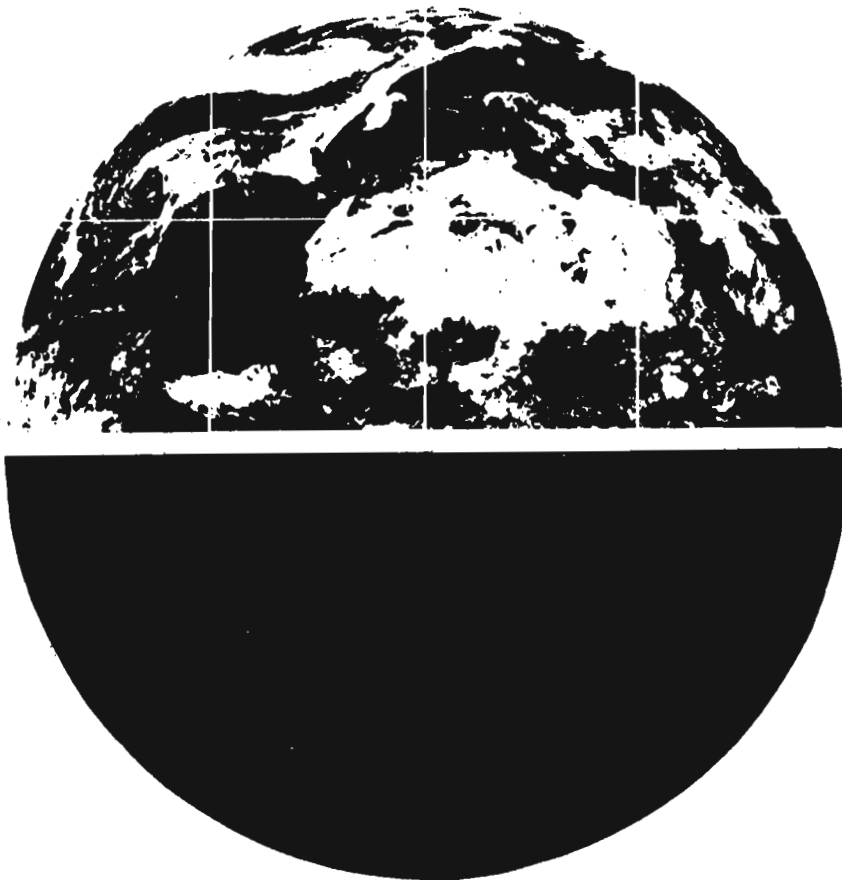


ISSN 0143-8840



The Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena

Volume 4 No.1 September, 1985



THE JOURNAL OF TRANSIENT AERIAL PHENOMENA

Devoted to the scientific study of unusual aerial phenomena.

September, 1985

Volume 4 No.1

Published by: THE BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH
ASSOCIATION LTD.

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The JOURNAL OF TRANSIENT AERIAL PHENOMENA is published in April
and October by the British Unidentified Flying Object Research
Association Ltd.

PRESIDENT: Lord Kings Norton

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(J-TAP), 40 Jones Drove, Whittlesey, Peterborough PE7 2HW. Enquiries
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FULL PAGE	£45	
HALF PAGE	£25	(vertical or horizontal)
QUARTER PAGE	£15	
EIGHTH PAGE	£ 8	

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SCOPE OF THIS JOURNAL

S.J. GAMBLE

ABSTRACT

This short paper defines the scope of material that may be covered by the JOURNAL FOR TRANSIENT AERIAL PHENOMENA. Where possible examples are given of the type of material which is suitable for submission. It is demonstrated that all material published in JTAP is covered by the originally defined scope.

INTRODUCTION

JTAP was first published in 1979. There was some confusion about what the title actually meant. Many people took the term Transient Aerial Phenomena or TAP to be just a replacement for the old term Unidentified Flying Object or UFO. To correct this confusion a short article was published in the second issue(1)

This confusion may now have re-arisen, possibly as a result of the statement inside the back cover of JTAP having been altered at some point in time. The statement may give the impression that JTAP deals only with that group of phenomena called UFOs. This is not so, the Journal continues with its original aims.

AREAS OF INTEREST

The term Transient Aerial Phenomena covers all forms of phenomena which are of short duration and can occur in the atmosphere of any planetary or celestial body. The group of phenomena known as UFOs only constitutes part of this activity. As stated in the original article TAP's can cover such things as ball lightning, meteors and meteorological phenomena. It should also be remembered that man has also explored the atmospheres of a number of other bodies within the solar system. This would mean, for example, if Garry Hunt and his team at Imperial College wished to offer some of their results on Martian meteorology(2) for publication in JTAP, we would be within

our original aims to publish them. These results would be published not because some people wish to speculate about extra-terrestrial bases on Mars, but because they represent a genuine investigation of atmospheric phenomena. It would also be valid for JTAP to carry articles about new techniques or adaptations which can be used to atmospheric studies. For example it might be valid to carry a paper such as that of Lawden and Pearce (11) on the adaptation of image processing software.

It is this same commitment to covering all forms of atmospheric phenomena which allows us to publish items such as Steuart Campbell's Ball Lightning Update (e.g(3)) or John Armitage's Atmospheric Phenomenon(e.g(4)) which clearly are not UFO reports. This also allows us to carry items such as Ali Abutaha's theory about life in the solar atmosphere (5). Ali presents a reasoned argument for the possibility of life forms in a non-terrestrial environment. Like all papers in JTAP those who disagree with his conclusions are invited to present reasoned arguments why this cannot be so.

Since UFOs are a valid part of the larger field of TAPs we will, of course, publish material looking at all aspects of this group of phenomena. This allows JTAP to carry, with equal validity, theories about UFO origin(6), about the psychology of UFO witnesses (7), detailed reports on individual cases (8),(9) or how UFO reports may relate to other phenomena (10).

CONCLUSION

It has been shown that the scope of the Journal is wide and includes

(continued on page 202)

MANFRED CASSIRER

PART 4 (Concluded)

THE PRESENT THESIS PRESENTS AN ATTEMPT TO INTEGRATE TWO SETS OF DATA: THOSE OF PARAPSYCHOLOGY (PSYCHICAL RESEARCH) AND OF UFOLOGY, ON A MORE PRECISE AND COMPREHENSIVE SCALE THAN HAS HITHERTO BEEN ESSAYED. THE AUTHOR IS A FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE PSYCHICAL PHENOMENA COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH, AS WELL AS A MEMBER OF THE (PROFESSIONAL) PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION. HE HAS UNDERTAKEN THIS TASK WITH THE HELP OF A GRANT FROM THE RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND OF THE SPR., WHICH HAS RECENTLY (1979) ADMITTED UFOLOGICAL STUDIES AS FALLING WITHIN THE PERVIEW OF ITS OBJECTS AND STUDIES. AFTER A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE MAIN THEORIES WHICH HAVE BEEN ADVANCED IN VARIOUS QUARTERS, SOME TWO DOZEN OR MORE SPECIFIC ASPECTS HAVE BEEN INTER-RELATED WITH A VIEW TO THROWING A LIGHT ON THE UFO ENIGMA, IT IS NOT PROPOSED, HOWEVER, TO OFFER A "SOLUTION" OF ITS WHOLE SPECTRUM BY THE WHOLESALE APPLICATION OF INTER-FACIAL COMPARISON. RATHER WE SHOULD AIM AT ENCOURAGING A PROCESS OF VIGOROUS CROSS-FERTILISATION AND EXCHANGE OF IDEAS BETWEEN TWO DISPARATE AND LARGELY INDIFFERENT GROUPS. POINTS OF CONTACT ARE ALMOST INEXHAUSTIBLE. THESE ARE NOW ONLY SCRAPED AT THE SURFACE OF WHAT MAY BE REGARDED AS VIRGIN SOIL IN THE PRESENT PIONEER WORK. NOT ONLY IS THERE AN OVERLAP IN METHODOLOGY AND TAXONOMY, BUT THE VERY PHENOMENA (ANOMALIES IN THE WIDEST SENSE OF THE WORD) BEAR STRIKING RESEMBLANCES - WITH OCCASIONAL EQUALLY STRIKING DIFFERENCES!

