory envisages other continua being inhabited by intelligent (in our meaning of that expression) entities who have mastered the technique of artificial ITF, and who employ it to come through into our continuum by what we call ‘ projection,’ and then influence us and our environment. Further, these scientists consider that any such intelligencies must have concurrently mastered the art of ‘ creating ’ anything they want—ranging from UFOs to Little Green Men. And surely, if their chemiphysicists can make the former, their biochemists should be able to manufacture the latter. We are on the brink of doing both ourselves, after only about a century of serious consideration of the possibilities.

“ Until we do so, however, we will neither be able to capture or truly contact either of them; for, from our present way of thinking, they are actually ‘ here-not heres ’ and material-nonmaterial; in fact, manifestations of Charles Fort’s concept of Determinism-Indeterminism.”

THE EDITOR REPLIES

(In this new feature I shall deal with questions and criticisms embodied in letters reaching me from my readers. Please keep enquiries and comments short and to the point—EDITOR).

“ I cannot understand why, in the summer 1970 Editorial, you deny the former existence of Atlantis. Surely the Deluge legends of the World prove the truth of Plato’s story . . . ? ”

Refer back to the Editorial in the Summer 1966 issue of the JOURNAL. You will note that I accept the fact that some astronomical catastrophe probably destroyed a flourishing proto-civilisation which existed in Central and South America at an unspecified date B.C. This disaster may well have sunk inhabited areas in what is now the Caribbean Sea, as, indeed, some of the statements of that gifted seer Edgar Cayce suggest. It may, for all I know, have demolished civilisations elsewhere in the World.

If you wish to call the lost American civilisation ‘ Atlantis ’—fair enough! I shall not quarrel with you. However, I am not aware that there is any shred of proof that it, or any other early civilisation, developed scientific devices comparable with our own.

Plato’s account of Atlantis derives largely from memories of the civilisation of Minoan Crete, which collapsed about 1450 B.C., probably as a result of earthquakes and tidal waves associated with the eruption of the volcanic Aegean island of Thera. His narrative may, of course, have been influenced in small degree by folk legends of an earlier and worldwide catastrophe.

The point I sought to make is that there is no geological or archaeological evidence to support the notion of the former existence of a vast mid-Atlantic Continent which was the home of a race of super-scientists and technologists.

“ What do you think about the writings of George Hunt Williamson on UFOs ? ”

I see no reason to question Hunt Williamson’s sincerity. It may be that he has gained access to an unspecified source of information about UFOs which has supplied him with valuable facts.

However, he seems to have buried these facts in a prodigious accumulation of theory unsupported by evidence. My personal approach to his writings is to accept such statements only as are substantiated by observation and logic.

“ In 1965 you regarded George Adamski as a romancer and his account of his adventures with UFOs as a ‘ pious fraud.’ Is this still your view of him ? ”

Not altogether. I have learned, for instance, that a UFO was noted by the U.S.A.F. in the region of Desert Centre, Arizona, on November 20th, 1952, about the time of Adamski’s alleged meeting with his ‘ spacemen.’ Furthermore, Adamski’s ‘ space fireflies ’ and those witnessed by Colonel Glenn and other astronauts seem to be one and the same phenomenon.

On the other side of the ledger, it is impossible to regard George's account of cities on the Moon and trips to Saturn as anything more than vagaries of the trance mediumship which he took up in his later years.

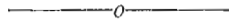
He seems to have had *something*. Exactly what he had, or where he got it from, I have no means of knowing.

“ Do you believe in the existence of the Men-in-Black, who are said to have silenced Al Bender and others ? ”

There seems to be ample evidence that unknown persons, not always dressed in dark clothing, have, from time to time, subjected UFO witnesses to harassment. There is, however, a great deal of doubt attaching to some reports and one suspects that paranoia cannot be ruled out as a factor in certain narratives.

As for Al Bender, perusal of his ' Space Review ' causes me to wonder whether he knew enough about UFOs, (or anything else), to be worth the trouble of silencing.

So far as this Country is concerned, why is a Leathley-Andrew silenced while a Charles Bowen or a Brinsley Le Poer Trench goes unscathed ? Not very rational, one feels, on the part of the MIB.



NOTES & QUOTES

Farewell to Stephen Smith.

It is with the utmost regret that I have to announce the resignation of my good friend S. L. Smith, B.A., from the office of Director of Research, due to pressure of business and personal affairs. Stephen, who remains a member of the Association, has done an excellent job in his post and we shall all unite in hoping that he will soon be able to resume active participation in the work of the BUFORA. For the time being, I have assumed the duties of Research Officer.

Just one more of those Cranks! “ The most beautiful and most profound emotion we can experience is the sensation of the mystical. It is the sower of all true science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer wonder and stand wrapped in awe, is as good as dead.”

—ALBERT EINSTEIN.

