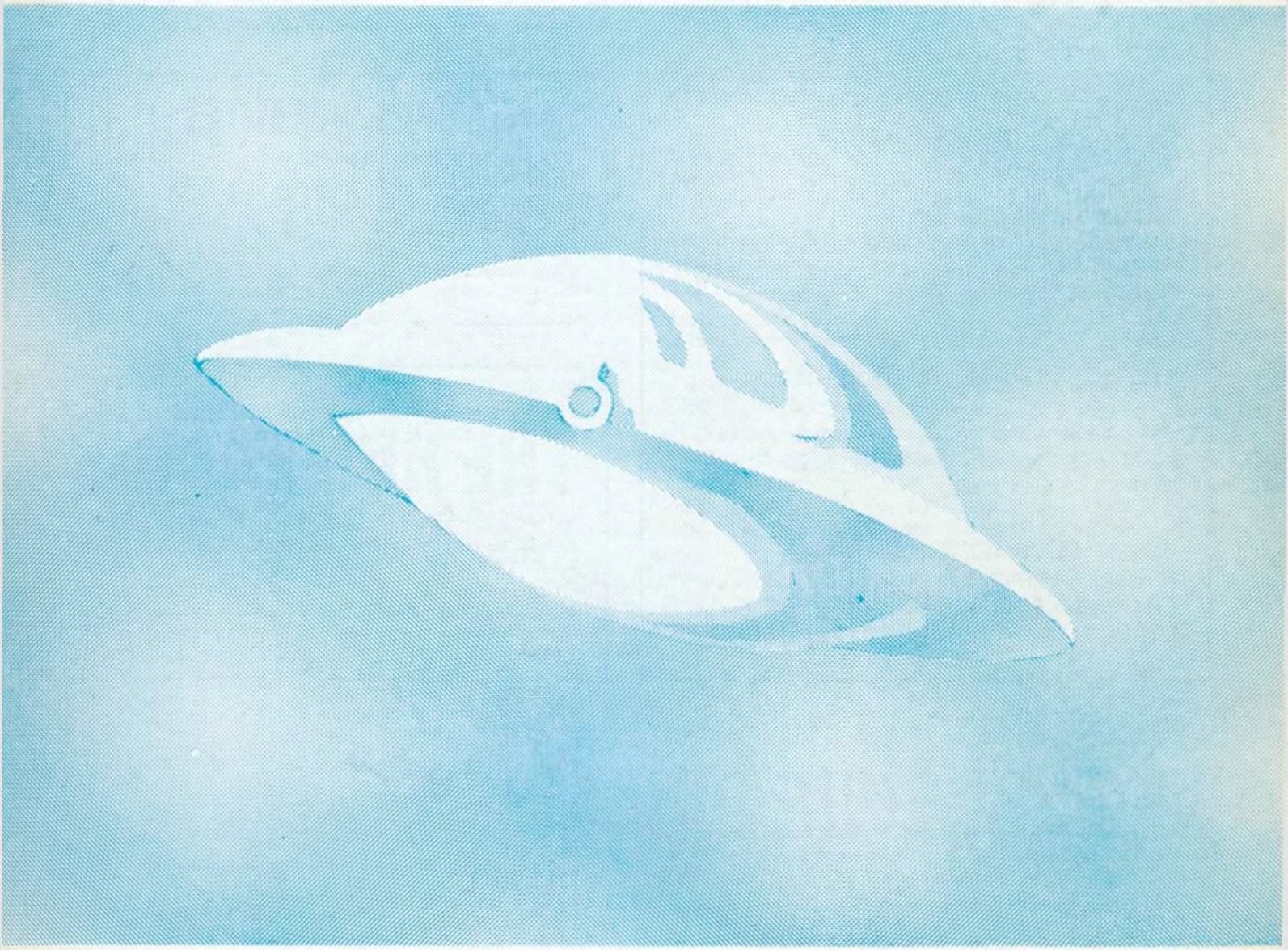
FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

Vol. 18, No. 2 March-April 1972 30



Impression by the artist witness of the remarkable

UFO OVER MENDOZA

See page 7

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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An international journal devoted to the study of Unidentified Flying Objects

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1972
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For subscription details and address please see foot of page ii of cover

MORE SUPPORT NEEDED

OF paramount importance is the need to ensure that good UFO case reports are given a place in the records. That is one of the main functions of our publications: without that record it would not be possible for us to broaden our grasp of the subject, our views would be narrow and the debate would be dull and stilted.

Flying Saucer Review presses on into its eighteenth year of keeping the record and providing a platform for the debate. In the autumn of 1970 it was considered essential that additional space be provided for the great volume of straightforward news items, of reports of investigated cases, and of translated items from foreign journals, that were coming our way. Thus it was that our second magazine, **FSR Case Histories,** was launched, and we feel that we may claim, with some justification, that a good job has been done in the eighteen months of its existence.

All our efforts are devoted to the production of our two magazines—readers are assured that twelve months of strikes, go-slow industrial actions, power-cuts and illnesses and accidents among our spare-time staff have made this something of a nightmare—and we cannot hope to investigate reports ourselves. The fact that the cases are on the record, however, should encourage investigators to check where they think necessary.

It has never been our intention that *FSR Case Histories* should be a vessel merely to catch the overspill from the senior magazine, and a listing of *some* of the items that have appeared in its columns will underline the importance of its contents:

Hampstead UFOs (Police report)
Spectacular Dinan landing (France)
Film taken near Newark
Pudasjärvi flap (Finland)
Landing at Franois (France)
Hackney UFO
Moira Lake UFO (Canada)
Olaf Davy's Wroxham report
Helleland encounter (Norway)
Little man of Norrbotten (Sweden)
Auto-stop near Docking
Lagôa Negra Landing (Brazil)
Puits-d'Edme Landing (France)
A Javanese A.V.B.? (Indonesia)
The B-57 photographs (U.S.A.)
Horse ill after UFO incident (Canada)
Unusual underwater object (Spain)
UFO and car which "floated" (Canada)
Landing at S. Fremantle (Australia)
UFO photographed at Poole
"Peace-symbol" UFO (Ceylon)
Contact in Helsinki (Finland)

Playa Sangrilá photographs (Uruguay)
Tynemouth UFO
Dogs disturbed at Temagog (Australia)
Object seen from Observatory (France)
Landing report from Delphos (U.S.A.)
The Aldridge case: Pc. Leek's photos
(investigated by Dr. J. Allen Hynek
and J. Hennessey)

We regret to state that in spite of this impressive record *FSR Case Histories* does not yet receive the support from our readers that it merits: its circulation has grown, and continues to grow, but too slowly at present. The 1,250 regular readers is not enough. We need 2,000—ideally more even than that—to keep the publication alive. What we fail to understand is how the other 1,750 regular subscribers to *Flying Saucer Review* can put up with seeing only part of the world-wide picture.

We plan to continue to publish *FSR Case Histories* for some time to come, and hope that those readers who have not already done so will seize the opportunity to take out a subscription and give much-needed support to this worthwhile venture.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS

FROM time to time we receive rather bitter complaints from some of you about the lateness and irregularity of deliveries of FSR, and about letters which go unanswered. You are quite right to complain, but we should like you to know the reasons behind these troubles. There is a world of difference between making excuses and giving explanations; and if those of us responsible for FSR were a bunch of amateurs, then it would be excuses we would be making to you. But we are all professionals in our various fields, and none more so than our Editor; so it is explanations I shall offer you in the hope you will understand our difficulties; and, in understanding, forgive us. We need your forgiveness because we depend entirely upon our subscribers, and it is exceptionally galling to us to know we are letting you down.

There are twin roots to our troubles; the first is lack of money—in that we lack the advantage of backing by a well-to-do Society or other vested interest—and this leads directly to the second, voluntary labour. I wonder how many of you realise that every member of our organisation is an unpaid volunteer, working solely for the love of it, and receiving—in the case of only one or two—a meagre sum for out-of-pocket expenses. Our staff are dedicated to the belief that we have a duty to you, and to anyone else into whose hands our journal falls. Our Editor devotes his whole private life to FSR, and he is out of pocket each year to the tune of hundreds of pounds: each time we hold a committee meeting in my home, it costs my friends hard cash to get there and get back again, and we don't think it right for the likes of us to take expenses.

We carry on primarily because the Editor is determined never to give up; and he won't give up until he gives up the ghost, just as his predecessor did. But the trouble with any enterprise which is run for the love of it, is that the moment there is a breakdown or slow-up of any kind, owing to health or other factors, there are no spare lovers to take our places, and the pile-up sets in immediately.

There is also the perennial trouble with delay at the printers, and our printers have experienced in full the many difficulties associated with the Miners' strike and resulting power cuts.

Then there is the question of the unanswered letters. Without a high-powered secretary, our Editor just cannot answer more than a few of the letters which cascade on him every week. He has his work cut out, not only with the exhausting and frustrating work of actually editing, arranging and proof-reading FSR, but even with keeping in touch with our generous contributors, who are also unpaid.

You might perhaps believe that the pavement is littered with talented men and women with time on their hands, who are just panting to offer their services free to help our cause. If our cause was dumb animals, the Red Cross, battered babies, or the rehabilitation of criminals, we would only have to crook a finger to have secretaries and clerical assistants queueing up on the doorstep. But our cause is not a favoured charity, or one with which the ordinary man can identify himself: it is a mysterious cause, a puzzling cause, and a challenging cause; a cause in which we have to be very careful that it is not a Venusian from Victoria, or a re-incarnated Archangel Gabriel who is waiting on *our* doorstep to offer their services gratis.

So, dear subscribers, be patient with us. We could, of course, reduce our costs, and perhaps pay one assistant, by giving you an inferior journal mimeographed on lavatory paper, and filled with meaningless saucer-droppings. But we won't allow that. Standards of both content and appearance must, we believe, be sustained at all costs; and that is what we manage to do, regrettably at the expense of irking and irritating our readers.

CHARLES H. GIBBS-SMITH.

Editor's note: We have come through a nightmare period since the end of 1970, with the odds stacked high against us: the Postal Workers' strike, Mrs. Spencer's illness and resignation, the temporary move to Beckenham, the power cuts, post affected by the rail go-slow, and our recent move to a new 'home'. I mention this list of 'troubles' in support of Mr. Gibbs-Smith's timely explanation: however, he has omitted one small, but important, point. This was a desperate occasion earlier this year when it was discovered that, unknown to us, an editorial assistant had suffered a breakdown in health and had failed to send to the printers vital pages for the January/February FSR, an omission which added more than two weeks to the delay already experienced.
And now, may I thank Mrs. Joan Odell for having housed and distributed our magazine for a year, and welcome Mrs. Enid Guinness, a reader volunteer who has taken Mrs. Odell's place.

AN ENIGMATIC FIGURE OF THE XVIIth CENTURY

Aime Michel

The third of a series of articles written specially for *Flying Saucer Review*.

Translation from the French by Gordon Creighton

EVERY ufologist who intends not to forego his curiosity exposes himself to two opposite dangers: namely, of taking a UFO for something else, and of taking something else for a UFO.

These dangers are especially menacing when we are dealing with ancient events for which we have no other resort but History. There are certain of these facts however that are so extraordinary that it is difficult to avoid being fascinated by them. I will relate one of them here, briefly and with little documentation, leaving it to competent historians to answer the problems to which it gives rise, if that be possible and if indeed those problems exist.

One of the greatest religious figures of the XVIIth century is Saint Vincent de Paul, born in 1579 in the little village of Poüy, near Dax, in the present French département of Landes, and dying in Paris on September 27, 1660. Founder of the Order known as the Lazarists, Monsieur Vincent, as he was called, illuminated, with his love for mankind, his piety, tender but never fanatical, and his intelligence, a particularly cruel period of history, a period marked by bloody wars between France, Spain, England and pretty well all the countries of Western Europe and by all manner of disorders. In that pitiless world, Monsieur Vincent spent his life in succouring the poor and unfortunate, the victims of the wars, the prisoners, the lost children, and in furnishing the image of a different sort of mankind.

Endowed with a superior mind, he commanded the attention of all who knew him, from the poorest peasants up to the Popes and the Kings themselves. Even those who maybe now read his name here for the first time know him already without realising it: who has not seen, at least once in his life, a little sister of St. Vincent de Paul, with her celebrated birdlike, winged, coif?

Well now, in the life of this great man, a life that has been written about and researched many, many times by scholars, there is a gap. From July 1605 till June 28, 1607, nothing is known of him apart from what he himself has said about it, and what he has said about it is even stranger than our ignorance of it.

From here on, in what follows, I shall be quoting the earliest of his biographers, Louis Abelly (1603-1691), Bishop of Rodez (département of L'Aveyron), author of a *Life of Saint Vincent de Paul*, in two volumes, the first edition of which, according to Larousse, was dated 1664, and of which I have the third edition, dated 1684.[1] Abelly knew Vincent de Paul well. As can be seen from their dates (his huge book having appeared only four years after the death of Monsieur Vincent), Abelly studied his hero during the lifetime of the latter. One can also see, in reading it, that he had had access to numerous family documents and religious and legal documents, as well as to letters and correspondence, much of it highly personal. The documentary part of the book, one might add, consists principally of straight copies, pure and simple, of these documents.

Abelly is a person of mediocre intelligence, with no imagination. In this biography of a saint, designed to edify the reader, there is not one tiniest allusion to the least little miraculous happening. The saint appears to us here as a worthy contemporary of Descartes. He is a Descartes of virtue, with tenderness added. In his life there are no marvels, no supernatural phenomena, no devils, no angels, no miraculous healings, and God appears in it only through the love that the saint inspires.

But . . . there is that two-year gap. Let us follow the documents copied by Abelly.

Vincent is the third of the six children of Jean de Paul and his wife Bertrande de Moras, poor peasants "making the most of their soil by their own hands." The exceptional intelligence of the boy is noticed by "a Prior of the neighbourhood." So he is sent to college, and then to the University of Toulouse, where he distinguishes himself by his "wisdom" (i.e. his intelligence) and his "modesty". Those who have dealings with him during this period already see in him a saint.

At the beginning of 1605, writes Abelly, Vincent (*he is now* 26 *years old*—A.M.) went on a journey to Bordeaux, for motives unknown to us; but there is reason to believe (it is Abelly speaking) that it was for certain great advantages that it was desired to secure for him; for, in one of his letters written at this period, Vincent says he had embarked upon the journey ". . . *for a matter which called for a great outlay of money and which he could not declare* (*specify*) *without being foolhardy* (*risk of being mistaken*)."

Abelly, very stupidly, supposes that Vincent wanted to get himself appointed to be a bishop through the "mediation" of a duke. An absurd supposition, because throughout his life Vincent will never cease to refuse all titles and honours, even those coming from the Pope.

Vincent returns to Toulouse, and then sets out again, this time for Marseilles, ". . . to attend to a matter concerning an inheritance." And it is there that he vanishes, in July 1605, to reappear, only after two years, at Aigues Mortes (100 kilometres to the west of Marseilles).

Naturally this model young man gave his masters and patrons an explanation for his absence. The explanation is as simple as (at first sight) it seems likely. We have the full account of it, in Vincent's own handwriting. This is

a letter, dated July 24, 1607, and addressed to "Monsieur de Commet the younger." If we are to believe what he says, just as he was due to return to Toulouse by road, Vincent had changed his mind and had taken a ship bound for Narbonne.

> "The wind would have been favourable enough for us to have arrived that day at Narbonne, which would have been a distance of fifty leagues, if three Turkish brigantines (the brigantine is a square-sailed schooner—A.M.) had not made towards us and attacked us, having been skirting the shore of the Gulf of Lions in order to catch the boats coming from Beaucaire, where there was a fair."

So, according to what Vincent tells us, he is made prisoner by the Turks, taken to Tunis, sold as a slave, then sold again, the victim of a hundred adventures, all of which he relates in detail, but which I shall refrain from reporting here for one very simple reason: namely, that if the reader wants to know them he has only to stand up and take down from his library shelf Cervantes' *Don Quixote* and turn to the story of the Prisoner of Algiers. For Algiers substitute Tunis, change a few trifling episodes, and it's all there: including the renegade Christians, the Muslim masters' womenfolk, seized with pity for the handsome young Christian slaves, etc., etc.

O.K. then. The two accounts are similar. So one of them has copied the other. *Which . . .?* The answer is easy: Vincent's letter is dated July 24, 1607, while the first edition of *Don Quixote* (in Madrid) was in 1605. The plagiarist is consequently the saint. This is where, first of all, the historians will have to pronounce their verdict: is it possible that the incredible similarity in the two accounts can be explained by *two identical adventures?* Would I have been less struck by the resemblances if I had read numerous accounts of captivity under the Turks? (Incidentally, it was not I who made this discovery—if it be one—but a Lazarist Father, a spiritual son of Saint Vincent, and of whom I shall speak later.)

We know that, for his captivity story, given in *Don Quixote*, Cervantes took as his inspiration his own captivity, from September 1575 to October 1580, that is to say thirty years earlier. In thirty years, many things had changed. For example, in 1605 the Turks were no longer holding Frenchmen as slaves, and Vincent himself says so: he declares that, in order to deceive the French Consul, the Turks had passed his party off as Spaniards. But is it then so difficult for a Frenchman, speaking his own language, to make himself known?

