

Volume 1 No. 3 Summer 1968



BUFORA

JOURNAL

BRITISH U.F.O. RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

The BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Founded 1964

(Incorporating the London U.F.O. Research Organisation, founded 1959,
and the British U.F.O. Association, founded 1962).

THE BUFORA JOURNAL AND BULLETIN

Volume 2 Number 5

Summer 1968

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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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Please send editorial material direct to the Editor
 3 Devenish Road, Weeke, Winchester, Hants.

EDITORIAL

The Russian Academy of Sciences has come out strongly against the budding UFO Commission in the U.S.S.R. The Condon Committee is rent by internal dissension and evidence recently uncovered raises doubts whether it was ever intended to operate as an impartial Panel anyway — which is very much what I have said about it all along.

Officialdom has failed us and we are left alone holding our troublesome baby. It is becoming increasingly obvious that it is a waste of time for us to look either to Authority or to Science to solve the UFO Enigma for us. The ball is back in our court with a vengeance and it behoves us to play it as well as we can.

There is little point in mincing words. We UFO-researchers are, in the main, ill-fitted for the task which has been thrust upon us. The organisations we have built up over the last twenty years are a witness to our comparative ineptitude. We frame programmes which could be implemented only by the expenditure of large sums of money — and muddle along on shoe-string budgets, seeking always to get more out of our societies than we are prepared to put into them.

Many of us are guilty of intellectual dishonesty, in that we are not so much UFO-researchers as UFO believers. We don't like the World as it is. We wish that superhuman beings from elsewhere would descend and order our affairs rightly. It is a short step from wishing to believing and the UFOs become for us no more than a peg on which to hang our Utopian aspirations.

I receive the publications of UFO groups scattered all over the face of the Globe. Some few of these are serious and responsible journals. Others are full of wish-fulfilment writing, bad science, pseudo-occultism, homespun philosophy and every imaginable species of balderdash. The overall picture is one of immaturity, shallow thinking and total lack of realisation of the serious nature of the UFO problem.

Basically, I believe, the reason for our failure so far to come to grips with the UFO enigma is our refusal to stand on our own feet. We have spent years kowtowing before scientists and politicians, hoping that they would assume the responsibility of undertaking the necessary research. Our genuflections have availed us nothing. If the job is to be done at all we must do it ourselves.

It is true, of course, that Major Keyhoe's NICAP and some other groups have expended much ink and perspiration in belabouring the Powers-that-Be for alleged refusal to "come clean" over the UFOs. It is impossible not to equate much of this agitation with the baffled fury of the small boy who cannot understand why daddy won't come out and thrash the juvenile bully next door. The fact would seem to be that the bully is no juvenile and daddy isn't up to the task. Or, in plain language, the UFO mystery is big and complicated and officialdom is no nearer to mastering it than is private research.

A scientific attitude is essential in approaching the UFO phenomenon. I must admit, however, that I come increasingly to share the doubts of American researcher John A. Keel whether scientific techniques will avail us greatly in the understanding of it. We can feed into computers masses of data pertaining to UFO visitations, which, if UFOs were natural phenomena, would no doubt produce valuable results. It would appear, however, that UFOs are artifacts under the control of intelligent operators. It is not apparent that the activities of these operators would be readily interpretable, computer-wise or otherwise, from data on the behaviour of their craft. Probably Keel is right when he opts for a method of approach similar to that pursued by intelligence agencies.

I suggest, in conclusion, that it is by no means an unmixed evil to find ourselves alone and no longer buoyed-up by delusive hopes that scientists or bureaucrats may be inveigled into doing our job for us. Like Britain in 1940, we may, now that all of our false and unreliable allies have fallen away, gain from the clear realisation that everything depends on us and on us alone.

I make no apology for the use of language which some may think exaggerated in emphasis. UFO-research is not a hobby. It represents an investigation in a field fraught with explosive potentialities for human weal or woe.

I am always glad to hear from readers but will correspondents requiring a reply please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope for the purpose? Will they also be patient if there is a delay in the answering of their communications, which may be due to pressure of work?

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1968

In accordance with the Constitution of B.U.F.O.R.A., notice is given herewith that the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Saturday, 23rd November 1968, at 6 p.m. at the Kensington Central Library.

Nominations for the following Offices should reach the Hon. Secretary in writing not later than Saturday, October 12th.

President, Vice-President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, also for the eight other seats on the National Executive Committee.

In the event that no rival nominations are received in respect of any of these Offices, the members at present holding these Offices shall, if they are in agreement be deemed to be elected unopposed. An uncontested seat or Office falling vacant before the A.G.M., will be filled by nomination and voting at the Meeting. Only members of the Association in good standing, with a valid membership card may vote at the A.G.M.

Resolutions to be debated should also reach the Hon. Secretary by Saturday, October 12th.

We welcome to the Association the newly formed South Herts. UFO Investigation Group. This enthusiastic and active Group of UFO researchers hold monthly meetings in Watford. Those interested should write to the Hon. Secretary. Mr. Ray Holmes of 72 The Fairway, Abbots Langley, Herts.

THE SUMMER SKIES

Our own Galaxy, — the Milky Way is seen at its best and richest in the summer skies, swathing through the star-group of Cygnus, thinning out a little as it passes through Aquila, and, so far as we in these latitudes are concerned, gloriously culminating in the magnificent star-clouds of Sagittarius. Nowadays of course, we know perfectly well that these stars are in our own Galaxy — a spiral of stars, which Patrick Moore has likened to “an immense rather loosely wound Catherine Wheel”, — but a spiral of stars so numerous and in most cases so distant that we see their combined light rather than individual stars; this diffuse light forms the familiar irregular band across the sky we call the Milky Way. The Sun is not by any means at the centre of the Milky Way, but is so to speak well “out on a limb” on one of the spiral arms, hence when we look towards the “sides” and centre of our Galaxy in the same plane we see these glorious star clouds. When we look “outwards” or away from the plane of the “Catherine Wheel” we see few or none.

