

Volume 2 No. 10
Autumn/Winter 1969/70



BUFORA

JOURNAL

BRITISH U.F.O. RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

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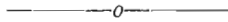
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1. To encourage and promote unbiased scientific investigation and research into Unidentified Flying Object phenomena.
2. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to Unidentified Flying Objects.
3. To co-ordinate UFO Research on a nation-wide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

MEMBERSHIP : The annual subscription is 30/-, \$5 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. Tel. 0962/2691.

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 10

Autumn/Winter, 1969/70

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EDITORIAL

I am still in hot water in a few quarters for having allegedly published "unscientific" articles in the "Journal." These are said to contravene the First Aim of the Association: "To encourage and promote unbiased scientific investigation into Unidentified Flying Object phenomena." (This Aim has somehow got itself truncated very slightly in the last three issues of this publication).

What my critics may not realise is that it was I who framed the Aims of the Association. It would be strange indeed if I had done so without comprehending fully the meaning of the words I used. It would be even stranger if, having formulated our First Aim in proper understanding of what that Aim implies, I should suddenly depart from it without informing the membership of my deviation.

In the last issue I quoted a definition of Science as the classification of facts and the recognition of their significance in the order of nature. I am concerned now, as always in the past, to uncover as many facts as possible bearing on the UFO problem and to fit these facts into their correct niche in the scheme of things. The question is whether the facts about UFOs can be accommodated satisfactorily within the natural order as understood by the champions of the present scientific Establishment.

I have never had any use in my thinking for the so-called "supernatural." Conversely, I have as little use for the cult of scientific materialism which seeks to limit existence to the narrow bounds of the physical universe. If, as some prominent thinkers believe, the material universe is no more than the four-dimensional surface of a five-dimensional hypersphere, the vast spaces within the hypersphere may, (assuming the interior to be more than a mere mathematical fiction), be populated, as Benson Herbert of the Paraphysical Laboratory at Downton has postulated, not only by discarnate humanity but by alien creatures to whom our universe would appear as a thin, unreal cross-section or shadow.

Some such hypothesis is needed to account for innumerable awkward phenomena which psychical research has dumped in the laps of our embarrassed scientists. It is coming increasingly to look as if many UFO phenomena, too, are inexplicable in terms of the "nuts and bolts" school of elementary believers. Let us by all means continue to approach our data in a scientific manner and spirit but let us not imagine that the data will invariably be explicable in the context of today's scientific orthodoxy.

Let us be clear that no statement can ever be established as absolutely true or absolutely false. All we can do is to assign to it a degree of probability, which will be high or low in ratio to its conformity with our main body of acceptances. Clearly, since we do not all share a common body of acceptances—not even scientists!—there will always be an element of subjectivity in our assessments.

The besetting sin of our young scientists is to assume that any data which do not square with the prevailing materialistic world-view of the scientific Establishment can be rejected without examination. When our young scientists come to be a little older they may be less inclined to cling to scientific dogma at the expense of scientific method, but, by that time, considerations of career will no doubt supersede ideological qualms in leading to a public repudiation of scientifically unorthodox trends. David R. Saunders, formerly a member of the notorious Condon Committee,

writes in his book, " UFOs? Yes! " :—

" Copernicus faced excommunication for suggesting that the Earth was not the centre of the Solar System and fifty years later, Bruno was burned at the stake for maintaining that the Solar System was not the centre of the Universe. The modern Establishment may not use such extreme methods, but it has an equal vested interest in maintaining the *status quo*."

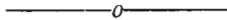
We members of the British UFO Research Association are committed to UNBIASED investigation and research into Unidentified Flying Object phenomena. I suggest that there is absolutely nothing in the attitude of the scientific Establishment towards our subject which can give us even the slightest hope of a fair hearing from its champions. Why then, we may well ask, should we waste time in attempting to bring to the notice of scientists facts which are as readily available to them as to us, but which they seem resolutely determined either to ignore or to misrepresent?

It is our task to follow the evidence wherever it may lead us, placing our findings on record for the benefit of such as may care to examine them. It is to be hoped that the scientific community as a whole will eventually emerge from its cocoon of prejudice and follow the example of Dr. Hynek, Dr. McDonald and the handful of their fellow scientists who have not feared to take up the challenge which the UFO phenomenon presents.



APPRECIATION

This journal, on behalf of all its readers, wishes to express its appreciation of the onerous and painstaking work over a period of four years, done by M. C. HOLT, B.A., Hon. Sec. of this Association, on occasion of his retirement from this position. ' Thank you Mike.'



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.

WHITHER UFOLOGY IN THE 70's?

It is now over two decades since the classic Arnold sighting of nine gleaming objects flying near Mt. Rainier, State of Washington, triggered off modern press and public interest in unidentified flying objects.

Since then hundreds of thousands of people have seen these mysterious objects in our skies and over 2,000 landings have been reported. A good proportion of these sightings were made by top-class observers such as pilots, radarmen, police officers, coastguards and scientists.

Some of these sightings were well-authenticated and of an exceptional nature. A case in point is the famous Trinidad Island one, off Brazil in 1958. This was a top-calibre multiple-witness sighting from a Brazilian naval ship. Excellent photographs of the Saturn-shaped object were obtained. These were processed on board the ship and later, analysed in depth by various departments of the Brazilian Naval Ministry, and finally pronounced genuine.

It has always been a mystery to me—indeed, the 64,000 dollar question—why after the results of the Trinidad Island case were made known in the Brazilian press it was not officially announced by the other world governments that UFOs were real?

