

AN
INTRODUCTION
TO
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THE BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (BUFORA) is dedicated to the scientific investigation of UFO phenomena, and stresses the importance of an objective approach. Its aims clearly show that it has two interlinked roles: firstly research and investigation, and secondly, activities of an educational nature.

AIMS (as formally stated in the Memorandum of Association)

1. To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying objects (UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom.
2. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to unidentified flying objects (UFO's).
3. To co-ordinate UFO research throughout the United Kingdom and to co-operate with others engaged in such research throughout the world.

BUFORA traces its origins to the London UFO Research Organisation, founded in 1959, which issued a monthly duplicated magazine, LUFORO BULLETIN. In 1962, LUFORO, along with seven other UK groups, founded the British UFO Association, which was consolidated as BUFORA in 1964. In order to obtain sufficient funds for in-depth research and investigation, BUFORA will be seeking charity status. As part of this process, it became legally constituted in 1975 as a non-profit company, limited by guarantee. Meanwhile the Association relies on the generosity of its members for financing its work.

The Association does not hold or express corporate views on UFO phenomena.

THEORIES

BUFORA does not advocate any particular theory and recognises that there are a number of hypotheses. Some of these are unacceptable in terms of contemporary scientific knowledge.

UFO Hypotheses

1. That the sightings involve mis-identifications of objects or phenomena which are man-made or natural and are well-known to experts.
2. That the sightings involve natural events which are not observed often enough for scientists to have produced suitable scientific explanations.
3. That the sighting reports are hoaxes or involve fabrications.
4. That the sightings involve man-made devices only known to their inventors.
5. That the sightings are mental projections by or received by the witness.
6. That the sightings involve devices produced by one or more alien advanced technologies which originate:
 - A. elsewhere in our universe, being

(i)	within our Solar system
or	(ii) within our Galaxy
or	(iii) beyond our Galaxy
- OR
- B. in a Universe which is not obvious to us yet using conventional techniques and which is:
 - (i) parallel to ours in space and time
 - or (ii) parallel to ours in space but not in time
 - or (iii) parallel to ours in time but not space.
7. That the sightings are of intelligent processes beyond our space-time continuum not explicable in any of the formentioned categories.

BUFORA is working on the assumption that the majority of UFO reports are of category 1; that a small percentage belong to categories 2 to 5 but that a few percent of all reports appear consistent with hypotheses 6 or 7.

The list of hypotheses is not exhaustive and may be supplemented or amended as appropriate in the course of time and it may well be that there is no one single explanation for UFO phenomena.

It must be emphasised that after careful study and analysis, the majority of reports turn out to be cases of mistaken identity. However, this still leaves us with a hardcore residue of up to 10% of potentially interesting case histories, of unexplainable incidents.

BUFORA ORGANISATION

BUFORA is run entirely by volunteers, relying solely on its members to fund and carry out the many research and educational activities in which it is engaged.

Management is vested in its Council of 12 members who are elected as Directors of BUFORA Ltd. at an Annual General Meeting in accordance with the Articles of Association. Almost every Council member has the responsibility for an important sector of BUFORA activity.

RESEARCH

Investigation Network

BUFORA depends largely upon its membership to investigate UFO sighting reports. There is a national network of experienced Regional Investigation Co-ordinators (RIC's) who are responsible for the deployment of individual investigators within their Region.

They receive UFO reports for their region either through the National Investigation Co-ordinator via the BUFORA press cutting service or by direct communication from the press or public or from their own local contacts.

UFO reports of recent origin can be telephoned direct to BUFORA's National Investigation Co-ordinator, Mrs. Hall, on Dartford 75973 (from London 327-5973).

