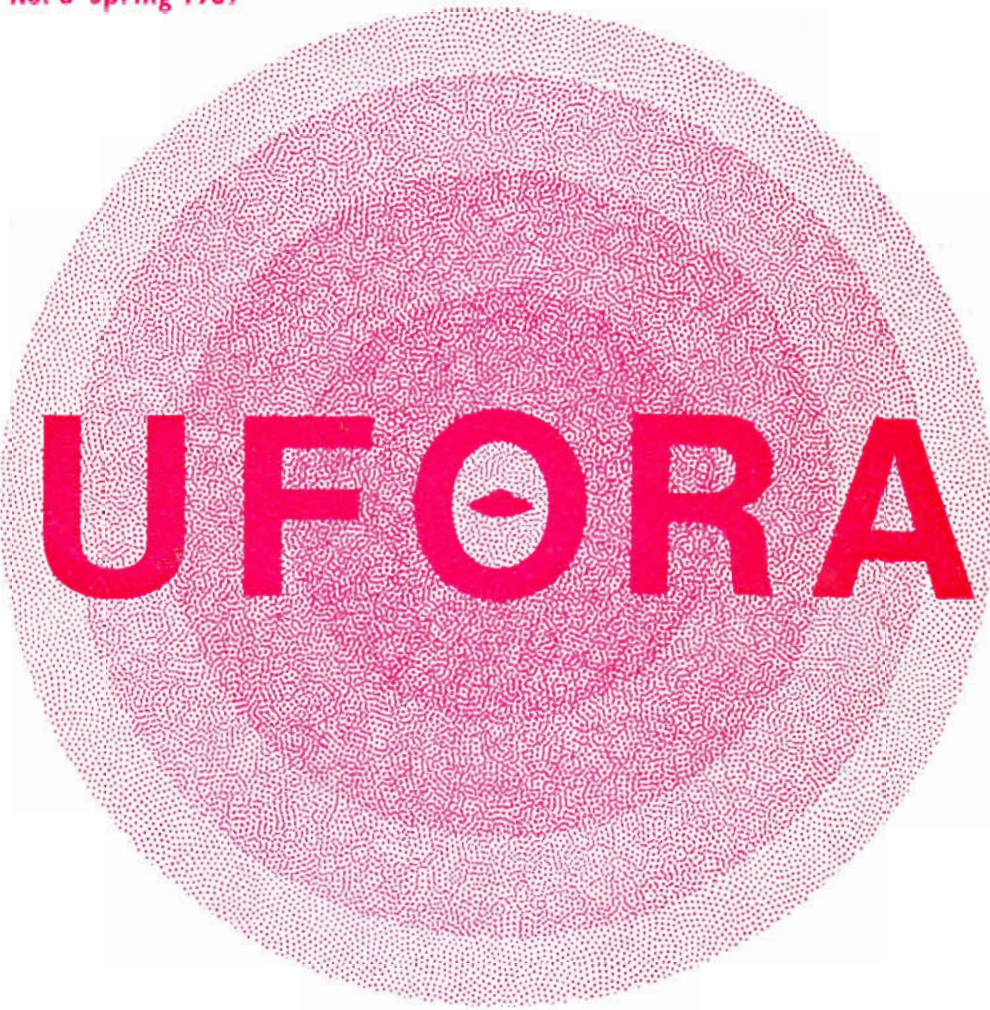


Volume 2 No. 8 Spring 1969



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 8

Spring 1969

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LECTURES : The Association sponsors monthly meetings in London. Details of meetings arranged by member societies or branches, should be obtained by writing direct to them.

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AIMS :

1. To encourage and promote unbiased scientific investigation and research into Unidentified Flying Objects.
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.

MEMBERSHIP : The annual subscription is 25/-, \$4 U.S.A. and Canada. Membership is open to all persons supporting the aims of the Association and whose application is approved by the Executive Committee. Application/Information Forms are obtainable from Miss C. Henning, 99 Mayday Gardens, Blackheath, London S.E.3., or any other Officer.

JOURNAL : Published Quarterly and available to Members only, or by exchange. Publications should be sent direct to the Editor.

EDITORIAL

The Condon Committee failed to uncover any evidence proving UFOS to be alien vehicles. This negative finding—long anticipated by your Editor—has evoked a chorus of abuse from certain UFO buffs, directed at the members of the Committee.