Eventually, as we all know, a panel of scientists was convened at the University of Colorado under contract to the U.S. Air Force to investigate unidentified flying objects. Early in 1969 the notorious Condon Committee's Report was published. I use the word 'notorious' because it seems incredible that any really scientific panel should have been allowed to continue with its task after the leak out of the finding of the infamous 'trick' memorandum written by the project co-ordinator to another member of the committee. This was exposed and given full publicity in *Look* magazine, May 1968. The contents of this memorandum indicated something far worse than prejudice—an actual intent to 'cook the findings.'

Nevertheless, despite the negative conclusions which appear in Section 1 of the Report, if the whole material is read and studied carefully, it will be seen that the door is left wide open.

Undoubtedly, the Condon Report has done considerable damage to the image of Ufology in the public mind. Very few people, except those who are students of the subject will spend the money to buy a copy of it, let alone read nearly 1,000 pages of close type. The public learnt that Authority speaking through the Condon Report had declared that UFOs do not exist. The Report did not categorically state any such thing but this was the impression left with the public.

However, let us not be downhearted. The mysterious objects have continued to appear in our skies. Furthermore the public has a short memory and more recent events have done a lot to dispel any damage that the Condon Report may have done. A considerable filip has been given to our subject by the publication in this country of two books, *together with serialization in two popular Sunday newspapers*.

The first to appear was "Unidentified Flying Objects" by Robert Chapman, science editor of the Sunday Express, and his story appeared in that newspaper about two months after the findings of the Condon committee were announced. The second work is the highly successful "Chariots of the Gods?" by Erich von Daniken, which sold 300,000 copies in the original German edition. It was

serialized in the Sunday Mirror before being published in England and Canada simultaneously.

My point in mentioning these two books and their newspaper serializations is that it means the public is still interested in the subject. Strangely enough, probably more so than at any other period. All this, despite the Condon Report.

Now, what will the next decade bring forth? We have reached a very interesting stage. 1969 has seen a big resurgence of 'Men in Black' stories and there has continued to be much activity in this country at Warminster. Argument continues ever more fiercely over the point(s) of origin of the UFOs. All this is very healthy. If they have done nothing else these enigmatic craft have made us think as never before. That surely is a good thing.

Many ufologists deplore that some of their brethren consider these craft to come from planets in either our solar system or outside it. In short, what has come to be regarded as the Extra-terrestrial thesis. Those that back the ET concept deplore that other Ufologists consider the visitors emanate from invisible or parallel universes. They feel that this idea tends to bring disrepute on the subject with its possible psychic and spiritualist side-effects. Then again, some people prefer the theory that the strangers in our midst are Time Travellers.

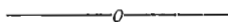
There is also continued argument as to whether the UFO occupants are friendly, hostile or indifferent, or a mixture of all three categories.

It seems to me that the whole UFO picture can be likened to a gigantic jig-saw puzzle. We should not be dogmatic about climbing on the band-waggon of any particular theory. We may find that all these ideas and many more, are all part and parcel of the whole amazing UFO mosaic. Anyone who just sticks to any particular theory is like the proverbial flea on the elephant's leg who thought that was all there was to the animal. I have always maintained that this subject is BIG and is not just concerned with 'nuts and bolts' or Mark IV saucers coming from Andromeda.

In my new book just out "Operation Earth," I have examined all these ideas and tried to show the linkage between them, and done some legitimate speculation as to where it is all leading. It is my view that the tempo of events is now quickening and the next ten years may bring about the *dénouement* that we have all been eagerly waiting. I trust that it will be a palatable one.

BRINSLEY LE POER TRENCH.

Editorial Note. The Hon. Brinsley Le Poer Trench is International Chairman of CONTACT and a former editor of "Flying Saucer Review."



' MYSTERY '

An unaccountable radar was observed at Gatwick Air Port on 1/7/69 at 0145 B.S.T. on the 10 cm. equipment. The return was large and persisted for 10 minutes. The range was 17 n.miles and bearing 180 deg. magnetic.

WHAT PATRICK MOORE AND CHILDREN SAW OVER CRADLE HILL, WARMINSTER

What, precisely, did astronomer Patrick Moore see over Cradle Hill at Warminster on the night of Friday, January 31st this year? And what was its effect on the "Sky at Night" broadcaster?

The answer, had a BBC 2 TV programme in May not been ruthlessly cut at the most relevant points, could have been very important in their impact upon the cynics who take a sniffily superior attitude towards the Warminster 'Thing' in particular and crack cheap jibes at the subject of UFOs in general.

A colour TV camera unit under producer Simon Campbell-Jones, complete with lighting and sound engineers, visited the town to take film and recordings for a fact-finding purpose in a presentation called "One Pair of Eyes."

Although they were at Warminster 24 hours, spending several hours filming and interviewing, only about five minutes of resultant film appeared in the May programme. People must obviously have been left wondering: Did Patrick Moore see anything inexplicable or not?

Well, you can take my solemn word for it that he did—his visual experiences shared by the whole TV unit, including the inevitable joker, a cameraman, who doubted the wisdom of trekking up the hill at night because he feared missing the last instalment of a Dr. Who epic in space fiction on BBC 1. It was the wrong night for that, anyway!

UFOs have haunted the air spaces over Warminster since Christmas Day of 1964, to my personal knowledge certainly dating from September of 1965. That is when I saw one for myself and ceased laughing at reputable witnesses in my job as a news reporter.

Thousands of people have since come to Cradle Hill from all parts of the world. Given good weather and clear sky conditions, the majority have gone away visually rewarded by genuine UFO sightings, curiosity sharpened if not entirely satisfied. This is fact, as numerous witnesses can testify.