All right, people will say. This piece of plagiarism is, after all, of no importance. The young Vincent must have had some nice innocent adventure, some little love affair that would not have been approved of by his patrons. So, to give a good explanation, he will have simply copied out a passage from an obscure Spanish novel not yet known in France.

But, in that case the subsequent behaviour of the saint would indeed have been incomprehensible. Let us return to Abelly, who relates the history of this letter, which is our sole documentary source covering the two mysterious years.

The letter was found among the papers of a Canon of Dax named Saint-Martin by the latter's nephew in 1658, fifty years after it had been written.

The nephew, thinking that Monsieur Vincent would find comfort in reading his adventures of long ago (!) sent him a copy of it, two years before his death. But Monsieur Vincent read it and then threw it on the fire! Then he wrote to Monsieur de Saint-Martin thanking him for the copy and asking him for the original, and six months before his death he repeated this request with great insistence.

Suspecting that the letter contained something laudatory of Monsieur Vincent and that he only wanted it back in order to have it burnt as he had burnt the copy, the person who was writing at the dictation of Monsieur Vincent slipped into the letter to M. de Saint-Martin a note asking him to send the desired original to someone *other than* Monsieur Vincent if he did not want it to be destroyed.

Which was in fact done, and it is thanks to this that we know about it. But it can be seen how anxious Vincent was, as he lay at death's door, to make every effort to secure the destruction of the only document that gave a plausible explanation for his missing two years. His attitude is puzzling in the highest degree. His biography is indeed full of features indicating that on every possible occasion he would always condemn his own shortcomings and errors, even when they were mortifying.[2] Had he lied in that letter, *and had he been able to proclaim it*, there is scarcely any doubt that he would have done so. He did not do so.

So, either he did not lie, or he was unable to re-establish the truth. But, if he had not lied, why then this anxiety, this obsession, shown by the two missives which he sent? If we reflect about this attitude of his, we find only one explanation for it: being prevented by some unknown reason from re-establishing the truth, his scrupulous soul desired at least to destroy the lie. He did not manage to do so, and History is forced to record a major enigma.

For, let us look at the sequel. The young Vincent, just back from two years of slavery immediately after the termination of his studies (his diploma is dated October 1604), thus returns to his native soil at Aigues Mortes. Who then is he? A little peasant with a degree in Theology, who had not been heard of for two years. He has, it is true, one witness of his captivity; he has brought back with him a "repentant former renegade from Christianity" (who we shall never hear mentioned again). But even so, with or without a repentant renegade, he is still a nobody. Well then, what does he do? What would have been the most likely thing for this son, mourned for two years by his family, to do on returning to his homeland? It would seen that the first thing for any normal man to have done would be to go and embrace his father and mother.

Not a bit of it. No sooner is Vincent back at Aigues Mortes with his "renegade", than they set off in search of the Vice-Legate of the Pope, at Avignon. And this important personage of the ancient papal capital at Avignon not only receives the unknown little graduate and his "renegade", but immediately sends them off to see the Pope in Rome, *and departs for Rome with them.*

The attitude of Pope Paul V towards the little Gascon

peasant is no less surprising. He keeps Vincent there close by him in Rome, until the end of 1608, dining at the Vice-Legate's table and "liberally furnished with all his needs." After which, the Pope sends him off to Paris, *charged with a mission to King Henry IV of France*. Nothing is known about this mission, except that it was (and remained) "secret". He was accommodated in the Faubourg Saint Germain in Paris, among the attendants of Queen Marguerite, and was a very close friend of Sieur Dufresne, her secretary.

We will not follow Monsieur Vincent throughout his long life. One sole point (at any rate among those that are known to me) is of interest to us here, and that is the reason why he should have explained his two-year absence by "having been in the hands of the Turks," rather than by any other sort of story.

His contemporaries, who attribute to him no "miracles" in the supernatural sense of the word, nevertheless testify that he "knew things". For example, he knew how to cure gravel—which modern doctors call *urinary lithiasis*. Not by prayers, or the laying on of hands, or by any other magical means, but by means of remedies, just as our present-day medicine does. The most disturbing reference to this "knowledge" of his is to be found in the same letter to the "Monsieur de Commet the younger" referred to above, in which Monsieur Vincent gives the account of his alleged captivity. This Monsieur Commet Junior had recently lost his elder brother, who had died, in fact, from gravel. And this is what Monsieur Vincent writes to him:

> "Oh, how many times have I since wished that I had been in slavery before the death of Monsieur your Brother! *For I think that, had I known the secret which I now send you, he would not have died.*"

This "secret" was a medicinal prescription that has not been preserved. But the important fact is that, in the lines preceding the two above-mentioned sentences of Monsieur Vincent, he explains where he got the knowledge of this "secret". Let us hear what he has to say:

> "In Tunis I was sold to a fisherman who was soon constrained to get rid of me, as there is nothing that agrees so ill with me as the sea. This fisherman sold me in turn to an old man, a Spagyric Doctor, a Sovereign extractor of Quintessences, and a most humane and kindly man, who had laboured for fifty years in search of the Philosopher's Stone. He loved me greatly, and took pleasure in discoursing to me on Alchemy, and then about his own Law (the Koran) towards which he made every effort to draw me, promising me great riches, and all his knowledge.
>
> "God always wrought in me a sure and steady belief in my deliverance through the prayers that I assiduously directed to Him and to the Virgin Mary by Whose intercession I do believe firmly that I was delivered. The hope that I had of seeing you again, Monsieur, thus made me more attentive to gaining the knowledge of the method for curing the gravel, in which I saw the old man do marvels every day. He taught me it, and even had me prepare and administer the ingredients. Oh, how many times, etc. . . ." (here follow the two sentences already quoted above).

So (as Monsieur Vincent asserts), the "secrets" which he knows were got from an Arab alchemist who was "a Sovereign extractor of Quintessences." I don't know what the reader will be thinking about this Arab alchemist capable of curing the malady that, even half a century later, was to send Cromwell to a better world. Monsieur Vincent states specifically that he was the alchemist's slave from September 1605 to August 1606. He does not tell us by means of what language the Arab "took pleasure in discoursing to him on Alchemy," when, according to what he himself says, he had only been in Tunis a few weeks. The whole affair is strange, to say the very least.

* * * * *

Finally I must say something about the Lazarist Father to whom I referred at the start of this article. He wrote to me following upon a piece that I had had published in a review and in which I spoke of the possible influence of the Rosicrucians on Cyrano de Bergerac, Descartes, and other authors of the beginning of the XVIIth century. In it I expressed the idea that the Rosicrucians had perhaps played an important part in the educational formation of some of the founders of Experimental Science, that they had perhaps even contributed greatly to the first discoveries. My paper was not an erudite one: it was confined to the formulation of the questions, and the expression of the hope that some research might be done in that direction.

I read the letter sent to me by the Reverend Father, answered it, and then, as what he had said concerned only Saint Vincent de Paul, a personage in whom I was then quite certain that I would never be interested, I threw away the letter without noting down the address of the writer. With the result that what I am now going to report is unsupported by any references. I report it in the hope that erudite readers of *Flying Saucer Review* may be able to rediscover these precious references, and perhaps even the name of my correspondent (a Frenchman), if he has published anything.

The Reverend Father in question explained to me in his letter that he was working on a new biography of the founder of his Order, employing modern critical methods; that the two-year gap was a great puzzle to him; that the account of the captivity in Tunis looked like a plagiarism from Cervantes and presented difficulties; that the hypothesis that the Rosicrucians might have played a more important rôle in the ideas of that epoch was an interesting clue for him, as the disappearance of Monsieur Vincent might then be explicable by some fact-finding mission, which his Superiors might have entrusted in secrecy to this highly intelligent and devout young student, to go to the various places in Europe where there were influential Rosicrucians; that such a mission to people who were very learned and very clever but who were bound to discretion and prudence owing to the intolerance of the age might then explain perfectly certain incomprehensible facts that had been reported by those who were eye-witnesses to the visit of Monsieur Vincent to Avignon (to the Vice-Legate) and to Rome.

For, continued the Lazarist Father, both at Avignon and in Rome, before the Vice-Legate and before the Pope and the Cardinals, Monsieur Vincent, so these witnesses had said, *had displayed machines that were incomprehensible, one of them being in the form of a*

head, with bust, which talked. The machine, so they said, had actually talked before all that audience of learned and sceptical men. The secret of how it worked (or of its origin) had, it seems, been imparted in confidence only to the highest authorities. My Lazarist correspondent was very worried about all these matters, which "did not sound genuine," and which nevertheless would have explained so well the thundering success enjoyed by Monsieur Vincent on his return.

Who was Monsieur Vincent?

With or without a machine that talked, the personality and the deeds of Monsieur Vincent merit our close attention. His two-year disappearance remains a puzzle, the suspect explanations that he gives for it; his knowledge and learning; the absolutely *improbable* unfoldment of his life right from the very moment of his return, *in an epoch of History when only men of noble or bourgeois origins had a chance of doing anything whatsoever or of approaching the great ones of this world* —the whole affair is puzzling and perplexing. The latest French historical encyclopaedia says of him:

> "By reason of the wide scope of his work, the moral balance-sheet of which it is beyond the power of any figures to portray, he has been called the Great Saint of the Great Century."[3]

He died on Monday, September 27, 1660, at half-past-four in the morning, "at the very hour," says his biographer, "at which for forty years past he had been wont to invoke the Holy Spirit." His body did not assume the usual rigidity of corpses. A commission of doctors and surgeons performed an autopsy, and found inside his spleen "a bone of the width of a white *écu*, and of a length greater than the width," which these learned men judged to be "most extraordinary."

To all of which I will now add a fact that I only discovered while writing this article, and not without being moved. Looking up the village of Poüy, his birthplace, in the *Dictionnaire des Communes de France*, and not seeing it there, I got out the *Michelin* map of the Landes region, and I found that "*The birthplace of Saint Vincent de Paul*" is marked thereon for tourists (*Michelin* map No. 78, *pli* 7, on Departmental Highway No. 27, between Dax and Buglose).

Saint Vincent de Paul was born on BAVIC. Not "near" Bavic, twenty, or ten, or five kilometres from it, but exactly on the line.

Notes

1 *La Vie du Vénérable Serviteur de Dieu Vincent de Paul, divisée en deux livres*, by Louys Abelly, Evesque de Rodez. Third edition, Paris, 1684.
2 Abelly, Vol. II, Chapters 15, 16, 23, 24, 27, etc.
3 Robert Philippe and collaborators: *Histoire de la France*, Volume 1550-1650. CAL, Paris, 1971, p. 118.

Editor's Note

It is probable that the point of this article will be more fully appreciated when readers come to the fourth of Aimé Michel's current series, due for publication in the next issue of FSR.

Meanwhile, for those readers new to the study of UFO reports, and who are unaware of the meaning and significance of the BAVIC line, it is noted that it is a line which when drawn on the map runs through Bayonne and Vichy in France. Discovered by M. Michel and labelled an "Orthotenic" line, it is that straight geographic line on which were located a number of sighting points of UFOs—including those at Bayonne and Vichy—on September 24, 1954. This was shortly after the beginning of the great autumn "wave" of that year. The full account of this and of the discovery of several other multi-point orthotenic lines is given in M. Michel's famous book *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery* (Criterion Books, New York, 1958); the French versions (they followed the English-language edition) are *Mystérieux Objets Célestes* (Arthaud) and augmented editions published by Editions Planète (114 Champs Elysées, Paris 8) in 1966 and 1967.

An interesting feature of BAVIC is that a number of other incidents have taken place on the line, which also features prominently in M. Michel's *Palaeolithic UFO Shapes* (see FSR Vol. 15, No. 6, November/December 1969).

TRANSLATORS NOTE

MIGUEL DE CERVANTES SAAVEDRA (1547-1616), immortal author of the equally immortal *Don Quijote*, was a soldier against the Turks and Moors between 1570 and 1575. The most important engagement in which he served was the great Spanish naval victory of Lepanto (1571) over the Turkish fleet, at which he conducted himself with conspicuous gallantry. Besides receiving a gunshot wound in the chest, he had his left hand permanently crippled, for which he was proud ever after to be known by the nickname of *el manco de Lepanto* (the one-handed man of Lepanto). The Spanish Commander-in-Chief, Don Juan of Austria, promoted him to the grade of *soldado aventajado*, which meant higher pay. A few years later, Cervantes was in line for a possible commission as an officer, but this would require a visit to Madrid, so, with his brother Rodrigo, who had been serving with him, he embarked for Spain in the galley *Sol*.

But, six days later (September 26, 1575), the *Sol* was captured by the renegade Christian turned pirate, Arnaute Mami, and Cervantes and all the rest of the Spaniards were sold into slavery in Algiers. As Aimé Michel has mentioned, Cervantes was a slave for five years (not two as in the alleged case of Monsieur Vincent), for he was unlucky enough to be carrying letters of recommendation to some important people in Spain, so the Moors thought he must be a far bigger fish than he really was. It took all of five years for his family, aided by the philanthropic order of the Trinitarians, to raise the ransom of 600 gold ducats which the Moors demanded. His brother Rodrigo had been ransomed earlier.

Those who desire to consult Cervantes' description of his own captivity among the Moors will find it in the *Captive's Tale* (Chapters 39, 40, and 41 of *Don Quijote*—or *Don Quixote*—as the word used to be written in Spanish).

Owing to the age and great rarity of Abelly's *Life of Saint Vincent* (certainly never translated into English) I imagine that only a few French readers will be able, like the unknown Lazarist Father and Aimé Michel, to compare the two texts for themselves. Whether it really is a case of plagiarism should be easy enough to establish from the minor details.

That Monsieur Vincent himself can

(*Continued on page 17*)

A REMARKABLE CASE FROM MENDOZA, ARGENTINA

Antonio Baragiola

A French rendering of this report appears in *Lumières dans la Nuit* (No. 115, December 1971) and Monsieur F. Lagarde of their Editorial Board has very kindly sent us in addition a full copy of the French text with the message that it is the express wish and hope of Señor Baragiola that we too will find room to publish the case. As Monsieur Lagarde observes, it is indeed most remarkable and most important, on account of the circumstances, the new and highly valuable details recorded, and the exceptional calibre and standing of the eyewitness, Professor Julio Suárez Marzal. We express our thanks to all parties concerned for the special permission to publish the account.

It must be borne in mind that Gordon Creighton's translation is not from the Spanish original (which we have not yet seen) but from Mme. Boulvin's French rendering. The processes of double translation are bound to have impaired much of the style and flavour of the original, but we feel confident that our version contains no error of substance.

—EDITOR.

IN a covering letter to Monsieur F. Lagarde, I wrote:

"For those who have behind them years of experience in these matters, the job of analysing the data furnished by witnesses of UFOs has now become, as one might say, a matter of habit and routine, and all too frequently the testimony of the witness is so poor, with so few details of any scientific value whatsoever, that sometimes it would perhaps be better just to fling it into the wastepaper basket than to give it any mention.

"This time however the situation is far different indeed, for I am so intrigued by this fantastic sighting that I am making an Editorial on it—not at all like my usual modest circulars. But I am doing so in the hope that the various data contained in this piece of reporting will at last produce an explosion—and a violent one—amid the blind indifference of the bureaucrats who have set themselves up as investigators.

"But let us hope it will be an explosion that will blow open the windows; that it will let in the fantastic, flitting to and fro like a butterfly; that it will open the way for the extraterrestrial that is already present, here and now, among us. For what ails mankind is not so much its lack of knowledge of the unknown, but its *mental myopia in order not to want to see* what lies beyond its own constructs.

"Señor Julio Suárez Marzal is a Mendozan painter of world renown. He is recorded in a bibliography which is so impressive that it would take several pages to put it down on paper, and even then without mentioning actual paintings. Just to give an idea, we may say that his *curriculum vitae* shows him to be Professor of the Department of Painting (a full-time university appointment) in the School of Plastic Arts of the National University of Cuyo. He is the founder of the "Emiliano Guinazu" Provincial Museum of Fine Arts, Casa Fader de Mendoza. He has taken part in many art exhibitions and has many times been mentioned by the most discriminating of art critics. He is an intimate friend of Victor Petorutti ("the Argentinian Picasso"), and a great expert on the Andes, for his sensitive spirit feels strongly drawn, ever since his childhood, towards the majestic summits of the Andean peaks. He is a specialist in mural paintings, etc.

"As regards those who, in addition to Sr. Marzal, also saw the UFO, we will mention that in fact the latter was only a few metres from the Headquarters of the 8th Mountain Infantry Brigade of the Argentinian Army. The importance of the scene of the sighting lies in the fact that, being of high security significance, it is where the Headquarters of the 8th Brigade is located, and the building houses not only the quartermaster's department and the Intelligence department, but also the permanent communications centre (radio) through which contact is maintained via the army radio network with all military garrisons in the Mendoza region.