**National Skywatch Day—
26th-27th June, 1971.**

Skywatch entirely in the capable hands of Lincoln Richford of COS-MOS. (See announcement elsewhere in this issue). It is not true, as a few malicious voices have been quick to allege, that we in the BUFORA have come to regard ourselves as too exalted to participate in what has become a regular feature of the UFO-researcher's year. This Association and its 'Journal' attack nobody, neither individuals nor other UFO organisations. Why are we so often the target for ill-natured barbs? Perhaps those who are forever striking at others without cause are in fact externalising conflicts within themselves.

Do those UFO's really exist?

"Human experience, which is constantly contradicting theory, is the greatest test of truth."

—DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON.

A Stale Allegation.

I make no secret of the fact that, in my opinion, UFOs are alien—controlled artifacts. The stock answer of the silly sceptic is that I am the victim of some powerful psychological urge to believe in UFOs. For heaven's sake! Surely, after twenty years of research and investigation, I may be permitted to arrive at a conclusion about the things without incurring the suspicion of having made up my mind about them from the beginning?

J.C-B.

THE SPACE TOURISTS

There is no doubt about the crowning achievement of cosmic matter being the rational living body more or less similar to the earthly. Well then: in our Milky Way alone there are gathered together about two hundred thousand million suns. Through Astrophysics it is deduced that each hundred thousand have at least one sun like ours, and, for that reason, possessed of planets where life can evolve. For that reason, there have existed, do exist and will exist throughout the immeasurable stretches of the Universe millions of places with this marvellous gift of rational existence.

An intellectual being is much more valuable than millions of stars. As the age of the Earth is much later than myriads of stars in space, in *them* the evolution of life will have taken place many millenia before our culture.

As thinking creatures they will be anxious to know other similar creatures in the immense reaches of space. Perhaps weary of sending out messages on waves which never receive a reply, they want to study us close at hand, and approach our globe with space ships much more perfect than our primitive earth spaceships which have skirted the neighbouring planets of our own solar system.

In a matter of such importance we enter the field of probability. Responsibility minded persons ought to be neither cocksure with their affirmations nor blind with their denials, as, solely along the middle course may there be the proofs which give proportion to the opposing assertions. We omit, incidentally, traditional prejudices, without taking account of these mental attitudes of a past century or even worse, the antiquated attitude of the Middle Ages. There is a need to examine new horizons to plunge into the rising tide of investigations by advanced thinkers with renewed psychological insight and technical progress. The Earth is bound up with the Universe and for that reason, and all the more for that reason to other intelligences, which perhaps live together in brotherly union, with the single final object of completing their progress and happiness.

Those who are hardened in their prejudices, perhaps itch with their pharisaical garments and through the hypocrisy of their mental outlook blind their own eyes to the reality of the space visitors.

Man lives enclosed by the unknown at every level; ignorance about light, about gravity, about his own life. It is one thing to know that something may be real and another thing to know what may be the composition of that reality. The existence of extraterrestrial space ships has been documented by an overwhelming number of proofs. On account of this the International Planetary Conference of Geneva closed its report with this rocklike affirmation:—‘There are conclusive proofs that space pilots in cosmic ships from other planets have for many years been observing the Earth.’

These appear like apparitions, like spies from the centuries, in vessels personally piloted or sometimes controlled from a distance, having three dimensional systems, physically visible, and which have had their sizes calculated, their velocities estimated, their displacements measured through films and radar.

They arrive from their most distant planets by using interplanetary gravitational ionized areas, by using the rivers of cosmic rays, the solar wind loaded with ions and the ether which is ionized hydrogen. They change gravitational energy into the energy of radio frequencies and to pass through the atmosphere they proceed by their own gravitational fields produced by interacting cathode and anode rays.

Since to every action there is an equal reaction of the contrary type, by establishing a speed equal to the movement of advance and a gravity equivalent to the magnetic forces, the space travellers use forces which support and impel in all directions. For this reason the majority of the vessels are circular in form, by which means they distribute the forces in all directions.

That they have not shown themselves with more clearness is because they have observed themselves being followed by aviators eager to capture them. Perhaps they come as missionaries of peace and progress or as simple visitors delighting themselves with the magnificence of the Earth, which is a Garden of God, where we live the most privileged in space, on the most beautiful of planets.

REV. FATHER REYNA, S.J.,
Adhara Observatory,
San Miguel, Buenos Aires,
The Argentine.

BOOK REVIEWS

"THE OLD STRAIGHT TRACK"

BY ALFRED WATKINS. Introductory Note by JOHN MICHELL.

Reprint edition by Garnstone Press. 1970.

PRICE: £3·25.

This almost fabled work, being the first comprehensive book ever to be published on the subject and claimed as a sort of literary progenitor by the modern 'Ley' hunter, has at long last been reprinted after having been OP since 1948.