I decline absolutely to join the chorus. With one possible exception (R. J. Low), I believe that the scientists involved in the University of Colorado Project, although admittedly they entered upon their task expecting to arrive at just such a result as they actually did, would have been sufficiently open-minded to have delivered a pro-UFO verdict if they had found evidence to justify them in so doing.

The fault lay in their choice of data.

The UFO phenomenon has been with us for over twenty years and is world-wide in extent. The evidence for UFOS as alien craft lies in the "cream" of the sighting reports which have been recorded. We cannot prove anything by mere accumulation of reports, which has been the prime fallacy of UFO students all along. Scientists cannot hope to obtain a clear understanding of the implications of the subject by a selection of reports restricted both as to time and locale, which is where the Condon Committee went astray.

It is significant, however, that around 15 per cent of the reports and photographs studied by the Committee could not be written off as positively due to man-made objects or natural phenomena.

There is much in the Report which is deserving of close study by UFO-researchers. There is also, one is bound to observe, much which is redundant and irrelevant. For instance, was it necessary to waste the valuable time of Dr. R. L. Duncombe of the U.S. Naval Observatory, in proving that Truman Bethurum's "Clarion" is a myth? Only persons grossly ignorant of the first principles of Astronomy can ever have regarded it as anything else. Perhaps the lady who tried to "sell" the idea of this inevitable orb to the Committee, has the ear of influential political circles in Washington D.C.

I do not personally anticipate that the Condon Report will exert any marked influence on the future of UFO-research. Like the Robertson Panel of 1953, it will convince nobody who is not already sure that UFOS are "the bunk". I believe it to be an honest document and in a few directions a valuable one. Be this as it may, the salient conclusion it reaches is wrong and time will prove it to be wrong.

The Condon Report is published under the title, "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects", by Bantam Books. Its price in the U.K. is 12s. 6d.

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

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

BUSY EASTER UFO'S SEEN AT WARMINSTER

At least 15 inexplicable flying objects or lights were seen over the Warminster area during the Easter holiday period, with over 50 reports received from independent witnesses. The fact that no military exercises were on helped to avoid confusion and error in evaluation. Possible satellites and high-flying jet aircraft were ruled out after careful analyses of testimony that flooded in during the following week. For example, a party of young watchers at Cley Hill included Cambridge, York and Hampshire students, also a violinist at the London Royal College of Music.

Between dusk on Good Friday and 12.30 a.m. on Saturday, they observed seven UFO's or unidentified flying objects, apart from scheduled satellites whose timings they had listed.

From the even more noted Cradle Hill at Warminster, about 30 people witnessed the aerial manoeuvres of a UFO that hovered brightly and silently at low altitude in the north for several minutes, before moving off rapidly and vanishing.

Mr. Christopher Trubridge, of Gosport, photographed it with a camera fitted with a 400 mm. magnification lens, so expects remarkable pictures, even though the moon had not risen by that hour—9.30 p.m. on Saturday.

Retired Wing-Commander and fighter pilot Mr. Andrew Deytrikh, of Kalevala, Hollybush Ride, Wokingham, Berkshire, says this of a strange sighting at about 8.35 p.m. on Thursday, April 3rd.

"My wife and youngest son were with me about two miles along the Wylve-Chicklade-Mere road between 20.30 and 21.00 hours. The conditions for night viewing were excellent, no mist, no clouds.

"We had not been in position for more than five minutes and, whilst scanning high and to the south, I observed quite suddenly the appearance of what I would have said was a meteorite travelling from south-east to north-west in a straight line.

"We all observed it for a period of 20 seconds. In my estimation it was well below 2,000 feet, was quite silent, and the intense brilliant white light conformed to the configuration of a tadpole or peardrop shape.

"There appeared to be a rim of orange on the forward rounded end, whilst the tail seemed to be of a whitish blue. It was a magnificent sight. The light disappeared as suddenly as it had appeared over Warminster, without seeming to slow down in any way.

"My immediate reaction to the "meteorite" was: Why no noise at such a low level? There should at least have been a sonic boom, but not even the sound of rushing air, which was very strange indeed.

"Normally one sees meteorites burn out at very high altitudes, but if one freak should get through then the tell tale light of the meteorite as it continues its rapid path through the thick layers of the atmosphere should be with it from—say—70,000 feet down to whatever height it burns completely out; and therefore it can be seen for a considerable time.