"What follows is Sr. Marzal's own account, and all the sketches and analyses are by him.

"*Publication of this report in the daily press or in journals of general circulation is forbidden unless the special consent of the investigator and of the eyewitness has first been obtained (this implies no commercial considerations).*

"*Lumières Dans La Nuit* and those other journals to which the present letter is addressed are authorised to publish the story, and I request that they will publish it in full."

* * * * *

Before we proceed with the report I would like to emphasise the great skill of the witness, Sr. Marzal, in grasping and explaining details. He was so impressed by what he had seen that he spent a considerable period of time in going over in his mind and recording with precision every least detail of the phenomenon he had observed.

Statement by the witness, Señor Julio Suàrez Marzal

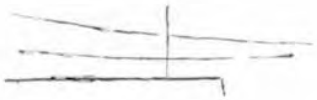
The Place Where It Occurred

The observation took place on May 24, 1971, from a dentist's surgery on the first floor of a building on the calle Pedro Molina, right in the very centre of the city of Mendoza, with a wide open space towards the south, extending as far as the promenades of the civilian quarter. We observed, in the direction of the Military Circle, far off and high in the sky, an unidentified object.

I remained alone in the dentist's surgery, while Dr. Walter Griehl ran to get some binoculars, returning just as the object was disappearing.



The sequence of movements as the UFO floated down



The location of the sighting; MENDOZA.



FIG. 2

Figs. 1-3

During his absence from the room, in just a few seconds of time, a whole series of events had occurred: I had seen the object come closer and perform the most curious movements.

A Previous Sighting

Six years earlier, in 1965, I had already seen a ball of fire in the sky. At the time, I thought it was a rocket burning up, although it was not descending in a straight line but with an undulating movement. It vanished from my view behind tall buildings just as night was setting in. I awaited an announcement of its imminent fall on the town: but it did not happen.

Details of the Mendoza sighting

What I saw this time, that is to say on May 24, 1971, in Mendoza, was no ball of fire, no light that passed overhead or approached or halted. What I saw was the actual flying saucer itself—just as one sees a motor car—*in broad daylight, at* 12.10, just after noonday, at a distance of 70 metres from me, approaching to as close as 40 metres from me, performing evolutions for a period of 90 seconds, in the most strange and different positions, confining itself meanwhile to one apparent and identifiable objective. With regard to the principal features that I was able to make out, I have made ink sketches of it, as well as coloured paintings of it, and in this way it has been my aim to record the facts of the matter as objectively as possible, and set them down in sequence as follows:

i. The object is moving silently, floating and drifting along very slowly from east to west, at an altitude of some 1,000 metres and somewhat over 1 kilometre towards the S.E. from me (rough guesses). The colour is a pearly-grey, faintly bluish, dull. Its brightness makes it stand out sharply against the deep blue of the sky. At once it starts to descend, with a rocking movement, and I perceive that it is slowly revolving, at least so I judge from a small bright circular mark which stands out on its surface.

ii. The object rapidly descends towards where I am, and approaches eye-level, with the astonishing speed which characterises the close-up as shown by the camera, as it registers a dizzying succession of gradations of approach.

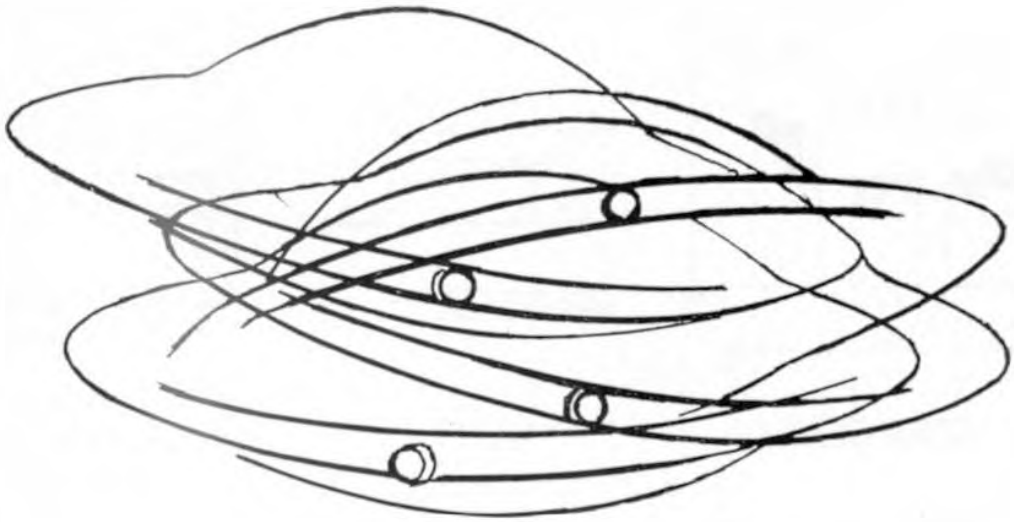
Now the object pours forth a dense cloud, like steam in turbulence, which surrounds it and grows. As it draws nearer it grows larger. It worries me that I can't see it clearly (the witness is here referring not to the UFO itself but to the bright point on its surface, as will be perceived by what follows). However, I imagine it must be some kind of view-finder adapted to a tubular axis.

iii. The UFO darts sideways at such speed that it suddenly vanishes; then surprises me by reappearing, much lower down, where it immediately stops, rocking to and fro slightly. When it first arrived it was incandescent, of a dark orange colour, and without the cloud around it. Now it is a clearer pearly grey.

It is very near me, at about 70 metres, and at 16°, to the S.E. While remaining stationary it now seems to glide along horizontally, moving away and then im-



Detail of the "Viewer"
Colour; Dark Bronze.



The rocking motion & lateral movements of the UFO.



Left Fig. 4

Above Fig. 5

perceptibly approaching again, like a photographic close-up. At this point in its approach I see only those parts of it that interest me and I pay no heed to the total appearance, which moreover seems cut off visually.

For about four seconds it is completely stationary in the air, silent, vibrating very slightly. This is the actual flying saucer itself, a solid object, a sort of metal. I have a magnificent view of it, with absolute clarity, bathed in the sunlight. I suddenly feel myself very much alone, I experience an indescribable loneliness at the weird realisation of the presence of this strange reality.

iv. After a quick glance to take it all in, my eye is caught by one detail: the bright point mentioned previously is now close, in three-quarter profile, like an external telescopic eye; it is a short cylinder, bell-shaped, the colour of old bronze, with shining frontal areas. Attached to the upper part, on the projecting, clearer portion of the cylinder, is a tubular central fin (we could call it a handle) of the same greyish colour as the whole surface of the craft.

I examine the structure of this viewer in every minute detail, and while I am studying its strange upper part the saucer gives a slight shudder and climbs away obliquely, travelling off rapidly towards the N.E., leaving me as it does so with a general view of the said upper part of the viewer; it seemed to have several other details on it, and I could make out a reddish contour on the back portion.

v. To my surprise, having lost sight of the saucer for some four seconds, it reappears, and even closer, and now in complete and total view, making great strange rocking movements.

The thing I had taken to be a sort of "eye", a viewer, assumes the position of a focussing lens (or, as we would say, a *sight*) and follows any given point by means of marked corrections, upwards, downwards, right, left, centre, with the speed and the touch of someone who wants to take precise and rapid aim because of the movements of the whole body of the flying craft, including too a pronounced to-and-fro rocking motion through about 35°.

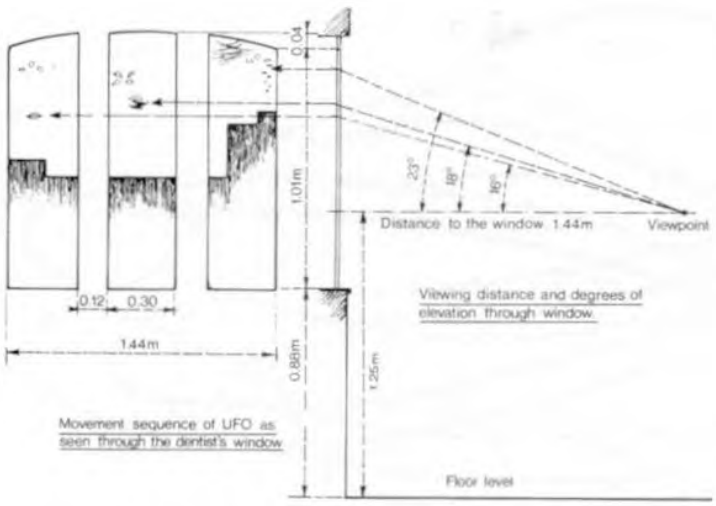
The viewer is pointing towards the parabolic short-wave antennae of the Central Post Office.

The sunlight shows up the viewer more clearly, and I can now actually feel the presence of someone who, with precision and intelligence, is directing the viewer's movements from inside the craft. (This scene lasted ten seconds in the opinion of the witness, who is accustomed to film-making.) The two appearances of the stationary saucer could have been filmed perfectly, or recorded on colour stills, for the saucer was magnificently revealed by the sunlight, thus permitting the sharpest, clearest vision. The remaining views of the saucer were extremely rapid, dancing, so that the eye-witness could not hold it well in focus.

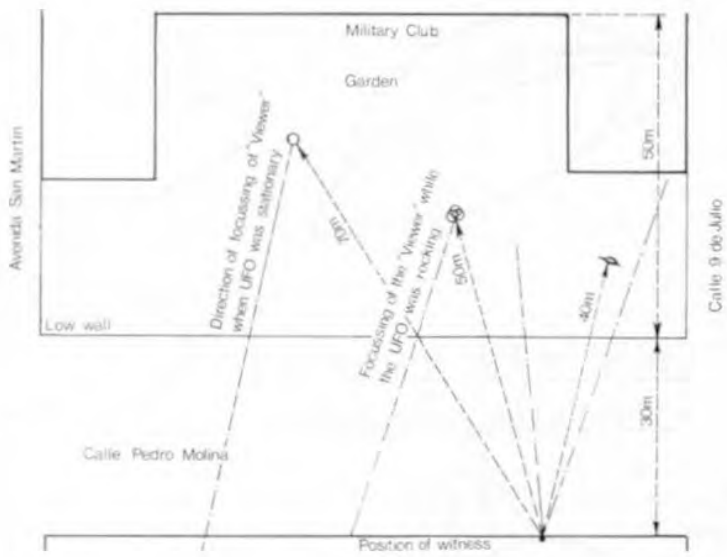
When I first observe the saucer, it shoots away from the foreground like a bullet (see sketch 9), vanishes in the sky, then reappears instantly afterwards at a height of some 1,500 metres and at approximately 29°, towards the S.W.

It slowly floats, as at the outset, from east to west. It changes shape, as when a conjurer does his tricks: at one moment it is elongated, then it is a globe, then it looks like a little hat, then it is oval, as it drifts along with a rocking motion.

Suddenly, as though taking its bearings, it quivers two or three times in rapid succession, then does a right-angled change of direction and moves off fast towards the south leaving an ever-darkening veil of vapour (which assumes a pale old rose shade) that hampers vision, till finally it is lost to sight.



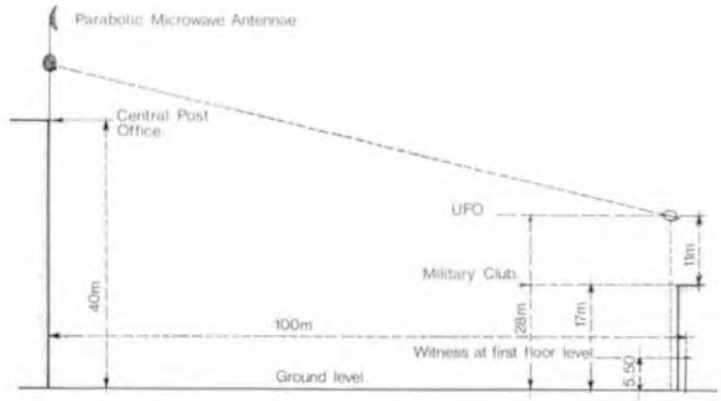
Above Fig. 6



Right Fig. 7

DRAWING SHOWING RELATIVE DISTANCES

Below Fig. 8



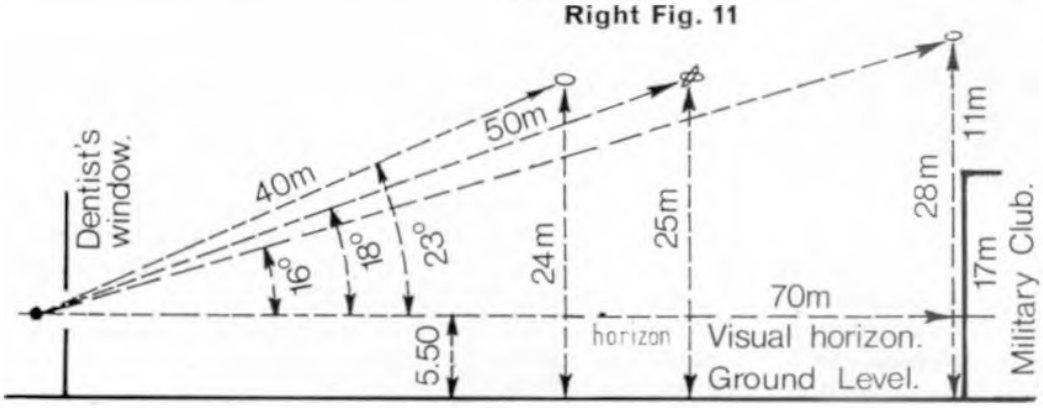
UFO AIMING ITS "VIEWER" FOR THE FIRST TIME

Below Figs. 9-10
Right Fig. 11

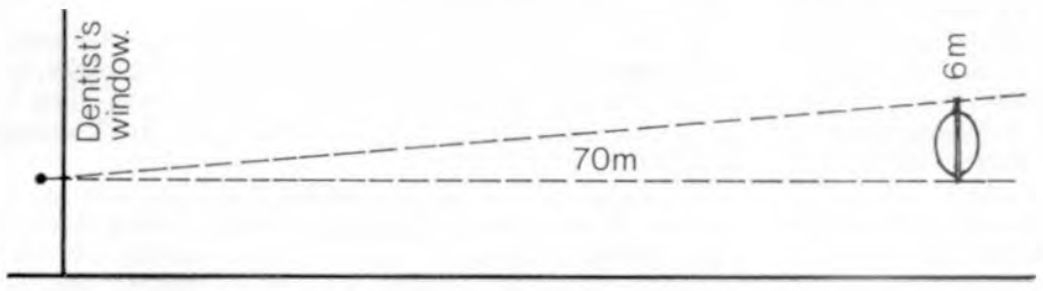
It is very hard to say what size it was, seeing that it represents the unknown. Perhaps 6 metres in diameter and 2 metres high at its centre, as arrived at by a few calculations and sketches.

I am now inclined to think that the saucer was also training its viewer on the Central Post Office from other positions: namely not only when stationary, but also when gliding along horizontally, this time as though *filming*, to judge by the long halt and the direction in which the viewer was permanently set.

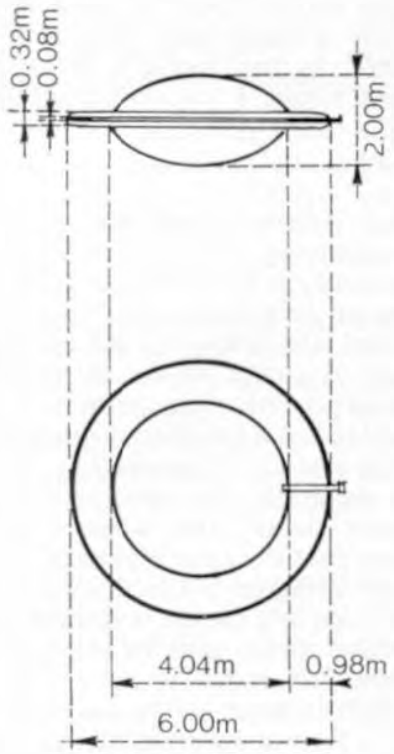
Quite apart from its moments of immobility, of imperceptible horizontal approach, of rocking or slow



Estimated altitude when UFO was on close approach flightpath.



Drawing at 3.60m for greater accuracy.



Possible dimensions of UFO.

floating, situations all of which enabled me to observe it with the closest attention, I must remark upon the utter difference between its way of moving and the way an aircraft moves. The aircraft seems to be pulled along, and to be making a great effort. On the contrary to this, the flying saucer moved about in various directions, *with an agility that is inconceivable, like a butterfly, at an unimaginable speed, beyond our laws of gravitation.*

Supporting letter from Dr. Walter Griehl to Sr. Julio Suàrez Marzal

Mendoza, August 5, 1971.

"In accordance with your request, I give this public testimony, with the sole aim of furthering your investigations and your studies, that on the 24th day of May, 1971, at 12.10, in my surgery, you, Professor Julio Suárez Marzal, drew my attention, through the glass of the window looking southwards, to an object which I saw and which, by the irregularity of its changing shape, was not identified; it was at an altitude of some 1,500 metres and at an approximate distance of ten *cuadras*.*

"It was moving slowly, silently, in a jerky manner, its colour a dull bluish silver. Out of curiosity I went to get some binoculars from an outbuilding, and when I got back it had vanished.