Spurned and peremptorily dismissed out of hand by the more foggy-brained archaeological pundits, the theory that the many hundreds of ancient sites such as mounds, barrows, beacons, crosses, dew ponds, mark stones, causeways, hillnotches, earthworks, stone circles, megalithic sites, etc., dating back 3,000 years, could be linked up to reveal a complex network of straight lines, or trackways, covering the country, has become rather more than just a theory amongst its disciples—after all, you've only to get hold of a large scale map, plot in the points, find where a number of them form a straight line and then go out and track it across country on foot. A healthy and invigorating pastime in any case, but the strange thing is that more often than not you can prove for yourself that these alignments or 'leys' actually exist.

Watkins considered these 'Leys' to be old trading routes, but author John Michell, a foremost protagonist for the theory, believes them to be 'energy lines' between special or 'magic' centres of so-called Pagan worship. Furthermore, there are those who consider that these lines of energy are used by UFOs in their flight paths—a speculative fancy to give reason to the orthotenic patterns propounded by Aime Michel in his classic 'Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery.'

Be this as it may—this book, containing dozens of photographs and diagrams, provides the most excellent and fascinating reading for the country lover seeking out-of-the-way, tradition-haunted corners of our still beautiful land. I still remember Alfred Watkins as a vivacious and eager talker, with a rather far-away look in his eyes, when he came to stay at our Wiltshire home when I was quite a young boy. I know that he inspired my Father, who was a mine of topographical and local historical information, to spend many weekends in seeking out and walking these tracks with me tagging along behind, and browsing through this excellent new edition of his has brought back many a happy memory.

E.A.I.M.

"INVISIBLE RESIDENTS—A Disquisition upon Certain Matters Maritime and the Possibility of Intelligent Life under the Waters of This Earth."

BY IVAN T. SANDERSON, F.L.S., F.R.G.S., M.A.(CANTAB).

Published by The World Publishing Co., New York. 1970.

PRICE: \$7·50.

I have never met anyone who, having read one of Ivan Sanderson's books, has not experienced a sense of exhilaration, or received a violent mental stimulus at the speed of his presentation and the mass of data and incident which he is able to cram into but a few pages. His latest book is no exception. Completely fascinating

and absorbing, it reads rather like an up-dated work by Charles Fort though not so haphazard. There is method and reason for the way in which he presents his case, however disjointed it might appear at first reading, and his shock tactics and impish jabs at the Scientific Establishment reminds me strongly of the Old Master.

The book, as is made plain from the sub-title, relates to the Earth's Hydrosphere, which includes rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, etc., and the odd things that keep popping around in them, out of them, on them and over them. It is divided into three parts, the first being devoted to the recounting of nine 'Mysteries.' I'll leave the reader to find out for himself what mystery no. 1 is all about, for it is so utterly fantastic that, coming from any other source than Mr. Sanderson, one would be inclined to discredit it at once. The second is about a 'Submarine,' tracked by the U.S. Navy, which travelled at 200 m.p.h. plus, and other relative incidents such as UFOs, UAOs or what have you, entering and coming out of the oceans at colossal speeds. The third concerns observations of fiery or luminous constructions rising out of or diving into the seas or shallows. The fourth discourses on the frequently noticed strangely shaped UAOs (Unidentified Aquatic Objects) which travel at great speeds and depths in inshore waters. The fifth covers the astonishing number of UAOs observed to enter or emerge from fresh waters such as rivers, ponds, reservoirs, lakes, etc. The sixth discusses subaquaplanes and the strange 500-800 A.D. gold artifact which appears to resemble a model of a super-powered, delta-wing, aircraft of such a design that a high performance could be expected both underwater and in the air. The seventh is devoted to strange lights and 'Lightwheels' observed shining beneath the surface of the sea. The eighth explores the famous 'Bermuda Triangle' (which isn't a triangle) and the numerous unexplained disappearances of aeroplanes and ships. The ninth mystery concerns the sections of aircraft flight-paths over oceans 'when time and space seem to disappear.'

So far a positive feast for the ufological gourmand composed of many little-known and even, perhaps, hitherto unknown titbits for his consumption. But more is to come, and Part II, possibly more for the gourmet's taste, deals with 'Anomalies'—gravitic and magnetic—ocean depressions where ships may have to sail 'up-hill,' earthquakes, and a further much more searching enquiry into those horrific 'Vile Vortices' of which the 'Bermuda Triangle' is only one of many.

Finally, in Part III, the author suggests that all this awe-inspiring volume of scientific and historical data can only lead to one interpretation, namely that there undoubtedly exists an invisible world (in a scientific sense) inhabited by Other Intelligences (OINTS), whose operational bases could well be located beneath the waters of the Earth, and who seem to spend, and have spent throughout our history, a lot of time popping in and out of our natural environment in their discoidal machines (which may be solid hologrammatic projections)* to play impish, stupid and, sometimes, nasty pranks on us. They may be the result of an evolution so at the mercy of their own technology that they have nothing better to do, even to the extent of mentally influencing us in an unpleasant way just for kicks . . . "That they are for the most part overcivilized and quite mad is, in my opinion, an open ended question, but quite probable. Perhaps we will never be able to cope with them until we, too, all go quite mad, and it looks as of now as if we were doing our level best to achieve this presumably enviable estate" . . . are the author's final remarks, except for three Appendices, a table of References and an Index.