"It would not all of a sudden appear, especially if an observer happens to be scanning that particular part of the sky. He would have picked it up at some considerable distance away". The retired senior R.A.F. officer and family saw other peculiar "things" over the period, also.

Confirmation of this unusual sighting came from nine other independent witnesses. Secondary schoolmaster Mr. Kenneth I. Francis and his wife were walking down the lane from Upton Scudamore to Warminster at about 30 minutes after sunset.

Mr. Francis said: "I noticed a brightly glowing object come from an easterly direction, pass swiftly and almost directly overhead, then burn out in the west. The height of the object above my head I would judge to be about 1,000 feet.

"The duration of the light, as observed by me, was only about five seconds. My wife thought the object to be something from the Army range on Salisbury Plain—but there appears to be no activity there tonight. The thing could best be described as a shooting star, but of very low altitude.

"This brief encounter with the unknown certainly added an unusual interest to my usually uneventful evening walk!" he added. Mr. Francis living at the Old Rectory, Upton Scudamore, Warminster, wrote a confirming letter the same night. A Mr. Richard Harris and other London visitors affirmed a similar type of sighting at around 8.40 p.m., direction given as "about east to west".

Almost 4,000 visitors from various parts of the world have been to hilltop sites around Warminster in the past three years, an estimated 90 per cent rewarded by unusual sky sightings, given good weather and sky conditions. They include Russian scientists, American and French aero-engineers, etc.

Arthur Shuttlewood.

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MY POINT OF VIEW

In attempting to solve the mystery of the Unidentified Flying Objects I think it is most important that the serious researcher stick to facts and figures and rational theories and refuse to be drawn to any form of mysticism or psychical phenomena. Even rational theories must be discarded when they no longer prove tenable. The subject is too important to be brought into disrepute by allowing ourselves to be inveigled by bizarre notions or strange manifestations.

I am prepared to accept that spiritual and psychical phenomena do exist, and may be increasingly in evidence as the days go by, but whether the problem of the UFO is any part of this is an uncertain and indeed debatable issue. For the present, however, it is my opinion that we should concentrate on the scientific and practical aspects of the problem. All authentic sightings should be listed, considered and duly appraised by competent people. Where this is done chronologically, geographically and systematically, undoubtedly a pattern may emerge, if indeed it is not already apparent to the initiated or the more penetrating of the researchers.

As to the basic fact of the matter I have no doubt. I, personally, am convinced of the existence of UFOs commonly called "Flying Saucers". The evidence is so overwhelming, so many people in so many places at different dates and times during the past two decades or so especially, have testified to seeing and in a number of cases to hearing the occasional noise of these strange aerial craft that the fact cannot be gainsaid.

The bibliography on the subject—which is also in several languages—is already monumental, providing a vast field for the serious student. No subject in modern times has excited so much comment and opinion, for and against, or eluded human comprehension or rational interpretation. The press and radio are facetious and treat the matter as a joke, while the Church is silent and the authorities, civil and military are united in their silence or quick to deny or explain away whenever the phenomena is observed by competent witnesses. This surely is passing strange!

Therefore, we the interested members of the public must pursue our study and observation with care and patience and perseverance, and be fully prepared to share our knowledge and experience gained as a result of our investigations. To this end the Group and its Journal provide a means whereby we can pursue our quest in obtaining an answer to the problem.

It is possible that it may turn out to be nothing and if so, what matter, no harm is done, no-one is hurt, and furthermore we shall have had the satisfaction of trying to find out if there was anything! On the other hand, there may be something, and if so, we may eventually, if we persist in our curiosity find out something not only for our own interest but for that of our fellow human beings.

Fred O. Gardner, F.R.G.S.

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FROM BUFORA HEADQUARTERS

If you think about it, the Association has been, and will continue to be, pretty active this year

The first two weeks in January saw us exhibiting at Olympia.

Our regular monthly lecture meetings at Kensington Central Library were, and are, organised by Dr. Cleary-Baker.

On April 19th a good number of Members attended at Cambridge for the Research Seminar.

June 28th—BUFORA National Skywatch Day, with over 30 manned vantage points, all organised by Edgar Hatvany.

July and August are holiday months for your hard working Committee! !

September 6th—Northern Regional Conference in Wakefield with Maxwell Cade as the main Guest Speaker.

October 4th—BUFORA Annual General Meeting in London.