Patently, the BBC team were all dubious over the prospect of seeing anything untoward when we reached the hill at about 8 p.m. Director of the Armagh planetarium, Moore was the interviewer and on the skywatch the camera crew were extremely cold—having just returned from an exotic assignment in Bali.

However, they warmed up more than a trifle at two minutes to 9 p.m. beneath a perfectly cloudless sky. For it was then, just after a satellite arced from north to south, that the attention of a cameraman was drawn to an orange glow that developed into an apparent ellipsoidal craft flying low in the opposite direction to the satellite.

To begin with, it seemed virtually to burst into prominence at low altitude near the lighted West Wilts Golf Club house, started to move and became darker and dimmer for a fraction of a second. It then flared into a glowing brilliance as it glided unerringly and silently towards the darkened copse saddling Cradle Hill.

It hovered briefly over the treeline, no further away from the eye than 500 yards and less than 35 feet in altitude when hovering. It had a typical duck-bobbing forward motion, elegant and effortless. It abruptly disappeared after a 60 second display of uncanny aerial magic.

Just as noiseless as the first, the next flying shape catching the eye as it 'broke' from a similar part of the sky was slightly smaller, although bearing identical contours and colouring. It came into view almost a minute after its predecessor, dipping low

near the treeline and floating below the copse at nearest point. It could not have been more than 10 feet from ground level prior to rising again and blinking out.

It left a brilliant rainbow-shot bar of light behind in its wake. This was flecking the grass in rear of the copse with its pretty light pattern when we raced up the road to gaze more closely at this separate phenomenon, which Moore felt could have been reflected light from the moon, to begin with, except that it did not persist while the moon did!

These phenomena, three in less than two minutes including the 'natural' satellite, certainly begged description, so that Patrick Moore and the others were quietly thrilled by the sheer unexplainable quality of the near-landings of these lighted wonders that have so frequently haunted Cradle Hill for five years at least. Each object travelled a leisurely 1,000 yards or so as though wishing, with cool and calculated deliberation to be seen. The objects were not dissimilar from those seen by hundreds of people on the hill, yet differ from the more 'substantial' craft that cameras can capture when moonlit conditions allow.

Therefore, I agreed immediately with Moore's assessment that 'these are not what I call unidentifiable flying objects, they are simply fascinating and inexplicable light formations.' But there was no doubting the reality of his being wholly mystified, and the producer later sent me a letter thanking me for giving them all 'an unforgettable and wonderful experience in your company that night.'

Of course—and this is such a great pity in pursuit of truth and its propagation to a deluded public—the sightings of the inexplicable were cut from the programme, so that one wondered what it was Moore was warmly thanking me for, towards the end of the interview on the hill.

Who was responsible for the savage cutting of the film and recording? Your guess is as good as mine. On the hill, as well as the ten BBC people, were Julian Butler, John Dunscombe, Bob Strong, Sybil Champion and myself. Our local contingent suffered acute disbelief and nigh-horror at the way the experience had been mistreated when the actual programme was shown months later.

Especially Julian, whose powerful binoculars were borrowed by Patrick Moore during the exciting advent and flight of each 'invader.' Another odd happening, which may or may not be connected with our experience, is that three wrist-watches stopped on the hill before nine o'clock. So could invisible or dematerialised UFOs have been surveying the locality even earlier than those we sighted?

Now on to one of the sweetest UFO experiences of my life. It came on the afternoon of Thursday, May 29th, this year. It is intimately concerned with young people—and I confess I adore children. There were five of them, little mites between six and nine, in a dormobile van pulled up outside my house in Portway, Warminster, pressing their tiny noses flat against the glass windows until I went out to meet them . . .

My adult caller, with them, was Mrs. Sheila York, of Ersham Road, Hailsham, Sussex. She is their foster-mother. The youngsters came to Warminster to discover if 'flying saucers' are fact or fiction. I chatted with them, answering eager questions, explaining I could not accompany them to the hill because of work pressure.

'Do you think we shall see one if we go up your hill tonight?' asked one boy. I told him everything depended on weather and sky and he promised to let me know

if they had any luck with sightings. The sky was then overcast and I honestly doubted whether anything strange would be viewed unless it radically changed, although Sunday Express science correspondent Robert Chapman saw two UFOs in bad weather conditions.

Not wishing the children to be too disappointed—they have such touching faith and innocence, captivating the heart—I did not stress the unlikelihood of UFO appearance, wishing them luck as they drove off. I gave full instructions for reaching Cradle Hill and advised against the toddlers venturing too near the copse. ‘Keep down on the road by the two white gates and you will be absolutely safe.’

The following night I was lecturing a group near Swindon, so UFO-spotting was out of the question until Saturday. I still subconsciously wondered how Mrs. York and her tiny charges fared the previous night, when reporting duties kept me at a late meeting. I assumed they watched only that single night. I was wrong . . . Here is the letter I received from their foster-parent: “Dear Mr. Shuttlewood, the children—all five—were very pleased to meet you and the two nights we spent on Cradle Hill were the highlights of our touring holiday.

‘On the Thursday night, the 29th May, 1969, the clouds were very low and it rained several times. I managed to keep awake until 1.45 a.m. then gave way to sleep,’ wrote Sheila York. ‘At 3.20 a.m. I heard a voice within me say ‘Sheila—flying saucer.’

I tried to raise myself but felt very heavy with sleep—and drifted off again. I wish now that I had looked out. Never mind. Friday night was much clearer, small patches of cloud and larger spaces with nothing, the five children all talking and watching with me, knowing it was to be our last night at Warminster.