(Signed) Dr. E. Walter Griehl,
Dental Surgeon,
Reg. Licence No. 204."

* Old Spanish-American measurement, 1 *cuadra* = roughly 100 metres.

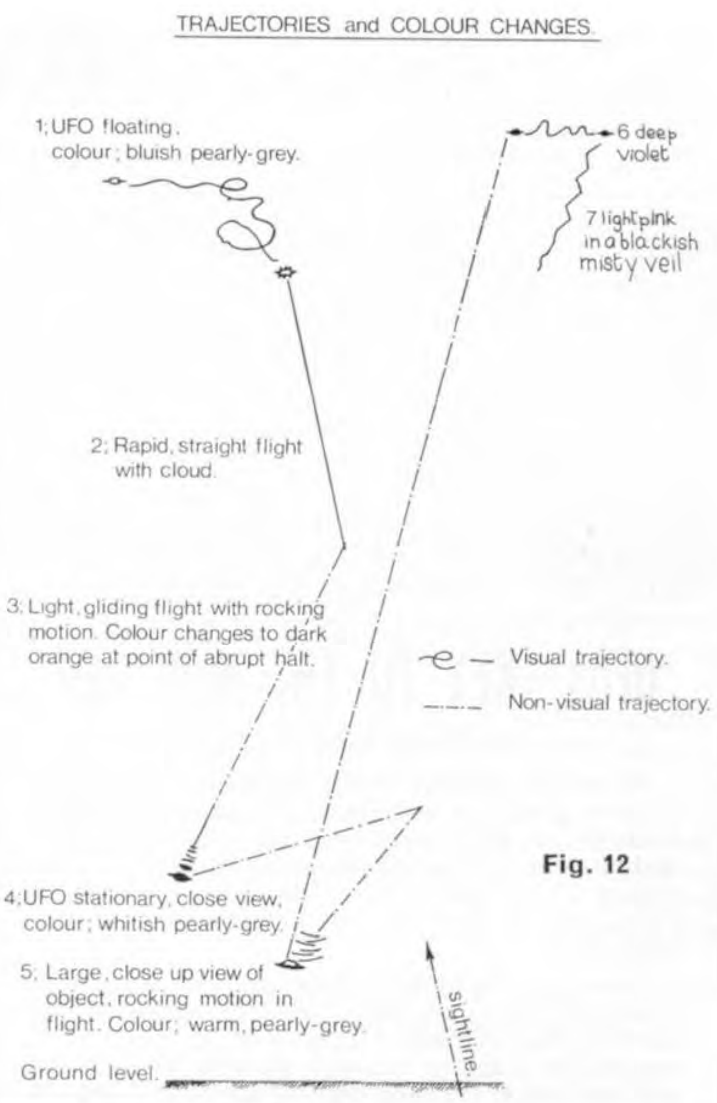


Fig. 12

NOTE ON THE MENDOZA REPORT

F. Lagarde

. . . in collaboration with members of the editorial team of *Lumières dans la Nuit*

MENDOZA (lying at 32° 54′ S., 68° 50′ W.), a city of 300,000 inhabitants, is, let us mark this once again, practically on the BAVIC LINE (to be precise, the outer suburb of Rodeo de Mondio, 20 kilometres to the S.E., lies right on it).

What we have here is in fact a sighting of a classic "flying saucer", but one that is garnished with a staggering description, with the most precise details, and from a man who has spent his lifetime in grasping detail in order to reproduce it in painting, and who has made this his profession, which fact endows his sketches with all their weight and importance.

A better eyewitness could not be found, and some folk may well wonder whether it was mere chance or whether it was by intention that the machine should have offered a veritable festival of all the fantastic things that the saucers habitually do, right in front of an artist—or rather we might say a "jeweller" in the matter of exact observation. It is in fact all here, nothing is lacking: the changes in appearance; the colours changing according to the speed; the accelerations producing invisibility; the right-angle changes of direction; the "falling leaf" descent (shown by Aimé Michel); the rocking movement while stationary—all recorded and sketched by a professional who is, on top of that, a teacher.

Was it chance too, or precise intent, ironical maybe, to come down right on noon, bang into the middle of a populous city, 11 metres above the Military Club, 200 metres from the Central Transmitter of the Argentinian Army as well as Government House, in fact right at the centre of things? Who of us will ever know?

But a new fact makes its appearance here: we had frequently wondered how the UFOs could communicate with the outside while in flight. Now Sr. Marzal has seen what he describes as a "viewer", and he seems to have given the answer to our query.

We do not know the purpose to which such an

appendage was put, but Professor Marzal is of the firm opinion that it was aimed at the antennae of the Central Post Office, and at a further distance there are also those of the Argentinian Army.

This is not the first occasion on which UFO sightings have occurred in the close vicinity of shortwave transmitters (the most recent case was at Jonchères, in the Haute-Vienne département of France, where a landing took place not far from the French Army's relay-post). We should also include private transmitters and important airfields where there is W/T communication with aircraft. And why not also everything else that causes interference: high voltage lines, or low voltage lines in bad condition, electric power plants . . . and motor-vehicles not fitted with suppressors. We now perceive that there are indeed a very large number of sightings precisely around these various types of targets, and one may wonder if we have not here a common denominator. It is a matter to be followed up.

The size of the saucer too belongs to a classic series of sightings, and one may well think that Professor Marzal is very close to the truth with his figures. One may well think too that, if the UFO is manned, its occupants are not very tall, and must resemble the dwarfs that have so often been described already.

Our thanks to our friend Antonio Baragiola for giving us the benefit so speedily of this precise and excellent sighting from a witness who provides a very simple account of what he saw and what he memorised so well.

And now, "what will our critics have to say about this case?" asks Baragiola in a personal letter. Well, nothing, alas, *since they are all myopic!*

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by ARTHUR SHUTTLEWOOD

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REPORT FROM BUFORA

Progress: The Association currently has a first-class administrative team which leaves its research officers free from administrative worries. Late last year, the N.E.C. reviewed research policy and made positive proposals for the future. Several interesting reports are under investigation. Learned speakers have addressed well-attended London meetings. Thanks to the generosity of members, the financial position is good and BUFORA is probably in a stronger position now than at any time previously.

Sky Watch: This year's sky watch exercise is scheduled for 24-25 June; further details are obtainable from: Mr. Lincoln Richford, 14 Playfield Crescent, London SE22.

For details of the **BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION,** its publications and activities, send a 9 by 4½in. S.A.E. to:
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COULD I CONTACT a few friends or associates of George Adamski?—Frederick Tuck, 48 Phyfield Road, Burnt Oak, Edgware, Middlesex. Tel. 952-6817.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Readers are reminded that *FSR Case Histories* Supp. 10 has been re-timed to follow FSR for May/June 1972 instead of this issue. This, we hope, will bring FSR back to proper publishing times.

ITAPERUNA AGAIN

Gordon Creighton

IN *Uproar in Brazil* (FSR, November/December 1971) I gave an account of the remarkable recent happenings at Itaperuna in the state of Rio de Janeiro.

The Rio illustrated magazine *Domingo Ilustrado*, of October 17, 1971, brings us a further instalment in the Itaperuna story, and reveals for the first time something that had happened on a Thursday night towards the end of May of that year—probably May 27.

1—Sr. Leite's encounter

The author of the report is the journalist Carlos Chagas, who tells us that the incident befell his uncle, Senhor Nélson Vieira Leite, a prominent Itaperuna farmer and businessman, whom I have already mentioned (FSR, November/December 1971, top of page 28). I had merely stated that this gentleman and his wife had once seen a saucer at their farm.. But the recent experiences of the typewriter mechanic and the truck-driver, who encountered the unpleasant little dwarfs and were the victims of their tricks, have emboldened Sr. Nélson Leite to speak out at last about what had happened to him last May.

Sr. Leite, brother of the Prefect of the Municipality of Itaperuna, lives in the town, but frequently goes out to spend the day on his farm, 40 minutes by car from the town.

The day in question had been a very fine one, and he was waiting just before sundown, beside the road, for his nephew Manoel Carlos who was due to come by in his car and take him back home.

Suddenly, despite the fact that he could see the Sun going down in the west, Sr. Leite was puzzled to observe that it had seemingly just appeared over one of his fields towards the east, on the other side of the road. But it was not long before he perceived that, whatever this might be, it certainly was not the Sun. It was a light, quite pale at first, but it rapidly grew stronger and finally was blinding. It was coming down towards him out of the sky and finally it came to a halt just above the long grass of the meadow, without actually touching the ground.

Curious to know what this might be, he went across to take a closer look. The light was now fading again and its brightness was, as he explained, roughly equal to the brightness of the lights on the high poles on top of the Aterro do Flamengo (a hill at Rio de Janeiro that he knows very well). He was now able to observe the light without shading his eyes. And he could see what it was. It was a greenish object, ". . . resembling a soup-plate upside down." It looked quite a lot bigger than a *Volkswagen* car, which may indicate that it was in fact a different type of saucer from those seen recently by the two other residents of his town who were "privileged" to have such extraordinary experiences with the dwarfs (see *Uproar in Brazil*).

Sr. Leite continued to draw nearer to the object though, as he admits, not without considerable fear. Indeed, he was trembling. But his curiosity was even greater than his fear, just as was his desire to protect what belonged to him. And there, right in front of him, was this thing, hanging, less than a metre off the ground, over one of his own fields . . . why, perhaps it might, he felt, even be right over one of his own sleeping cows!

But, when he had reached a point about ten metres from it, he suddenly realised that he was no longer walking, and that he had not been walking for what seemed to have been some minutes, though he had by now somehow or other lost all sense of time. He seemed half-numbed, yes, almost like the way he remembered he had felt when, some years before, he had been just about to enter the operating theatre in the hospital to have a hernia seen to.

However much he tried, he simply could not walk. His legs would not obey him. But he was not paralysed; it seemed entirely different from that, for he was waving his arms about and he even turned round and faced back towards the road. But he was totally unable to go *forwards*. An invisible barrier halted his steps. And then he noted another strange thing. This was a humming noise, which seemed to be coming from inside the "soup-plate".

The light from the object was still weak, though sufficient to illuminate the whole area around.

A shout in the dark

Suddenly he heard a shout, and from behind him came his nephew Manoel Carlos (cousin of the author of this report, Carlos Chagas), who had observed the whole scene, though unable to hear any sound. More daring than his uncle, Manoel Carlos was not walking. He was *running*. And he was unaware of the invisible barrier that lay between his uncle and the disc. The result was that he knew no more for several hours thereafter. He was knocked right out. Knocked out just as though he had been run over, or had walked into the plate-glass doors of one of the Government Ministries in Brasília, the Federal Capital.

Seeing his nephew lying prostrate, Nélson Leite was now vastly alarmed. And seldom, he says, has he ever known such a *depression* as now came over him—*depression, and a feeling of utter impotence in the face of the whole business.*

He gazed at the disc. It now seemed to him that there was a band of greater brightness right around it, and that this indicated the existence of some windows or port-holes. He reminded himself to keep looking at the ground below it. The "dish" was still suspended above the grass, at a height of a little less than a metre. Nothing was happening, everything was going on just as though it had been just like this for a long, long time. How much time actually did elapse he was subsequently able to estimate: about 20 minutes, at the outside.

But at the time, to Nélson Leite, it was 20 years.

The hum increases

The light from the disc now began to grow stronger and the hum more piercing, until Sr. Nélson Leite was obliged to put his hands over his ears. And the flying saucer took off, straight up, slowly at first, then moving so rapidly that immediately it was no bigger than a star in the sky.

Later, when the nephew had recovered consciousness, they both went to examine the spot over which the thing had hovered. A great open area had been formed in the long grass, and the grass looked burnt and scorched.

Burnt and scorched by a "flying saucer."

Sr. Nélson Leite at first told nobody about the incident. He had no desire to be taken for a madman. He himself had laughed, countless times, at similar stories told by local *caboclos* (peasants). And, indeed, one of the cases he had laughed at—a very strange case, too—concerned another farmer, a friend of his, who had been chased for several kilometres in his car by a flying object.

Now, however, since the incidents of last week (i.e. the cases reported in *Uproar in Brazil*—G.C.) Sr. Nélson Leite *has* agreed to talk at last. He is still entirely self-possessed, and denies any supernatural aspect to the affair. Says he: "It must have been something to do with extraterrestrial beings, people like us, or a bit different. But nothing beyond the bounds of what is rational."

Tail-piece

In another column, the same issue of *Domingo Ilustrado* prints the following letter from a correspondent named Myrthes Monard of Curitiba, in the South Brazilian State of Paraná:

> "I simply cannot understand how a paper of the stature of *Domingo Ilustrado* can devote itself to wasting so much of its readers' time with rambling tales about hypothetical Martians allegedly invading the Earth in flying saucers. After all, nobody is such a fool in our technological age as to believe in phantasmagorias of this sort. What's going on?"

To which the reply of the Editor of *Domingo Ilustrado* is as follows:

> "*That is precisely what we are trying to find out, as part of our job of informing the public properly. Whether or not the saucers do exist is something about which we can at present give no assurance either way. But, from the moment that numerous persons, not only at Itaperuna but also in other places in Brazil and indeed in the whole world, say that they have seen these strange objects, then the only course to adopt is to keep a record of the phenomenon and to try to penetrate the mystery.*
>
> "*That is our duty.*"

2—Discussion

How honest, and how refreshingly different from the attitude of the British press! Fancy talking of *keeping the record!* Why—that is precisely what FSR has been doing for these seventeen years past.

I am sure that this further report from Itaperuna will be found highly interesting. One may guess—perhaps speculate is the better word—that what Sr. Nélson Leite saw was, as Carlos Chagas says, something totally different from the type of vehicle reportedly used by the mischievous dwarfs. Still speculating, I would draw attention to the similarity between Sr. Leite's description of the "soup-plate upside down" and the following:

1. The UFO seen on the sea near Rio (in FSR for May/June 1971). See in particular the sketch on the cover.
2. The craft used by the Lagôa Negra humanoids (in *FSR Case Histories* No. 5, June 1971). See in particular the sketch on cover.
3. The UFO photographs from Sangrilá, Uruguay (in *FSR Case Histories* No. 8, December 1971). See in particular the enlarged photograph on the cover.

These three UFO reports all come from one relatively small coastal area of the South American continent. I suggest that 1 and 2 go far to support the authenticity of 3, and that, taken in conjunction, they may be thought to indicate the existence of a type of being that is far nearer to us in appearance than are the dwarfs, a being which may be making great use of the South Atlantic continental shelf off Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina as a handy base area from which to visit the land and, finally, *possibly a being that, unlike the dwarfs, is not unfriendly to us.* (It is true that Sr. Nélson Leite's nephew was knocked out, but this may only have been through running against a purely protective barrier.)

As regards previous reports of "invisible barriers", I have the impression that these have been quite frequent but a search of the literature would be time-consuming. At present I will merely point out that there is an excellent case in Mr. Ted Phillips' "UFO Events in Missouri 1857-1971" (*FSR Case Histories* No. 8, December 1971) where we read (page 10) that on February 14, 1967, in South Central Missouri, a farmer got to within 30ft. of a disc standing on a shaft. He began to throw some large rocks at the machine, and the rocks hit something which seemed to be at a distance of 15ft. from the craft, and fell to the ground.

Finally, we might also recall the Russian case which Signor Alberto Fenoglio published in 1962 in the Italian Space and Rocket Journal *Oltre Il Cielo: Missili & Razzi*, and which I gave in translation in my article *Amazing News From Russia* (FSR, November/December 1962, p. 28).

According to this report, one of several which Signor Fenoglio said he had secured from a Soviet diplomat and a Soviet engineer whose names he was (understandably) unwilling to divulge, the Russians were at work, in the summer of 1961, on the installation of new batteries of ground-to-air rockets on a hill near Rybinsk, some 150 kilometres north of Moscow, when suddenly a huge disc appeared, at an estimated height of 20,000 metres, accompanied by a number of smaller discs. The flotilla came to a halt overhead and seemed to be studying the situation. A nervous battery-commander panicked and gave an unauthorised order to fire a salvo of missiles, all of which exploded simultaneously long

THE ÄNGELHOLM LANDING REPORT

Sven-Olof Fredrickson

Our contributor, well known to readers of this Review, is Secretary of the Göteborg Information Centre on UFOs, and one of the editorial team of the Group's publication *GICOFF Information*, of Ahrenbergsgatan 14 a, 416 73 Göteborg, Sweden.

THE Swedish magazine *Allers* carried, in its issue No. 44 of 1971, an article about a fantastic UFO-observation made in May 1946. The only witness, Mr. Gösta Carlsson, is well known in Sweden. He is an industrialist, and at the same time sponsors an ice hockey team. We have not been able to speak to him, but we have been in close contact with Mr. Eugen Semitjov, the man who wrote the original article. Mr. Semitjov is prominent as a space-science writer, and is one of the few who has seen both the NASA and Soviet space activities from the inside.