November to April, the popular Saturday entertainment.

All this in addition to a quarterly Journal, four Research Bulletins, a tape recording service, a well stocked Library, a "Bookshop", and so on but perhaps most important a well organised and efficient Research Department.

We have about 50 spare copies of the Autumn, 1968 Journal (Vol. 12, No. 6) which contains, among other articles, an important contribution by Dr. G. Doel concerning the 1897 U.S.A. Airship. Should any Member like to relieve us of one or more of these, please send 2s. P.O. to the Honorary Secretary, Mike Holt, who seems to get lumbered with all sorts of strange jobs!

At the end of April your Chairman, Capt. I. Mackay, and Dr. Cleary-Baker were invited to appear on a television programme produced by Yorkshire Television. They travelled to Leeds in the Association's Mobile Research Unit, and as usual these two gentlemen gave a good account of themselves and Ufology.

For personal reasons Philip Fong has had to retire as Honorary Treasurer. At their Meeting on April 12th your Committee appointed Mr. Arnold West as Acting Honorary Treasurer under the authority of Article 3 (g) of the Constitution. We are fortunate in finding such a willing volunteer to take over this demanding post.

News has reached H.Q. of a new UFO Research Group in Surrey, run by Philip Parkinson (BUFORA Member) of 7 Grasmere Road, Purley, Surrey. Philip informs us that his Group hopes to have an exhibition at the end of July, at which some of the better UFO publications will be sold.

The acquisition by BUFORA of the Mobile Research Unit about two years ago with money donated by Members and friends of the Association, seems to have started something. At least three other Regional Groups have now invested in either vans or caravans, but we must, of course, remember that the BUFORA M.R.U. was probably the first UFO Research Vehicle in this country, and possibly in the world.

The Experimental and Observational Unit (EOU) is now in operation. The EOU is situated in a small hamlet in Devon within easy reach of Bodmin and Dartmoor as well as coastal areas. For skywatch purposes during the summer camping facilities are available. West Country Members are invited to contact Peter Maddock, B.Sc., C.Eng., M.I.Mech.E., at "The EOU", Higher Sprytown, Lifton, Devon. Tel. No.: Lifton 373.

Skonor.

THE EOU CLASSIFICATION SCHEME FOR UFO PHENOMENA

In consideration of possibilities for further research into U.F.O. problems, the following method of classifying various types of explanation for these phenomena has been compiled at EOU. This is believed to differ somewhat from other ways of classification, and is based firstly on whether the phenomena are deemed to be either **objective** or **subjective** in character, secondly whether they might be due either to **normal**, to **abnormal**, or to **paranormal** causes.

The distinctions between abnormality and paranormality is clarified below.

I. If the events reported were totally **OBJECTIVE** in nature

Explanations in terms of:

(a) **Normality**

- (1) Certain natural phenomena could have been observed. Here the possibilities are various and well known to Ufologists. For example: optical or electrical effects which took place in the atmosphere, such as parhelia or "sun dogs", fireballs, lightning, or other kinds of luminosity such as that caused by meteors. Also peculiar cloud formations, etc.
- (2) They might have been aerial phenomena associated with man such as the flight of conventional aeroplanes, missiles, or balloons. Alternatively the flight of earth-based vehicles of unconventional types not generally known about.

(b) **Abnormality**

The sightings could imply the existence of ships capable of flying from other planets, propelled by a method which apparently does not employ jet-reaction, and which presumably involves the generation of artificial gravitational fields. They might be occupied by material beings, who have also employed their knowledge about anti-gravity to overcome the damaging effects which high rates of acceleration, including that due to rapid changes of direction in manoeuvre that have been reported by UFO observers, would otherwise have on them.

There are hopes that it may be feasible as knowledge about gravitation becomes more advanced, to create such fields and utilise them for propulsion purposes. As a matter of fact the possible development of "electrogravitic" methods for doing this have been under examination

for some time by certain research bodies, mostly in the United States. But so far as we yet know the results have not been very promising.

Gravitational effects are believed to propagate in wave form, but gravitational waves have not yet been detected in the physical laboratory, and the prospects for generating them artificially seems remote.

(c) **Paranormality**

This is where the present classification begins to markedly diverge.

- (1) As in I (b) above, the UFO may be ships, occupied by material beings, originating from another part of the Universe, but which employ for propulsion an advanced form of **psychokinesis**.