29. MESSENGERS - OF WHAT?

Dr Vallee is a leading Franco-American with several stimulating books on the subject to his credit. Vallee now believes that UFOs exercise a "control system" through Close Encounters. Prompted by the title of his latest offering (Vallee 1979), we were tempted to ask the question heading this chapter. Fundamentalists condemn UFOs as down-right diabolical; other writers somewhat naively talk of "good" and "bad" extra-terrestrials (ROGO 1980.149), just as spiritualists do not doubt the existence of similarly polarised spirit entities with witchcraft now no longer in fashion except as a minority cult (op.MacFARLANE 1970, passim). The "spokesman" of the UFO is the humanoid ufonaut, while

that of the paranormal sphere is the "spirit". "Spirit" messages, even via top mediums, are often unreliable. Their so-called "controls" are elusive: even Mrs Piper's famous "Dr. Phinuit" proved to be an imposter who did not know his own native tongue. Mediums, again including the amazing Mrs Piper, fish for information. Most of it is inaccurate, but there are also occasional mind-blowing hits with sustained high levels of success (SIDGWICK 1915). The "Raudive Voices" are revealed on close inspection as a gigantic illusion (CASSIRER 1972). What about apparitions? They are rather uncommunicative. Occasionally they are known to speak, or even to answer a question put to them, but

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on the whole they clearly do not care for lengthy conversation (TYRRELL 1953.78) In Green's collection (GREEN 1975.94) only 14 per cent articulated, and even among that relative small number few spoke at length and, for all the allegedly affected realism of presentation by apparitions, they did not always make a good job of it. "Apparitions", explains Green, "seem to have a certain reluctance to speak freely and realistically" (GREEN 1975.96): their lips may fail to move; nor are they necessarily visible at the time. Sometimes they prefer to communicate "as if by telepathy", as commonly asserted of humanoids (op.ch.12). Miss Green (in contrast to Tyrrell) thinks that apparitions avoid a high degree of realism by not involving more than one sense at a time. Admittedly this contradicts the evidence of lucid dreams, where long conversations are not ruled out nor, it seems, analytical thought (GREEN 1968.91).

In accordance with our Fortean policy of not studying anomalous phenomena in their customary isolation, we shall not revert to the Poltergeist, already discussed in the previous chapter, and attempt to relate it to the problems in hand. In his chapter on "Communications," a leading authority (OWEN 1964) links the alleged Direct Voice of physical mediumship with the talking Poltergeist. It is true that the evidence for the former is less than impressive, though it is reasonably well attested with two outstanding mental psychics, Gladys Osbourne-Leonard, and Elizabeth Blake (WOLMAN 1977.314ff.). However that may be, Poltergeists are much less averse to conversing than apparitions and, according to some old anecdotal cases, show considerable knowledge of peoples' personal affairs; it is their discretion which is in doubt rather than their knowledge, which may extend even to

the future (OWEN 1964.235f.; GILBERT 1971.33). The well-known "Devil of Mascon" went in for bantering of an insolent kind, delighting in "malicious gossip" and scandal. The Icelandic "Devil of Hjalta-Stad" informed his victims that devils hold services in hell, a piece of information hard to verify and therefore of dubious value. All this and more comes under the heading of what Owen (242) designates as "irreverent buffoonery". Poltergeists betray themselves as suffering from the same regressive tendencies as mediumistic communicators with their notoriously childish "controls" masquerading as "Chinamen", Ancient Egyptian Queens", and "Red Indians" equally popular with regressed subjects under hypnosis. Picturesque and romantic they are, but plausible they are not. Nor are they consistent in their assumed roles. In the Dagg case, a "spirit" declared that he was the Devil; "I'll have you in my clutches" said he to a young orphan. Yet at another time, and in another mood, he abruptly changed his style to being "an Angel from heaven." An Indian Poltergeist (THURSTON 1953.68) preferred communication by Direct Writing, calling himself (among other things) "the King." This method of communicating is not unique. Messages (in bad Latin) on walls or pieces of paper were found in an Italian monastery plagued by a Poltergeist (FAULD 1979.163) and (in modern languages) in connexion with mediums.

In the American airship waves of the 1890s, false claims to inventions were made by their occupants (STORY 1980.11). The more up-to-date ufo-nauts, in most undivine fashion (in spite of V. Daeniken's

claims), often act like lunatics. They can find nothing better to do than to mimic human activities such as collecting botanical and mineral specimens, even in towns, and affecting repairs to "space-craft" obviously not in need of attention. They seem uncertain whether they want to attract attention or not. Their degree of realism varies; some are more human in appearance than others, including some quite passable imitations of robots, dwarves, giants and others (ZURCHER 1979). They adapt themselves to particular cultures: South American "extra-terrestrials" adopt a Latin-American guise (HENDRY 1979.151). Their conversations finally seldom, if ever, attain to a high intellectual level. A ufonaut on landing in France argued both about the location and the time of day (HENDRY 1979.141), while another declared that they had come to save mankind because the earth is cracking! Ufonauts do not hesitate to deliver ridiculous messages by other means, using the apparent equivalent of the mediumistic Direct Writing, i.e. the production of the written word without visible physical contact of the writing entity. In a South American encounter (BOWEN 1977.51) a contactee was given an envelope which, when dipped in water, was found to contain a scribbled note in a childish hand predicting that he was "going to know the world" and signed "P. Volador" ("P. Saucer"). The spelling was faulty. As indicated above, mediums are prone to inflict similar infantile efforts on their victims. At Kingston, a rapping spirit showed that he could spell no better than the girl through whom "he" was active (GAULD 1979.342), but still excelling "Olga's" attempt during a Rudi Schneider seance which only succeeded in scribbling (PRICE 1930.24)

When all is said and done, UFOs are, perhaps messengers of regression as much as of deliberate deception. Nor are they the space-gods of certain commercial writers.

EPILOGUE

So what conclusions have we arrived at? No cut and dry solution of the UFO syndrome has forced itself upon us, nor has such been attempted. The purpose of this study is of a less ambitious nature, namely within the strict framework of its points of reference, to draw attention to the many points of contact between two controversial new disciplines. Thus we do not advocate commitment to the effect that there is an implicit "psychic solution", whatever such a statement could mean. By putting these subjects into water-proof tight compartments any potentially valuable cross-fertilisation is automatically nipped in the bud. Equally abortive, and even more dangerous, is the juxtaposition of the junior discipline with a misconceived pot-pourri of assorted occultism and largely misunderstood so-called "parapsychology." It is not sufficient to bandy about terms like "telepathy" without first acquiring a proper appreciation of what is known (and not known) of their meaning. As has been shown in the discussion of Apparitions (ch.8) and Materialisations (ch.9) two separate pigeon-holes within a single field of study (Psychical Research) effectively prevents the proper evaluation of all the available data: writers who confine themselves to a single set of data tend to ignore the other. To expect these over-enthusiastic

specialists to cast their nets ever wider so as to include the obviously closely related humanoid syndrome is regrettably unrealistic at present. Hopefully this study will point the way to a much wider informed point of view and scale. If so, ours is a first step in a direction that will open out new perspectives for both Parapsychology and Ufology.

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ABBREVIATIONS

APRO Bull
The apro bulletin; publ. by Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation Inc., Tucson. Arizona.

Ass.N.
Associated Newsletter; publ. by Center for UFO Studies, Evanston, Illinois.

BUFORA J.
bufora journal; publ.by British UFO Research Association. London.

CUFOS Bull.
Center for UFO Studies Bulletin.

FSR
Flying Saucer Review; publ. by FSR Publications Ltd. W. Malling.

JASPR
Journal of the American Soc- iety for Physical Research. publ.by ASPR. New York, NY.

JoP
The (International) Journal of Paraphysics; publ. by Para- physical Lab. Downton, Wilts.

JSPR
Journal of the Society for Physical Research; publ. by SPR London.

JTAP
Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena; publ. by BUFORA.

JUS
The Journal of UFO Studies; publ. by CUFOS.

PR
Parapsychology Review; publ. by Parapsychology Foundation.

Proc.ASPR
Proceedings of the ASPR

Proc.SPR
Proceedings of the SPR

RIP
Research in Parapsychology; publ. by Parapsychological Association (USA)

Zeitschr
Zeitschrift fuer Parapsycho- logie und Grenzgebiete der Psychologie (Freiburg Univer- sity.

FIVE SELECTED CASES

A.G. KEUL

ABSTRACT

Dr. KEUL has been working with Ken Phillips on a study comparing Austrian witnesses with British witnesses. For this study the UFO Anamnesis technique developed by Dr. Keul has been used. The paper presented here is the text of Keul's lecture given at the UPIAR Colloquium held in Salzburg in July, 1982. It deals with some of the results of the cross cultural study conducted with Phillips and concentrates on five witnesses involved in that study.

The cases are from a larger group of 20 cases from Austria and 12 British cases. Mention is also made of the preliminary results from a control group for the Austrian cases.

THE AUTHOR

Born in February 1954 in Vienna. "Realistic" gymnasium studies of geology, geophysics, meteorology, astronomy and psychiatry at the University of Vienna finished with a thesis on weather-involved light aircraft accidents and the PhD (Dr.phil.) in 1978. Army service. Currently studies in clinical psychology and journalism at the University of Salzburg. Working as a free-lance science journalist.

First active interests in UFOs in 1972, field investigations as APRO representative, MUFON representative 1974 to 1980 and for some time member of the Central European Section. Found co-operation with ETH-ideologists exhausting and left all groups.

Number of international publications, particularly on the Traunstein "local flap"; from 1976 onwards in UFO PHENOMENA. Working on the Editorial Board of UPIAR and URIP.

Special fields: witness psychology, test problems and unconscious aspects of UFO encounters, interdisciplinary connections, epistemology, ball lightning (Austrian BL catalogue with 160 entries), meteorites (initiated two camera stations now run by astronomer from Vienna), humour.