It is interesting to look back and see what the Milky Way was thought to be in times past. Aristotle believed it to be gaseous emanations from Earth somehow set alight in the sky. Two gentlemen, one named Diodorus, the other Theophrastus, both connected it with hemispheres, the former thinking the two hemispheres contained a terrific fire and what we saw was this fire beginning to break them apart, the latter believing that we were witnessing the “soldering together” of the hemispheres. Others, however, among them Ovid and Pythagoras were already beginning to think in terms of multitudes of stars.

To give some idea of our Galaxy’s size, and again comparing it to a Catherine Wheel, the diameter of our wheel is in the region of 100,000 light years, with the hub of the wheel being 20,000 light years thick. (You will remember that Sirius is a ‘mere’ $8\frac{1}{2}$ light years away !)

There are many, many other spiral galaxies in the Universe, — maybe we shall never know how many; our nearest neighbour is our old friend the Great Nebula in Andromeda, and when we take the size of our own Galaxy into account it certainly is near, celestially speaking, being only twenty times as far away as the diameter of the Milky Way, which is to say around 2,000,000 light years. On a comparative scale were the nearest planet out, — Mars to be only twenty times as far from Earth as Earth’s diameter, Mars would have been brought considerably nearer to us than the Moon. So you will see that the two galaxies are in fact, quite close neighbours! One very odd fact about these island universes is, a handful of fairly close ones apart, the millions of others are all receding rapidly from us, — the greater the distance, the greater the apparent speed of recession, which in the case of some of the more remote galaxies approaches nearly half the speed of light.

Back in the 18th. century, a Frenchman by the name of Messier drew up a catalogue of nebulae, (nebula means cloud) and included in his catalogue galaxies such as the one in Andromeda (M.31) together with the ‘localised’ nebulae and star clusters in our own Galaxy. These nebulae consist usually of hydrogen gas, the best known being the Orion nebula which is visible to the naked eye, and have no inherent luminosity of their own, but shine because of the stars contained therein.

Star clusters consist of two types, firstly the 'open' cluster, of which the Hyades and Pleiades, both in Taurus, and 'Praesepe' (the Bee-hive) in Cancer are all good examples; secondly the globular clusters, — spheres of stars, perhaps the best known one being that in Hercules just visible to the naked eye; in these the stars are very tightly packed indeed, the clusters themselves being most numerous to the centre of the Milky Way.

Insofar as the summer constellations are concerned, the prominent ones north of the celestial equator are Lyra, Cygnus and Aquila, — the Lyre, the Swan (also known as the Northern Cross) and the Eagle. Once again taking our time of observation as between 10 and 11 p.m., and the date as August 1st. or thereabouts, the 1st. magnitude star Vega in the constellation of Lyra will be seen a little to the south of the point overhead and slightly westwards; with five other comparatively faint stars it forms a small, but clearly defined group which does actually resemble its name, — a lyre or harp, which is a great help as such resemblances are not very numerous. To the east and slantingly northwards from Vega, the next bright star to be seen is Deneb; Deneb, less bright than Vega is the northernmost star of Cygnus, the 'top' star of the group forming the large cross eastwards of Lyra which gives Cygnus its alternative name of the Northern Cross.

Almost due south and only about eight degrees from the celestial equator is to be seen the star Altair, again 1st. magnitude, in the star group of Aquila the Eagle; on either side of Altair you will find a fainter star, and if in each case one prolongs their distance from Altair five or six times, two other stars are found forming the 'outstretched wings' of the Eagle; two further stars drop away curving southwards from Altair to complete the constellation. A very good point to remember is that the three main stars — Altair, Vega and Deneb form a large triangle of stars covering some thirty degrees of latitude; also, about half way between Vega and Altair though not directly in a straight line lies the 2nd magnitude star Albireo — Beta Cygni, which is the southernmost star of the Northern Cross. Directly between Albireo and Altair you will see if you look closely four faint stars forming an arrow-head; this is Sagitta, the Arrow.

The southern half of the sky nearer the horizon comprises some magnificent constellations in summer, but which unfortunately in these latitudes do not show to their best advantage; nevertheless they are still very striking. Notable amongst them is Sagittarius, almost directly due south of the observer, below the Eagle. Whilst no 1st. magnitude stars are present it has a large number of less-bright stars within a fairly close area, and viewed against the backcloth of the Milky Way it is a really sparkling sight. To the west of Sagittarius and now dipping downwards is the head of Scorpio, the Scorpion which is notable for containing the giant red star Antares — the name means 'rival of Mars', which indeed, with its reddish hues it certainly is.

Above Scorpio and westwards of the Eagle is to be found Ophiuchus, the Serpent-Bearer, a rather large straggling star group with no points of real interest. Again, above Ophiuchus and lying next to Lyra is Hercules, also without any notable stars, — none being brighter than 3rd. magnitude, though it's interesting to note that Alpha, — and the most southerly star of the group named Ras Algethi probably has the greatest diameter of any star known. Particularly with groups such as these it really is advisable though, to purchase a good star chart, as they are almost impossible to describe in wording that is easy to follow.

When I come to the Autumn skies I shall be writing also about the zodiacal constellations, and who knows? perhaps the poor old UFO might even get a mention!

PLANETARY POSITIONS

MERCURY	—	Not visible.
VENUS	—	Evening star from September.
MARS	—	Gemini, Cancer, Leo.
JUPITER	—	Virgo.
SATURN	—	Pisces.

METEOR SHOWERS

PERSEIDS	—	First two weeks of August.
ORIONIDS	—	October 15th. to 25th.

Norman Oliver.

BUFORA FIELD UNIT GOES ON TOUR

The Vice-Chairman, Lionel Beer, took the BUFORA Field Unit on a tour of Scotland during the last week of June. First call was made at Batley in Yorkshire to see David Thompson, who is connected with a Bradford Group run by Vincent O'Connell, having about 20 members.