The reasons for introducing this concept is that psychical researchers have been investigating for many years cases of the apparently **paranormal** displacement or flight of material objects: there being a number of well attested records of such events having taken place.

Although psychokinesis appears to be far fetched and no doubt discounted by many, we must remember that science has so far hardly begun to scratch the surface of the mind-matter problem, and to understand the true nature of consciousness and its possible effects.

It may therefore be that the generation of artificial gravitational fields depends not merely on physical, but involves **psychophysical** processes as well.

It is not suggested of course that, even if religious aesthetes like St. Joseph of Cupertino actually could levitate their own bodies psychokinetically, the propulsion of space-ships or UFOs could be accomplished by any human medium! The propulsion unit for such ships might actually consist of an artificial but highly advanced psychophysical device of specialised capability.

- (2) The phenomena might be due to the materialisation (and subsequent dematerialisation) of space or space-time ships, which can flip or translate into and out of our "realm of existence", i.e. into and out of the four dimensional space-time which the theoretical physicists believe our world to consist of.

The emergence and disappearance of certain types of fundamental particle is already known to physics. On the other hand the emergence or disappearance of complex agglomerations of particles such as would comprise an entire space-ship and its occupants is much more difficult to envisage.

But here again, the psychical researchers have been investigating cases of "apport" phenomena for many years, in which various kinds of solid material object have been said to appear or to disappear, apparently under the influence of physical mediumship.

So we may well ask, if teleportation phenomena of this type are possible, could the UFOs happen in the same way? If so, this would represent another example of processes which are essentially **psychophysical** in character.

Again, the causal agent for the teleportation of these space-ships would presumably be some kind of complex psychophysical device constructed artificially.

We note also that such events might:

- (i) Originate from highly intelligent material beings somewhere in the Universe, who have developed a super science and discovered how to dematerialise themselves and their space-ships at the place of origin, and to rematerialise them in the part of space that they wish to visit.

Alternatively

- (ii) The events might be connected with a form both of intelligence and of being that transcends our own, because the “system of reality” with which they are associated is **non-material**.

In other words, such beings might not normally exist in four space-time at all, and might become “materially real” in it, and allow certain aspects of themselves to become directly perceptible to UFO observers, only for the duration of the sighting.

This suggestion is of course even more fantastic than the foregoing ones. But let us not reject it out of hand. As Dr. D. H. Wilkinson, a distinguished Oxford nuclear physicist has remarked: “perhaps there do exist universes interpenetrating with ours; perhaps of high complexity; perhaps containing their own forms of awareness; constructed out of other particles and other interactions than we now know, but awaiting discovery through some common but elusive interaction that we have yet to spot”.

Also, it is interesting to note that, in the geometrodynamical description of physical reality—that branch of theoretical physics which seeks an explanation of nature by compounding the theory of general relativity with that of quantum mechanics in terms of a non-Euclidean geometry of space-time—matter itself, i.e., the fundamental material particles, are thought to consist of minute knotted regions of intense curvature in space-time. Suppose that one of the types of elusive interaction to which Dr. Wilkinson refers would enable it to be possible for a pattern of such knots, as would constitute a material object, to be as it were “ironed out” of our Universe, and become transposed so as to exist instead as part of the microtopology of another Universe.

Such a mechanism might operate both ways, and would therefore suggest a possible *modus operandi* for the phenomena of teleportation, whereby a space-ship or UFO could be made to materialise into, and then disappear again out of, the observer’s field of view.

The indications from psychical research are that such forms of transposition would depend strongly on psychophysical principles.

II. If the Observer was strongly influenced by SUBJECTIVE factors

Explanations in terms of:

(a) Normality

It may have been a straightforward case of mistaken observation. The report may have had some objective basis, and the witness may have been in a fairly normal state of awareness, but some confusion, possibly due to the unexpected or the transitory nature of the occurrence may have caused him to misinterpret what he had actually seen. This can occasionally happen to even the best of well-trained observers, especially when tired.

(b) Abnormality

If the sensory or the cognitive faculties of the witness were in some way impaired at the time of the observation, perhaps in a minor or temporary way, this could have led to a false conclusion being drawn regarding the matter. This might occur especially if the observer had neurotic tendencies.