The report, as presented here, is a summary of both his, and the GICOFF investigations. When reading this, one must bear in mind that the famous "ghost rockets" over northern Europe did not appear until July 1946.

Mr. Gösta Carlsson's account

"It was an evening in May 1946. I had been out walking, trying to find pollen for my bees* and was resting for a while close by the shore. By the time I started to walk back home it was almost dark, so I used a forehead lamp.

"When I saw a light among the trees I thought at first that someone had made a fire. The light was coming from an open space in the forest a short distance away. When I reached the place, however, I saw that in the farthest end of the open ground there was a disc-shaped object with a cupola. The cupola seemed to be a cabin with oval windows. Above it there was a mast, almost like the periscope of a submarine. Beneath the disc there was a big oblong fin which stretched from the centre to the edge of the underside. There were also two metal landing legs. A small ladder reached to the ground from a door beside the fin.

"The object was approximately 16 metres in diameter and 4 metres from top to bottom at the middle. I know this because I measured the marks on the following day. There were a lot of holes around the edge of the disc, like those of a turbine, and it was from these that jet-beams came which burned the grass when the object departed. The light came from the mast. It was about 5 metres in height, and three antennae were suspended from its top. Lower down something like a lampshade was hanging. It was shining with a strange purple light which covered not only the whole object but also the ground a couple of metres beyond it. The light was flowing and pulsating from the "lampshade" like water from a fountain. Where the light hit the ground I could see a sparkling effect.

"On the ground, beyond the area of the light, a man in white, closely-fitting overalls, was standing. He seemed to be some sort of a guard. He raised his hand towards me: it was a gesture that could not be misunderstood, so I stopped. I was less than 10 metres

* Anyone who is ignorant of the habits of apiarists might feel inclined to ask: "Don't bees find their own pollen?" In his original version Mr. Fredrickson translated the phrase as: *to find pollen for my bee-keepings*, which is a little puzzling. The point seems insignificant, however, and I hasten to stress that Mr. Fredrickson's translations from his own language into English are always very good: without them much of what happens in Scandinavia in our field would remain unknown to us, and we are greatly indebted to him—EDITOR.

ITAPERUNA AGAIN

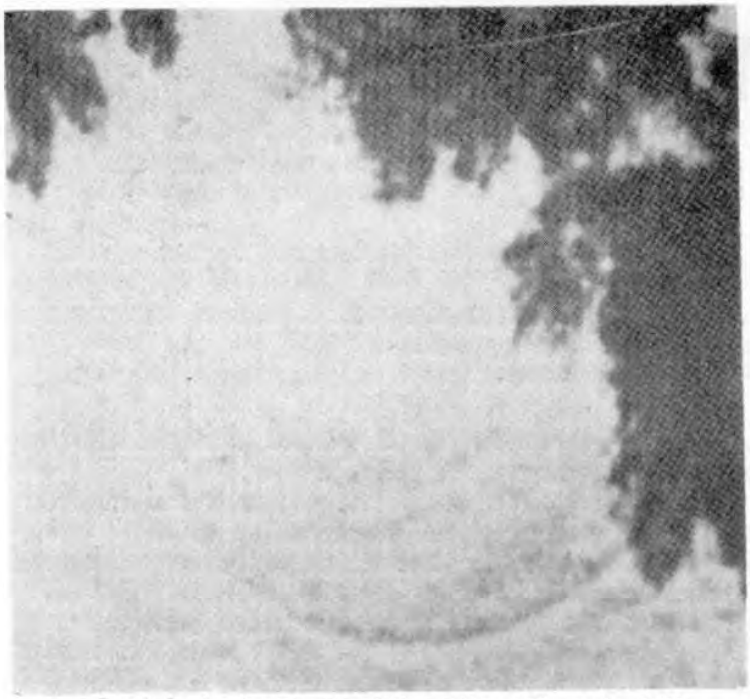
(*Continued from page 14*)

before reaching the target. A second salvo was fired, with the same result, after which the smaller discs swooped down over the missile sites and stalled the whole of the electrical apparatus.

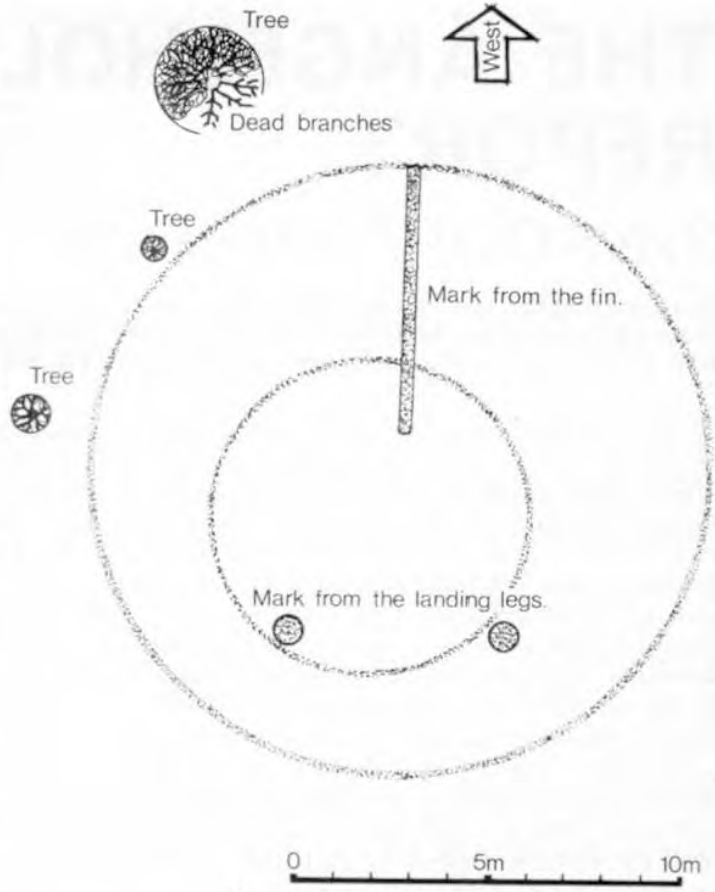
We shall very probably never know whether this Russian report is entirely true, but it must, I think be conceded that, in the light of all that we have heard in the ten years that have gone by since then, such a happening does not now seem to us at all unlikely.

Finally, the moment is opportune to mention a mysterious case which has been on my files for some years, and which may possibly also have involved a UFO's force-field, though no UFO was actually seen.

It happened in or around 1947 at Newnham Park, just outside Oxford, which was at the time a Royal Air Force Camp. The place had the reputation, so it seems, of being "a bit spooky", to use the words of my informant, who was in the RAF and was at that camp at the time. What happened was that one of the sergeants was riding his bicycle in the grounds of Newnham Park when suddenly he seemed, as it were, "to have hit a brick wall" and was thrown violently over the handlebars on to the ground. Despite the most careful examination of the bicycle and of the site, so my informant tells me, no conceivable cause for such an accident could be found. There was no question of any hoax.



Aerial photograph of the site, taken in 1963



Copyright GICOFF

from him. He was approximately as tall as I am, maybe a few centimetres shorter, but he was thinner than me. There were others like him, but the strange thing was that nobody said a word. It seemed as if they had just finished repairing a window, because they put their tools away and looked at me. Everything was silent. The only thing I heard was the sound from the guard when he walked on the grass. There were three men working at the window, and two more were standing alongside. There were three women as well, and one more came out of the object later. On the far side there was another guard. In all I saw 11 persons.

"They wore short black boots and gloves, a black belt around the waist, and a transparent helmet. The women had ashen-coloured hair, but I could not see the hair of the men as they wore black caps. They were all brown-coloured, as if sunburned.

"I went a few steps closer, but then the guard raised his hand again. After that I stood still. The guard had a black box on his chest which was suspended by a chain around his neck. It looked like an old black camera. He turned it towards me and I thought he was going to take a picture of me, but nothing happened, except that I thought I heard a click from my forehead lamp. The lamp did not work after that, but that may have been purely coincidental. When I returned home I found that the battery had run out, although it was a new one.

"It seemed as if the 'cheese-dish cover' of light stood like a wall between us. I think it was created to isolate them from our world and atmosphere. One of the women came out of the cabin with an object in her hand. She went to the edge of the wall of light and threw the object beyond the area of light. At the same time I heard her laugh. (Mr. Carlsson later retrieved the object. An investigation in 1971 showed nothing exceptional. It was composed, among other things, of silicon. Its shape had been changed by the witness, and it looked like a staff.)

"Afterwards it is difficult to explain what one does, and why one does it. I thought the disc-like object could be some sort of military device. The whole scene seemed so strange. I never take alcohol, and I knew it was not an hallucination, but nevertheless I decided to go back to the seashore, and from there return to the opening to see if the object was still present. I was aware of a smell like that from ozone (O_3) following an electrical discharge."

* * * * *

Mr. Carlsson was away for something like 30 minutes. Then he says he set off to return to the site, but by another route so that he could see the object from the other side. Before he had time to leave the shore, however, he suddenly saw a bright red light. With a whining sound the object slowly rose above the tree-tops. It went up with a corona of red lights from the "turbine holes". At 400-500 metres its ascent slowed and it wobbled a little. Suddenly the red light became brighter and turned to purple: the object accelerated away at a tremendous speed and disappeared.

GICOFF investigation

The preceding account was the story as presented in *Allers* by Mr. Semitjov. He believes the witness was telling the truth, or the truth as it was after 25 years. During all those years a lot of details may well have become distorted.

The place where the incident is stated to have taken place is just outside Ängelholm, a town 100 kilometres to the north of Malmö in southern Sweden. After contact with our representative there, Mr. Nils-Erik Lind, we decided to look at the place ourselves.

The opening, or glade, is located 100 metres from the nearest road, but is accessible by tractor. It is between 30 and 40 metres in diameter, with only a couple of very small trees. We could see a big circle, two small ones, which, presumably, were caused by the "landing legs", and a straight line, caused presumably by the "fin" (see diagram). What was strange, however, was that the marks had been made recently: someone had dug a circle 10 centimetres deep, 10 centimetres wide and 16 metres in diameter, and then filled it in with sand. The same had happened with the marks of the supposed "landing legs" and "fin". Mr. Semitjov assured us that this had not been done by him, and that there were no signs of digging when he was there two months earlier. The original marks were still visible without digging them up, he said, so who had done it and why? We discovered that a reliable witness was at the place the day after the *Allers* article was published on October 30, 1971, and by that time the marks had been dug up.

While we were at the site we saw something else. Inside the big circle, but not in the middle of it, there was a smaller one (see diagram). Nothing was said about this in the original article. If Mr. Carlsson knew about it, why did he not tell Mr. Semitjov? If he did not know about it, then why not? According to his own testimony he has been to the place several times, so he should have noticed it, even if it was difficult to see. We also noticed that the mark indicating the fin, re-cut by our strange "someone", pointed exactly towards the west. By chance?

We had taken with us, from the Chalmers University of Technology, a sensitive GM-counter. The result was negative, as was expected.

Could the marks have been made recently? No, because they appear in aerial photographs which have been taken over the area. The series of aerial photographs were taken in 1939, 1947 and 1963. In 1939 and 1947 the photographs were taken from an altitude of 3,000 metres, and on both occasions the same type of camera was used. In 1963 they were taken from 900 metres. We have been able to check all of them, and have in our possession copies of the photographs of 1947 and 1963. On them can be seen the inner circle as well as the outer one, but not the marks of the "fin" and the "landing legs", which is understandable because of the great distance between camera and object. No circles are visible in the 1939 photographs. If they existed then, they would have been seen.



The witness, Gösta Carlsson

Our investigation has thrown some more light on this case, but we have also uncovered a few problems. Who for instance dug up the marks? Why were we told nothing about the inner circle? Why is the mark of the "fin" pointing due west?

One thing we do know for certain: the two circles were created between 1939 and 1947, and Mr. Gösta Carlsson says he had his fantastic experience in May 1946.

TRANSLATORS NOTE ON CERVANTES

(*Continued from page 6*)

ever have been a slave of the Moors seems highly improbable. It must however be borne in mind that in 1605 (th date of his mysterious "disappearance"), the dread terror of captivity among the Moors must have still been very much present in the minds of all the peoples of Western Europe, so Saint Vincent would not have been at all unlikely to think of the "slavery" theme when casting around for a good "excuse" for his absence.

In the *Captive's Tale* Cervantes tells us that no less than 15,000 Christians, Europeans, were liberated from the slave-galleys of the great Turkish fleet after that mighty day of Lepanto. And during the reign of our own Elizabeth the First of England, it happened more than once that Moorish sea-raiders, just like the Vikings before them, landed on a Sunday morning on the coasts of Cornwall and Devon, caught the local populace at their church services, and carried them off, able-bodied men and comely women, for the slave-galleys and the harems.

With the political changes now occurring in the world, and particularly in the Middle East, it is interesting to reflect that history could repeat itself, and such terrible things could well happen again. But that is another story, and not for *Flying Saucer Review*.

Trust the French to find a name for it . . .

Critics of That Report who delve into *Soucoupes Volantes: vingt ans d'enquêtes* by Charles Garreau (see p. ii of cover), may find their worst fears realised when, in the Table of Contents (p. 212), they read of *Le rapport Condom*, which, of course, was prepared by the *Commission Condom* (cover flap). Misprints which could cause the English to doff their caps?

THE HAZARDS OF TELEVISION

Charles Bowen

DURING February, 1972, two television programmes featuring UFOs were broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation. Both went out on the same channel, BBC-2: the first in the *Man Alive* series on February 2, the second in *Horizon* on February 7. The first was an unfortunate affair which seemed to many to have been designed to "knock" the subject and those who claim that it is worthy of serious consideration; the second was excellently contrived, and it remains a source of wonder that two so entirely dissimilar features should emerge from the same branch of the BBC in less than a week.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek took part in the *Horizon* programme, and viewers were introduced to strange natural and paranormal phenomena currently attracting the attention of many scientists. Ball lightning, the works of Charles Fort and "Fortean" phenomena, sea and loch monsters and UFOs were all discussed: criticisms were made of Heflin's Santa Ana photographs, of Trent's famous McMinnville pictures and of selected films. Big question marks (in that they are unidentifiable) remained against the McMinnville photographs and Nick Mariana's Montana film: a "strange metallic device" had flown past the Trent family, while "no known objects" could have produced the Montana images. (What a pity the *Horizon* producer apparently did not know of John R. Gray's report of experiments carried out at the site of the Heflin photographs exactly two years after the original pictures were taken, which was published in the March/April 1969 issue of *Flying Saucer Review*.)

FSR participation

Members of the Review's team took part in the *Man Alive* programme. There had been meetings and discussions with the researcher, Miss Cherry Farrow, and with producer David Filkin. We learned that the *Man Alive* outfit had participated in a ludicrous rain-soaked skywatch near Banbury, and that in the town they had located first-class witnesses in a local clergyman and his family. News of the Banbury hill-top nonsense made us uneasy, and we did not wish to be involved. However, we were assured that after the topical events at Banbury had been presented, the spotlight would turn to the serious side of the subject, which was where we would be involved.

Early in December I was engaged to appear in a live TV programme to be screened by BBC-Norwich. *Man Alive* came along as well, conducted interviews with me in the train, made a film of the interesting and enjoyable Norwich show, and once more put me through the interview mill in the studio after the live programme. My estimate is that there was up to an hour-and-a-half of filmed interview put into the can: film which included several cases described in detail, statements of policy, views, descriptions of FSR and discussions about the attitude of Authority.

Which is where one runs headlong into the major hazard of television, which is not a case of what is *said*, but a case instead of what is *left unsaid* by the final editing.

Gordon Creighton was the next to be filmed. He did his stint at Watkins' Bookshop. Charles Gibbs-Smith joined us for the grand finale, a public discussion at Banbury.

Many of our readers must have seen the outcome of all this activity on February 2, and the main purpose of this article is to let them know something of the things that were said, but not screened.

Statement of policy omitted

Although we were uneasily aware of events at Banbury, we felt sure we could present a reasonable picture of research into UFO reports and so, hopefully, restore the balance. Both in the train, and at Norwich, it was stated categorically that the objective of the *Flying Saucer Review* team is to record reports of the UFO phenomenon, to encourage research, and to provide a platform for reasoned debate and sensible speculation on every aspect of that phenomenon: it was emphasised that we are not associated with any group, that we have no interest in wasting our time looking for UFOs on windy, rain-soaked hill-tops, that we steer clear of the cultist and lunatic fringe activities of the super-enthusiasts—although we recognise that this too may be part of the phenomenon.

Nowhere during the course of the *Man Alive* programme was this statement of policy allowed to appear, and the inference drawn by many is that we are part and parcel of, and publicists for, the hill-top watchers, the purveyors of plutonian gobbledegook, the hawkers of dubious photographs and the waiters for salvation from Venus.