RIC's and Investigators also co-operate with autonomous local groups as circumstances allow, in accordance with Aim 3 or BUFORA's policy. Details of sightings, entered on Sighting Report Forms, are returned to the NIC, together with maps, and any photographs fully documented, for complete analysis by the Research Department of BUFORA. Subsequently details are punched on to Statistical Analysis cards in the Research department files of BUFORA and if particularly interesting, are published. BUFORA recently held another training seminar for investigators to improve the objectivity and accuracy of their field work. Only qualified researchers are issued with the official BUFORA Investigator's Identity Card. It is expected that a code of ethics for Investigators will be agreed and published after discussion at the May, 1981 Congress.

People with the qualities of tact, perseverance and a good deal of initiative and common sense, are needed as UFO investigators in several areas. Attendance at a training seminar is essential for new investigators.

The Research Department has various sections such as those for Physical Data and Statistical Analysis.

Physical Data Section (PDS)

The PDS deals only with those cases where the witness report includes some form of permanent record. It has two main areas of interest:-

1. The Traces Section which deals specifically with cases involving environmental disturbance or physical residues.
2. The Photographic Section which deals primarily with witness photographs or Investigators' photographs of unusual phenomena.

Research programmes are in continuous operation and the Research Department is always interested to have suggestions for new projects or offers of assistance for current ones.

PUBLICATIONS

In fulfilling its aims, the BUFORA Journal (printed by letterpress with illustrations) is published every two months excluding May and November. 1979 saw the commencement of the Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena, JTAP, published by the Research Department. This publication concentrates on the scientific and questionable aspects of reported events, data analysis, and appeals to the analytical and sceptical reader who requires a basic, scientifically disciplined approach, as opposed to the more popular Journal. JTAP is published twice a year in May and November to fall bi-monthly with the BUFORA Journal, thus providing Members with six publications a year. Articles offered for inclusion in the Journals should be submitted, neatly typed and double spaced, to the respective Editors.

Other Publications

BUFORA publishes case histories, science papers and pamphlets on several specific subjects. Previous publications include:

- "Vehicle Interference Project"
 - "The Use of Analytical Instruments in the Search for Extra Terrestrial Spacecraft"
 - "Investigation Procedures"
 - "An Engineer's Look at U.F.O's"
 - "A Guide to the U.F.O. Phenomenon"
 - "U.F.O. Investigation"
- and various BUFORA Conference papers.

"UFO Investigation" is a detailed Field Investigators' Handbook published by the Research Department. With over 150 pages of information on procedures, techniques, tables, charts and including 19 appendices, it provides essential advice for investigators, whatever their level of experience.

LONDON LECTURES

These are normally held on the first Saturday evening of the month apart from a break during the summer. They provide information and views on the many facets of the UFO phenomenon and an open forum for new ideas and viewpoints. Attendances average over 100, attracting people from many parts of the country. The lecture theatre at Kensington Central Library provides a comfortable venue, and there is a half-hour social break for light refreshments. BUFORA members are admitted at a reduced rate.

BUFORA provides a tape-recorded lecture service at cost. There is also a postal lending library service available to members covering a wide range of UFO related subjects and authors.

Donations of UFO books are welcomed.

PRESTEL/EASTEL

BUFORA provides ufological material to the EASTEL Data Base for the Prestel view-data system. The UFO frames start at the page number 40801.

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Over the years BUFORA has sponsored a number of highly successful *national* UFO research and investigation conferences; in recent years venues have included Stoke-on-Trent, Birmingham and Nottingham.

The First London *International* UFO Congress held in 1979 was a runaway success and 400 people came from 21 countries. Principal foreign speakers were Dr. J. ALLEN HYNEK of the U.S.A., Dr. LEO SPRINKLE of the U.S.A., EDOARDO RUSSO and Dr. ROBERTO PINOTTI of Italy, PER ANDERSEN of Denmark and VICENTE-JUAN BALLESTER OLMOS of Spain, together with well known U.K. ufologists.