III. If the events reported were totally SUBJECTIVE in character

Explanations in terms of:

(a) Abnormality

Should the brain of the observer have been subject to serious malfunctioning, caused by a disturbance or breakdown in the physico-chemical mechanisms thereof; as would be the case if he suffered from a paranoid psychosis or was schizophrenic, then the occurrences reported may have been entirely hallucinatory. That many of our UFO observers are "haywire" in this unfortunate way can perhaps be discounted.

(b) Paranormality

In consideration of mental events of this type we have to make a careful distinction between hallucinations, which are abnormal, and events which, whilst not normal are nevertheless perfectly valid psychological happenings, though they tend to occur infrequently. Their infrequency is in fact the reason for labelling them paranormal. Telepathic experiences fall within this category, and represent cases where meaningful patterns of thought, or meaningful ideas or images, can under certain circumstances be induced in the mind of a recipient by the mind of an originating person or entity.

Although the mechanism whereby such processes occur is not yet known to science, the people who undergo these kind of experiences are usually perfectly sane and balanced individuals, but who possess a particularly well developed form of sensitivity. It should be noted that, although such experiences are often fleeting or fragmentary, when they do occur properly the events which take place in the recipient's brain are just as real and as subjectively vivid as if he had instead received an impression about the matter concerned through the normal sensory channels.

So another possibility is that UFO observers actually get into **extrasensory** contact with, or receive via some telepathic mechanism visual impressions transmitted by certain forms of extraterrestrial intelligence. Because the impressions are vivid the observer may not be aware that phenomenon is subjective, and afterwards be fully convinced that the experience which he underwent was an

objective one.

Therefore UFO "sightings" might either represent purposeful attempts by such entities to establish communication with man, possibly from distant regions of space, and that they have from time to time caused space-ship-like images to appear in the brains of terrestrials. Or alternatively, these thoughts may not be purposefully directed and the observers may unwittingly pick up the images by "telepathic eavesdropping".

If the process is a purposefully directed one however, the reason that more sophisticated data or messages have not yet got over to us, may be due to the difficulties of translating alien concepts into a form that human observers can understand, and which can register in their mental apparatus. In this respect there are distinct parallels to be drawn between UFO spotting and **mystical experience**, which may operate on similar lines.

Again we note that such entities might either be:

- (i) Existent as material beings in another part of the Universe.
- or (ii) As already described in section I (c) (2) (ii) above, they might not exist in our material Universe at all, but might be using a telepathic channel of communication (one of Dr. Wilkinson's elusive types of interaction) between the "plane of existence" that they occupy, and our own.

The above classification has therefore rearranged the possible causes for UFOs, and included certain types of **paranormal** explanation as well. Discussion of the various categories has been necessarily brief, and can be elaborated considerably.

The point is, however, that their inclusion broadens the field of investigation, and calls for the development of new techniques in research for evaluating them. This is one aspect in which EOU will tend to specialise.

The general status of UFO reports, and their credibility, seems to be rather on a par with those concerning the types of paranormal event I have mentioned which in itself is a reason for considering them together.

It is stressed therefore that these types of paranormal explanation are highly speculative, but they do represent logical extrapolations, however tenuous these may appear, towards a solution to the UFO enigma, which ought to be included in such classifications.

At any rate it is hoped that they will give rise to lively discussion!

D. Peter Maddock.

NOTES AND QUOTES

ARE UFOs TERRESTRIAL IN ORIGIN?

Some prominent researchers nowadays believe that they are. I keep an open mind on the subject but find it hard to imagine where they emanate from, if not from outer space. The Hollow Earth idea is scientifically a non-starter and Shaver's caves of the Dero are a trifle too exotic to be accepted without more proof than is presently available. It is possible to imagine small UFO bases or way-stations in such remote areas as the Matto Grosso or the Gobi Desert, but hardly entire lost civilisation possessing a high degree of scientific advancement. However, the future will tell!

THE ADAMSKI PHOTOGRAPHS

According to a letter from the U.S. Department of Air Force, addressed to the Hon. Lloyd Meeds and dated January 26th, 1968, photo analysts at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, have determined that the Adamski prints contain stimuli caused by a tobacco humidior and three ping pong balls. I would myself have supposed that the controversial photographs were of a larger object, perhaps a marine mooring-buoy. One more puzzle among the many which confront us in connection with the late George Adamski.