In Edinburgh we had the pleasure of meeting Miss Sheila Walker and her mother, who are Hon. Secretary and treasurer of the Scottish UFO Society. Members include Sir Mark Daryrimple and Lady Mayo. As well as discussing UFO matters Miss Walker was very hospitable and showed us around Edinburgh, pointing out the Pentland Hills to the South-West where UFOs have been reported.

After calling on a lady in St. Andrews, we made our way up to Inverness and called at the Loch Ness Investigation Centre. Notes were exchanged and watchers were asked to report any UFOs seen to BUFORA. A watch is maintained on the Loch during the summer months, in calm water conditions, when the light is good for photography. About six observation points in the form of mobile vans are manned by volunteers (e.g. students) and shifts last for not more than four hours. The Loch Ness Phenomena Investigation Bureau Ltd. has its own sighting forms, which are similar to UFO report forms. Three sightings — of an underwater object were reported on the day we visited the Loch, but unfortunately we saw nothing unusual despite keeping a special look-out. This was not surprising as the Loch is nearly 24 miles long. In 1967, The Highlands and Islands Development Board granted the Bureau £1,000. Also the publishers of the World Book Encyclopaedia donated the sum of \$20,000. Membership is £5, and it costs them about £5,000 a year in operation costs, to maintain the watch.

After driving through the crags of Glencoe and down by Loch Lomond, we reached Glasgow, where we met Duncan Hogg, investigator for the Glasgow UFO Research Society, who impressed us with his practical approach. This society was founded nearly two years ago. The following day we called on Mrs. Joan Nelstrop in Bramhall, Cheshire, and met two other officers of DIGAP, the Direct Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena. Our final call on the way back was to Roger Stanway, co-author of the fine Stanway and Pace, Flying Saucer Report dealing with a wave of local sightings, in the Staffordshire area.

I would like to thank everyone we met for their generous hospitality, and include a special thank you to those people not mentioned above, who gave up their time to come and meet me.

Lionel Beer.

Following his tour, Mr. Lionel Beer has made a substantial donation to the funds of BUFORA which the Executive Committee are very glad to accept with many thanks.

NOTES & QUOTES

CORRECTION & COMMENDATION.

The Editor of "Spacelink" has asked me to point out that a controversial article by Mrs. M. E. Carey, criticised in Peter Newman's article, "The Fallacy of the Antique UFO," in the Spring 1968 issue of this JOURNAL, appeared in "Spacelink" while that periodical was still under the control of the Isle-of-Wight UFO Investigation Society. Perhaps I may take this opportunity to recommend the new "Spacelink" to BUFORA members. It is lively, objective and full of excellent contributions.

THE VALUE OF SKYWATCHES.

Is there a strong case for the organisation of skywatches in the familiar pattern? I am of the opinion that frequent watches by small groups of persons, for two-hour periods around dusk or dawn, might give better results than the somewhat cumbersome operations which have been favoured by UFO societies up to now.

A TIMELY REMINDER.

"My aim is not to be consistent with my previous statements on a given question, but to be consistent with truth as it may present itself to me at a given moment."

— Mahatma Gandhi.

ICARUS HAS PASSED.

I do not know why some persons in BUFORA supposed that the passage of the asteroid Icarus would produce a crop of flying-saucer reports, or be used by the authorities to explain away such reports. Icarus, at its nearest approach, was no brighter than a star of the twelfth magnitude, much too faint to be seen without powerful optical aid. Incidentally, its near approach was on June 14th., when it was among the stars of Ursa Major. (Its highly-inclined orbit sometimes carries it right out of the zodiacal band).

PHENOMENA AT WARMINSTER.

These are few and far between at present. Perhaps the UFO operators dislike the publicity engendered by the activities of hordes of researchers in a given area. However, Warminster is a major "Ufocal" and a recrudescence of the activity of 1965/'66 is possible at any time.

DEATH STRIKES THREE TIMES.

June 24th. 1967 was the twentieth anniversary of the Kenneth Arnold sighting which launched the "UFO Era." On that date died American UFO writer Frank Edwards and E. A. Bryant who was the key figure in the Scoriton Affair. On the following day died Richard Church, brilliant young Chairman-elect of CUGIUFO. Let us hope that June 24th. this year will produce a less tragic crop of events.

A HELPING OF STODGE!

Commenting on the BUFORA National Skywatch of June 15th., one Dennis Barker, a reporter for the "Guardian" newspaper, lapses into the heavy-avuncular, plum-pudding style of humour, (so-called), which seems to constitute an occupational hazard among journalists required to write on UFO topics. Rational criticism deserves a reply. This sort of thing is best passed over with a weary smile. We can only hope that nothing untoward, from a skyward direction, will ever shatter the elephantine complacency of our modern Grub Street hacks.

A WATCH AT IMBER.

On Easter Saturday night, Mr. Arnold West and I spent some hours in a skywatch at the shell-torn village of Imber on Salisbury Plain, seeing nothing more than a satellite or two as a reward for our efforts. It was a saddening experience to linger among the shells of what were once, a quarter of a century ago, dwelling-houses. Imber must have been a pretty little village in the days before the Army requisitioned it in 1943. I doubt that it will ever again revert to civilian use.

J. C.B.

THE UFO SECRET : ANSWERS ARE ON THE WAY

(The article which follows is reprinted from "Saucer News," which is edited by James W. Mosely. This is an excellent periodical and can be obtained from P.O. Box 163, Fort Lee, N.J. 07024, U.S.A., at 50 cents per copy. The article has been slightly abridged. — Editor.)

After almost twenty years of total confusion and meandering journeys down blind alleys, hard-core Ufologists around the world are finally closing in on the real "secret" of the flying saucer puzzle. The extensive world-wide flaps of 1964-67 have provided a wealth of new clues to the mystery, and now all the pieces are being fitted together.

Already thousands of people in the United States know the full "secret," believe it or not, and thousands more will have the answer before this year ends. These people comprise a select group which we now call "silent contactees," and they have been playing a small but important role in the numerous flaps of the past three years. In my travels throughout the country in the last year, I have uncovered and interviewed dozens of these "silent contactees." They all have the same story to tell, and more important, most of them have been given artifacts as proof of their experience.