Everyone interested in UFOs, UAOs, UAPs, and OINTS really should read this book, but I am wondering how many who do so will feel as I did when I put the book down that I had had a rather rough Trans-Atlantic crossing and that it was good to find one's feet on dry land once again.

* See reprinted article from 'Pursuit.'

E.A.I.M.

Arthur Shuttlewood's latest book, 'UFOs—Key to the New Age,' will be published during May by Regency Press, 43 New Oxford St., London, W31A 1BH. It will be reviewed in the Autumn issue of BUFORA JOURNAL.

Also received for review: 'Water Symbolism in UFO Encounters,' by Dan Butcher, published at 20p by SIGAP, 14 Buckhurst Road, Frimley Green, Camberley, Surrey.

SIGHTINGS IN FINLAND Humanoids in Längelmävesi?

(Reprinted, with grateful acknowledgements, from 'VIMANA,' Finland's UFO Journal).

At the end of August 1945 I was staying in a sauna lying at the shore of Längelmävesi in Kangasala parish. My friend, Mrs. K. was away on a trip. It was a lovely summer morning, the lake was smooth as glass when I awoke before five o'clock in the morning. I was lying the head turned away from the window and noticed a stream of light under the edge of the roof all around the room. I thought someone was walking in front of the sauna with a torch in hand, and looking in through the window. As the curtains were down, I did not know that it was already morning before looking at my watch. Very seldom someone was there on the move so early, and I was slightly afraid being alone, as the nearest dwelling was one kilometre from the sauna. But I was curious about the light and raised the curtain. There were no limits to my astonishment, I really was shocked. From the shore of Sahalahti lying at approx. 4 kilometres distance a dazzling bright fire ball of the colour of the sun, 10 metres in diameter, was approaching the sauna at a dizzy speed. Overcome by fear I threw myself down on my back to the floor to wait for the "end," for I was sure that, on taking off it would have swept the sauna to the ground. The ball soared over the lake surface. It could surely not be farther than 200-300 metres from the sauna, as it already hid the whole scenery—also the small islands—from view.

When nothing happened I stood up after a few minutes to watch again the phenomenon. The ball of fire had by now disappeared. The beautiful scenery was again visible, but I was surprised to see that at about 300 metres distance a two metre long, dark "log"-like object was slowly sliding in the water and approaching the shore. Now I was no more afraid, but very surprised indeed. I then noticed just below the window two metres from the pier a strange-looking grey animal in grip of terror. It suddenly turned his head aside and I saw that its sharp teeth were grinning in the open mouth. The animal was just like a round ball with all the hair standing on end. I presumed it was my neighbour's big Lapp dog.

Now the "log" had come near the pier, and I saw that it was a narrow boat resembling a canoe. A tall man of slender build was standing in the prow. The man was wearing a green overall. When the boat was just in front of the pier, it turned to the left, so I could see that in its aft another man in overalls was steering the machine which was inside a big glass bulb. I took a look at the dog and saw that apparently it was no more frightened, as it was running away. I did not hear any whirring of motor whatsoever, nor splashing of billows, but I saw quite a deep wale in the water.

At that time the Finnish press did not publish news of ufos, nor did people talk about them, so I was quite perplexed at what I saw. Feeling extremely weak I went again to bed, instead of continuing to observe where the boat was going. Perhaps I could have seen the fire ball returning to the sky. Perhaps I would not have got the shock, had I known something of these things. Later I have seen these so-called fire balls (ufos) in the sky, but evenings and they were as big as a football.

ILONA JOHANSSON-PAASONEN.

A Saucer over Lamujärvi—a Mother Ship in Otaniemi

Carpenter NN from Nivala relates his sighting which took place on 4th October, 1963:

"At the shore of Lamujärvi in Pyhäntä parish I was building a summer cottage for a cattle dealer. I was quite alone. On an evening I was fishing. The sky was heavily overcast, and I assumed it was a proper weather for angling. It was quite calm, and the lake surface did not billow, the clouds were very low, but it did not rain. And behold, a thing like a wash basin or saucer made of stainless steel descended from the clouds. It did not do anything special, just came down close to the lake surface where it hovered for some time. The thing then rose again to the clouds, and vanished from sight. I just looked at the saucer, and thought that again a smart guy has built a fine airplane. It must, in fact, be admitted that I was quite scared, for everything could have happened. It was 20 metres wide, though it is difficult to estimate distances in the calm surface of the lake, but I am sure that it was hovering at about 200 metres distance from me and that the lake surface was bubbling or billowing underneath the saucer. I did not see any humanoids. That the lake is situated in quite a desert place, the nearest neighbour living 10 kilometres away."