Again, readers may have been puzzled by my being introduced as one who works in trains on journeys "to visit other ufologists." This is arrant nonsense, and completely untrue. Like the other members of our team, and like the previous editor, the late Waveney Girvan, I do a full day's work for five days a week, FSR being only a spare-time occupation. Much of my reading, editing and correspondence, is done on trains —commuters' trains, travelling twenty-odd miles each way, in and out of Waterloo Station. This is necessary, for time is precious—and a seemingly dwindling commodity—for your editor.

Gordon Creighton was permitted a couple of minutes or so from his filming at Watkins, and we were all greatly relieved to see that the off-the-cuff description, at Norwich, of the Bentwaters/Lakenheath case, escaped the film editor's scissors.

Finale at Banbury

The finale, at Banbury Town Hall, on January 26, was a strange affair. Sitting at a table on the platform

along with the chairman, Desmond Wilcox, were the three of us from FSR, together with the "Man from the Ministry" (of Defence), Anthony Davies, and psychologist Dr. Christopher Evans.

Messrs. Davies and Evans had given their views: the former that UFOs were the glow from the after-burners of F111 jets, and so on; the latter that UFOs are largely "spots before the eyes," otherwise known as "floaters" (Muscae Volantes). Dr. Evans cannot claim to have propounded an original theory for, strangely enough, it was a Man from the Ministry who offered the idea when explaining Angus Brooks' Dorsetshire sighting of October 26, 1967. The theory had been shot to pieces on that occasion, and Charles Gibbs-Smith made short work of it at Banbury. Indeed, thank heavens for Mr. Gibbs-Smith's contribution, for those of Gordon Creighton and myself were kept in the can.

As some comments have been made about the "silent experts" at Banbury, it must be stated that Gordon Creighton made it quite clear in his contributions that we are not greatly interested in reports of random lights in the sky that may be attributed to jet aircraft, satellites or balloons, and that we and our opposite numbers at the other end of the table appear to be interested in different phenomena. Mr. Creighton also refuted a statement made (and broadcast) by Dr. Evans that Dr. Jung looked briefly at the subject and dismissed it. He told how Jung's niece had revealed that the great man retained a lively interest in the subject, and was greatly impressed by the volume of evidence from reliable people that pointed to the existence o UFOs.

For my part, after an uninteresting question had been answered, I challenged the claim of the Man from the Ministry that all reports were subjected to careful scientific scrutiny. The example quoted was the Exeter airport incident of 1961 witnessed by hundreds. The preliminary "Venus" explanation had been replaced by the "Bristol University balloon" explanation—a balloon which hovered in the face of the *recorded* winds, and then proceeded against them (I carelessly allowed Dr. Evans a cheap point by using the words "prevailing winds" instead of "recorded winds"). Enquiries by Waveney Girvan at Bristol had revealed that the university had last released a balloon 10 months before the Exeter incident. One more question came my way, but it seems that that was after filming had ceased!

Yet another item unfortunately omitted was the reply of the Man from the Ministry, Anthony Davies, when asked by a member of the audience at Banbury what the Ministry had to say about the Bentwaters/Lakenheath case. He said he could say nothing because the papers had been destroyed.

The dubious photographs

During the course of the discussion, four photographs of a "strange" object were shown. These had been taken by a Mr. Paul Beckham near Banbury, and were submitted by Mr. Keith Palmer (founder of an impressive-sounding international UFO research association). Apparently the photographs had been published by *The Sun*. Although invited to do so, Mr. Beckham had declined to attend the Banbury discussion. Mr. Palmer said Mr. Beckham suggested he had been "got at"—by whom, was not made clear—and looked very uncomfortable when questioned by Desmond Wilcox.

It has been revealed now, particularly in the *Daily Express*, that the photographs were deliberate fakes, and there have been claims and counter-claims regarding responsibility for the sordid attempts to hoax the press and the public.

Return to sanity

This was the sorry but necessary aftermath of a most unsatisfactory TV presentation on UFOs. One wonders how many thousands of people who suffered it were dissuaded from watching the sane and excellent *Horizon* programme five days later. A programme in which Dr. Hynek (introduced not only as the former U.S. Air Force consultant on UFOs, but also as the astronomer who designed the American satellite tracking system) made the observation:

". . . UFOs represent new empirical observations, and I cannot hold, after 20 years' experience that all UFO reports can be explained as misperceptions, misidentifications and hallucinations."

That was followed by another scientist who added:

"I would not be at all surprised to see a far greater interest in, and appreciation of, this strange phenomenon over the next 15 or 20 years . . . As science has advanced it has grown able to cope with data it would once have ruled absurd."

Finally, from Dr. Hynek:

"We tend to forget in the 20th Century that there will be a 21st Century and a 30th Century, and that then they will look back on us much as we look on Ptolemy and Archimedes."

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THE HOLY FOOTPRINT ENIGMA

F. W. Holiday

WHEN patrolman Lonnie Zamora came upon a discoid object standing on landing-legs[1] in the course of routine police-work, he was encountering a phenomenon that has existed within human experience for at least 5000 years. After two human-like figures had entered the object and it had taken off, the military, police and civilian investigators were left with various marks on the New Mexico desert. These marks included footprints presumably impressed by the figures.

The phenomenon of "holy footprints" is of great antiquity. The Bronze Age knew about such footprints, and the people of those times seem to have worshipped them, as Peter Gelling, Senior lecturer in Ancient History and Archaeology at Birmingham University, makes plain.[2] At Scania in Scandinavia a series of petroglyphs shows a pair of "holy footprints" being translated into a crossed disc. And a cross was the Bronze Age symbol of divinity. At Poole Farm barrow, Dorset, there is a good representation of such footprints on a decorated slab.

At this stage in the UFO guessing-game surely no one is seriously defending the position that beings are traversing an Einsteinian space/time continuum at something less than the speed of light in order to show themselves briefly to provincial policemen in remote places. If so, our innate belief in the logicality and grandeur of the galactic universe must be soon undermined.

Personally, I wouldn't trust an establishment scientist further than I could throw him as regards interpreting the "holy footprint" business objectively. Too much is at stake including all the accepted machinery of causation. You would hardly expect high priests of the scientific *status quo* to take part in the slitting of their own throats.

If it be argued that the figures seen by Zamora emerged from (and returned to) a tempic field different to the one inhabited by ourselves, then serious anomalies could result. Suppose that such footprints were imprinted during geological ages far earlier than the time of man's alleged appearance on earth and became fossilised. Science would either have to deny the paradox or radically change its outlook. Ergo, it would deny the paradox.

When Professor A. E. Wilder Smith[3] claimed to have inspected and photographed human footprints at Glen Rose, Texas, which were in a carboniferous formation alongside dinosaur tracks, I asked the British Museum and an American palaeontologist well known to me what they thought. Both flatly denied that the tracks could be human. They were able to do this without seeing the evidence.

Professor Wilder Smith has three good doctorates and holds a responsible medical post. Presumably he knows a human foot when he sees one. And presumably Dr. Roland T. Bird of the American Museum of Natural History—who took pictures of the evidence at Glen Rose—knows what a dinosaur track looks like. Of course this doesn't prove that Wilder Smith's assumptions are correct—and that is just our trouble. We don't know who is right because there is too much at stake. Science isn't changed by producing a single inconvenient fact; it is easier to bury the fact. Changes take place only when so many facts have been buried that the stink rises to high heaven.

The problem is immense because it undoubtedly involves the concept of organic evolution. Nowadays everything is loaded on to Darwin's band-wagon and a major change from this would be traumatic. This even though Lyell's original objection that no one has ever seen (or demonstrated) evolution taking place has still not been adequately met. The evolutionists try to evade the difficulty by claiming that it may take half a million years to evolve a new species. They could be right. But there are no grounds for putting the possibility forward as a proven fact when it remains an arguable belief based on fossil evidence. The coelacanth showed how far fossil evidence can lead one astray. The "Lady Of Lloyds" skull showed that there were people in Britain, half a million years ago, who would pass muster for modern folk.

It is high time that the ufologists and psychical researchers joined forces to tackle what many responsible thinkers today feel are phenomena of similar nature. It is time that some qualified researcher such as Dr. A. R. G. Owen, geneticist, biologist and mathematician, Fellow of Trinity, Cambridge, and award-winner of the Parapsychological Foundation, was given a million of public money to set up a laboratory-investigatory unit to deal with the whole of this material.

After investigating Capesthorne Hall, home of Sir Walter Bromley-Davenport, M.P., Dr. Owen came away satisfied that a window-rattling episode experienced by Sir Walter's son was probably an actual physical effect. Mr. William Bromley-Davenport described the incident thus: "I woke up and saw an arm—with nothing attached to it—reach out from nowhere and rattle the window near my bed."[4] He instantly investigated but found nothing.

There is not the slightest doubt that such phenomena do occur and that they are objective. But as long as we squander our national wealth in producing fantastically expensive aircraft to hurry wealthy travellers from one cocktail bar to the next instead of utilising it to explore the mystery of manifestation then little effective progress can be expected.

It seems clear that Albert Einstein's mathematical statements about space are only a partial realisation of the truth. It is true that they explain a good deal about matter and motion including quantum mechanical interactions. What they do not explain is how an "arm" can rattle a window paranormally or how mysterious

figures can leave "holy footprints" on the New Mexican desert.

It seems probable that the UFO and its kissing-cousin the apparition originate from the space within the atom. Since such forces do exist I prefer to treat with great caution all arguments which claim, without hard proof, that organic evolution is a blind process of trial and error. Presumably an entity that can manipulate a window might manipulate a gene. We have certainly no proof that it could not.

A prime clue to the mystery we contemplate may be the pyramid embossed on the belly of "Dr. X" and his baby son by the entities manifesting in the November, 1968, French UFO.[5] Pyramids, whether of mud-brick (Ur), stone (Gizah) or chalk (Silbury Hill), were the old-time symbol of the devine geometry on which the wonder of being was thought to be based. It is worth thinking about. Now we have seen the geometrical beauty of the DNA molecule, the concept of a space composed of multiple tempic fields arranged, possibly, in a conical pattern is no longer as fantastic as would have been the case as recently as ten years ago.

It may even be possible to answer, tentatively, the familiar *cri de coeur:* "Why do they not communicate with us properly?" Considering that all the data from the various space programmes is filtered through military channels, and even life itself—via virus weapons—is distorted to produce destruction, a passport to the tempic fields (if such exist) would be the ultimate disaster for obvious reasons. It is not without significance that the "permitted" knowledge of nuclear fission has not, in fact, produced doomsday as the pessimists feared, but a military stalemate.

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THE PIRI-REIS MAP: FACT and FICTION

Paul C. W. Davies

Dr. Davies is a theoretical physicist at the University of Cambridge.

ANY student of unorthodox phenomena will appreciate how much existing difficulties are exacerbated by the presence of vast quantities of fanciful rubbish written about the subject by uninformed and unashamed cranks. But an even greater obstacle is presented by more honest authors, in which the original nonsense becomes sanctified through repetition, without the original material being checked at source. This "merry-go-round of mutual quotation" has been mentioned by Rosenburg in the Condon Report in connection with historical mysteries.[1]

Many of these same authors then feel disposed to criticise the scientific community for ignoring their dubious claims, and sweeping the problem under the carpet. The reason for the scientific indifference is, of course, that the completely fallacious nature of the material is frequently apparent at first sight.

In order to demonstrate clearly that unorthodox stories, even though apparently well-documented and deeply entrenched in the literature, are really a complete fiction, it was decided to conduct an in depth study of a typical case—the Piri-Reis map. Although not directly connected with UFOs, it has nevertheless been mentioned by several UFO authors, including Keyhoe,[2] Sanderson,[3] Keel,[4] Tomas[5] and von Däniken.[6] It provides a good subject for scrutiny, because copies of the map exist, together with several scholarly books on the subject, so that with sufficient effort the stories could be checked detail by detail. The main sources of material for this were two full-sized multichrome facsimiles of the map kept at the Cambridge University Library and the Royal Geographical Society, and three books devoted entirely to Piri-Reis, by Kahle,[7] Akcura[8] and Afetinan[9] (the most detailed). The maps, as well as a navigation manual known as *Bahriye* also written by Piri-Reis and published in 1520 and 1525, are often mentioned in books on historical cartography as a demonstration of the sophistication of Turkish involvement in contemporary developments of the time.

Piri-Reis, nephew of Kemal Reis, was a Turkish admiral of the early sixteenth century, who devoted a lot of time to cartography and navigation. In his *Bahriye* he remarks:

"This poor man had previously constructed a map which displayed many more details of different kinds than maps hitherto in existence, and even included recent maps from Hindu and Chinese works of navigation which were up to then unknown in the country of Rum."

The map itself was discovered by B. Halil Etem Eldem, Director of National Museums, in 1929 at the palace of Topkapu, and aroused great interest.

It was drawn in Gallipoli in 1513 on gazelle hide, and presented to Selim I in Cairo in 1517. It is clearly a fragment of a larger world map, and shows the coastlines of Spain, West Africa, a number of Caribbean

islands, and the coast of South America, which is incorrectly shown extending round to the east along the bottom [southern edge] of the map. Some African and American rivers are also shown. Prolific notes accompany the map, telling us of its construction.

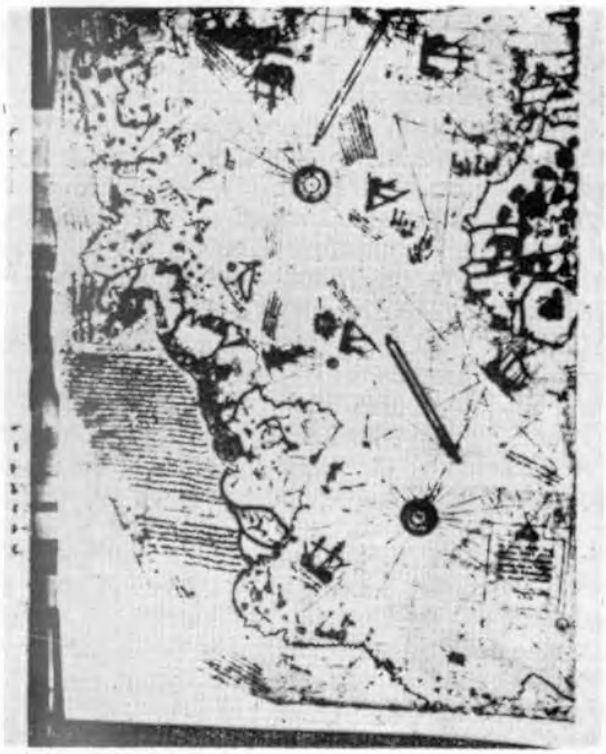
A later map dated 1528, shows parts of North America, and overlaps with the 1513 map in the region of the Caribbean. We are mainly concerned with the former. We are told that it represents a synthesis of information from several sources. The "inhabited" (Mediterranean) world was drawn from eight "Mappi Mundi" dating from Alexander the Great. For the Caribbean area, Piri-Reis claims possession of a map belonging to Columbus, taken from a Spanish captive of Kemal Reis, who made three voyages with Columbus (Columbus returned from his fourth voyage in 1505), and he attributes the details of South America, and the Atlantic islands to Portuguese explorers.

At various points around the coastline, are related enchanting sailors' tales of the various explorers' experiences accompanied by drawings depicting these events. Because it is pre-Mercator, the map uses no systematic projection technique, but rather the familiar earlier method of gum lines. Nevertheless, the distance between Africa and Brazil is remarkably accurate, as is the coastline of Brazil. Europe and West Africa are comparable with contemporary maps.

The Caribbean area is definitely inferior to other maps of the time. The errors here are apparently imported from an earlier map attributed to Toscanelli, who is said to have sent it to Columbus before his epic voyage (it is clear that the old world knew of a few Caribbean islands before Columbus). If this is so, it confirms Piri-Reis' claim that he possessed Columbus' map. In any case, the influence of this explorer is evident in many places. A number of imaginary islands are shown, and the central American mainland is moved far to the east to the position of Cuba in accordance with the widespread belief that this was India and China (it is labelled as such on Toscanelli's map). Also, the Antilles are labelled "coast of Antilia".

Indeed, so convinced was Columbus that Cuba was a continent that he even coerced his crew into signing a petition as such. The same mistake is also made on the maps of Ruysch (1508) and Waldeesmaller (1507). But perhaps the most striking evidence that the Toscanelli map was used by Piri-Reis concerns the island of Hispanyola (Haiti) which is shown on both maps running north-south (rather than east-west), conforming to the belief that this was the Zipangu (Japan) of Marco Polo's tales. All these errors are corrected in the later (1528) map.

Conversely to thinking that many Caribbean islands were the coast of China and India, Columbus believed that South America was not continental, and Piri-Reis shows many imaginary islands to the south of Trinidad. However, the Brazilian coastline is exceptionally accurate for the period. Some rivers are shown which correspond quite well with the Orinoco and Amazon, but in the region of Rio de Janeiro there is drawn a triple estuary. There is no corresponding river configuration in South America, but this could be taken as a badly drawn river Plata, which in fact lies much farther south.