THE INTERRUPTED JOURNEY

A report, unconfirmed at the time of writing, states that Barney Hill, who with his wife, Betty, is said to have been taken aboard a flying saucer on September 19th, 1961, has died as a result of a cerebral haemorrhage. If true, a torrent of speculation will be unloosed in UFO circles. Perhaps a mere coincidence. Or possibly an exemplification of a remark by John Keel that UFO-research is not really a pursuit for teenage hobbyists.

NOTHING LIKE PRECISION!

A Venezuelan contactee has been informed by a spaceman that the number of aliens from other worlds now living among us is precisely two million, four hundred and seventeen thousand, eight hundred and five! Whew! I'm all for precision, but this is ridiculous!

WHAT MAKES A UFO TICK?

How many readers share my distaste for elaborate schemes purporting to explain UFO propulsion? Nothing can be proved in this connection. Why not borrow a term from Charles Fort and say that the UFOs operate on the principle of Teleportation? Which is the equivalent of stating that we don't know how they work but they do—somehow.

J. C-B

THE MYSTERY OF EARTH'S VANISHING MOON

John Bagby of the Hughes Aircraft Company of California has recently announced ("Icarus", Vol. 10, page 1), the discovery of several small moonlets, each around 100 feet in diameter, in orbit around the Earth. Furthermore, retrospective calculation establishes that these are the fragments of a larger body which disintegrated on December 18th, 1955.

Can this vanished body have been the small moon which M. Petit of the Toulouse Observatory announced ("Comptes Rendus", October 12th, 1846 and August 9th, 1847), to be circling our planet at a distance of 5,000 miles, in a period of 3 hours and 20 minutes? If so, why did it break up in 1955? It would have been well outside the Earth's Roche Limit, in addition to which, a body entering within that Limit would disintegrate gradually and not in one searing explosion. One would not, on a *priori* grounds, expect a tiny asteroid to break up as a result of internal seismic stresses.

If Mr. Bagby's findings are correct, could the "asteroid" have been destroyed deliberately on December 18th, 1955 by alien action? Or was it an artificial rather than a natural object and did it meet an accidental or planned end on the date in question?

J.C-B.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1969

In accordance with the provision of Article 8(d) of the Constitution of the BUFORA, preliminary notification is given herewith that the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Saturday, October 4th, 1969, at 6 p.m., at the Kensington Central Library.

Nominations for the offices of President, Vice-Presidents, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, also for the eight remaining seats on the National Executive Committee, should reach the Hon. Secretary in writing not later than Saturday, August 23rd, 1969. Resolutions to be debated at the A.G.M. should also reach the Hon. Secretary by that date.

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

Dr. Cleary-Baker is presently engaged upon a full-scale revision of the Constitution. It would be appreciated if any proposals for Constitutional changes could be forwarded to him, at No. 3, Devenish Road, Weeke, Winchester, rather than advanced for debate at the A.G.M.

CONTACT SECTION PROPOSALS

1. BUFORA to discontinue Contact Section.
2. COS-MOS to undertake to provide copies of Contact reports and investigations of all types for BUFORA's files.
3. Copies also to be provided for BUFORA of claims and reports where for one reason or another an investigation was not felt to be warranted.
4. In any cases where it is felt the dividing line between a "contact" and sighting/landing report is not clear, the BUFORA Director of Research and the Director of COS-MOS to consult as to which Society investigates; also that if, in any particular case, BUFORA's Director of Research specifies that certain enquiries should form a part of the whole, these to be carried out where practicable, though if additional expense is thus involved, this to be borne by BUFORA.
5. COS-MOS to be permitted to use BUFORA investigators should an incident occur in an area where it has none of its own, but it to be understood that investigations remain under the control of COS-MOS.
6. (This was withdrawn).
7. BUFORA and COS-MOS to notify memberships through their Journals of the above and BUFORA to advise via the Journal that COS-MOS membership can be obtained:
 - (a) By remitting £1 1s. 0d. yearly subscription to cover Journals, additional newsletters or leaflets, reduced entrance charge to main meetings, free admission to some local meetings, group activities, etc. (Class A membership).
 - (b) By remitting 12s. 6d. for six bi-monthly Journals. (Class B membership) to Norman Oliver, 95 Taunton Road, London, S.E.12.

PENNINGTON—AND THE 1897 U.S.A. AIRSHIP

Dr. Doel's theory, presented in the Autumn 1968 issue of BUFORA Journal, that the 1897 airship reports in the United States were due to an airship constructed by inventor Edward J. Pennington, has evoked wide interest and support. It is an ingenious notion which MAY be true, but, in my opinion, one which at present remains totally unproven.