Below we are reporting another sighting made by the same carpenter in 1954:

"I paid a visit to my brother in Otaniemi at about the time of Whitsunday. I was alone in his home while my brother's family was in work. I was offering a sugar bit to tame a squirrel through an open window when I saw in the sky a red object resembling a pencil sharpened on its other end. The object was neither an aeroplane nor a missile, and it moved very slowly at an altitude of several kilometres. That object had neither wings nor tail, but it always remained high in the sky. I could discern something like windows on it, perhaps it was a Zeppelin, an airship. I heard a rattling sound like a motor cycle at full speed, but I was not sure about it, as the noise of the traffic in Helsinki could quite easily be heard. But it seemed as if the voice would come from the flying object. I still can see the thing and the impression will remain in my memory. I told about it to my brother who asserted firmly that I ought to have informed the police or other persons of its appearance. It was visible at least five minutes moving very slowly from the north to the south. The telephone was beside me on a table, but the time passed so fast while looking at the phenomenon. THIS IS TRUE."

PROJECT WARMINSTER

Over the last six years the Warminster area of Wiltshire has become known to students of the UFO phenomenon as a 'Ufocal' or centre of intense and sustained UFO activity. In order to bring proper investigative techniques to bear on this activity I am launching PROJECT WARMINSTER, under the auspices of the British UFO Research Association but as an independent undertaking, which I shall myself direct with the aid of a Committee of researchers.

The Project will investigate current UFO reports at Warminster as they arise. It will also review the best of the reports which have come to light in the area in the past. The results of the Project's survey will be made known in booklet form and through the medium of the 'BUFORA JOURNAL.'

UFO-researchers who visit the Warminster area are invited to act as observers for the project and to submit reports of their observations, whether positive or negative, for further investigation and evaluation by the Project's staff. In order to reduce the work of administration to a minimum, thus leaving the staff free to concentrate on the analysis of reports, formal registration as observers is not required.

Cash donations and gifts of equipment will be welcomed. After the conclusion of the Project, residual funds and properties will be made available to the British UFO Research Association.

It is proposed to activate the Project on Saturday, May 1st, 1971, prior to the BUFORA Brains Trust which is scheduled for 7 p.m. on that date at Kensington Central Library, Campden Hill Road, London, W.8. As presently planned the Project will cease activity in October, 1971, but if necessary, it may be continued beyond that time or reactivated in the Spring of 1972.

All communications concerning the Project should be addressed to me, as Director, at the address given below.

Your co-operation is earnestly solicited in order to ensure the success of the Project.

3 Devenish Road,
Weeke, Winchester, Hants.
Phone: Winchester 2691.

J. CLEARY-BAKER, Ph.D.,
Director.

23.3.1971.

THE VALLEE CLASSIFICATION OF UFOs

Type I. Refers to objects on or near the Earth's surface.

- A. Objects on or near the ground, below treetop height.
- B. Objects near or over an open body of water.
- C. Craftlike objects with occupants who display interest in the witnesses, by gestures, luminous signals, etc.
- D. Objects which 'scout' or 'buzz' vehicles.

Type II. Refers to cylindrical objects, (cloud cigars), often vertical and with diffuse cloud surround.

- A. Object moves erratically through the sky.
- B. Object is stationary and gives rise to secondary phenomena.
- C. Object is seen among secondary objects but without generation or re-integration of latter.

Type III. Refers to unusual aerial forms, discoid, spherical, elliptical, etc., with trajectories exhibiting one or more points of discontinuity, i.e., stationary points.

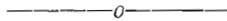
- A. Object has vertical 'up and down' motion, 'dead-leaf' motion or pendulum-like motion.
- B. Object halts, without change of altitude, then resumes flight.
- C. Object stops, hovers, alters appearance or luminosity or emits satellite object.
- D. Object behaves peculiarly, or, with other objects, takes part in 'dog-fight,' 'aerial dance,' etc.
- E. Object alters trajectory and flies slowly above, or circles around, a given point, or suddenly alters course.

Type IV. Refers to an unusual object in continuous motion through the atmosphere.

- A. Object moves continuously through the air without altering course.
- B. Object alters trajectory, appearance, etc., when in the vicinity of a conventional aircraft.
- C. Several objects are seen flying in formation.
- D. Object flies continuous course with wavy, zigzag motion.

Type V. Refers to distant objects seen as lights.

- A. Luminous phenomenon of extended diameter but not appearing solid; also nocturnal, meandering lights, excluding point-sources.
- B. Starlike object remaining motionless for long periods.
- C. Point-sources crossing sky with unusual trajectory, velocity, etc., not readily identifiable as meteors, artificial satellites, etc.



ON EVALUATING U.F.O. REPORTS

Since assuming the Editorship of BUFORA JOURNAL I have frequently been asked to write on the subject of evaluating UFO sighting-reports. It is a difficult task and I wish to stress that the art of successful evaluation depends to a very large extent upon thorough knowledge of the sky and its many varied phenomena. Such a knowledge cannot be taught—it must be acquired through practical experience. I can, however, outline the system I use.