‘They had napped in the afternoon so as to stay up later than usual, to watch the sky. At 11.10 p.m. I could tell they were beginning to get sleepy, so we all said prayers—the end of which was ‘and please, dear Heavenly Father, if it is at all possible, please let us see a flying saucer tonight. Amen.’

They bedded down, then at 11.20 p.m. in the clear part of the sky a crimson-red globular or oval-shaped UFO was seen. I shouted “Quick, a flying saucer,” and all the children sat up and looked. (Mrs. York’s enclosed illustration of what was seen corresponded to what Patrick Moore and the BBC team saw in January).

Sheila’s letter continued: “I wound the window right down. There wasn’t a sound. All was quite still and quiet. So quiet that we heard a rabbit hopping gently down the path. The UFO size was about that of a two-shilling piece at arms length. ‘It went at a steady pace and we saw the brilliant full size about eight times. We did not see any more and the children bedded down again. Later, when the children were asleep and I was still watching, I saw a form of cloudlike consistency by the gate.’ (She drew a sketch of this male form’s silhouette). ‘The lines were not clear but fuzzlike at the edges. It did not move and I could see no facial features. I saw this several times; also small, really tiny pinpricks of white and bright light covering the form. Still later 1.30 a.m., I got out of the van quietly and walked a few yards, but somehow it was oddly quiet and eerie, so I went back to the van and made coffee. I stayed up to 2.30 a.m. but did not see anything further,’ wrote Sheila, who confessed she had not written sooner because the children—by then, ten in her care—had kept her pretty busy during the Whitsun school holidays.

To me, a hardened journalist for over 20 years, that is a heart-warming true story, absolutely authentic and unsolicited. 'Out of the mouths of babes . . .'

Earnest research students prefer expert to inexpert testimony on this baffling subject. Better, more convincing, to learn what scientists think about aerial phantoms rather than the evidence of refuse collectors and street sweepers, one might imagine. Yet who is an 'expert' in this unique field of discovery?

As the Condon Report amplified as well as merely demonstrated, this is not necessarily the case in matters ufological; and it is surprising and pleasing to find interest in alien spacecraft and strange lights so cosmopolitan and widespread among all classes of the community.

The Condon Report was rendered totally invalid and unacceptable to rational minds by virtue of one factor; Not one of these experts in various spheres of scientific probing had ever seen a UFO. Therefore, one cannot possibly assess, objectively and fairly, the existence or otherwise of phenomena that one has not witnessed personally. In that sense, the individual experience is of importance.

To have seen television in operation or jet aircraft screaming across the horizon at over 1,500 m.p.h. a hundred or even fifty years ago, would have shattered the sanity of the beholder. So many minds are not yet attuned and prepared for UFO credence: and it perhaps takes the trusting and calmly confident example of open-minded children to inspire the sceptics out of their lethargic and apathetic attitudes.

ARTHUR SHUTTLEWOOD.

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AS TRUE AS I'M TALKING TO THIS VENUSIAN !

There is an old, old saying that runs 'believe only one-half of what you see, and one-quarter of what you hear'! This saying could have been tailor-made for the Ufologist, although it might well be pertinent to reduce the fractions still further and add a similar admonition concerning what one reads!

Most Ufologists, I am sure, endeavour to relate the facts as they know them, to repeat the story as they have heard it, to give an accurate account of what they have witnessed. But it is human nature to elaborate—frequently without realising one is doing so: it is human nature to fill in 'facts' which one has remembered improperly or not at all: more than either it is human nature to place great faith in the printed word. Yet I have found—as I am sure have many others also—that 'facts' printed in the press are all too frequently incorrect; items are quoted out of context; generalisations are made—one could continue almost ad infinitum. Nor should UFO publications and books be excluded from the same strictures, it is all too easy for incorrect data to find its way into their pages, from whence it is quoted and requoted, translated and retranslated until what was a small unintentional red-herring in the first instance becomes a whale it is almost impossible to harpoon!

There is another side also. I have assisted in the compilation of one book and also published a booklet myself. Every *fact* that I was responsible for putting in either of these I can personally guarantee,—*interpretation* of the facts is a different matter altogether—yet I have spent hours replying to those who have questioned 'facts' which were never in the books in the first place, and who have completely mixed up different incidents,—so completely mixed up in some cases that it has taken me evenings to unravel them! Quite frequently therefore, the reader also is far from being blameless.

Several years ago, on Cradle Hill at Warminster I, together with six others had the good fortune to see one of the 'pulsers'—pulsating points of light to which the term UFO could certainly genuinely be applied. Subsequent to this sighting we found that five different colours were involved,—three of us described the UFO as white, whilst one each plumped for orange, red, green and blue. My surprise can well be imagined when on two occasions in recent months I have had this incident retailed back to me in the following forms: "There were fifteen of us there when we saw the thing, and some thought it was white, some yellow, others saw it as orange, red, purple, blue, green and pink." This was rendered more interesting even, as the person relating it had not been present at the time anyway! And "There was a large number of people on the hill and these pulsers came over,—you could see their shape and each of them was bi-coloured." Enough said.