Towards the end of a day full with interesting lectures and vivid discussions, I am not planning to overburden the audience with intricate field investigation protocols. To give you an idea what is meant by "positive" and "negative" reporter profiles" I selected typical passages from five different case histories out of 20 psychological witness studies of the Austrian UFO Witness Project and of 12 cases studied together with Ken Phillips during the 1981 English UFO Witness Project. The general results of the two projects were identical:

about every second account was described by a person with a "negative reporter profile", both in England and Austria. A control group of people who had observed meteor events i.e. non-UFOs, is nearly finished in Austria and indicates a lower rate of "negative reporter profiles."

Before we start into the case details, let me explain the philosophy behind our witness study. In our officially funded first part of the Austrian UFO witness project we had found out that from 10 witnesses, none had a perfect and none an extremely

bad personality picture. Most were in-between, three were rather bad in the sense that it was likely they confused facts and fantasy due to internal problems. After the 10 case project, we decided to distinguish "positive" and "negative reporter profiles" after qualitative life event and test evaluation. We drew the line to the "bad category" at a level of psychic disorders in need of a professional psychotherapist or neurological/psychiatric symptoms typical of psychotic events (loss of reality, hallucinations). To put it into everyday language: I would allow a "positive reporter" to drive my car and I would refuse to give it to a "negative reporter." This does not mean that I consider the report of a "bad reporter" as invalid or invented. It may have a degree of external reality as well, but is much more mixed with elements of the "inner world" and is difficult to decode.

CASE ONE

A beauty specialist (beautician) of 24 years, female, living in a community near the river Danube to the north-west of Vienna, Austria, phoned a scientific institute to report - in Hynek's terminology - a "Close Encounter of the Second Kind." She said that coming from her boyfriend's home at 4 am on the morning of October 31st, 1980, both had seen two bright lights low in the sky. She then drove her car to a spot near the river Danube and left her car. The lights were like big car headlights, did not move and shone at her. After about half an hour at the lonely spot, it was getting uncanny and she drove home, where she noticed that her face and eyes were inflamed and reddish. She later described symptoms of a mild sunburn and conjunctivitis. The symptoms disappeared during the day. In arranging for an interview and a field investigation with test, it became clear that the driving force to report the incident had been her mother, age

about 40, an artist and writer living in the same community. The witness hesitated to give further details, but her mother was too glad to help us in every respect, even arranging a field interview together with her daughter. We found out that there was only air traffic after 5am, but two bright planets, Venus and Jupiter, in conjunction (about a Moon diameter distant) low in the east.

I went out to meet the two people on December 21st, did the usual measurements and gave the young lady a Rorschach test in the car at the observation spot with her mother in the back seat. From the test, comments of the mother and two additional phone calls a rather disturbing panorama emanated. The main phenomenon of the otherwise moderate Rorschach was a latent voyeuristic tendency. Her mother did not stay calm on the back seat and gave some answers typical for affective instability encountered in hysteria. To the medical profession it is well-known that a traumatic or infectious conjunctivitis lasts for two or three days under therapy. The quickly disappearing face and eye inflammation, seen in the light of the projective test, clearly points towards a psychosomatic phenomenon. Her mother had a long history of vivid interests in extrasensory perception and UFOs. She claimed a friend of hers had seen UFO occupants walking out of a mirror at night. She allegedly kept up a correspondence with a professor in Campinas, Brazil, who had seen UFOs and she "knew for sure" that the house where her daughter was living now had been a location of UFO landings. The young lady, taciturn and rather aggressive in the first investigation phase because she had been pressed by her mother to come and see me, gradually increased her contributions to the discussion and eventually said she had once seen a twinkling star from her flat blinking her a morse message

and that she was sure the two encounters were only "a prelude to a great contact."

Summing up the psychological data, we strongly suspect that the "close encounter" was a psychic phenomenon with psychosomatic after-effects happening either as a hysteric substitution where the daughter "lives" her mother's fantasies, or as a similar phenomenon out of a disturbed close interaction between mother and daughter. No one else saw the UFO and the two bright planets stood in the area where it had "hovered" over the river Danube.

CASE TWO

A zoologist (Dr.phil) aged 57, female, married to a university professor, living at the same community as the witness in Case One, phoned a scientific institute to report a "nocturnal light" at 2.45am on January 15th, 1981. She said she saw an object, brighter than Venus, flying north-south losing height. The air traffic check drew a blank. A personal investigation on February 7th showed the object had nearly full moon size, was oval and in sight for four seconds. Our Rorschach test with the witness resulted in a "positive reporter profile." No unusual phenomena was noticed. I mention this case because the witnesses in the two cases were not only streets apart physically, but quite a distance psychologically.

CASE THREE

A college schoolboy, 15 years old, living at his parent's home in a Bedfordshire village. Working class environment, told us about one of his observations in November, 1979.

".....the thing was around 3 o'clock, 3.30am in the morning, you know...and I got up and had the sensation of being drawn to the window, a sound in my head told me to go there. I looked out and I've seen this object - like, say two footballs with a plate in the middle and it had satellite craft around it." After some time, he said, the light was "switched out."

Ken Phillips, in his original investigation of the case, noticed that the boy had a lot of UFO

Ken Phillips, in his original investigation of the case noticed that the boy had a lot of UFO books and, together with other boys, went star- and UFO-watching in the evenings. On our visit on September 7th, 1981, we picked him up on the road where he was bicycling and he led us into his home to speak to us. It was peculiar that when his father showed up he only greeted us but did not ask what we were doing there.

The Rorschach test was the worst one I saw during the project. Just an example of what the witness saw on my tables: "I see two creatures, one in one, at the bottom green hippo-creatures, a mouth, going into the stomach of a demon, at the bottom a human-like skull with triangle jaw. Separating the rocket platform with a steeple, melting like a candle, running down at the side. Demons with wings of a bird, connected to each other, trunks like branches of a tree with electric charge. A long mouth, with a crane or hook bringing food in on top. Two eyes each, mounted on like a gun magazine."

Even an observer not familiar with projective tests will find out quickly that we are watching an individual nearly lost in a bizarre, aggressive fantasy world. To the psychologist, it is almost on the border to schizophrenia. We have to view the "sensation of being drawn to the window" in his report and the interpretation of the "satellite craft" in the light of the test. Later on in our interview, the boy mentioned a tactile hallucination one month after the observation and indicated great interest in ESP and ETH.

CASE FOUR

A horticultural businessman of 55 years, living in a village in Bedfordshire, middle class environment, told us about his observation from September, 1975. "...it was dark and I was with my wife driving towards the east, a few miles from her, approaching with trees above itsuddenly...we saw a ring, an elliptical ring of blue light.(He believes that

a so-called "ley line" runs through the position of the ring) The thing I saw was further away than I thought it was. I thought it was just above the street, but, in fact, if it was a larger object it could have been further away, directly over the ley line.

"It could have been a larger object, it appeared to me to be an object of about 50 feet in diameter hovering over the trees. Much against my wife's wishes I stopped the car to get out and examine it, and as I did so it so it vanished. Just suddenly, I couldn't believe that. No sound, no interference with the vehicle, no air or wind or anything like that...." The observation had lasted 30 to 40 seconds.

The witness suffers a distinct tremor, but seems to have good eyesight. He served his military duty in the Royal Navy during World War II, later specialised in agriculture. He holds a British Patent in the agricultural field, is married to a West Indian woman and has four children. In our Rorschach test with him on September 20th, 1981, the remarkable phenomenon was an interpretative stereotype called "perseveration" which is due to a beginning organic brain trouble. Interesting enough, the objects he saw again and again on the tables were either something like a rocket, something mechanical or - in 4 occasions - UFO shapes. He also saw a humanoid with wings and a head enclosed in a helmet. This matches with other information he gave us later. He has a great interest in UFOs and ESP, believes that science and religion describe the same things, is convinced of the Philadelphia Experiment and thinks he is able to faith-heal others. In his account, the tendency to link the phenomenon to a certain "ley line" was apparent. Although intelligence and sensory functions showed no break-down, the "organic test" and the extended belief system leaves it unclear

where we have objective data and where not.

CASE FIVE

The last case of this little review has been internationally published and was the first complex UFO affair I encountered in Austria. The spectacular series of events started on the night of October 28th-29th, 1973. The witness, a compositor aged 21, was knocked out of his night's sleep by a friend.

"He wanted me to come out and look at an extraordinary thing in the southern sky.... You might have taken it for a star at first glance, but watching it more carefully you would see it was much nearer, giving off a different light and strange periodical light signals. Well - it looked like snail feelers. The two yellow-orange beams came out ... were projected upwards and bent outwards high up. Then ... some green mist fell down sideways and then the rays were gone. You would wait for about 5 seconds and then the game started again...."