The "silent contactees" differ from the over-publicised "contactees" of the past in several important ways. First of all, they are afraid to speak up and reveal what they know. They find themselves in the midst of a complex conspiracy which poses personal threats to them, and they have been involuntarily enlisted to participate in a series of experiments and adventures which go far beyond anything ever dreamed up by hack science-fiction writers.

Extensive "contacts" have actually been going on since 1939, but many have been handled in such a manner that the "contactee" often did not realize what was happening to him, and frequently rejected the whole situation as some kind of hoax, or, in some cases, a hallucination or experience with "ghosts." In many instances, once the "contactee's" role in the phenomenon was finished, they were somehow "brainwashed" and all conscious memory of their experiences was wiped away. I have learned of other cases in which the "silent contactees" either went insane or committed suicide. Still others changed their names and fled to new areas, or even new countries, in an effort to escape their strange fate.

A number of very well-known UFO researchers have been "silent contactees" for years and have cautiously sprinkled genuine clues in their books and articles, but have never dared to reveal the whole story. Other prominent Ufologists have been contacted briefly and given specific information to be deliberately passed on to their readers. Ironically, the real "truth" is so bizarre that sensible researchers usually reject it outright until they themselves have first-hand experience. Many of them find it impossible to cope with emotionally and they quietly abandon UFO research in the interests of self-preservation.

Nearly all of the speculations and wandering "scientific" conclusions of the last two decades are totally false. The celebrated "scientific method" can not, in fact, be successfully applied to this situation. Astronomers and scientists are the people least equipped to understand the phenomenon, thanks to their rigid disciplines and preconceived notions of the Universe. Metaphysicians, on the other hand, are too gullible and too quick to apply any pseudo-scientific explanation.

There is no simple answer to the mystery. All of the current theories ranging

from "extra-terrestrial" to "fourth dimensional" can not actually be applied. Such erroneous concepts mislead researchers and blind them to the actual truth buried in the available data. The only effective way to cope with the situation is to apply the underground methods of research employed by top-secret Intelligence agencies. This is a matter for spy-like Intelligence techniques, not for "science."

Once the researcher has learned to revise his approach to the subject and discovers the keys to look for in the new cases, he can uncover the secret in a matter of weeks. Many have already done so, and they are all keeping their mouths shut!

The secret has been under our noses all along. Side issues of no importance, such as endless attacks against the Air Force and other government agencies, have tended to divert us from the real issues and have provided us with tangible targets when the UFOs themselves seemed so elusive. The Air Force and the government have been carefully following a well-organized plan which was very successful until 1965. Despite the endless campaigns by amateur UFO groups to "expose" the Air Force and get them to "reveal all they know," the boys in blue managed to ignore all such harassment and maintain their anti-UFO policies. The upper echelons of government and Congress never paid any real attention to the anguished howls of NICAP and other UFO organizations. In short, the UFO buffs wasted twenty precious years with these attacks.

Why is it that even butterfly collectors can win the attention of Congress and get legislation passed to protect butterflies, but UFO researchers with trunks filled with documentation, photos, and tape recordings, can not really make any kind of impression in the halls of Washington?

A large part of the "mystery" attached to UFOs has actually been manufactured by the UFO buffs themselves as they floundered about in bewildering half-truths and tried to apply their own notions of "science" to the incoming data. They have dedicated themselves mainly to endless investigations of the reliability of witnesses, and have stubbornly devoted themselves to proving that UFOs exist. These, like the attacks against the Air Force, are side issues. The main problem is, and always has been, why do they exist at all, and what are they doing here?

Such issues were important in 1947, but this is 1967, and it is astonishing — even humiliating — that so little progress has been made in understanding the phenomenon. The side issues have side-tracked us from the real problem.

Before this article is printed thousands more will learn the real truth behind the flying saucers. Like all the others, they will keep quiet . . . not even their neighbours will know. The UFO truth is something like psychiatry; the psychiatrist can not tell you what's wrong; he can only guide you to learning the truth about yourself. So it is with the UFOs; it takes personal experience to convince you of the truth. You have been told the truth many times in many books and publications but you have rejected it.

This elusive "truth" can not be summed up in a few words or a few pages so that it will seem credible. Some "contactees" have tried. Unfortunately, very few people are strong enough or emotionally stable enough to cope with the whole "secret." And the average UFO researcher does not fully realize the great personal risks involved until they have enmeshed themselves in the situation. Then it is too late!

At a closed session of the 1967 Congress of Scientific Ufologists, held this year in New York City under the sponsorship of SAUCER NEWS, I explained that this subject is not really a matter for teen-aged hobbyists. And I warned that we could expect a new wave of "silencings." Now, in recent months, these silencings have begun on a large scale from Canada to Florida. Mail is being tampered with, telephones are being tapped, and some innocent researchers who have stumbled upon important cases which they don't quite understand are now being threatened and harassed.

Old-timers are also being sucked into this new wave of conspiracies. An elaborate plot was recently launched to "frame" Gray Barker on a phony blackmail charge. An attempt was even made to frame me for murder! Someone even broke into an apartment where tapes of the Convention speeches were being kept, and carefully cut out certain sections of those tapes and removed them.

Obviously, flying saucers are very serious business. Paranoia is rearing its ugly head everywhere. Thousands of "silent contactees" are living in constant fear, too terrified and confused to turn to any authorities. But slowly the answers are spreading and more articles will soon appear which will give you new clues to the Answer. The final solution, however, will never come from the Air Force or the government but will be delivered by the UFOs themselves.

That day may not be far off!

— John A. Keel.

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The National Executive Committee is glad to learn that Mr. Nigel Stephenson is recovering satisfactorily from his recent illness and trusts that he will soon be restored to full health.

UFOs — WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

Of those people who believe that UFOs are some kind of flying machine controlled by intelligent beings, the majority tend to presume that these machines must be extra-terrestrial. I admit that this seems the most logical theory, but it must also be realised that it is by no means the only theory. Here are a few other possibilities.