Even reports genuinely believed in and accurately recounted can still be caused by a misinterpretation of ordinary objects, and I here quote from a report made out by me in January of this year (1969), and which I only recently discovered had never left my 'pending' file (there's a moral there too!) No criticism is intended of the original report concerning the incident, which was extremely accurate, but in my opinion, it shows how easy it can be for a strange sighting or in this case a 'landing' to be reported when an explanation is available, but an explanation that would only be realised was available from local knowledge. My report read "For the record I make the following observations on the report in the March/April '68 issue

of Flying Saucer Review concerning the second experience of Mrs. Quick on the South Downs near Storrington in Sussex. My comments are only intended to refer to this latter report and not to earlier ones which appear to be altogether of a different nature.

“ To recap briefly, this report made by Mr. Omar Fowler via SIGAP as quoted in Flying Saucer Review stated that an object rather like a steam-roller was seen on the Downs at sunset, but on looking through opera glasses Mrs. Quick thought the thing to be trumpet shaped at what appeared to be the front, the centre was dome-shaped with two tails from the right hand side, length 25 to 30 feet and height 14 feet. It swivelled several times before disappearing over the Downs for at least ten minutes only to reappear and continue the same movement. After sunset a light flickered from very bright to small then there was an extremely deep red glow. It changed its position once or twice at great speed, then finally took off at an incredible speed towards Worthing, reappearing ten minutes later, then finally disappearing behind trees.

“ A few months ago, Mr. Fowler showed me the lady's report and located her position and the position of the object on an ordnance survey map, from this, the object would appear to have been considerably further away than the $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ mile figure given by Mrs. Quick. Now, I frequently travel from London to Worthing by car, and some months ago the Washington By-Pass was completed and opened. At the time Mrs. Quick's 'sighting' work on this was at a comparatively early stage and the position of her 'object' would have been almost exactly on an embankment then being made up, which now carries this by-pass round the Bostall at Washington. Several times during the course of construction of this by-pass I had seen giant Earth-shifters and machines of this type there and it is my opinion that one of these was then seen and that it was carrying lights at the front and rear. Admittedly it would have been a trifle difficult for it to have taken off at high speed towards Worthing, but the road runs towards Worthing and I suggest a sudden banking movement causing the light beams to shoot upwards gave this impression. The giant Earth-shifter theory would certainly explain the apparently odd swivelling movements over the Downs, and as it moved from time to time it would disappear behind clumps of trees between it and Mrs. Quick.

“ Further, it would only have been seen in this particular place for a few nights as the embankment is not all that long and in any case only a short section of it would have been visible to Mrs. Quick because of trees and hills interposing. Doubtless at times the contractors would work overtime whenever this was possible in order to keep to schedule, and I feel quite sure that the vaguely described 'creature figure' around 8 to 10 feet tall was in fact a workman between 5ft. 10in. and 6ft. 2in. At this time no actual road would be visible as only the embankment was being levelled out; also Mrs. Quick would have been looking slightly upwards at it from a distance of around 2 miles and so could not see any actual surface or great detail even through the small opera glasses she was using at the time. When in the area at a later date I confirmed that the visual aspects were in accordance with the foregoing.”

I rest my case.

P.S. Perhaps I'd better tell you about my Venusian friend some other time!

NORMAN OLIVER.

UFO SEEN AT TREETOP LEVEL NEAR KINGS LYNN

(The following account is reproduced, with permission from "N.U.F.O.R.O. BULLETIN," published by G. N. P. Stephenson at 12, Dorset Road, Cheam, Sutton, Surrey).

Witness Details.

Robin Peck, Station Road, Docking, Nr. Kings Lynn, Norfolk. Electrical Engineer, with his own shop ("Pecks") and Business. (Well known in Docking, which is a fair-sized village).

Account of his Experience.

Mr. Peck was travelling home at 12.25 a.m., Thursday, June 19th, in his Ford Thames van, along the Bircham-Kings Lynn road. He was just approaching a group of houses about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Docking. Suddenly his van's engine began to misfire, then his headlights dimmed and they completely extinguished as his ignition system failed. He sniffed to see if anything was burning in his electrical system, and pulled up at the side of the road. He then turned off the ignition, released the bonnet catch, opened the near door and got out of the van.

Immediately he was out of the van, every hair on his body stood on end (head, arms, legs). He then saw a bright object about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile ahead of him in the direction he was travelling, but a few yards off the road. The object was the shape of an inverted mushroom, but without a stalk. It was a pale luminous blue colour, and surrounding it was a gold aura, that stretched to the ground. From the object's position just above some trees, and an electricity line ploe, he estimated its height as 100-150 feet and its size 150 feet by 40 feet. He could not see any details on the object, and could not hear or smell anything unusual.

He looked at his luminous wrist watch to check the time, and was amazed to see that the luminosity of the watch was an estimated 100% brighter. He could see beams of light emitting from the watch face.

After watching the object (that was completely motionless) for about a minute, it suddenly moved off "at *fantastic* speed" ("It did not accelerate; it just moved.") to his left, in the direction of Kings Lynn.

Mr. Peck then got back into his car (His hairs no longer stood on end when the object moved away) and smoked a cigarette. He then turned the van's ignition back on, found that everything was working, started the car and proceeded to the spot above which he saw the object. He could not see, hear or smell anything out of the normal, but observed that there was a small transformer attached to the electricity pole that he had seen the object above.

After the sighting Mr. Peck found that his watch had lost all its luminosity, and that the luminous paint was now a brown colour "as if it had been burnt." He also found that his watch lost about two minutes every day since the sighting, whereas before it gained about a minute a week.

He reported the incident to the police at 10.30 a.m. in the morning, and they took the matter seriously and took a full statement from him.

Notes : I took a number of radiation readings around the transformer, and at the position of Mr. Peck's van when he had the sighting, and also took a reading 250 yards behind the transformer. Found nothing abnormal.