This observation went on for hours and involved six objects, one of them a "classic" domed disc shape. A repeater happened the night before we came for field investigation, other people reported sightings and in 1975 we had documented over 30 events with more than 60 UFO shapes. We did not pay too much attention to the psychosocial situation at the small village in north-west Lower Austria. We even believed a number of reports which came from a local alcoholic who was having hallucinations night after night. Gradually, over the years we learned about the personal background of the people. A personality test with the compositor gave a moderately neurotic, but stable picture. When the Austrian Witness Project began, we did a Rorschach

test with another local witness and obtained a "positive reporter profile". Then we learned more about life events before the "local flap." In September, 1973, the father of the main October witness (the compositor) had died in a strange accident, probably a planned suicide. His wife was left alone with the two sons and the older one - the witness - had to find a new status within the family and to get "grown up." Then came the UFO series. In 1974, the witness came into contact with Jehovah's Witnesses, a religious sect, and began to read the Bible with them. In April, 1975, the sightings stopped. In June, 1975 the witness left the Catholic Church. He joined the sect in 1979. Discussing this aspect with him was a topic in my last visit at his home on July 11th, 1982. He still works as a compositor, has married and has a five year old son. "I think the more I studied the Holy Bible, the more the whole phenomenon lost its significance. Today when I get out and walk through a pitch black night, I never have the feeling that something is there." Concerning his opinion about the "flap" in retrospect he said: "More or less I consider it as an illusion insofar as there was something to be seen, and nothing more."

The UFO sighting series as one step in the spiritual evolution of a human being brings us back to Carl Gustav Jung again. "When archetypal ideas of this kind appear they invariably signify something unusual We must therefore take account of them, however improbably and irrational they may appear to us, just because they are important factors in a psychological process" are two sentences he wrote in connection with UFOs in dreams, but they could also be of relevance to our "local flap." The Traunstein sightings are history, but the most important elements, the witnesses, are alive and can give us more than a clue.

(continued from page 189)

the subject areas of all previously published contributions.

Should you wish to submit a paper in any of the above mentioned categories for consideration, please consult the Notes to Contributors inside the back cover. Contributions will normally be refereed by at least two members of the Editorial Board or by external referees.

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HOME COMPUTER QUESTIONNAIRE

Part of BUFORA's Research plans involve the computerisation of UFO reports. To allow adequate planning for computerisation it would be very helpful if members who own or have access to a computer could complete the following questionnaire and return it to BUFORA's Research Officer - PAUL FULLER, 83 Alresford Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8JZ (Tel: Winchester (0962) 65513).

- | | | |
|--|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1. Do you own or intend to own a home computer? | OWN | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | INTEND | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | DON'T OWN | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Do you have access to any other computer which you might be able to use for UFO research? If so please describe | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. What model/make of computer do you own? | | |
| 4. What size memory does your computer have? | 16K | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 32K | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 48K | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 64K | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 128K | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. What operating system does your computer use? (Consult your Users' Manual if you are unsure) | | |
| 6. What method of data storage does your computer use? | DISK | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | CASSETTE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | OTHER | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Does your computer have an "RS232" or "RS423" Port? | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Does your computer have some means of communicating with other computers e.g. a modem? | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. What data-base do you use? | | |
| 10. Do you use any statistical programs on your computer? | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. Have you attempted to store UFO data on your computer? | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Would you like to be involved in any future recording of UFO data on your computer? | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. Please describe any technical/professional/academic qualifications you have | | |

FINALLY, please give your name and address on the reverse side of this questionnaire. Thank you for your co-operation.

A PHOTO-COPY OF THIS FORM MAY BE USED IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO REMOVE THE PAGE FROM YOUR JOURNAL

THE ASSESSMENT OF WITNESS RELIABILITY

S.J. GAMBLE

ABSTRACT

The witness is considered as a recording instrument in UFO cases. As with other instruments there must be methods of obtaining calibration and estimates can be made on the reliability of the data collected. A number of calibration methods are discussed and some of the problems with each are highlighted.

A proposal is made for a working party to consider the problems of witness reliability. Amongst other evidence, this group will consider current and past cases submitted to BUFORA's archives.

THE AUTHOR

Steve Gamble joined BUFORA in 1972. He has been a member of BUFORA's Council for several years and is currently Director of Research and Vice-Chairman. Steve has been a member of the JTAP Editorial Board since it was formed and has contributed a number of papers on UFOlogical subjects both to JTAP and other publications.

In any scientific study observations are made using instruments of known characteristics. The study of UFO phenomena is based upon the reports made by, usually untrained, witnesses. A witness is essentially a recording instrument of unknown characteristics. In many of the most interesting cases, for example that of Albert Burtoo (FOWLER, 1984) we only have one witness, so are unable to cross-check with another instrument (witness). Mr Burtoo claims to have encountered a landed object and a number of small beings in the early hours of August 12th 1983. He states that he was taken on board the object, but later released when he was found to be too old and infirm. Mr Burtoo recently came to a BUFORA meeting to tell us about his experience. If the claims he makes are true then his story is fantastic. However, since he is the only witness we have no other evidence to back it up. I should stress that I only use this as an example of a recent case and the problems involved. I cannot pass comment on the validity of his claims as I have not investigated them.

The problem of just how much reliability can be placed upon data obtained from UFO witnesses has been with us for a long time. At least as far back as 1971 the subject was under discussion within BUFORA (CLEARY-BAKER, 1971). In defining significant cases, HYNEK (1972) uses a Strangeness rating and a Probability rating. The Strangeness rating is a "measure of the number of information bits that the report contains, each of which is difficult to explain in common-sense terms." The Probability rating attempts to assess the credibility of the witness and assesses the possibility that they have made an error. Hynek admits that this can be highly subjective.

Over the years various researchers have tried different means to find a less subjective method of assessing witness reliability. These have included such methods as polygraph or lie detector tests (HENDRY 1980) chapter 12) and various other forms of psychological assessment. The polygraph test relies upon measuring the subject's physiological response to a series of questions. Normally

skin conductance and heart rate are both measured. If a subject answers a question untruthfully this should cause a small amount of stress which might be detected by minor changes in heart rate or skin conductance. Both of these may be affected by a variety of factors such as temperature or by drugs. Some people have the ability to control these physiological responses so may knowingly tell lies whilst connected to a polygraph and escape detection. The interpretation of polygraph traces requires a number of years of experience so an investigator would probably have to call in an external expert. Whilst the polygraph test might detect the outright fraud it would not detect those subjects suffering from hallucinations or those who were just genuinely mistaken.

Perhaps the most widely known of these methods is that of hypnotic regression. This is discussed in great detail by HENDRY (1980 chapter 11). The most famous case to involve the use of hypnotic regression is that of Betty and Barney Hill (FULLER, 1980). The Hills had a sighting of a UFO whilst driving home from a holiday along Route 3 in central New Hampshire on September 19th, 1961. Subsequently they found that they could not account for about two hours during their trip home. Some two years after the incident they were placed under hypnosis by Dr. Benjamin Simon and were able to describe their abduction aboard an alien spacecraft. From details revealed by the Hills under hypnosis, Majorie Fish from Ohio was able to construct a map which she claimed showed that the Hills had made contact with beings from Zeta Reticuli (PACE, 1980). Even in this well-known case a number of people have expressed concern. DEGROOTE (1981) has raised a number of questions. He highlights a number of weaknesses and presents evidence to suggest an alternative identity to the object seen by the Hills. The possibility of a misidentification of the planet Jupiter is suggested by DeGroote and he goes on to conclude "some elements

indeed suggest that this case could be sheer fantasy. Studies based on the details reported under hypnosis thus become senseless speculations."

Best known in this country for work on hypnotic regression is Harry Harris and his team. Harry has done much work on cases involving time lapses. He briefly spoke of his work at a BUFORA conference held in Edinburgh in 1982. This prompted Steuart Campbell to investigate just what reliance could be placed on events related under hypnosis. He presents some strong evidence to show that little reliance can be placed upon hypnotically recalled stories. CAMPBELL (1982) quotes Martin Orne, Past President of the International Society of Hypnosis as stating: "It is extremely difficult to know what aspects of hypnotically aided recall are historically accurate and which aspects have been confabulated." This view is reinforced by a number of studies carried out to test the validity of hypnotic recall to provide evidence in criminal cases. DYWAN and BOWERS (1982) report that increased recall under hypnosis may not be a result of new memories but "may instead result from less caution by subjects in what they are willing to report as memories." They further go on to conclude "Hypnosis may heighten the sense of recognition associated with even falsely recalled items, in effect fooling a central processor or editor responsible for memorial judgments." LAURENCE and PERRY (1983) demonstrated how easily pseudomemories could be created in hypnotised subjects and point out that in highly motivated individuals such as the victim of a crime these memories may subsequent to hypnosis, come to be believed true. The general opinion seems to be that the more times a witness undergoes hypnotic regression, the more falsely recalled items are incorporated into the original story.

JAMALUDIN (1984) describes

two different forms of the UFO abduction. The first of these are those cases where some form of amnesia is involved. These are the time loss cases such as the Betty and Barney Hill case. The second group does not involve time loss. In Jamaludin's comparative study only those witnesses who claimed time loss also claimed to have had intelligible communication with their abductors. This was the only difference found between amnesic and non-amnesic groups. Could it be that such communication is a pseudo-memory created under hypnosis and essentially both classes of abduction are the same? SPENCER (1984) has carried out a much more extensive review of hypnotic regression and concludes it to be an unreliable tool for UFO research. Therefore we must look to other methods to calibrate our witnesses.