1. UFOs could be terrestrial.

(a) There are vast areas of land on this planet that have not yet been properly explored or charted, and have a small or non-existent population, the inhabitants being, as far as is known, native peoples completely out of touch with the 'civilized' world. Examples of such areas are most of central South America and the Andes to the west (there has been a lot of UFO activity reported from South America in the past, particularly Brazil, and the number of reports is surprisingly large when one considers that the area is relatively primitive and sparsely populated when compared with, say, the United States); the icy wastes of both the Arctic and Antarctic regions; the Himalayas (there is already one unexplained mystery there, the yeti, which, it has been suggested, is itself connected with past UFO activity); the remoter jungle areas of Africa (a lot of UFO activity has been reported from the area of Mt. Kilimanjaro), Malaya and New Guinea; any of the smaller, mountainous, inhospitable and therefore uninhabited and unvisited islands which litter the seas of this planet.

(b) Much more vast than the unexplored areas of land are the oceans, about which, apart from position and extent, very little is known. We haven't got very far with underwater exploration — no one knows what mysteries our oceans conceal. And there have been several instances of UFOs diving into the sea. Could this be because their base is underwater? A recent example of this was reported in the *Johannesburg Star* of 9 October 1967. A 60ft. long object which disappeared underwater off Nova Scotia was searched for unsuccessfully by Canadian Navy divers.

(c) One of the beliefs of the Nazis was that the earth is hollow. Imagine a hollow ball, and instead of man living on the outside, he is living on the inside. When we look up at the sky, we are looking inwards, not outwards, i.e. instead of the land surface being convex, it is concave, they believed. Man's own recent space explorations have shown that this is not so, but that we are living on the outside of the earth. But is it not possible that inside this planet are some sort of caves or tunnels, which are habitable, or even inhabited? Perhaps a concentration of UFO activity at one spot on the globe could suggest where lies the entrance to the inside of the earth . . .

Of course it is possible that the UFOs are extra-terrestrial and are using any of the places in (a), (b) and (c) as bases on earth from which to reconnoitre; but it is equally possible that they originate on earth and are manned by just another terrestrial race. Perhaps they are a race who have developed entirely separately from the rest of mankind and are visiting the rest of the earth in this secret way for reasons at which we can only guess. That their physical appearance seems to differ from ours could be explained by adaption to their living conditions, if they live at high altitudes, under the sea, or inside the earth. It should be remembered that we can still only theorise about the origin of our planet and of ourselves.

2. UFOs could come from another time or another dimension, of which we have absolutely no inkling. Time is arbitrary, invented by man for man's convenience. Man is very sure that he can neatly put everything into three time categories — past, present and future, — but there is evidence to suggest that these three are not always so clearly defined. It seems obvious that what happened yesterday is past and therefore irretrievable, what will happen tomorrow is still in the future, and therefore unknown and unknowable, and the link between the two is the present. This is as far as our minds can comprehend. But perhaps someone, somewhere, more advanced than we (maybe even earth people of the future, presuming of course that we are advancing rather than retreating), have found how to dispense with the barrier of time, in fact have discovered how to travel in time. This has happened often enough in fiction, and fact is notoriously stranger than fiction! So perhaps we are being observed by future generations of earthmen, who are taking part in do-it-yourself history lessons. Whether they would be able to alter the course of history is another question altogether, and dangerous ground on which to tread. But we of the twentieth century can capture incidents on film: who knows but that the men of the future may not have gone one better?

I must stress that these are theories, and very tentative theories at that. But one factor of UFO visitations which has often made me wonder whether they are in fact extra-terrestrial as is generally believed, is that so many are seen, and of so many different kinds. Wouldn't it be more logical to assume that they come in such large numbers because they only need to make short hops, from somewhere on this planet? Remember that for every UFO sighting there must be a lot of activity which is not witnessed. But if they are extra-terrestrial, and if the social structure of their base planet has any similarity to ours, this whole project must be costing them a vast amount of money. And what are they getting out of it? Wherever they come from, it is obvious that they are not here for fun. Many theories for their presence have been put forward already, some almost too horrible to think about, but since no one has any concrete facts, all are feasible. The UFO researcher must above all keep an open mind, consider every theory, however apparently illogical it may seem or however seemingly nutty the person who propounded it. And who knows but that careful consideration of the theories and facts may not but reveal that the answer has been on our own doorstep all the time!

— Janet Gregory.

MANCHESTER CONFERENCE

BUFORA NORTHERN CONFERENCE IN MANCHESTER

Saturday, October 12th 1968

The meeting will be held at the Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester. This is near Albert Square and the Central Library. It will start at about 10.30 a.m. when coffee will be served. Speakers will include Norman Oliver, Dr. Cleary-Baker, Leslie Otley and Duncan Wedd. The hosts are members of D.I.G.A.P. and remittances should be made payable to DIGAP. Full details and tickets — 10/0d. each inclusive — are obtainable from Mrs. Joan Nelstrop, Hon. Sec., DIGAP, 5 Ridgmont Road, Bramhall, Cheshire.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

On page 8 of the current issue, Spring '68, appears the interesting statement, attributed to Wilbur B. Smith —

“ . . . our scientific ideas are wrong or inadequate and experiments have been suggested and carried out, and in every case the alien science has been vindicated.”

and

“ . . . it has been publicised. Books have been written and thousands sold.”

Will Mr. Wilfred Daniels, or anyone else who is able to, please let you know the names of these books and their authors and publishers so that these experiments can be repeated and the eagerly awaited results examined?

Yours truly,

C. C. STEVENS

Friars Herongate, Brentwood, Essex.

I'd like to know the answers to Mr. Steven's questions myself!

— Editor.

**NO UFOLOGIST CAN AFFORD TO MISS
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A BIG BOOK with a BIG MESSAGE, with
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BUFORA JUNIOR MEMBER'S BADGE

Embroidered Badge suitable for younger members is now available. Red and yellow lettering surrounds a white 'UFO' motif set on a three inch diameter blue felt background. Price 6/6d. inc. postage; from:
Tony Oswin, 752 Mansfield Rd., Woodthorpe, Nottingham NG 5 3 FY.