There were widespread airship reports from the States in the period 1896-1898. Dr. Doel's itinerary for the assumed Pennington flights fails to account for more than about one third of these. It will not do to ascribe those unaccounted for to ordinary UFOs, for many of them, like the sightings over San Francisco Bay in November 1896, were of dirigible-like craft resembling the hypothetical Pennington ship rather than what we nowadays describe as UFOs.

Dr. Doel includes the mishap to a heifer at Yates Center, Kansas, on April 21st, 1897, in his list of presumed Pennington exploits. However, a reliable witness described the "crew of the craft involved as:

“. . . six of the strangest beings I ever saw . . . hideous people . . .”

For all I know, the members of Pennington's family may have been no oil paintings, but were they as unearthly as this? The witness added that the thought of them subsequently disturbed his sleep!

We are asked to accept that Captain James Hooton as a reliable witness, pictured the Pennington airship as he saw it. I have elsewhere (FSR, November-December, 1966), delivered my own opinion of the Hooton effort, a view from which I see no reason to depart:

“The object which decorates the cover of your July-August issue looks like the result of a working collaboration between Heath Robinson and Dr. Strabismus of Utrecht (Whom God Preserve)! I would question the ability of the UFO-denizens or anyone else to coax such an aerodynamic outrage off the ground, much less fly it all over the United States”.

The “anyone else” in the above comment must be taken to include Edward J. Pennington.

If Pennington did in fact build the 1897 airship, a considerable staff must have been employed to assemble and dismantle it, also to move it to and from its hangar. There must have been persons living in the vicinity of Oswego, Kansas, who would have seen the craft ascending or descending on numerous occasions and who, knowing Pennington to be an inventor, would have put two and two together. Yet, in defiance of all we know about human nature, there seems to be a total lack of evidence bearing on Pennington's connection with a mystery which rocked the U.S. at the time.

As Dr. Doel admits, his theory leaves many questions unanswered. An airship as versatile as that reported from many places in the States in 1896-1898, WOULD, in my view, have been a viable commercial proposition and it is incredible that its inventor would not have persevered, after having come so far, until its assumed defects were overcome.

The Pennington theory MAY, as I have already observed, be true. If, however, he is to prove it, Dr. Doel must widen it so as to embrace many more sighting reports in the 1896-1898 period than he has included to date. The snag is that in seeking to explain a much greater number of reports, he is likely to find himself obliged to credit the airship with a performance-capacity beyond anything which could reasonably be ascribed to Pennington, genius though he may have been.

If the 1896-1898 "airships" were really UFOs, the somewhat pedestrian characteristics ascribed to them in contemporary accounts may reflect the limitations of the observers in their attempts to describe objects beyond the technical imagination of their day. Or the UFO-denizens may have consciously attempted to present their craft as comparatively primitive devices. Or it may be that there are psychological implications in the UFO Mystery which eludes us at present. Perhaps flying dragons and clumsy dirigibles and ultra-sophisticated discs are no more than models in which some hidden reality manifests itself to the eyes of successive generations.

There are always persons present in the audience at a lecture on UFOs who sit smirking smugly throughout, considering only such observations of the speaker as fall in with their preconceptions. Not the least of the values inhering in such theories as that which Dr. Doel has advanced, is the stimulus which they afford to the exploration of new fields of thought bearing on the UFO enigma.

J.C.B.

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FOR YOUR DIARY

The first Lecture of the 1969/70 session will be held on
13th SEPTEMBER at the Kensington Central Library.

MANY A MICKLE MAKES A MUCKLE

Dear Member,

You will be aware of the present continuing rise in the cost of living, this appears to be inevitable and affects us all.

BUFORA has cut its expenditure to the bone in order to meet rising costs.

Exciting new projects, including expansion of the Research Department, urgently require funds, and so that these may not have to be postponed indefinitely, all members and friends of BUFORA are urged to send a small donation to the hon. treasurer -

Arnold West
(BUFORA)
49 Mill Rd.,
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You can be certain that it will be well used in attempting to unravel the enigma of the U. F. O. Thank you.

PS. If half the members of BUFORA contributed 5/- and half of the remainder 10/-, the result would be a staggering £200.

REMEMBER :-

“Many a mickle makes a muckle”.