An alternative and equally controversial method has been suggested by Alex Keul. This is the UFO anamnesis technique. This is a totally different kind of personality test from the classic Rorschach test. The Rorschach test is also known as the ink blot test and its validity is seriously questioned by a number of authorities (BOURNE and EKSTRAND, 1979), BERGER (1982) and KEUL (1984a) suggest that we take a wider view of the witness and his perceptual abilities. Indeed in his Austrian studies KEUL (1982) has applied a wide range of psychological tests including the Rorschach, the Benton short-term memory test and the Wechsler Adult Intelligence test in addition to his own questionnaire, the UFO anamnesis. In the UK many of the tests used by Keul would not be generally available. Keul explains the anamnesis as being a searching series of questions concerning the circumstances surrounding the UFO experience which are put to the witness, together with questions regarding his life history and health. When collecting such data a whole range of new problems arise concerning confidentiality and the disclosure. Elsewhere in this journal the test of a paper presented by Keul to the 1982 Salzburg Colloquium describes his evaluation of five UFO witnesses (KEUL, 1985).

Keul's anamnesis has caused a certain amount of controversy. As he has pointed out (KEUL 1984b) the anamnesis test is an additional technique suitable for those cases where physical data are lacking and it is not intended to replace more conventional methods. To aid in the proper evaluation of this technique the research department of BUFORA has undertaken to support some control experiments and has made a grant towards the costs involved. In the UK Ken Phillips has been working with Keul on anamnesis. As well as holding a number of discussion sessions on the technique Ken recently presented a paper at the Anglo-French UFO Congress giving the current status of his project. Much more work will need to be done before this technique gains wide acceptance.

If we are thinking of our witness as being a recording instrument, then we need to understand how a witness detects and interprets his UFO experience. This is the process of perception. In my review of the role of the research department of BUFORA (GAMBLE 1984). I proposed the establishment of a section to study psychological and physiological explanations of UFO origin. The work of such a section could be expanded to include studies on how witnesses perceive "objects." We are not alone in considering the senses as physical instruments. A useful overview of this area is given by BARLOW (1982).

Because the witness is the means of collecting our raw data, I believe we need to carefully assess the reliability of the data we can collect. Therefore I propose to initiate a study into the problems of witness reliability. This will consider the validity of any of the available techniques. If you feel you are able to contribute as a member of such a working party, then

please contact me at the research headquarters, giving as much detail as possible of your experience and how you feel you could contribute. If you are not able to be a member of the working party, but would like to submit written or other evidence for consideration, please do. Already, Ken Phillips is working on a controlled study of Keul's anamnesis techniques and I hope we will be able to review his results.

So it can be seen that despite there being a number of methods to evaluate witnesses that no universal methods as gained favour. In each of the methods described there are important drawbacks. This has not been an exhaustive review of methods of witness evaluation but has possibly highlighted an important area for further research.

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A STATISTICAL OVERVIEW - 1980-1982

MICHAEL R. WOOTTEN

MR WOOTTEN IS BUFORA'S RIC FOR THE EAST REGION (GREATER LONDON, ESSEX, THE EASTERN HALF OF HERTFORDSHIRE AND THE SOUTHERN HALF OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE). HE IS CURRENTLY HEADING A TEAM OF BUFORA INVESTIGATORS CODING PAST AND PRESENT UFO CASES REPORTED TO THE ASSOCIATION.

THE SAMPLE

The sample consists of 205 cases that were investigated by BUFORA between January, 1980 and December, 1982. Of the cases 175 were evaluated as IFOs, including insufficient data (85.4%) and 30 were evaluated as UFOs/URPs (14.6%). The 205 cases fall into the following categories:

	<u>IFOs</u>	<u>UFOs</u>
Low Definition	81	2
Med Definition	82	15
CE2	10	13
CE3	1	0
CE4	1	0

The evaluation breakdown is as follows:

Insufficient Data	57
UFOs/UAPs	30
Aircraft	28
Meteors	18
Astronomical *	11
Venus	10
Stars	7
Balloons	7
Satellite	5
Ball Lightning	5
Signal flares	4
Helicopter	3
Jupiter/Saturn	2
Moon	2
Hoax	2
Hallucination	2
Kite	2
Noctilucent cloud	1
Farm equipment	1
Eye floater	1
Aircraft vapour	1
Airship	1
Lighthouse	1
Searchlight	1
Ground light	1
Reflections	1
Fire	1

It is unfortunate that there is a high proportion of cases that have insufficient information to form any kind of evaluation. This is mainly due to a lack of investigation as the next Table showing levels of investigation will indicate (1)

	<u>UFOs</u>	<u>IFOs</u>
LEVEL A	20	15
LEVEL B	49	77
LEVEL C	101	8
LEVEL D	4	0
LEVEL E	1	0

As can be seen from the total sample, a majority of cases (53.2%) are made up of solitary RI sighting account forms. In most instances this was justifiable. But there were several promising cases that simply were not followed up. This, I am pleased to say, is a thing of the past.

It is particularly interesting to note that both IFO and UFO witness figures (see Table over) are almost identical. If we were to consider that UFOs are simply unsolved, mundane IFOs then we would expect the UFO sample to mirror the UFO sample. But considering the calibre of the witness, 13.4% of UFO witnesses are experienced observers. Is the 10% difference enough to counteract this argument?

* Considered to be astronomical in nature (i.e. stars or planets (but insufficient data precluded a precise evaluation.

THE WITNESSES

Observational quality of the witness.

	<u>IFOs</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>UFOs</u>
Official observers (pilots etc)	0.6		0
Experienced observers (police etc)	3.4		13.4
Unexperienced observers	96.0		87.7

WITNESS NUMBERS

Two or more independent witnesses	6.9	6.7
Two or more at one location	53.7	60.0
One witness only	39.4	33.3

These figures are not strong enough on their own to prove anything. The following sets of statistics will have to be considered before coming to any conclusion.

<u>TOTAL HOURLY DISTRIBUTION</u>		
	<u>IFO</u>	<u>UFO</u>
0000-0059	7	2
0100-0159	8	1
0200-0259	3	1
0300-0359	3	1
0400-0459	5	2
0500-0559	5	0
<hr/>		
0600-0659	5	1
0700-0759	5	0
0800-0859	4	0
0900-0959	2	0
1000-1059	3	1
1100-1159	0	0
<hr/>		
1200-1259	2	0
1300-1359	1	0
1400-1459	2	0
1500-1559	5	0
1600-1659	6	2
1700-1759	7	1
<hr/>		
1800-1859	10	2
1900-1959	20	2
2000-2059	12	6
2100-2159	18	2
2200-2259	21	1
2300-2359	20	2
<hr/>		
201 cases (4 null text)		

The hourly distribution of the sample seems to correlate

strongly with studies made by CUFOS (UFOCAT) and Alan Hendry(2). In both of these studies a peak of 2100 was discovered in both IFO and UFO samples. In the BUFORA sample 58% of IFO cases occur between 1800 and 2359, compared with 56% of UFO cases in the same period. Again, as the IFO figures compare with the UFO figures, does this confirm the conclusion considered when we dealt with the witness information? Or is it just a reflection of human observational behaviour.

Daily Distribution (GRAPH 1)

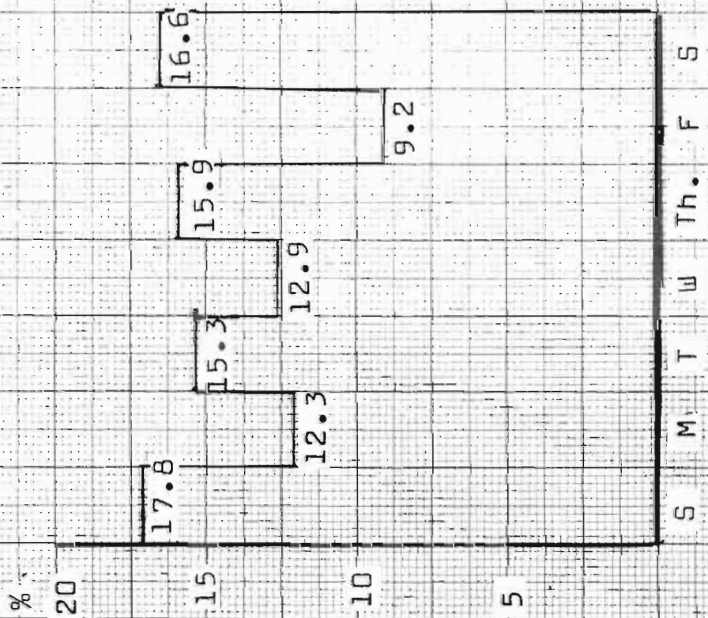
This is always a favourite statistic. According to the sample, if you want to see a UFO your best chance is on a Thursday. In all the statistical analyses undertaken there are no two that agree when it comes to the day of the week. John Keel noted a Wednesday peak. A NUFON study discovered a Sunday peak and so on (2). This only proves that both IFO and UFO behaviour is purely random when considering the day of the week.