ASSOCIATION JOTTINGS

Yet another "first" for our Surrey Investigation Group for Aerial Phenomena (S.I.G.A.P.). The Group managed to persuade the Owners of a well-known shop in Guildford to mount a UFO Exhibition in the shop window. Richard Beet, S.I.G.A.P. Secretary, informs me that the Exhibition proved a great attraction, and he suggests that other Groups may care to approach Shopkeepers in other towns.

Within the next few weeks I shall be handing over the responsibilities (and the hard work) attached to the job of Membership Secretary, to Mrs. Anne Harcourt who lives at 170 Faversham Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent. I have assured her that the Membership are very helpful and co-operative, so please don't let me down. I shall continue as the Honorary Secretary, so please continue to write to me whenever you have any questions to ask.

While chatting to one of our Welsh Members some weeks ago, and congratulating him on reporting 5 sightings during the BUFORA National Skywatch Day, he informed me that as he had had to wait a couple of hours for his co-spotters, he had called in at a pub. I suggested that this might help to explain the 5 sightings!!!

S.A.P.R.A. (Slough Aerial Phenomena Research Association) have apparently managed to become accepted as part of the Town's Youth Educational System, and I understand from their Chairman that this means that they can have the use of a room four nights a week, a telephone, and the use of photographic equipment — including a dark room. Our Slough Groups also hopes that grants will be forthcoming for the purchase of UFO investigation and detection equipment.

We at H.Q. hope that you approve of the most recent addition to our list of publications — the Research Bulletin. There have been two editions now, and it should be possible for you to see what the new Director of Research, Stephen Smith, B.A., is trying to do. He would very much welcome your comments.

The Bristol Convention (July 20th) proved most successful, and the Organisers were sufficiently far-sighted to hire a room with a private Bar. After all the argument and discussion, liquid refreshment was essential.

As a result of the introduction of the new subscription payment system over the past 12 months, some Members are due to renew their Membership subscriptions on 1st September, 1968. Full instructions are contained on the duplicated sheet enclosed with this Journal. It would be greatly appreciated if all Members would help by sending an early remittance. Thank you.

Mike Holt.

PERSONAL COLUMN

WANTED: UFO books, magazines and journals. Min. 2/6d. each for Flying Saucer Reviews. Fair prices paid. L. Beer, 15 Freshwater Court, Crawford Street, London, W.1.

UFOs — UNIDENTIFIED, UNDENIABLE. A factual and objective 60,000 word report by two amateur astronomers, containing 30 photographs and illustrations relating to 70 unexplained UFO sightings made by 200 witnesses in the North Midlands of England in 1967. Accounts of discussions with the Ministry of Defence, Air Traffic Controls, R.A.F. Stations, weather centres, Civil Defence, R.O.C. and many others revealing a wealth of interesting information for all serious researchers. Copies obtainable from NEWCHAPEL OBSERVATORY, Newchapel, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. U.K: 14/0d; overseas: 18/0d; U.S.A: \$2.20. Prices include postage.

BOOK REVIEWS

“Uninvited Visitors” by Ivan T. Sanderson

Published by Cowles Education Corporation,
488, Madison Avenue,
New York, N.Y. 10022, U.S.A.
Price : \$6.95.

For over two decades imagination has run riot over the nature of what it is that lies behind the UFO phenomena. Everything from hysterical delusion to Super-Beings from distant galaxies, with time-travellers and intelligencies from some other space-time continuum thrown in for good measure, has been offered as an explanation. It is with somewhat of a shock, therefore, when we discover that an accredited and responsible scientist suggests that many of our wildest ideas could well fall within the realms of scientific possibility.

Scientist, T.V. Lecturer and former British Naval Intelligence Officer Ivan Sanderson holds degrees in Botany, Geology and Zoology and has travelled extensively on zoological expeditions into remote parts of the world. Author of several other books, he has now produced one which examines UFO phenomena entirely from the point of view of a Biologist — a facet of the problem which has never, to my knowledge, been seriously enquired into before — and in the process clearly demonstrating that he can be classed amongst the avant-garde Scientists who have broken the shackles of orthodox scientific dogma and whose horizons have no limit.

Commencing with the truism . . . ‘Human beings take a long time to accept anything new’ . . . he declares his belief that the problem is basically a biological one and that some UFOs are themselves life-forms, or they are all machines. If machines, then they must have been made by a life-form, though not necessarily an intelligent one. From there he goes on to a classification of all the possible categories into which a UFO could be placed. Proceeding with several sightings of which he was one of the observers, he recounts his own investigation into the well-known “Flatwoods”, and lesser known “Sugar Creek”, incidents. Subsequent chapters, discussing very comprehensively the shape, substance and behaviour of UFOs, lead into one of his theories that space itself could, from a biologist’s point of view, indeed be the natural habitat of life-forms unintelligible to us in our present state of understanding . . . ‘To define life today is well-nigh impossible . . . What forms life could take elsewhere (i.e. outside our own global environment — Rev.) is quite beyond the grasp of our materialistic outlook, because the variety is probably infinite”.

Alternatively, should UFOs be actual machines, are they ‘animated machines’ or are they directed by their ‘creators’ from elsewhere? Are the ‘occupants’ of these ‘machines’ their ‘creators’ and/or their ‘pilots’? Or are they ‘robots’ or ‘androids’ directed by their ‘creators’? Have the ‘machines’ been originally constructed along biological lines, their propagation being similar to a mechanical operation such as is conceived to be entirely possible of being performed in the future by robotic machines created by our own technology? The hypotheses he presents are fascinating and exciting and may even be to some horrifying.

Further chapters report and discuss Fortean-like incursions of strange objects into our Global atmosphere, explore the possible points of origin of UFOs in space or

time and present some of the physical evidence consisting of the finding of sophisticated artifacts embedded in strata tens of thousands and sometimes millions of years old, unusual archaeological discoveries and the strange case of 'The Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings' to support the theory that the Earth has been visited by technologically superior extra-terrestrials in past ages.