To begin with a definition: an Unidentified Flying Object is any aerial object which cannot be explained as a natural phenomenon or conventional object. Up to 90% of reported UFOs prove, upon examination of the reports, to be ordinary things or manifestations, seen by the witnesses under unusual aspects which prevented their being recognised for what they really were. A UFO, in our more restricted sense, is an Unconventional Flying Object, i.e., an aeroform of unknown origin and advanced technical performance.

Misidentified known objects and natural phenomena reported as UFOs, fall into a number of clearly-defined categories, as follows:

1. ASTRONOMICAL.

- (a) Star.
- (b) Planet.
- (c) Meteor.
- (d) Fireball.

2. METEOROLOGICAL.

- (a) Light phenomenon.
- (b) Electrical phenomenon.
- (c) Cloud.
- (d) Mock sun or moon.

3. CONVENTIONAL SKYBORNE.

- (a) Artificial satellite.
- (b) Aircraft.
- (c) Balloon.
- (d) Missile.

4. MISCELLANEOUS.

- (a) Bird.
- (b) Windborne debris.
- (c) Ground illumination.
- (d) Marsh gas.

Two additional categories are needed to cover types of report not catered for in the above. They are:

5. OPTICAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL.

- (a) Optical illusion.
- (b) Hoax.
- (c) Illusion or delusion.
- (d) Induced hallucination.

6. INSUFFICIENT DATA FOR EVALUATION.

Only if and when a reported object fails to find a home in any of these categories and their subdivisions ought we to place it in the final category of all, which is:

7. UNIDENTIFIED OR UNCONVENTIONAL FLYING OBJECT.

I will deal briefly with each of the above-listed types of object and phenomenon.

1. ASTRONOMICAL. Stars and planets are point-sources of light and are stationary except for a slow drift over a period of hours due to the Earth's rotation on its axis. A good star-atlas will serve to identify a fixed star in a given locality at a stated time and date. Planetary positions among the stars can be determined from an ephemeris for a given date. Venus is visible by day, as a point of light, when at maximum brilliance. Mercury and Venus are to be sought in the region of the sky in which the sun has set or in which it will rise. Mars, Jupiter and Saturn may be visible at any time of the night. Planetary conjunctions may be reported by the ignorant as lighted objects. So may such star-groups as the Pleiades, Hyades, Corona Borealis and Coma Berenics. Meteors are shooting-stars, fast-moving streaks of light which may leave a luminous trail or explode silently at the end of their course. Fireballs or bolides move slowly and sometimes with audible cracking or rumbling sounds. They may equal the moon in apparent diameter and usually explode at the end of their course into a number of flaming fragments.

2. METEOROLOGICAL. Temperature inversion may cause lighted objects at ground level to appear in the sky. Searchlights, car-headlights and the like may be reflected from cloud or haze as stationary or moving discs of light in the heavens. Under the heading of electrical phenomena we must consider ball lightning. St. Elmo's Fire and auroral manifestations. A lenticular cloud may be mistaken for a UFO and a luminous, (noctilucent), cloud may be seen occasionally at night in high latitudes. Accumulations of ice-crystals in the atmosphere may, under certain conditions, generate illusory replicas of the sun or moon.

3. CONVENTIONAL SKYBORNE. Artificial satellites are point-sources of light and move across a considerable arc of sky in a period of minutes, sometimes, (as a result of tumbling while in flight or of inequalities on the surfaces), varying in brightness in a regular cycle of changes. May appear suddenly on emerging from the Earth's shadow, or vanish suddenly on entering it. In the last stages of decay, on re-entering the denser levels of the atmosphere, may resemble a lighted train or a fireball in disintegration. Skywatchers should be familiar with the pattern of navigation-lights on aircraft and with other illuminations these may display. Jet refuelling operations in the air present a complex light-pattern to observers below. Balloons may appear as silvery spheres, discs or cones by day and lighted balloons may be seen at night, released usually for meteorological purposes from weather-stations. Missiles, flares and the like may be seen in the vicinity of military testing-areas.

4. MISCELLANEOUS. City lights may reflect from the pale under-plumage of formations of night-flying birds, such as ducks or plover. Pieces of paper, kites, tufts of hay and the like often present a strange appearance when carried aloft by a strong wind. Lighted buildings situated on high ground, or car-headlights of vehicles moving along roads above the eye-level of an observer, may deceive a person passing through unfamiliar country at night into supposing that he has witnessed inexplicable aerial lights. Decomposing vegetable-matter in a marsh may emit gases which are visible as flickering, blue-white luminosities.

5. OPTICAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL. Various optical defects may cause a person to experience impressions of dark or luminous spots or spheres moving in the air. Hoax, for money, notoriety or in support of some cherished system of opinion, is not too infrequently encountered by the UFO-researcher. Neurosis, psychosis or transient psychological abnormality may result in a witness clothing a familiar object in unfamiliar trappings, (illusion), or cause him to "see" something not present at all, (delusion). Post-hypnotic suggestion might—at any rate in theory—give rise to the most complex of UFO reports. Such a factor could—I do not assert positively that it does—account for the more lurid and incredible sort of "contact" tales.