Monthly Distribution (GRAPH 2)

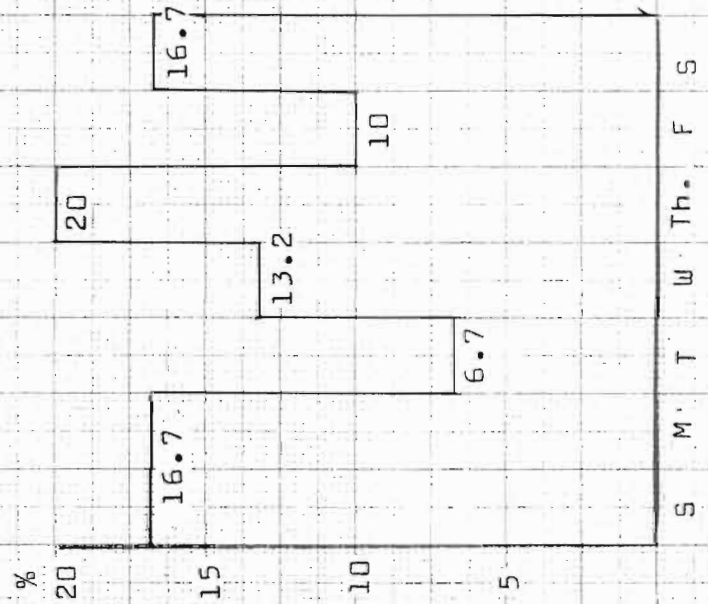
The UFO graph seems to show a different pattern from the IFO graph. The IFO graph indicates a randomness in the sample, when the UFO graph shows a positive peak in August. However, when we look at the figures more closely another pattern emerges, i.e.

GRAPH 1

IFOs vs DAYS OF THE WEEK
175 CASES (12 NULL TEXT)

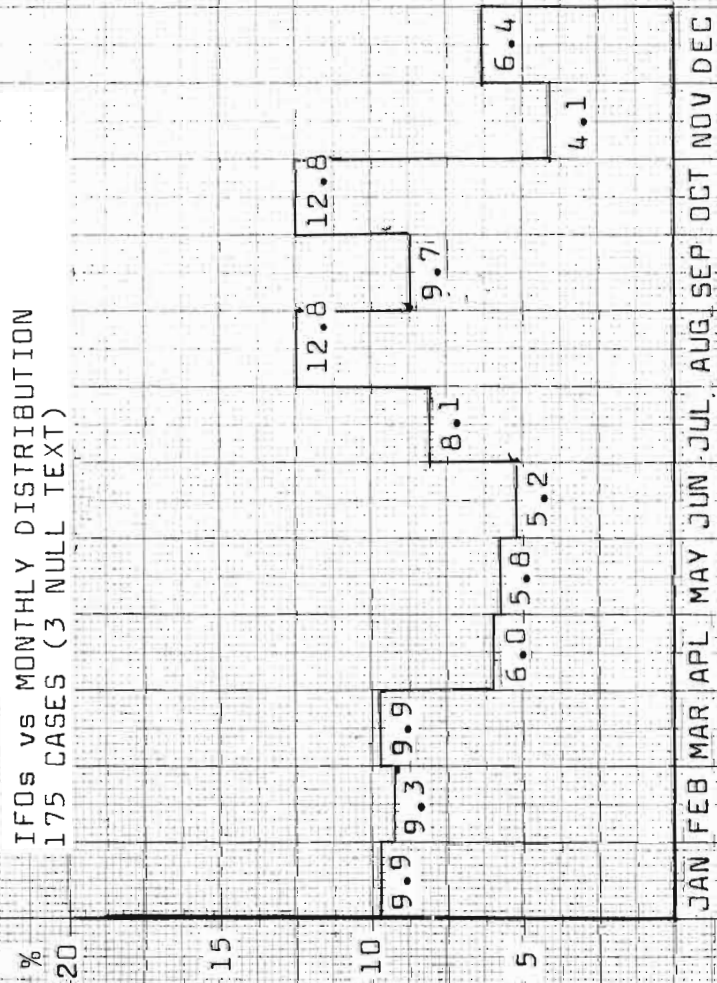


UFOs vs DAYS OF THE WEEK
30 CASES (0 NULL TEXT)

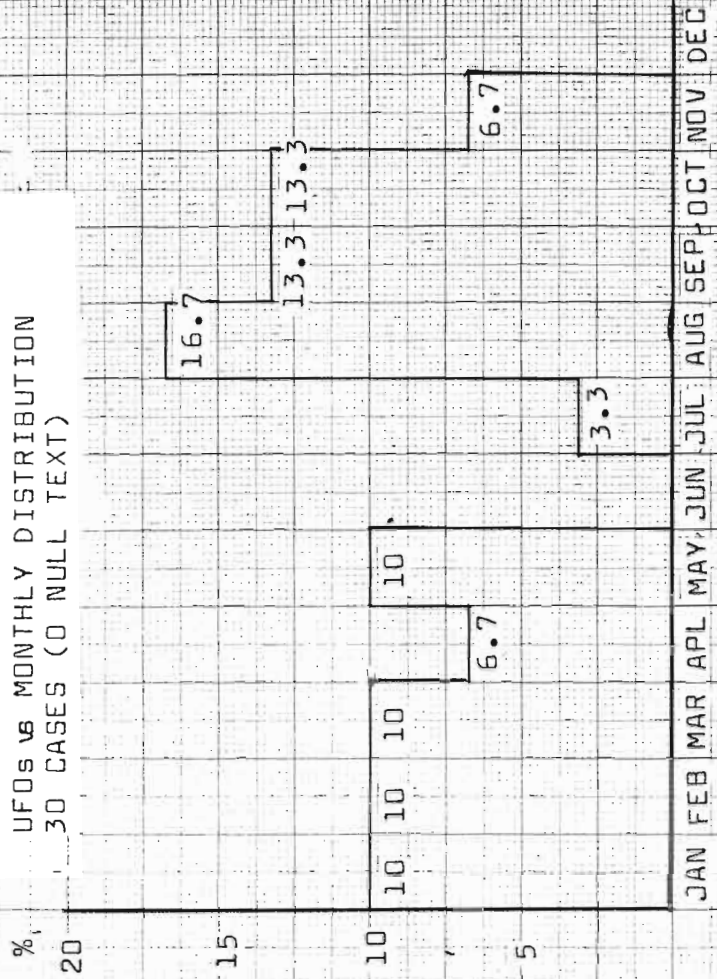


GRAPH 2

IFOs vs MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION
175 CASES (3 NULL TEXT)



UFOs vs MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION
30 CASES (0 NULL TEXT)



IFOs vs DURATION
175 CASES (2 NULL TEXT)

%

35

30

25

20

15

10

5

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

GRAPH 3

13.3

11

9.8

11.6

9.2

15.6

6.9

4

2.9

UFOs vs DURATION
30 CASES (2 NULL TEXT)