JOHN CLAYDON.

NOTES & QUOTES

No Quarter!

Issues of the "Journal" ought to appear in about the third weeks of March, June, September and December, i.e. at the beginnings of the quarters the designations of which they bear. Over the last year or so, publication delays have upset this arrangement. Accordingly, this issue has been dubbed, "Autumn/Winter, 1969/70." Future issues should become available at the proper times. We are not seeking to cheat readers out of an issue, merely to correct a sort of precessional phenomenon arising out of past holdups. Please note that contributions for the Spring 1970 "Journal" should be deposited with me not later than February 8th, 1970.

Say it with Flowers!

I am apprised, through the medium of the American Orchid Society Bulletin of May 1969, of the existence of a Cymbidium rejoicing in the name of, "Cymbidium San Francisco Flying Saucer." This has eleven flowers on two spikes; flowers of light green ground colour with overall rose suffusion. Very pretty, only don't go near it carrying a copy of the Condon Report, or it will turn a ghastly mauve hue and shrivel up!

Overdue Subscriptions.

At the time of writing, (late October), we are still awaiting a large number of overdue subscriptions from members and Member-Societies. Please remember that BUFORA cannot continue to operate unless the funds to meet its expenses are forthcoming. As I have so often stressed, UFO-research is not possible "on the cheap." The situation is really serious. Unless you wish to see the Association defunct, put your hand in your pocket and pay up. Don't join the band who are always thinking what they can get out of BUFORA, think rather of what you can put into it.

Redundant Publications.

Nowadays, it seems to me, every youngster who has read a couple of popular books on Flying Saucers feels competent to launch a magazine on the subject, or else found a society with an imposing title and awe-inspiring objects, but no money at all. There already exists a diversity of UFO societies and publications in this Country. Why fritter away money and effort on ephemeral ventures, when responsible UFO-research organisations are languishing for lack of adequate means and assistance?

The meaning of UFO-Research.

It is our task, as UFO-researchers, to investigate UFO phenomena and to place our findings and theories on record for the benefit of interested parties. UFO-research is not a "Movement" and we are not evangelists with a mission to convert the masses to a belief in UFO reality. There are, unquestionably, philosophical, sociological and religious overtones in the UFO mystery. Nevertheless, UFO-research is what its name implies—a research—nothing more.

Thutmose's UFO.

There is no sound reason whatsoever to reject the account of the sighting of a fleet of UFOs by Thutmose III and his army, notwithstanding what Samuel Rosenberg has to say on this subject in the Condon Report. The late Professor Tulli may have been an amateur Egyptologist. Archaeology owes much to its talented amateurs. It is sheer audacity, unsupported by any shred of evidence, to accuse either Tulli or Prince Boris de Rachewiltz of deliberate fraud in the affair. Rosenberg's parallels between the Tulli papyrus and the Book of Ezekiel seem forced; anyway, one can imagine a commentator of two thousand years hence maintaining that Twentieth Century narratives of Mafeking Night in 1900, Armistice Night in 1918 and V.E. Night in 1945, all represent versions of a single celebration.

J. C-B.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor,
BUFORA Journal.

28, Southsea Avenue,
Watford,
Herts.
27th September, 1969.

Dear Editor,

With regard to the points raised by Mr. D. Peter Maddock, I am rather surprised to read his statement that "we hardly moved from square one as far as solving the basic questions are concerned, i.e. 'do they exist,' etc." Surely the basic fact of the existence of the phenomenon of UFOs (Flying Saucers) is incontrovertible. The appearance or sightings is established beyond doubt. Ufologists are surely agreed on this, and a recital of the relevant data to prove the case is unnecessary in a magazine of this nature. If, however, it is considered essential, it can, of course, be done.

Further, such considerations as 'what are they,' 'where do they originate from,' 'how are they propelled,' etc., are of secondary importance. These points deal with the 'how' aspect of the problem. One would think it is more important to ask 'why?' Such is the reaction of the thinker, the philosopher: why do they appear, why do they come here, what is the meaning of it all?

If reasons have been given, do they enlighten, or uplift, or throw any light on the common destiny of mankind? Conversely, are we being fooled, or threatened, or to use a modern expression 'conned' by some superior power beyond our ken or control?

Answers to these important questions—as well as the answers to the questions on the 'how' aspect—are, I believe, available for consideration, but their treatment would extend this letter far beyond the space allowed by the editor of this Journal.

For me, the basics—establishing the fact of Flying Saucers and allied phenomena—is a fait accompli.

The matter now requiring our most urgent attention is the *raison d'être*, the philosophy of the phenomenon. Serious students should get together and share their knowledge, the results of their researches and express their considered ideas on the subject. Let us have discussion, verbal and written debate and above all make absolutely sure that what we are after is but the truth of the matter, nothing more, nothing less.

Above all we must discount ignorance and prejudice and approach with a truly open mind, prepared to scrap our ideas or theories if they do not fit the truth. We humans are very finite, very limited in our understanding, and the real knowledge of it all, when it comes, may surprise us greatly.

I would like to know what is meant by 'critical scientific evaluation'? How scientific is science? How important or final is the evaluation of modern scientific procedure? Science in the nature of the case is constantly changing. The text books of today are out of date tomorrow, the assured results of yesterday's discoveries are the discarded theories of today. Materialistic science has landed us all in a mess, and the destructive potential of our modern science far outweighs the constructive! Mankind stands on the brink of complete and irreversible annihilation by means of chemical, biological and nuclear destruction because of science in the nervous hands of power conscious man. I'm afraid, I'm a bit chary of science myself, nowadays! So much for the value of so called critical scientific evaluation!