Mr. Sanderson concludes with a somewhat unusual and original concept of Cosmic Evolution which I found as hard to digest as almost anything I have read in similar vein. Fortunately he provides a useful 'Appendix A' which contains a comprehensive resumé of hypotheses relating to UFOs which in scope and contents is truly formidable, as well as an 'Appendix C' containing two very strange and provocative letters, never before published, relative to the 'Jessup Case'.

I must admit that on reading the book my speculations as to what the author was going to say next were kept at fever pitch — in places the narrative appeared almost science-fictional until I remembered that from a Biologist's point of view the hypotheses were not impossible, and that made me feel rather uneasy! Nevertheless in spite of the controversy that it's contents will almost certainly arouse, I think it should be welcomed as a valuable contribution to UFO literature if only by virtue of the fact that it will stimulate and open people's minds sufficiently for them to accept the possibility of there being a far more complex answer to the UFO enigma than has been thought hitherto.

E.A.I.M.

"Spacemen in the Ancient East" by W. Raymond Drake

Published by Neville Spearman, Ltd.,
112, Whitfield Street,
London, W.1.
Price 30/-

Can you believe that the army of Sennacherib was destroyed by a nuclear blast by spacemen? That the writing on the wall at the ill-omened Feast of Belshazzar was engineered by a passing UFO? That the Ancient Egyptian priesthoods made use of laser beams? If you can, this book is for you. For my own part — not being a devotee of the quasi-occult schools — I find myself obliged, while commending Mr. Drake's industry in unearthing practically every passage in the literature and inscriptions of the Ancient Orient which could refer to extra-terrestrial visitations as well as many which could not, to express my dissent from most of his conclusions.

Mr. Drake seems to agree with the findings of Besant, Leadbeater, Steiner, Churchward, Spence and others on the subject of various lost continents, albeit the authorities in question never managed to reach any significant measure of agreement with each other. Must one stress yet again that "Atlantis" and "Mu" are NOT acknowledged historical realities like Ancient Babylon, Egypt or Assyria? They are cloudy "never-never lands" of myth and esoteric speculation.

The book is well-produced and useful for reference, if one is careful to dissociate the quotations it contains from the rather wild speculations of the author concerning those quotations. That UFO visitations happened in Antiquity is, of course, extremely probable. That they happened on the scale or in the manner

which Mr. Drake postulates, is much less likely. It is impossible to avoid contrasting this book with the restrained and thought-provoking hypotheses of John Michell, as expounded in, "The Flying Saucer Vision," which I reviewed in the Winter 1967/8 issue of this JOURNAL. Mr. Michell has tackled the problem of UFO phenomena in the Past in the way it should be tackled.

Mr. Drake has obviously put a great deal of work and research into the compilation of his book. It gives me no pleasure at all to denigrate his efforts. However, a reviewer must be objective; furthermore, persons not previously involved in UFO research are apt to judge the subject by its literature. It seems to me that Mr. Drake has allowed an *idée fixe* to warp his judgement and that his work has suffered in consequence of this.

The author devotes much praise to the "heretic Pharaoh" Akhnaton, which is strange in view of his expressed admiration for the Egyptian priesthood which Akhnaton spent most of his life attempting to destroy. My own reading of the Ruler in question is that his spiritual home, had he been alive today, would have been in Grosvenor Square, with a pocketful of stones destined for the windows of the American Embassy. He was an iconoclast, pacifist and sensualist whose inept handling of his Country's affairs all but ruined it. He deserves none of the accolades bestowed upon him by Victorian scholars with theological axes to grind.

J. C.B.

BUFORA LECTURES

The following lectures will be held at the Kensington Central Library on the dates indicated.

Saturday, September 7th. 7 p.m.

U.F.O.'s: THEIR SIGNIFICANCE IN OUR LIVES

Lecture by Johan Quanjer.

Mr. Quanjer is Chairman of CONTACT (U.K.), which is a world-wide educational movement devoted to U.F.O. research and the promotion of greater awareness working towards universal friendship and truth.

In the Chair: Michael C. Holt, B.A.

Saturday, October 5th. 7 p.m.

THE CONTINUING STORY OF THE WARMINSTER "THING"

Lecture by Arthur Shuttlewood,

controversial author of two books on the UFO phenomena which have centred around this little Wiltshire town since 1964.

In the Chair: J. Cleary-Baker, Ph.D.

Saturday, November 2nd. 7 p.m.

NEW VISTAS IN U.F.O. RESEARCH

Lecture by J. Cleary-Baker, Ph.D.,

who is Editor of BUFORA JOURNAL and Evaluation Officer of the Association. Dr. Cleary-Baker will talk about new and exciting trends which may lead to a solution of the UFO enigma.

In the Chair: Captain Ivar Mackay.

Saturday, November 23rd. 7 p.m.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Agenda : Presidential Address ; Chairman's Report ; Treasurer's Report ; Minutes of 1967 A.G.M. ; Election of Officers ; Other Business.

8.15 to 9.0 p.m. Refreshment Break.

9.0 to 10.0 p.m. General Discussion on B.U.F.O.R.A. policy, with particular emphasis on Research. Constructive views from the floor will be welcomed.

The A.G.M. is for MEMBERS ONLY and admission will be granted only on production of current membership cards.

Saturday, December 7th. 7 p.m.

"OUR SUBJECT IS THE U.F.O. . . ."

Talk by Bryan Winder, B.Sc., A.M.I.Mech.E.

Mr. Winder is a Consultant of "Flying Saucer Review" and a Vice-President of B.U.F.O.R.A. He will review such matters on the UFO scene as seem to him to be of current major importance.

In the Chair : Norman Oliver.

MAKING AND USING SIMPLE SPECTROSCOPES

The colour of a light is some guide to the type of lamp producing it, and most people now recognise the yellowish white of a filament lamp, the deep yellow of a filament lamp, the deep yellow of a sodium lamp and the greenish blue of a mercury lamp. A chemist will introduce small quantities of an unknown substance into a flame and will deduce the metal present by the coloration of the flame. Strontium gives a brilliant red, copper a green and so on. But for a more detailed examination it is necessary to analyse a light and see how its energy is distributed over the spectrum.