%

35

30

25

20

15

10

5

0

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

32.9

21.4

14.3

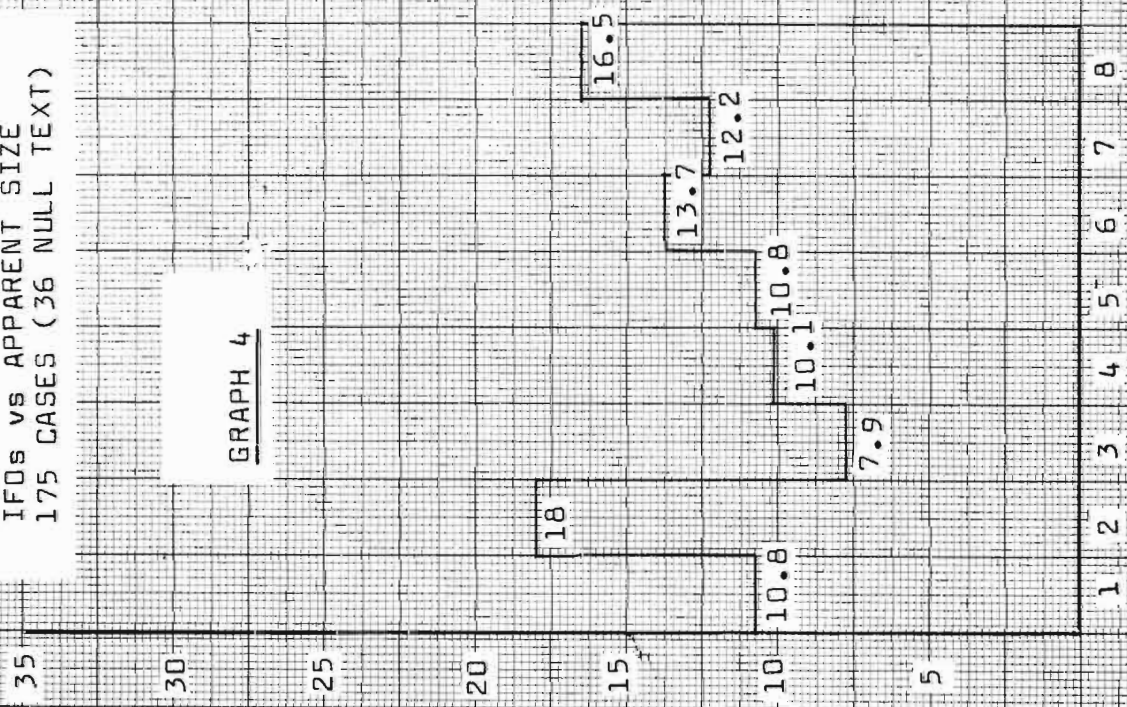
10.7

7.1

3.6

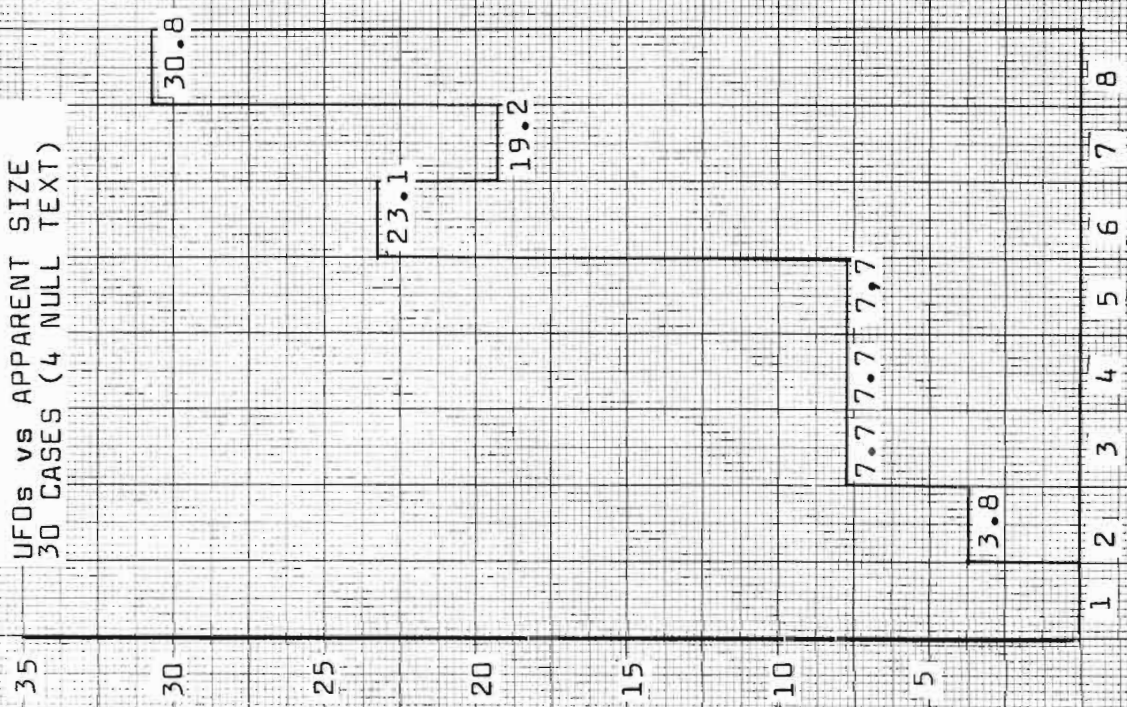
3.6

IFOs vs APPARENT SIZE
175 CASES (36 NULL TEXT)



GRAPH 4

UFOs vs APPARENT SIZE
30 CASES (4 NULL TEXT)



	<u>IFOs</u>	<u>UFOs</u>
January-June	46.1	46.7
July-December	53.9	53.3

Looking at the figures in six monthly blocks, we can see that there is an uncanny resemblance between the IFOs and the UFOs.

Yearly Distribution

1980	113
1981	62
1982	28

In this three year sample, there has been a steady decline in reports. This may, to some extent, be due to a higher public awareness of what is in the skies around them. This is if we are dealing with a "UFOs are unsolved IFOs" hypothesis. If the phenomenon is a natural one, beyond the boundaries of present scientific knowledge, then we would not have peaks and troughs unless we are dealing with a phenomenon that has long duration cycles (sun spot activity for example).

Duration Distribution (GRAPH 3)

The duration parameter is arranged in "areas of time" and coded in the following manner:

<u>CODE</u>	
0	0-9 seconds
1	10-29 seconds
2	30-59 seconds
3	1-2,59 minutes
4	3-4,59 minutes
5	5-9,59 minutes
6	10-29,59 minutes
7	30-59,59 minutes
8	1-1,59 hours
9	2 hours or more

From these statistics, the IFO duration seem to stay fairly steady then trail off after approximately 30 minutes. On the other side however, the UFO durations show a strong peak between 10 and 30 minutes. Duration is a suspect parameter. Most, if not all UFO/IFO witnesses will either underestimate, or, more commonly, overestimate the duration of his or her sighting.

Consider a case that Steve Chetwynd and I investigated in 1983. The witnesses were sure that they watched a spectacular UFO aerial display for 45 minutes (3). After reconstructing "time markers", i.e. what was on the television at the time etc., we arrived at a duration of 15 minutes. This is by no means unique.

Dr. Claude Poher conducted a survey of 508 UFO events and 350 IFO events in 1974 (4). In his study of their relative durations, Dr. Poher revealed that there was a definite difference between IFO durations and the UFOs peaked at the 8.10 minute range. Alas, the BUFORA sample does not support Dr. Poher's findings.

Apparent Size Distribution

(GRAPH 4)

<u>CODE</u>	
1.	Pinhead
2.	Pea
3.	Half penny
4.	Penny
5.	Twopence
6.	Golfball
7.	Tennis ball
8.	Other

Apparent size is a parameter that is least stated by witnesses. Out of the 205 sample only 165 (19.5%) included statements on apparent size. However, this parameter shows promise! The IFO/UFO graph shows a general "random equalness" between sizes. But the UFO graph shows a steady increase in apparent size, peaking at 30.8% (Other)

CONCLUSION

I will be quite honest, the statistical analysis has failed to prove anything. In some instances, the sample shows a UFO "signal" above the IFO "noise". The only benefit that statistics have within ufology is that it shows us where we are going wrong.

The above analysis has failed to be conclusive like many other statistical studies in the past. Are we looking at the wrong parameters? This study has proved one thing, physical parameters do not hold the key to solving the UFO enigma alone.

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REPORT INDEX

BUFORA holds what must be within the UK a unique collection of case reports. It has not been possible to realise the full potential of this as a research tool because the cases are not classified by time, location or principal features of the report. Work is underway to correct this situation. Early in 1984 Mike Wooten approached Steve Gamble, Head of BUFORA's computer group, with a proposal for a register of members. It was felt that a more urgent requirement was an index of the case reports and after consultation Mike started work on this project.

Mike came back with a proposal for data to include in the index. After discussion of this format one or two minor amendments were made. Over the months Mike has been able to enlist the help of a number of other members. He has also designed a new case summary form which will make the coding of new cases much simpler.

At the time of writing all the cases for the years 1980-1983 have been coded. As reports are received for the years 1984-85 they are added to the temporary index. These two indices contain about 250 reports. Current work is on those cases for the years 1970-1973. This will allow comparisons to be carried out between years a decade apart.

A duplicate version of the index is held by the Director of Research. This index also holds basic information on a number of cases from earlier years. These deal mainly with incidents or dates that are currently the subject of research projects.

An early attempt was made at classifying reports using punched cards. This was initiated by Anthony Pace in the mid-1970s and subsequently taken over by Peter Hill. Using this method Peter coded most of the reports for 1977. This amounts to almost 900 reports. From this work we were able to see the value of statistical analysis in research and were able to better formulate future arrangements.

BUFORA EVENING LECTURES

Evening lectures, on all aspects of Ufology will be held on the first Saturday of each month at 6.30pm at the LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL, SUSSEX PLACE, LONDON NW1
Dates for 1985 are:

OCTOBER 5th, 1985

THE ENGLISH WITNESS PROJECT
Ken Phillips

NOVEMBER 2nd, 1985

Details to be announced

DECEMBER 7th, 1985

AGM to be followed by a talk
by Hugh Pincott of ASSAP.

All members and non-members are welcome.

Entrance fee remain unchanged
from 1984 £1 for members
£2.50 non-members.

THE POSSIBLE EXISTENCE OF LIFE ON THE SUN, AND ON SOME OTHER STARS, **IS PRESENTED** IN THIS ARTICLE. ADMITTEDLY, THE HYPOTHESIS SOUNDS BIZARRE AND NONSENSICAL. SUCH IS THE NATURE OF NEW DISCOVERIES IN THIS ARTICLE. I WILL TRY TO SHOW THAT THE PROPOSED POSSIBILITY GOES FAR BEYOND IDLE SPECULATION AND THAT IT IS A RATIONAL CONSEQUENCE OF THE PRESENT STATE-OF-KNOWLEDGE. THE HYPOTHESIS IS BASED ON CAREFUL AND LENGTHY STUDY OF DIVERSE SUBJECTS AND IT WILL CHALLENGE NOT ONLY OUR KNOWLEDGE ON THE SCIENCES AND THE ARTS; BUT ALSO THE ESTABLISHED COMMON SENSE OF OUR TIME. THE STATE-OF-KNOWLEDGE TODAY IS SUFFICIENTLY ADVANCED FOR US TO BE ABLE TO VERIFY THE FANTASTIC POSSIBILITY, TO COMPREHEND ITS REALITY, AND HOPEFULLY, TO COPE WITH IT; IF IT TURNS OUT TO BE TRUE. IF (AND WHAT ANOTHER BIG IF) THE HYPOTHESIS IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK, THEN THE IMPACT ON HUMANITY WILL BE PROFOUND.