FRED O. GARDNER, F.R.G.S.

To the Editor,
BUFORA Journal.

-----o-----
"Isca,"
39, Avenue Road,
Abergavenny,
Mon.
20th September, 1969.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Carl Grove's letter of 28th July indicates a narrow dogmatic scientific opinion. He should realise that all natural powers or forces and the universal laws governing them, have been in existence since the creation of the world and man at the moment has knowledge of only a small number of these.

If UFOs exist then they use certain natural forces at present unknown to Science. The main reason for investigation of UFOs is to discover these unknown forces and the laws governing their utilisation.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN G. WILLIAMS.

To the Editor,
BUFORA Journal.

-----o-----
Hadlow Road,
Tonbridge,
Kent.
2nd October, 1969.

Dear Sir,

I can sympathise with Carl Grove in his frustration. We should not let our minds run too wild when seeking explanations of the UFO enigma. Nevertheless, I agree with the Editor's comments that we cannot overlook any possible theory when we are dealing with a mystery which has remained unsolved for so many years.

If UFOs fall into the metaphysical or parapsychical category, that is the line along which the mystery will be solved. Physics cannot prove metaphysics, any more than infinity can be spanned by a tape measure!

Yours faithfully,

JAMES B. WEBSTER, M.B.CH.A., M.S.S.CH.

BOOK REVIEWS

CHARIOTS OF THE GODS? —Unsolved Mysteries of the Past

BY ERICH VON DANKIEN

Translated by Michael Heron. Souvenir Press.

PRICE: 30/-.

Serialised under the title "Was God an Astronaut?" in the Sunday Mirror earlier this year and claimed to be the most sensational book of the decade, the reader can be promised some hours of interesting and provocative entertainment.

The Author maintains that there is something inconsistent about our history, our archaeology and our religion and that many fundamental facts in regard to these have been juggled with and explained away in order to fit the theories and predilections of their exponents. He believes, from his researches, that in the dim past this planet was indeed visited by entities, or 'gods,' from elsewhere in the cosmos; that they left considerable and remarkable evidence not only of their sojourn here but also of the effects that their instruction and technology had on emergent humanity. He even suggests that we today may be the result of a genetic experiment and may bear a distant kinship to those ancient 'gods.'

He draws data directly from ancient archaeological sites, constructions, artifacts, art-forms and mythology which indicate a technical knowledge and ability far in advance of what archaeologists and historians would wish us to think existed in those prehistoric times. Examples include the Piri Reis maps, the Lines of Nasca, the rustless iron pillar at Delhi, the colossi of Easter Island, the planetarium of Antikythera, and the gargantuan architectural structure at Sacsayhuaman in Peru which is quite beyond the capabilities of the most modern techniques to duplicate, to name merely a few. His areas of research cover the Pacific, the South Americas Africa, China, Russia, India, many European and Mediterranean countries and back to Cape Kennedy and the search for intelligent direct communication from outer-space. A very tentative and non-committal glance at UFO phenomena suggests to him that they may well be another piece to be fitted into the giant jig-saw.

He believes that the real truth of our origins and history in the depths of the past can only be learned by a re-valuation of ancient prehistoric sites through the use of the most modern laboratory techniques and ultra-sensitive measuring devices which are the products of our 'space-age' and that the anomalies and absurdities which exist in early religious historical tradition and MSS can only be resolved when the priests again begin to doubt the truth of all that they have heretofore considered 'established.'

This work contains 20 pages of remarkable photographs, a Bibliography and an Index. It is a pity that the text lacks particularised references to the valuable data that it contains. It is, nevertheless, a most fascinating and readable book.

E.A.I.M.

UFOs ? — YES !

BY DAVID R. SAUNDERS & R. ROGER HARKINS

Published by Signet Books and obtainable in the U.K. from
L. E. Beer, 15, Freshwater Court, Crawford Street, London, W.1.

PRICE: 6/-.

This book, which includes an introduction by John Fuller, has been hailed in some quarters as the answer to the Condon Report. I fear this represents an exaggerated estimate of its value.

BUFORA JOURNAL was almost alone among the major UFO publications in maintaining a reserved and sceptical attitude towards the Condon Committee in the early days of its existence. Most of them "plugged" it in and out of season and the result has been that the UFO-conscious section of the public now feels frustrated and let-down by the Committee's negative findings, with a consequent falling off in financial and other support for private UFO-research. "UFOs? — Yes!" may contribute in some small degree to counteracting the trend. I cannot believe that it will do more.

The account of the inter-Committee disagreements and squabbles which marked the period of the Project's existence, is interesting and throws some light on the mentalities of Condon, Low and other leading personalities involved in it. I wish, however, that more space had been devoted to the Project's analysis of UFO case-histories. It is true that a few reports, such as the Great Falls, Idaho, photographic case, receive detailed treatment. However, I am left with the impression that the author tells us too much about irrelevant matters and too little about vital issues on which an objective analysis of the Condon Committee's findings must rest.

A prolonged discussion of the theory of Orthoteny, now virtually abandoned by everyone including its originator, represents a red herring inflated to the dimensions of a Greenland whale!

J. C-B.

—————o—————

'MANY A MICKLE'

The Treasurer wishes to thank all who have responded to this appeal in the Journal, approximately £9 has been received to date! Keep up the Good Work!

WARMINSTER — WORDS TO A CYNIC

I have just received the following letter. It was written for publication and bears the name and address of the writer. I am not including them—I have no wish to prejudice the future researches of one who may have something useful to contribute once he has got all his juvenile cynicism off his chest!