Simple spectroscopes.

For practical work with simple equipment we are limited to the visible spectrum : we look at the light through a spectroscope. The simplest possible spectroscope is a plastic diffraction grating (note 1) held against the eye while one is looking at a light. The light is seen almost undimmed, and a spectrum appears on either side of it if the grating rulings are vertical, or above and below if the rulings are horizontal. This simple grating can only be used if the light is a point or a line parallel to the grating rulings and there is a dark surround, such as the night sky, against which the spectrum can be seen.

With a light of appreciable size the spectrum from a grating used alone will be too diffuse for any structure to be seen, so the area viewed must be restricted by a slit.

A simple slit spectroscope can be made from a cardboard tube 20 to 25 cm. long (the centre of a kitchen paper roll is suitable) with the grating at one end and the slit at the other. Paint the inside of the tube black. The slit must have straight edges, and is best made from a stainless steel razor blade. The blade is broken in half and one half taped down onto a lantern slide glass. The other half is then laid down so that the space between the two cutting edges forms a parallel sided slit. It is worth making several slits of different widths for experiment. The narrower the slit the sharper the spectrum, but a wider slit allows in more light, giving a brighter spectrum which is easier to see. For this simple spectroscope a slit about 0.2 mm. wide is suitable. A slit can be made to a desired width by holding a feeler gauge between the blades when taping them down.

The spectroscope should be pointed at a light, so that the slit is seen illuminated. A spectrum should then be seen on either side of the slit (assuming the slit is vertical). If the spectra are above and below the slit or diagonally with respect to the slit, the grating should be rotated to bring them to either side.

A more compact spectroscope can be made by incorporating a lens. This should be an achromat of about 8 to 10 cm. focal length and about 2 cm. diameter. It is set at an angle to the centre line of the instrument so that, if one looks directly into the lens, the spectrum is seen ahead with the slit to one side. A narrower slit, about 0.1 mm. wide, is more suitable for this instrument.

The components are enclosed in a box made of any opaque material. The distance between the slit and the lens should be the maximum that allows the slit to be seen sharply, and will be a little less than the focal length of the lens. This will determine the length of the box.

Using the spectroscope.

As has already been said, one must look to one side of the illuminated slit to see the spectrum. The spectrum is much less bright than the direct image of the slit, and may not be visible at first if the eye is adapted to a bright light. In this case it is necessary to hold the spectroscope closely to the eye for a few seconds and look to one side of the slit. As the eye adapts to the dark interior of the instrument, the spectrum will come into view. Pointing the spectroscope at the daylight sky, NOT directly at the sun, gives a suitable spectrum for preliminary experiments. When looking through the instrument in daylight, it must NEVER be pointed directly at the sun. To see the spectrum of the sun, hold a piece of white card in sunlight and point the spectroscope at the card.

At night the moon and stars are too faint to allow their spectra to be seen, but street lamps and artificial lamps indoors give visible spectra.

When viewing very small lights at night, it is difficult to aim the spectroscope so that the light enters the slit, and under these conditions the grating alone held in front of the eye will be easier to use than the spectroscope.

Some people, when using the slit spectroscope, find the brighter direct light from the slit distracting. Moving the eye across the lens will remove this from the field of view, or an eye-cup which holds the eye a little way back from the lens can be fitted.

Interpretation of spectra.

The main distinction that can be made with a spectroscope is between light from a heated body, which has a continuous spectrum, and light from a low pressure electric discharge, which has a line spectrum. Skylight or light from a filament lamp will show a full range of spectrum colours shading into one another. The phosphors in a fluorescent lamp also give a continuous spectrum, but superimposed on this are the blue, green and yellow lines characteristic of the discharge through the mercury in the tube. It is instructive to compare the light from a filament lamp through a yellow filter with that from a sodium street lamp. The filament lamp with a filter gives a continuous spectrum with only the blue missing, while the sodium lamp gives only a line in the yellow region of the spectrum. There are really two lines close together, but they will be seen as one with the simple instruments described here. A spectroscope is the only way to distinguish between a continuous and a line spectrum: the colour of the light itself is no guide.

If light is produced by an electric discharge at high temperature and pressure, the lines in the spectrum become broadened and a continuous spectrum appears. Under some conditions dark lines occur in the places where a low pressure discharge would give bright lines, but these are likely to be too narrow to be seen with our simple spectroscopes. There are dark lines of this type in the sun's spectrum, which can be seen using spectroscopes having higher resolution than those described here.

Conclusion.

A simple spectroscope provides an additional tool for the skywatcher, but he must not expect too much from it. The spectrum can only be seen if the light is fairly bright. But if the light from a UFO were seen to have a line spectrum, this would be a most important observation, particularly if the colours of the lines were noted, so that the substances involved in the production of the light could be inferred.

J. M. Adams.

Notes.

1. Plastic transmission gratings are available from Proops Brothers Ltd., 52 Tottenham Court Road, London, W.1. The cost is less than £1 for a 10" x 8" sheet, or smaller pieces can be bought mounted in card lantern slide mounts.

2. Suppliers of achromatic lenses include United Technical Supplies Ltd., 29 Tottenham Court Road, London, W.1. The price is likely to be about £1.

3. Complete portable spectroscopes are made by R. & J. Beck Ltd., 69 - 71 Mortimer Street, London, W.1. Prices range from about £10 to £50, but all incorporate refinements which are not included in the simple instruments described here.

4. Most text books on optics include a chapter on spectroscopy. Most specialised texts on spectroscopy concentrate on particular applications, but two that cover most aspects of the subject are:

"Experimental Spectroscopy" R. A. Sawyer, Prentice-Hall (New York). 1951

"The Encyclopedia of Spectroscopy"

G. L. Clark (Editor), Reinhold (New York). 1960

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