Beyond this feature the map becomes pure imagination as the coastline swings out into the mid-Atlantic to the region of Tristan da Cuhna. Evidently Piri-Reis only had vague information about this little-explored region in 1513, and was conforming to the familiar practice of constructing a fictitious southern continent joining the few explored coastlines. This same practice can be seen in many maps of the time, such as the Lapa Hamen (1519) map, which also includes Australia in such a continent. As any schoolboy knows, this feature should never be taken seriously, it being merely an expression of classical fantasy—as are the drawings and tales of unicorns, six-horned oxen, and men with their heads beneath their shoulders, which are also detailed on the map.

It appears that most of the nonsense written about Piri-Reis stems from a misunderstanding of this elementary detail. It is hard to see how anyone who has actually seen the map could be fooled by this error, and yet several authors freely refer to the region as "Antarctica" in spite of its unpromising tropical location (about 4,000 miles too far north). Absurd suggestions are made that some mysterious projection puts it back in perspective (presumably turning Cuba into an island and rotating Hispanyola through 90°). A projection is a systematic distortion of features on a global scale, and does not produce a sudden collapse of distances in Southern Brazil. Even inspection of a photograph of this projection in von Däniken's book fails to reveal any similarity with Piri-Reis that is in any way convincing. But of course, we have already seen how Piri-Reis used the pre-Mercator technique of gum lines for his "protection".

Not content with merely putting "Antarctica" in its place, the authors claim for the map an "amazing accuracy" (Keyhoe). John Keel informs us "These maps were incredibly detailed and as accurate as the latest charts."

As for Antarctica it is "laid out with almost pinpoint

accuracy"—so accurate in fact that according to Keyhoe: "it's been used to correct errors in some present-day maps". So . . . what other explanation than "a worldwide *aerial* survey"?

Fantasy is heaped upon fantasy as this innocuous coastline is endowed with "mountain ranges that were not even known to us until 1952!" (Keel), and "the altitudes of mountains which are under glaciers now, and whose height in many cases has not yet been measured!" (Tomas)—evidently the story grows bigger with the telling. We also have "glaciers and land areas which are known to have existed in the Ice Age." From these quotations it is clear that the authors have merely exercised their over-vivid imaginations and fabricated fantastic details of which, anyone who bothers to look at the map, can detect no sign.

Some authors now allude to a rather vague notion of the southern continent being "ice-free", enabling them gleefully to extend the antiquity of the information to:

"thousands of years old" (Tomas);

"at least 5,000 years" (Keyhoe);

"ten thousand years" (Keel).

With this fabricated antiquity and accuracy of the map, the authors can head off into incredible speculation about advanced prehistoric civilisations.

Any doubts as to the reality of this coastline are dispelled by Piri-Reis himself in the *Bahriye*. In Afetinan's book we learn that "Eight years later, when he had finished his *Bahriye* in the preface of the book he affirms that farther south it is not land but sea, which shows that he was following the later discoveries with careful attention."

The authors attempt to construct credibility for their thesis by creating doubts about the nature of Piri-Reis' information source. Details about the Portuguese explorers are conveniently omitted, but the Mappi Mundi dating back to Alexander the Great are not so easily overlooked, enabling Tomas to attribute not merely the old world features, but all those of the new world to "Greece or Alexandria."

Tomas introduces a new element of mystery by alluding to the South American rivers. These are in fact drawn with the familiar mixture of tenuous knowledge and imagination, the only surprise being the Plata—if such it is—which is, of course, drawn incorrectly. In fact, in spite of Tomas' assurances to the contrary, both Pinzo and Juan de Solis had sailed past this river mouth before 1508, though they appear to have made no mention of it anywhere. Piri-Reis names a sailor who ventured into this region, and became shipwrecked, as Nikola di Juan. No parts of the map drawn with any acceptable accuracy are inconsistent with information available to Piri-Reis in 1513.

What conclusion can we draw from this extraordinary episode? Apparently the authors have merely copied one another, embellishing the story as it goes, none of them ever bothering to check at source. But how did the story arise in the first place?

The earliest book is that by Keyhoe. He alleges that it is the conclusion of a study of the map made by the U.S. Hydrographic Office (which can hardly be taken seriously) and a Captain A. H. Mallery. The names of D. Linehan and M. I. Walters are also mentioned. One of these four is presumably a crank or a hoaxer. I think it is immaterial who. The lesson to be learned is that the scientific community is rightly justified in turning its back on this sort of unorthodox material whilst such a deplorable atmosphere exists. I now see little reason to take any of the material in the above authors' books seriously.

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[7, 8, *and* 9 *are in the Cambridge University Library, and* 9 *is also in the British Museum Library.*]

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LE LIVRE NOIR DES SOUCOUPES VOLANTES
by **Henry Durrant**

A chronological history (in French) of the UFO phenomenon, presented in four main parts: (i) Legends, (ii) Facts accumulated between 1947 and 1957, (iii) Analysis of the phenomenon 1958-1968, (iv) Post-Condon. We understand that this book, published in 1970, is being revised and up-dated.
Robert Laffont, 6 Place Saint-Sulpice, Paris - VI^{e}

World round-up *of news and comment about recent sightings*

FRANCE

A new UFO wave?

Surprise, surprise! The following news item made a brief appearance under the bold heading 'Flying saucers' in the London mass circulation *Evening News* on Tuesday, March 22, 1972—

"Paris. Tuesday.—Flying saucers were reported landing or zooming across the sky in three separate areas of France during the past 24 hours.

"A Normandy fireman said he saw a saucer land in a field and a farmer said his car had a total electric power failure when the object took off again. Reports of unidentified objects in flight were also received from central and south-west France."

We have asked our French friends to let us have detailed accounts as soon as possible.

ENGLAND

Hertfordshire objects

A member of the South West Herts. UFO Investigation Group (SHUFOIG) reports as follows:

"At 10.15 a.m. on Wednesday January 12, 1972, while working at Woodcock Hill, Rickmansworth, I observed in the sky a silver disc of the apparent size of a fairly bright star. It was motionless, at an angle of approximately 60°. Subsequently, the weather conditions being perfect, with cloud cover nil, five more such objects were seen. They were at a great height and moving in different directions. At times they were directly overhead. I also had three fellow-workmen with me who witnessed them.

"The place is approximately 4 miles from Watford. At 12.45 p.m. six more witnesses observed one of the objects very high above Watford. Three witnesses reported them over Chorley Wood, and I am informed that teachers and pupils at the Salvatorean College in Harrow Weald also saw the objects.

"Altogether the objects seem to have been in sight for a total period of about 2½ hours.

"I asked the Meteorological Office in London if the objects could have been weather balloons, as one of the witnesses had thought. They replied that this could not have been so, since this was a group of objects and they do not release balloons in batches. They pointed out that Reading and Bristol Universities do conduct experiments with balloons, but that it was most unlikely that balloons would remain in an area for such a length of time. At no time in this conversation had the term 'UFOs' been used, until the Met Office man gave me a Ministry of Defence telephone number to call, concerning UFOs. I called this number and spoke to a man who said that they had a form on this subject and would probably be writing to me. I duly received their letter, but it contained no explanation of what we had seen."

This witness informs us that when he spoke to the man at the Ministry of Defence, the latter seemed to be primarily interested in these two questions:

(1) *Had the witness told anybody else of his sighting?*

(2) *Were there "any installations or any bodies of water" in the vicinity?*

The witness replied that a power-line passed in the vicinity, and that the whole adjacent valley, from Rickmansworth to Denham and beyond, is dotted with a string of deep lakes formed from old gravel workings. (This same valley has in fact been the scene of at least a dozen UFO reports over the past ten years.)

A lady living at Chalfont St. Peter, unknown to the SHUFOIG member, informs us that she saw tubular-shaped objects on the same day, January 12.

We also understand from the first mentioned witness that the disc- or star-shaped objects were again seen over the Watford/Rickmansworth area on the following day, January 13.

One from the past

The following item appeared in the *Daily Mirror* (March 14, 1972) "Live Letters" column, and although the subject matter is treated in the usual amusing manner, it could prove a useful "tip" for historical researchers—

W. Cornish, of Mawneys-road, Romford, Essex, writes:

"While browsing through an old newspaper dated May 19, 1803, I came across the following report:

" 'About a quarter before one o'clock on Monday morning, a very large and luminous meteor was seen in the air, apparently about two hundred yards distant from the earth.

" 'It passed over the town of Cambridge, taking its course from SW to NE.

" 'In size and colour it nearly resembled the moon, and had a tail of considerable length. Its light was very splendid, and its velocity astonishing, being visible not more than half a minute.'

"If that UFO contained Martians and they haven't landed yet, one hundred and sixty-nine years later, they must be dying for a cuppa. I'll go and put the kettle on."

You do that, friend, and we'll all sleep easier in our beds tonight!

Credit: **C. Bodimead** of Barnet, Herts.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Fireball phenomenon

Hugh White, who teaches at a High School in New York State, reports as follows on a fireball case of which he heard recently:

"I overheard another teacher relating how his twelve-year-old daughter and a friend of hers had seen a mysterious fireball which changed shape as they watched it.

"I therefore went over to interview them and made a tape of it, which I will send to you in due course.

"The phenomenon happened indoors. The children were on the floor in a bedroom, engaged in making a coloured poster, when a golden ball about three inches wide and one inch thick came out from under the bed beside them. It was pulsating, and moved across the room and passed through a closet door. They saw half of it extending out from the wooden door while it was disappearing into the closet.

"Later they saw it again, between two dresses, inside the closet. It was by now about six inches wide. One of the girls chanced to put her hand through it, and it vanished. She said it 'felt cold—like sticking my hand into a freezer.'

"On another occasion, they saw it floating about in the attic, 'like a jellyfish', and later on, in the bedroom again. This time is was more than a foot wide, and near the ceiling.

"*It always vanished whenever someone else came into the room.*

"I questioned the children very carefully and got each of them to write out an account for me. They struck me as entirely sincere and honest, and I was unable to detect any discrepancy or any faltering in what they had to say."

Normally, one would say that the above was an interesting but entirely typical case of ball-lightning. But we still know very little about ball-lightning, and there do seem to be cases where it is very hard to decide

whether it may not be a UFO phenomenon. In this particular case, the report that the ball vanished whenever anyone else joined the children in the room is peculiar, and we have therefore thought it well worth while to record it in FSR, particularly as we shall shortly have some very interesting similar cases to report from Brazil.

We have not yet received details as to the precise date and place where this American case occurred.

SOUTH AFRICA

Fliers report Hillcrest UFOs

We are indebted to a correspondent in the Republic of South Africa for hurrying to us the following interesting item from the *Highway Mail* of Pinetown, issue dated February 25, 1972—

"Eye-witness accounts of 'flying saucers' seen over the Hillcrest area cannot be explained away by weather balloons or similar meteorological equipment, said a spokesman from the local weather office this week.

"Unidentified objects, bearing a certain resemblance to the description of flying saucers reported in other parts of the world, were seen by at least two Highway residents in the Inanda Road area on Sunday, February 13.

"They made three separate appearances in less than 15 minutes and, inexplicably, says one witness, were so frightening that they made her hair stand on end.

"Describing her experience to the *Highway Mail* this week, Mrs. Kay Easson said she was driving down Link Road, near Inanda, on a Sunday evening two weeks ago, when she saw what she thought was a rocket, behaving rather strangely.

EGG-SHAPED

"A few minutes later, she and her companion saw three egg-shaped objects fly across the sky, in perfect formation and at extraordinary speed.

" 'They were sort of egg-shaped, red at the front and white at the back. They kept close together in flying formation, but at terrific speed and quite silently.

" 'For some reason I cannot explain, I went quite cold looking at them and felt the hair rise on the back of my neck.

WEIRD

" 'Although both my companion and myself are fliers and pretty knowledgeable about aircraft, we could think of nothing normal to explain their weird appearance.

" 'At Forest Hills, I saw them again. This time there were three of them—again flying in perfect formation—egg-shaped, orangy red at the back and whitish at the front and they flew straight across the sky at an incredible speed.

" 'I think I can say I am no fool—but the sight of them really frightened me. The wind was howling and the whole thing was unaccountably eerie.'

CONFIRMED

"Mr. Hugh Kemp, an amateur pilot, confirmed Mrs. Easson's story.

" 'There were three sightings of the flying saucers,' he said, 'but I only saw the three which flew over my house at Forest Hills . . . if you can call it flying. They moved at an amazing speed and there was absolutely no sound at all. To me they looked like crimson, sausagy balls.

" 'They moved in perfect line-ahead formation, from almost dead north to south, following the contour of the land.

UNTRACKED

" 'The time was between 8.34 and 8.40 p.m. and it was on a Sunday about two weeks ago. They were not tracked on any radar screen that I know about and were definitely unidentifiable flying objects.

" 'Mrs. Easson saw the first one. She thought it was a rocket and commented on it, because it was a strange night for anyone to be letting off fireworks. It was rather cold and very blustery.

" 'She also thought it odd that a rocket should be travelling parallel to the ground. She said it had given her a chill feeling and made the hair stand up on the back of her neck.

ACROSS CAR

" 'We would have thought no more about the incident, probably, but about a mile and a quarter farther on, three of them went right across the front of the car and over a hill.

" 'They looked like very big Roman candles and I thought, *hello, someone must be having a fireworks display.*

" 'Then I saw that the only house near by was in darkness and reasoned that, in any case, the objects were travelling too far, too fast and in complete silence, so could not possibly be fireworks.

" 'The third sighting occurred after about the same interval of time as between the first and second sighting.

" 'We had turned into the drive and I had left the car to go and open the front door. I heard a yell—*There they go again*

" 'This time they went along the ridge in an exactly 90 degrees different direction, which look them towards the sea, pointing towards Umhlanga from Forest Hills.

LINE AHEAD

" 'Once again they were in line-ahead flight and completely silent.

" 'Mrs. Easson said: *Let's get out of here.* She was frightened and said her hair was standing on end all up the back of her neck.'

"Mr. Kemp was so interested in the flying saucers that he obtained a book written by Otto Binder which, he says, attempts to tabulate all the information received from different parts of the world about 'flying saucers.'

" 'The book is purely a list of reports and expresses no opinion,' he states, 'but it makes clear to me that the appearance of such objects is nothing unusual.

" 'The American Air Force has been charged with investigating similar reports in the U.S. and even the U.S.S.R. has apparently been forced to acknowledge the truth of such sightings.

" 'So the only unusual thing is that we saw them. Whether or not anyone else in the area saw them I don't know—but I can say that there was no one driving or walking in the area when we saw them, so perhaps we were the only ones.'

Cato Ridge case

"However, something very like a flying saucer was seen over Cato Ridge about three years ago—and so frightened African factory employees there that they refused to go on working.

"A spokesman for the factory concerned said that he was not there at the time of the incident, but had heard all about it from the previous manager.

"The factory, which processes metal, is a 24-hour concern and many of its employees are required to work out of doors and at night.

"At about 3 a.m. on a night over three years ago, a strange object was seen overhead, emitting a very bright light and different colours. African employees who were working out-of-doors were so frightened by the object that they ran away from the area and refused to return to work there.

"Mr. J. Pretorius (of Ferraloy Ltd.), Cato Ridge, said that the strange object disappeared and, as far as he knows, has not been seen again—although he keeps a watch for it when he is on night duty and would very much like to see it himself.

"Asked to comment on Mr. Kemp's story, he said: 'I know Mr. Kemp and he is not the sort of man to make things up! It must be the Martians watching us, as some people suggest. I can't help wondering what they think

of us and if they would like to swop with us . . . I doubt it!'

"A spokesman for the local Meteorological Office said it was unlikely that the unidentified objects would be weather balloons. His department, he said, sent up only one balloon at a time twice a day—at 1 a.m. and at 1 p.m.

"'It is not possible that one of our ballons could burst into flame. They do sometimes burst—but they do so at 50-60,000ft. (15,000m to 18,000m) and it would be quite impossible for anyone to see them do it. When they burst, they just burst and the gas escapes—they do not burst into flame.'

"He had received no reports of 'flying saucers' having been seen by anyone in his department, he said, nor did his department 'fly' any other meteorological equipment."

Credit: **E. R. Turnbull** of Pinetown.

A NEW FSR CATALOGUE

The effects of UFOs on animals, birds, and smaller creatures Part 12

At one time it seemed that the period covered by this part of the Catalogue which Gordon Creighton has prepared for us, would be the final one. New cases have come to light, however, and we have rembered a few that were omitted in earlier parts, so its expected that there will be two more parts.

THE CATALOGUE—(xii)
October 1969 to March 1971

184. Kaharoa, near Rotorua, New Zealand (October 4, 1969).
After two bright orbs of light had been seen flying low from the direction of Katikati and over the farm of Mr. I. A. McGregor, at 2.50 a.m., two mysterious circular burnt patches were found on the grass on a hillside at a neighbouring farm owned by Mr. C. T. Johnson. Mr. Johnson reported that he found the brown-coloured circles while out on horseback. When he desired to examine the marks more closely however, his horse became "spooky and silly" and reared up, and absolutely refused to approach them, so that he was obliged to dismount and make his inspection on foot.

New Zealand Herald, October 8 and 9, 1969, quoted in *World Round-up*, FSR March/April 1970.