11. REFLECTIONS

New discoveries often appear to our "common sense" to be bizarre and noncommonsensical. This is not due to irrationality in the thing or process being discovered, but it is due to limitations in our experience and knowledge. The discovery of the proposed solar life is not, in my opinion, stranger than the discovery that water, the quencher of flame and fire is, itself, composed of the most flammable and most combustible elements in nature. This type of discovery requires, as a first step towards its comprehension, the expurgation of common sense. Glowing and self-luminous objects and beings are neither found in the scientists' handbooks or libraries, nor are they found in the Homo sapiens' daily experience of the senses. The absence of solar

type from our daily experience can be the primary cause of our failure to recognise the fantastic possibility of solar life at an earlier time.

The proposed fiery and glowing solar life hypothesis may turn out to be just another unsuccessful attempt at finding out whether we are alone in the universe or not. Attempts to discover the existence of intelligent life outside of Earth have been numerous and unsuccessful. The hypotheses and speculations about "supposed" space aliens who had visited Earth in the past are many. Equally numerous have been the attempts to solve the "enigmatic residue" of the UFO phenomena, and the possible development and evolution of life outside of our globe, Earth. My treatise here will be incomplete

without reference to these other attempts. I will only briefly mention some of the major ideas and solutions which have been proposed, particularly, during our century.

The most popular cosmic bodies which were believed to harbour life included Mars and Venus. The Moon fell out of favour much earlier. Other bodies considered in our solar system included the hypothetical Lilliputs(53) and the so-called 12th Planet (54). The 12th Planet is proposed to orbit the sun in a highly elliptical orbit reaching far into space when near apogee. This planet, according to the author, is Marduk of the Epic of Creation - a Babylonian Sun-god. Lilliputs are hypothetical giant planets which are said to orbit the Sun far beyond Pluto's orbit. These, and other solar system bodies, do not suffer from the problem of space immensity in view of the reported periodic visitations of space beings to Earth. Terrestrial regions have also been proposed, such as, the Hollow Earth Theory and the Underwater Civilization Theory (55)

Other popular theories(56), which take us beyond the solar system include the Time Travel Theory, the Ultraterrestrial Theory, the Psychic Projection theory, and other space-time dimensions, warps and parallel worlds and universes, and anti-matter existences. It is obvious that many of these ideas are proposed to side step the issue of space immensity, as instantaneous space travel and "faster than the speed of light" speeds are implied.

The search for intelligent radio signals has been concentrated on Sun-like stars in our galaxy. Project Ozma, for example, concentrated on the stars Tau Ceti and Epsilon Eridani. Another star which was proposed to be life-nourishing is the Sirius star(57).

This star was proposed in accordance with the traditions of an African tribe named the Dogon, and other traditions.

Speculations about "ancient astronauts and gods" who, supposedly, visited our planet in the past are very many. These treatises, however, stop short of proposing specific cosmic stations as the home of the proposed visitors.

The attempts to detect or explain the possible existence of non-terrestrial life are reminiscent of the alchemists' search for gold's secret. The alchemists never succeeded to make gold, although they "mixed, boiled, blended, burned, powered, dissolved, sublimated and treated in every possible way the four basic elements of Democritus"(58).

If my hypothesis turns out to be another such "unsuccessful" attempt then, all is well.

I say, "all is well" for if the proposed hypothesis is correct, then, we stand on the threshold of a revolutionary step in our cosmic evolution. We are just beginning to understand the development and evolution of life here on Earth. We are just beginning to understand the development and evolution of life here on Earth. We are far from comprehending the ultimate reality of the development of life and the evolution of the intellect. Just as our present comprehension of these and other matters dwarfs that of a century ago, so will ours appear naive a century hence. The inquisitive search for universal truths must continue, even if in the process we may chance upon facts that may appear to tear the foundation of our knowledge, beliefs, and common sense. These foundations have been agitated before, yet, we have always survived the resulting upheavals with better footing on stronger foundation.

If (and what a big IF) the

existence of life on the Sun is confirmed in the future, then, this will have profound impact on humanity. The impact will be felt, not only by science and technology, but also, by our theologies, philosophies, social, political, and international affairs. The impact need not be adverse unless we desire for it to be so.

In conclusion, I declare that the possibility (or even the proof) of the existence of solar life is neither a cause of victory to the evolutionist, nor should it be a source of dismay to the creationist. While the theme of this article is consistent with the unified cosmic evolutionary process as perceived by modern science I like to close with the following quotes from the holy books of the Great Judaic-Christian-Islamic lineage, which seem to hint the fantastic possibility:

"And God called the firmament Heaven" (GEN 1.8)

"These are the generations of the (H)eaven and of the earth...." (GEN 2.4)

"He said, "But I see four men loose walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods." (DAN 3.25)

"He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm ...they changed their minds and said that he was a god." (ACTS 28.5)

"We created Man from sounding clay, from mud moulded into shape; And the Jinn race, We had created before, from the fire of a scorching wind." (QUR'AN xv 26,27).

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COMPUTER SURVEY

As many members will be aware BUFORA is starting to computerise its records. This is being done in order to increase the effectiveness of our archive of cases records as a research tool and to provide a means of exchanging data with other members of the International Committee for UFO Research (ICUR). ICUR has a special sub-committee looking at the problem of exchanging computer data. This committee is headed by former BUFORA Chairman Robert Digby.

In the longer term BUFORA will need to purchase its own computer equipment in the meantime we would be interested in knowing if members are using computers for UFO research and if they would be interested in helping in computer research projects. As a first stage in this Research Projects Officer, Paul Fuller, is conducting a survey.

The Home Computer Questionnaire can be found on page of this issue of JTAP. Members who are interested are asked to complete it and return it to Paul Fuller at the address given on the form.

Photo-copies of the form will be accepted from those who do not wish to remove the page from the Journal.

DATA PROTECTION ACT - 1984

This note is not designed to be a definitive statement on the Act and is merely to bring the Act to the notice of people who may be using automatic data processing equipment to store information about individuals. If you feel this applies to you, you should seek advice from an expert source.

The information contained in this note was extracted from Guideline Number 1 An Introduction to the Act and Guide for Data Users and Computer bureaux, published by the Data Protection Registrar (Address: Springfield House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AX)

The Act received the Royal Assent on July 12th, 1984. It is the first legislation in the UK to address the use of computers and brings the UK into line with many other countries. The purpose of the Act is to protect information about individuals and to enforce standards for the processing of such information.

To monitor the operation of the Act a Data Registrar has been appointed. His job is to maintain a register of all data users which will include details of what the information is used for. It is the duty of the data user to register. The registration process will start in November and all data users will have six months to register. The Data Registrar will also have the power to enforce a Code of Practice known as the Data Protection Principles. These define how information will be obtained, that information should be accurate, how the information shall be disclosed (and how it shall not be disclosed) and that data will be kept securely.

If you use any form of automated equipment to process data about individuals (the word computer is specifically not used in the Act) you will probably need to register. In Guideline 1 personal data is defined as any information which relates to a living individual who can be identified from that information OR OTHER INFORMATION IN THE POSSESSION OF THE DATA USER. This would mean that you might identify people in your computer database as Witness 1, Witness 2, etc you would still have to register if you had written somewhere on paper a list which showed that witness 1 was called John Smith and lived at 5 The High Street. A fee will be charged for each registration. A registration will last for up to three years.

It is in your own interest to check if this Act relates to you. We are unable to offer expert advice on the application of the Act. This note is only to bring the existence of the Act to your notice.

CASE REPORT CODES

Every year BUFORA receives a number of reports of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) phenomena. Each of these cases is given a unique number. Many people do not understand this numbering system, so it will be explained here.

The BUFORA archive consists of around 10,000 individual cases. This is made up of comprehensive records covering the 25 years of BUFORA's existence and a number of reports pre-dating its formation. These reports include those submitted by BUFORA's own investigators and those added by member societies. The archive represents a unique research tool covering cases from the early 1900s to the present day.

The numbering system in current use was introduced when Anthony Pace was Director of Research. As each completed report is received by the Director of Investigations it is given a number. This five digit number consists of the first two digits which identify the year of the sighting followed by three digits to identify that report within a year. For example if we take case number 75-100, this occurred in 1975 and was the one hundredth completed report received by BUFORA. The number gives no indication of either the day or the month of the sighting or of the location.

Case reports are stored in sequence of their case report numbers. This has meant in the past that the only way to find a report of a given incident was to look through all the reports for that year. To overcome this a computer-based index is being prepared which will allow easy access to individual reports. However there are a large number of early reports which do not carry their case number. These will be allocated as part of the indexing project. The opportunity is being taken to repair damaged reports and to bind them into groups of 50 for easy handling.

Aims and scope of the Journal

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

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

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

Notes for contributors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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