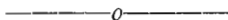
6. INSUFFICIENT DATA FOR EVALUATION. Some reports lack vital data which are essential if a balanced evaluation is to be undertaken. In the absence of such data, or if there exist other factors which complicate the issue too much, the report may have to be filed without evaluation as an uncompleted document. The U.S. Air Force investigators have tended to relegate a large number of reports to this category in recent years. Some read sinister implications into this but I suspect the real reason is simply that "Blue Book" has not enough staff or time to cope with all the work dumped in its lap. Evaluating a UFO sighting-report is a long, laborious and often tedious task.

7. UNIDENTIFIED OR UNCONVENTIONAL FLYING OBJECT. If a reported object cannot reasonably be assigned to any of the previous six categories, it must be treated as an unknown. It may then, all else having failed, be treated as an Unconventional Flying Object, (UFO—pronounced 'YEW FOW' by the way, not 'YEW-EFF-OW'), assuming it to exhibit features of appearance, movement, etc., characteristics of one or other of the types of such Object on record. Occasionally, it must be admitted, one comes across an Unknown which is so outlandish as to defy all attempts to find a home for it among the UFO clan. In that event, I treat it as a casual erratic, Unidentified Flying Object properly so-called!

It is usual to qualify an Evaluation by appending the legend, "Certain," "Probable," or, "Possible," to one's findings, in the event that the sighting falls into one of the first four of our categories, according to the degree of confidence one feels in the conclusion reached. Jacques Vallee, in, "Anatomy of a Phenomenon," makes some scathing comments about the "Possible" label. I do not altogether agree with him. One may be certain that a report falls into a given class yet the evidence may be horribly inconclusive when taken at face value.

It will be appreciated that the categories and sub-divisions of objects and phenomena listed in this article are designed to cover only the more common origins of UFO reports. An experienced evaluator is aware of many other things which may give rise to the odd report from time to time.

My System of Evaluation, as outlined above, is a development of that originated by the late Captain Ed. Ruppelt when he was in charge of the U.S. Air Force's, "Project Bluebook." (Ruppelt also invented the term, "UFO"). It has much to commend it when one has to deal with a limited number of detailed sighting-reports, preferably recorded on a report-form like the one I devised for the use of BUFORA. It is, however, too complicated and time-consuming to be employed when reports are coming in in large numbers and mostly without, any of the details which the evaluation-process requires. In that event, I recommend that reports be subjected to APPRAISAL rather than to Evaluation. Given that witnesses are not obviously unreliable and that the object reported exhibited unconventional appearance and motions, let it be classified provisionally as a UFO. A few "duds" will undoubtedly slip through the net but experienced UFO-researchers are unlikely to make many mistakes of this sort. What I call "Appraisal" can weed out the obvious non-starters in a batch of reports and is considerably better than accepting everything in the batch without the application of any process of elimination at all.



THE PROBLEM OF WITNESS RELIABILITY

In perhaps eight cases out of ten a UFO sighting is reported by a person who was alone at the time of his or her alleged experience. This provides the scientific sceptic with a stick with which to beat the subject. Lone witnesses reports are stated, (in the terminology of the Condon Report), to "have no probative value," albeit no explanation is ever attempted as to why there are so many common features in the accounts of English policemen, Brazilian peasants, Australian aborigines and others, whose very diverse social and educational backgrounds would seem to preclude a shared knowledge of the characteristics ascribed to UFOs by those who study and write about them. An unbiased commentator might be excused for concluding that the world-wide similarities in the narratives stemmed from the fact that all these witnesses were describing real artifacts.

However, it must be admitted that hoax and hallucination are possible and sometimes occur in UFO reports. How can they be dealt with, without scrapping completely the very considerable body of observational material emanating from lone witnesses?

Let us begin with Hoax, the panacea advocated by the sceptical for all UFO reports which they are unable to explain away in conventional terms, which is to say, something in the region of from 10% to 15% of all accounts received of strange aerial manifestations.

There are three principal motives which may trigger off a UFO hoax and we will consider each of them in turn.

1. GAIN. Persons who write and publish UFO material may profit to some extent by so-doing, although it is seldom evident that they will do so to as great an extent as they would if their labours were expended on some more socially acceptable subject. It is rare indeed for an actual UFO witness to make money out of his

experience, beyond, perhaps, a small amount for a T.V. appearance or newspaper item. As a matter of interest, in over 20 years of UFO-research, this Editor doubts if he has made more than £50 on his researches. What he has spent over the same period he prefers not to think about! Still, if there are indications that a UFO witness is seeking to cash in on his story, there are grounds for grave suspicion of his veracity.

2. NOTORIETY. Lonely persons and inadequate, neurotic and egotistical individuals may be tempted to fabricate a colourful UFO narrative in order to win a measure of public attention for themselves. This is probably not often attempted, for in the main the UFO witness is more likely to attract kicks than kudos and find himself branded as a liar or a lunatic. Personal contact with a witness will usually reveal to an experienced interviewer whether this rather pathetic expedient to bask in the limelight has been resorted to.