The letter reads:

Dear Sir,

Mr. Arthur Shuttlewood continues the Warminster Saga in the Spring issue of BUFORA Journal. Countless sightings for the Easter holiday makers. Nothing like getting the tourist season off with a few well placed encounters. But perhaps I am being too cynical. I have visited Warminster on many occasions and it is perhaps to my loss that I have never seen these UFOs. It's not for the lack of effort though. Telephoto-lens cine cameras, tape recorders and UFO detectors. I've used 'em all. My efforts of course have proved in vain. Perhaps I haven't got the right 'aura' or something. (I tend to veer towards the red). Or perhaps they prefer the seasoned camp followers of Mr. Shuttlewood. No matter, these Cosmic Cousins of ours just won't play ball with me.

As I'm in a cynical mood I'd like to take my cynicism a stage further and question the reasons for there being UFOs in Warminster at all. Nothing unusual about the place. Very charming and friendly little township. It's got a military establishment just round the corner. Firing guns and rockets and things. Testing secret weapons. Perhaps we have a clue? Now the military are the *last* people to admit to testing anything secret. It wouldn't be secret if they did. So are we perhaps jumping to conclusions? Are these Warminster UFOs some extra special weapon? Which is more feasible? Secret weapons of war, or visitors from Galaxy XYZ? Speculation of course. I would suggest that if the War Office packed up its little rocket range on Salisbury Plain the Warminster UFOs would disappear over night. Or would they? Thousands of people have visited the town since the story of the flying 'Thing' broke a few years ago. We must now look to the vested interests. Petrol stations, chip shops, stately homes, hotels, etc. Anything in the area in fact that could conceivably benefit from an influx of trade, however small. If the Warminster UFO is fact or fiction, fraud or fancy, commerce will continue to go down on its corporate knees and thank the gods for those wonderful money-shaped objects. Mecca never had it so good.

Yours sincerely,

—o—

In plain words, the townspeople of Warminster are money-grubbing hacks, Arthur Shuttlewood is a mixture of fraud and fool and—by implication, since I have done more than any other UFO-researcher except Mr. Shuttlewood to publicize the Warminster phenomena—I am fraud, fool and money-grubber all in one! I am not unduly taken aback when I encounter accusations of this sort but for once I have had my fill of them.

One can imagine, if only vaguely, the feelings of intense superiority experienced by my correspondent, arriving in Warminster laden with his cine cameras, tape recorders and other impedimenta. If the UFOs don't turn out to salute such an earth-shaking advent it can only be because there aren't any UFOs there. So let the pen be dipped in vitriol . . .

To begin with, it is doubtful whether Warminster has gained much in a business

sense out of the "Thing," except perhaps for a short period in the Summer of 1965. Lord Bath's Lions of Longleat are a permanent and highly successful "draw" which ensures the Town as much tourist traffic as it can possibly assimilate. If a citizen of Warminster reports a UFO it is because he has seen one, not because his mind is running on brimming tills.

Larkhill is far away across Salisbury Plain and anyway the things witnessed so frequently around Warminster are not rockets. The areas of the Plain adjacent to the Town are Live Firing Areas, devoted to battle training, artillery practice and tank manoeuvres, not to the testing of secret weapons. In any event, the Military don't test Top Secret devices near and beyond the perimeter of restricted localities. The Warminster UFOs resemble the UFOs reported from all parts of the globe. Finally, there have been recurrent "flaps" in the area for at least 100 years—and I don't think the Army was testing aerial weapons on the Plain at the time of the Crimean War!

Arthur Shuttlewood and I are very good friends but I do not adopt all of his beliefs and theories on UFOs and was in fact investigating the Warminster happenings for six months before he became convinced of their reality. If I differ from him sometimes in my interpretation of the phenomena, I am happy to bear witness to his complete integrity. Our cynic overlooks one of the salient charges sometimes brought against him, that of passing off satellites as UFOs. This may occasionally have happened by genuine error, but I here beg leave to quote a recent observation by leading American UFO authority John A. Keel:

"Since the advent of man-made satellites, many people actually mistake UFOs for satellites instead of the other way around as the sceptics would have us believe."

Scores of leading UFO-researchers have seen UFOs at Warminster. Two were seen by a large number of persons, including Arnold West, Roger Stanway, Anthony Pace and myself, during the 1969 National Skywatch of June 28/29th last. Mr. West and I, alone on Cradle Hill in the early morning hours of October 15th, 1966, saw a UFO which changed course and brightness and speed several times while under observation and which actually responded to light signals which we flashed at it with a powerful lamp.

The critic will of course understand that when I write of a UFO I mean the materialised dream of a money-grubbing Warminster citizen!

I do not know why Warminster, in common with many other spots throughout the World, is a "ufocal," a focus of intense and recurring UFO phenomena. If some persons would devote as much time to research as they do to attacking the integrity and intelligence of their colleagues, it is possible that this and other mysteries might soon be resolved.

During the four years in which I have been editing "BUFORA JOURNAL" I have sought to avoid controversy on a personal level. However, I have finally grown tired of the insinuation that my powers of observation, commonsense and critical judgement desert me as soon as I come within a mile radius of Warminster. On the contrary, it is the critics who all too often find themselves obliged to back-track, like the student—he shall be nameless—who has recently been obliged to admit to Mr. Shuttlewood that "invisible walking" on Cradle Hill does occur after all.

An ounce of experience, in this field, is worth a ton of armchair criticism.

J. C-B.

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