The Second International Congress to be hosted by BUFORA will be held at the Mount Royal Hotel at Marble Arch on the Spring Bank Holiday, 24th-25th May, 1981. An impressive list of speakers from the U.K., U.S.A., Canada and Europe includes:

Mr. BERTIL KUHLEMANN OF SWEDEN

Mr. CHARLES BOWEN OF THE U.K. — Editor of Flying Saucer Review

Mr. DAVID HAISELL OF CANADA — Editor of Journal UFO

Dr. BRUCE MACCABEE Ph.D. OF THE USA

Mr. JOAQUIM FERNANDES OF PORTUGAL

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

At the 1979 BUFORA International Congress in London, serious researchers from many countries met together and from that meeting the idea materialised to set up an International Committee for UFO Research. PICUR — The Provisional International Committee for UFO Research was formed to examine and agree international standards in UFO research, covering such matters as definitions, terminology, classification and compatible systems of data processing and exchange. Current members of PICUR are BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK, FRANCE, ITALY, NETHERLANDS, PORTUGAL, SPAIN, SWEDEN, U.K., U.S.A. Peter Hill, BUFORA Council Member, has been elected 1st Chairman of PICUR at the meeting held in Copenhagen in October, 1980.

In France on May 1, 1977, the French National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) created an official research group, GEPAN, to study the UFO phenomenon. This group is now under the direction of Dr. Alain Esterle, and preliminary results indicate witnesses definitely seem to be observing physical craft whose capabilities are beyond those of our current technology. BUFORA has established informal exchanges with GEPAN.

In the United States, Project Starlight International (PSI), a laboratory of instrumented UFO research in Austin, Texas, under the direction of Ray Stanford and research director Dr. Daniel Harris (astronomer), has invested over a million dollars in sensitive scientific equipment. This has paid off in the long awaited acquisition of UFO light spectra (currently being analysed), the recording of possible UFO magnetic effects and the detection (with both still and motion photography) of what they call a "flash phenomenon" associated with an instrumented UFO tracking in July, 1978. The light flash is repetitive but "of such short duration as to be below the threshold of the human visual-perception system". There is also evidence that this "may induce perplexing physiological reactions such as tired eyes, seeming inability to focus on the object(s), or even hypnagogic-like sensations or epileptic-like symptoms" which could possibly induce

altered states of consciousness in UFO witnesses and account for some of the weird experiences often reported.

Also in the United States, the C.I.A., after being taken to court in the summer of 1978 by the Ground Saucer Watch group, released 900 pages of reports in January, 1979 which demonstrated many attempts by the U.S. Air Force to track and detain unidentified objects.

Despite this, in the House of Lords debate on UFO's held on 18th January, 1979, Lord Strabolgi, the government spokesman then for Defence, rejected the suggestion that the Ministry should open its files or take a positive line on UFO research.

Despite the usual derision by much of the public and the media, and a brush off by most governments and many scientists, research *is* being carried out in most countries of the world.

FINANCE

BUFORA depends on donations to finance its research efforts and in practical terms, needs an average of £10 per annum from each member in addition to the modest annual subscriptions to cover its basic needs.

STATUS

BUFORA is a non-profit making company limited by guarantee, and having no share capital. Each member's liability is limited to £1 in the event of BUFORA being wound up. Its Memorandum of Association under the Companies Act, precludes members of its Council of Management from accepting any remuneration other than normal expenses.

ADMINISTRATION

There is always a need for people to assist with the varied work involved in keeping the organisation running smoothly. For example, those able to translate foreign articles are needed as well as those willing to help with publications. If you are able to help in any capacity please contact the Secretary, Miss Betty Wood, 6 Cairn Avenue, London W5 5HX.

BUFORA OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Membership is open to any person with a genuine and non-cultist interest in UFO's and who supports the general aims of the Association. Application forms are available from the Membership Secretary, Miss P. Kennedy MBE, 30 Vermont Road, London SE19 3SR.

Current Subscription £7.50 p.a.
From 1st September, 1981 £10.00 p.a.

Enrolment Fee £2.00
From 1st September, 1981 £2.50