3. EDIFICATION. I use this term to describe cases in which an individual seeks, by means of invented UFO experiences, to bolster up cherished views on life and the Universe. This is probably a far commoner motive for hoaxing than either of the others. The man who "knows" that UFOs are here to save us from atomic catastrophe, or to conquer and enslave us as the case may be, may, if he be unstable and fanatical in his belief, not scruple to give the Cause a helpful push by a suitable sighting or contact experience, lacking nothing in content except the basic factor of truth. It must be remembered, notwithstanding, that the student of UFOs is as likely to encounter genuine UFO phenomena as anyone else. Knowledge of UFOs is not automatically a disqualification for seeing UFOs!

A UFO witness may, of course, report what he has actually seen and then decide to cash in on his adventure or to acquire notoriety in consequence of it. He may, when his report is made public, become associated with cultists or others in the UFO field and there are cases in which a presumption exists that the actual encounter with the UFO has resulted in the witness adopting eccentric and quasi-religious opinions rooted in his experience.

In this connection, nothing is simple or straightforward. My own rule, formulated as a way out of the impasse created by the possibility of hoaxing by the lone UFO witness, is as follows.

If the witness appears to be a responsible, serious person, not obviously seeking gain or notoriety from his experience and not fanatically devoted to any UFO cult, I treat his narrative as deserving of serious attention within the context of the worldwide corpus of UFO reports.

We may now pass on to consider Hallucination, the other master weapon in the armoury of the determined sceptic.

Hallucination does not necessarily go hand-in-hand with insanity, or even with serious neurosis. Any person may experience an hallucination at any time, activated by who-knows-what obscure mental catalyst. In general, however, the mentally disturbed, neurotics and psychotics, are far more likely to fall victim to hallucination than mentally sound and well-adjusted people. Again, I have formulated a simple rule as a way around the hallucination dilemma.

If there is no known history of mental disturbance in the case of the witness and no clear indication of such disturbance in his narrative, I eliminate hallucination as a possible cause of the UFO report.

I do not need to be reminded that my rules for weeding out hoaxes and hallucinations in single-witness UFO reports are not 100% efficacious. I would maintain, however, in the light of commonsense and personal experience, that they are at least 80% so. Our population, after all, is not composed exclusively, or even largely, of the unscrupulous and the insane.

J.C-B.

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NATIONAL SKY-WATCH DAY, 26th JUNE

Sites to date 25/4/71.

- COS-MOS Biggin Hill Aerodrome.
Organiser: Peter Wain; Phone: 01-688 5012.
- SIRIUS Norfolk, site to be arranged.
Organiser: Dave Oakley-Hill,
4 Elston Close, London, S.E.9.
- BUFORA Newchapel Observatory, Newchapel, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.
Organiser: Mr. A. R. Pace, address as above.
- CUFOSS North Cambridge, South of Kings Hedge's Wood.
Organiser: Francis Pullen,
Leys Lodge, Union Lane, Cambridge, CB4 1PX.
- BUFORA Halifax Branch, site to be arranged.
Organiser: Trevor Whitaker,
253 Huddersfield Road, Halifax, Yorks.
- DIGAP Stockport, site to be arranged.
Organiser: John Bolton,
7 Delbraith Avenue,
Flixton, Manchester. Phone: 061-748 6097.
- SIGAP Pewley Downs, Nr. Guildford.
Organiser: Omar Fowler,
149 Mytchet Road, Camberley, Surrey.
Phone: 0252-41012.
- COS-MOS Berkshire, site to be arranged.
Organiser: Frank Morton,
65 Malmsey House, Vauxhall Street, London, S.E.11.
Phone: 01-735 4698.

LDR/- 25/4/71.

JOHN KEEL — A NOTE

Just before going to Press I have received copies of two books by celebrated UFO-researcher John A. Keel. They are:

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|--|---|
| “ Operation Trojan Horse,” | published by Souvenir Press Ltd.,
95 Mortimer St., London W.1.
PRICE: £2.00. |
| “ Strange Creatures from
Time and Space,” | published by Fawcett Publications, Inc.,
Greenwich, Conn., U.S.A.
PRICE: 75c. |

It is not too much to say that the work of John Keel has revolutionised the thinking of many open-minded students. These are important books and deserve more than superficial review.

Accordingly, I propose to include in the Autumn issue of BUFORA JOURNAL an article in which I shall analyse in some depth these volumes and other writings by Keel.

On the basis of nearly twenty years of UFO study I am glad to pay tribute to the most painstaking and valuable researches of John Keel. I do not believe, however, that his answers to the UFO enigma are necessarily to be regarded as definitive

I shall be glad to receive the reactions of colleagues and readers of the JOURNAL to these latest additions to the extensive literature of the UFO subject.

EDITOR.



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