185. Puketutu, near Te Kuiti, New Zealand (first half of October, 1969).
A total of nine of the mystery circles were found in Central North Island. The ninth was discovered by Mr. C. Blackmore, farmer, who was herding his cattle towards a pond to drink when, having reached a certain spot, all the animals turned round and "bolted back up the hill". On examining the pond, Mr. Blackmore found the circle on a small island in it. There was a strange smell in the area, his dog refused to drink from the pond, and further attempts to get the cattle to drink there likewise failed. The ducks normally present on the pond had vanished. The mystery circle was on rushes, which had been flattened and had turned brown.

New Zealand Herald, October 16, 1969, quoted in *World Round-up* in FSR March/April 1970.

186. Waipukurau Airfield, New Zealand (3.10 a.m., October 30, 1969).
Mr. Cudby, Security Services Patrol Officer, saw a metal object which he estimated to be circular and 60ft. wide, at a distance of about 300ft. from him and only about 60ft. above the airfield. He was able to traverse it three times with the searchlight on his patrol-van before it made off at high speed. He reported that his guard-dog became unusually excited during the sighting. The animal, seven years old and well trained, refused for several minutes to obey him—something which had never been known to happen before.

Daily Telegraph (Napier), October 31, 1969, quoted in *World Round-up*, FSR, January/February 1970.

187. Waikupurau, New Zealand (just after 3.00 a.m., October 31, 1969).
Another Waikupurau resident, who lives half a mile from the airfield and who wishes to remain anonymous, awoke for no apparent reason and, going outside, found that his sheep were in a highly disturbed and excited state. He was unable to find any reason. The time coincided with the time of case no. 186.

Daily Telegraph (Napier), October 31, 1969, quoted in *World Round-up*, FSR, January/February 1970.

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188. Olavarria, Argentina (early morning, November 24, 1969).
Farm manager Aquilo Ramón Costa of Mi Recuerdo farm in Crotto district saw strange beings in shining clothing moving and flying about around his paddock, manipulating powerful lights, which cowed and prostrated the farm dogs, these animals being even too terrified to bark, and one of them even being put to sleep. (Compare with precisely similar case at Trancas, also in Argentina, on October 21, 1963, and already listed as No. 78 of this Catalogue.)

Another Strange Affair at Olavarria, in FSR March/April 1970, quoting *La Razón*, Buenos Aires, November 25, 1969.

189. Havant, Sussex, England (September/December 1969).
I include this account and also No. 190 because they were reported as "ghost cases", not "UFO cases", and one of our purposes in making this Catalogue is to examine, if possible, whether these two types of phenomenon may not in fact be one.

RIDDLE OF GUARD DOGS AND GHOST HYPNOTIST

Security boss Colin Nixon has a security problem: how to stop a ghost putting its spook in at his guard-dog kennels.

For 28-year-old Mr. Nixon reckons it is a ghost that hypnotises his eight highly-trained Alsatians and gives him sleepless nights.

It all started after Mr. Nixon saw the ghost near his kennels at Mill Lane, Havant, three months ago.

"I heard the dogs barking," he said, "and when I went to investigate I saw the figure of a man lurking in a lane alongside the kennels. I challenged him and he started to walk away. I called to a couple of the dogs, but they all stood transfixed, the hairs on their backs bristling. Suddenly the figure vanished, and when I went to the spot where I had last seen him, there was no sign of anyone. *Not even footprints.* At that point, the hairs on the back of my own neck started bristling."

Mr. Nixon, managing director of Firmguard, a company responsible for the security of several major organisations in Portsmouth, says the ghost is now a regular visitor at the kennels. Every time the dogs begin their night-time howling, residents of houses nearby telephone to his home at Hilmead Gardens, Bedhampton, and report: "The ghost is about again."

Mr. Nixon said: "I have been called out at all hours of the night, and although I have never seen the ghost again, I always sense that something is there. *And until this other presence has moved away, there is nothing I can do with the dogs. They just stand there hypnotised*, **barking at the sky.**"

(My italics and bold type—G.C.)

Daily Express, London, December 4, 1969.

[**Note:** The very real phenomenon of the hair of the head and nape of the neck rising and bristling is too well known and too well established to require discussion. I myself have experienced it several times in my life: twice in New Orleans, where I lived in an 18th-century *garconnière* in the old *French Quarter* or *Vieux Carré*, and three times in the modern house in which I now live in England. On each occasion, there was unquestionably the sensation of a presence, and I have now found that the traditional methods of bidding them depart are effective. Normally, all this sort of thing is attributed to "ghosts" but there are a number of good cases in the UFO literature. I think it was in the days immediately following the Maury Island affair (1947) that "invisible footsteps" (if one may be forgiven for the "Irish-ism") were heard in rooms, and cushions and settees were seen to be depressed under the weight of non-visible bodies. There are other cases recorded in Gray Barker's *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers*. And, I repeat, psychic records are full of such cases—G.C.]

190. Preston, Lancs., England (early 1970).
Congregationalist minister, The Rev. Peter Travis, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, is making a study of haunted houses and has often spent a night in one.

In a recent case he and a friend passed the night in a haunted room of a 700-year-old manor house, Chingle Hall, near Preston.

During the night a sequence of the usual poltergeist-type phenomena occurred. Lights were switched on and off. They heard a "tremendous crash", but, as usually happens, when they searched the house afterwards they could find no evidence whatever that any object had fallen or had been moved.

Next morning, Mr. Travis took a spaniel dog to the haunted room. But the dog refused to enter, "stared at a corner, and began to cringe and whimper."

Sunday Express (Manchester edition), March 22, 1970.

[Another perfectly typical "psychic" case, which I include because it has all the classic features—poltergeist phenomena, crashes, frightened animal—though there is no mention of any "UFO" having been seen.—G.C.]

191. Pudasjärvi Hospital, Finland (1.30 a.m., January 28, 1970).
At 1.40 a.m. in the night in question, Mr. Eetu Särkelä, a labourer, saw a stationary bright ball of light releasing four smaller balls of light over Särkivaara Mountain. Ten minutes before, in the Pudasjärvi Hospital, the janitor's dog set up a loud disturbance and began jumping up and down and clawing at window-sills. Three other dog-owners reported similar hysteria in their animals that night.

Again, on the night of January 31, youths returning home from a dance saw a strange light at Pärjäntie. Dogs in the vicinity became "mad", and one of these animals became so hysterical that the owner was obliged to kill it.

UFO Flap at Pudasjärvi, Finland, by Matias Päätalo, in *FSR Case Histories, Supplement* 2 (December 1970).

192. Stirchley, Birmingham, England (6.25 a.m., February 15, 1970).
From her bedroom window Mrs. J. Hayward of Windsor Road, Stirchley, saw a strange round buzzing light which approached the house rapidly, until, from being the apparent size of a tiny star, it had become about 4ft. wide. She described it as "like those big lights they have in ballrooms which flash as they go round (mirror-balls?)." It then receded and reverted to its former starlike appearance. The case is included here because Mrs. Hayward mentioned that, so far as she was aware, her dog displayed *no reaction* whatever during the two minutes or so that the phenomenon lasted, despite the buzzing noise from the UFO.

Mirror-Ball UFO Seen At Stirchley, by Alan K. Crewe and Malcolm H. Drew, in *FSR Case Histories, Supplement* 1 (October 1970).

193. Norfolk, England (early 1970).
Mr. Olaf Davy was out gathering mushrooms very early one morning in a field where there was a herd of cattle. Suddenly the cattle "went delirious, scampering about." He then "perceived a shape," which much resembled a round, plate-shaped UFO which he was to see at Wroxham subsequently (November 24, 1970).

Olaf Davy & the Wroxham UFO, by Peter Johnson, in *FSR Case Histories*, Supplement 4 (April 1971).

194. Calgary, Canada (about 8.00 p.m., late August 1970).
A chiropractor (anonymous) was riding his horse along a river trail on the Sarcee Indian Reserve, west of Calgary, on a clear fine night, with the stars just beginning to shine.

Suddenly, for no apparent reason, the horse, a mare, became very alert and stiff and started to excrete, a sign of nervousness. Then very quickly she became extremely violent and uncontrollable, turning and twisting.

At that point, the witness said, what appeared to be an

odd low-flying cloud ahead caught the top of his vision. It had a billowy contour and was about 70ft. across.

Trying now to get off his skittish mount, the witness did not at first pay close attention to the "cloud". But seconds later his attention became riveted on it when a solid-appearing object silently started to emerge. It was made of a material that looked like a plastic or fibreglass of a bluish-steel colour. The underpart of it was slightly oval in shape and contained two circular vent-like structures, like the bottom of a mushroom, rotating in opposite directions.

[The full account, including description of the UFO, is still available in *FSR Case Histories* No. 6—EDITOR.]

The rider wondered if the object was giving off a sound that hurt the horse's ears, because by this time she was thrashing her head about very violently, but after a moment the object started to go back into its cloud and the whole formation began to rise, veering off towards the south-west.

By this time he had managed to dismount from his nervous horse and, in a moment of relative calm as he held her reins, he detected a soft vibrating noise from the craft as it was starting to leave.

For two or three days after the incident the horse was very head-shy, and the witness suspected that her ears had been affected somehow by the experience. Unfortunately, however, worse was to come, suggesting that more than merely damage by sound may have been involved. Several weeks later he noticed sore-looking spots, resembling burns, breaking out on the mare's head. In a matter of days these had spread down her neck (the same area in which the horse *Snippy* had been injured: see Case No. 141), and goitre-like swelling had started to appear. "It looked like a mass of tumours," said UFO investigator Bill Allan of Calgary who, with a touring TV crew from the Ontario Department of Education, went to see the horse.

At last report the veterinarians had been unable to diagnose the nature of the trouble, and samples from the affected area were being tested.

But there is still more to this story. After letting the horse graze and calm down, the witness mounted her and was on the way home when she began to stiffen up again. This time she wasn't quite as uneasy and they continued along until something was seen lying in the bushes. It was a horse, lying on its side and obviously dead. The strange part was that its exposed side was badly singed, though there was no sign of a fire. It had only just died, for it was still warm, and there was no sign of *rigor mortis*.

The witness did not at first associate the discovery of the dead horse with his own UFO experience. Next day he and a neighbour went there to examine the carcase and in the hope of ascertaining whose horse it was. Although they had no difficulty in finding the imprint left by the carcase, they found no sign of the horse itself, and the heavy growth surrounding the spot was unbroken and unmarked. Said the witness: "So unmarred was the scene, it was just as if somehow the horse had been lifted directly from the spot and hauled away by air!"

Horse Ill After UFO Incident, by John Magor, in *Canadian UFO Report*, Spring 1971, and *FSR Case Histories, Supplement* 6 (August 1971).

195. Guernsey, Channel Islands, England (10.05 a.m., October 17, 1970).
Mrs. Sybil Gavey of Candie Road, Castel, saw a large object in the sky which she said "looked like a giant shining flying mirror." Her husband Edward Gavey and Mr. George le Page, who were engaged in herding some cattle out of a field, also saw the object. They observed it for a few seconds and then it "closed down to a small ball and vanished, and the sky seemed to be pink after it had gone."

This case is recorded here because the cattle do not appear to have been alarmed in any way.

(Compare with Case 192 where resemblance to a "mirror" was also mentioned and where the dog was also not disturbed.)

Guernsey Evening Press, October 19, 1970, and FSR January/February 1971, p. 32.

196. Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada (October 5, 1970).
Pul Scott, 16-year-old youth, saw an "orange, yellow and green object as big as a bungalow," trailing white smoke and emitting a high-pitched whine. His mother reported that "it sounded like a kitten being killed," and there were rumours that horses in a nearby field had been terrified.

Toronto *Daily Star*, October 6, 1970, and *World Round-up*, in FSR November/December 1970.

197. Denton, Sussex, England (8.10 p.m., March 25, 1971).
Two girls, Elizabeth Aigbogun (13), and Diane Boulton, were riding ponies in a field near Windmill Lane, Denton, when they saw a bright orange "cross" emitting sparks. At first far off and very high, like a star, it later descended, until it was circling around above them at a height of only about 100ft. It then followed them to the end of the road and vanished "with a bang, like a firework."

Elizabeth Aigbogun had dismounted and her pony remained calm. But Diane's pony almost bolted. Other horses in the same field were also disturbed. Both girls were scared and thought an "invasion" had begun.

The Denton Reporter, March 26, 1971.

[I am not sure whether we have already printed this case in FSR, but cannot trace it in recent issues. Nor can I now lay hands on my note as to where we should credit it, but I feel that it may have been to Miss Janet Gregory, to whom, therefore, tentatively, our thanks—G.C.]

Tail-piece

La Revue d'Etudes et d'Informations de la Gendarmerie Nationale, Issue No. 87, premier trimestre 1971, contained an article by Captain Kervendal and Charles Garreau in which French gendarmes were advised how they should proceed in the matter of reporting UFOs. A questionnaire was included, showing the sort of details that should be sought from eyewitnesses. Section II of the Questionnaire contains the following item relating to effects of UFOs on animals:

"The behaviour of all animals in the vicinity is to be studied and noted most carefully, and in any case where any animal has died in mysterious circumstances or after a UFO appearance, an autopsy is to be made, an analysis of the blood performed, and a search made for possible effects of radiation."

The Gendarmerie and the UFOs, in FSR September/October 1971.

Eagerly awaited . . .

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for twenty years Civilian Scientific Consultant on UFOs to the United States Air Force:

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RUSSIA HOLDS FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATIONS WITH EXTRATERRESTRIAL CIVILISATIONS

Gordon Creighton

AS recently as forty years ago all the astronomers and other scientists seem to have accepted the view of Sir James Jeans that the Universe was fundamentally hostile to life, that near-brushes between neighbouring stars (the only method whereby, as then thought, molten matter could be snatched out of a star to form planets) must be excessively rare occurrences, and that consequently we, and our home, Terra, might be unique, or almost so.

By 1949 however Dr. J. E. Lipp, working for the U.S. Air Force's *Project Sign*, was suggesting that within so little as 16 light-years radius from us there might be no less than 22 stars possessing planets suitable for life, one half of them containing intelligent beings in advance of ourselves. And by 1963 astrophysicist Huang Su-shu of Goddard Flight Centre (and now with NASA) was calmly estimating the number of inhabitable systems at about 3% to 5% of the number of stars, meaning around 8 billion inhabitable systems for our Galaxy alone.

Since then it has become more widely grasped that, in the words of Dr. Carl Sagan, our species is all too prone to petty chauvinisms or, as Dr. Hynek puts it, to temporal parochialism, and that, in fact, "the building blocks of life are lying around everywhere" (Sagan). Scientists at the University of California have identified at least two dozen molecules, including those of ammonia, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, ethyl alcohol and water, in the depths of Space. And Dr. Ponnamperuma has established the presence of 17 amino acids in a recently fallen Australian meteorite—and half of them with right-handed configuration too, indicating a very high probability that they genuinely do originate in Outer Space and are not simply the result of contamination of the meteorite after its fall, inasmuch as on Earth most amino acids have been found to show a left-handed configuration when polarised light waves are passed through them.

As for planets, while it is true that so far we possess no telescope or other instrument that can detect a planet in a neighbouring system, it is now considered that, for a start, Barnard's Star (at 6 light-years) has at least two planets as big as Jupiter or Saturn, and that our Galaxy may in fact have at least 50 billion planets. Clearly, there has been quite a change in our thinking since the 1930s and Sir James Jeans.

Meanwhile, in the new field of radio astronomy, Drake (Project Ozma, 1960) was detecting regular pulses that were at first thought to be signals from nearby stars, but were later explained as probably emanating from a secret U.S. radio experiment. In the mid-1960s Kardashev in the USSR picked up what he thought might be "signals from a supercivilisation", which later turned out however to be from a quasar. Then, in 1967, Cambridge scientists reported the capture of regular "blips" from what they jokingly decided to term "LGMs" ("little green men") which in turn were finally established as being due to what we now call pulsars.

Despite man's failure so far to catch anything identifiable as an interstellar message, our whole Galaxy might well be filled with signals passing between advanced civilisations *and transmitted by a technique totally unknown to us*. As Dr. Sagan warns, "*We may be very much like the inhabitants of an isolated valley in New Guinea who communicate with villages in the next valley by drum or runner but have no idea that there is a vast international radio traffic going on around them, over them, and through them.*"

As we have frequently reported in *Flying Saucer Review*, the scientists of the USSR have long been particularly interested in the search for life in Space. In 1963, at the Astrophysical Observatory at Byurakan, in the Armenian Soviet Republic, the Russian scientists gathered for their first USSR All-Union Conference on the Problem of Communication with Extraterrestrial Civilisations, and reports reaching the West at the time quoted such scientists as the eminent V. A. Ambartsumyan (Armenia) and several others as holding the view that life—including advanced life and advanced civilisations—must exist throughout the Universe.

Byurakan's international conference, 1971

In September 1971 Byurakan was again the scene of such a gathering, but this time one of even greater importance, for it was *international*, being described in the Soviet press as the **First Soviet-American Symposium on Communication With Extraterrestrial Civilisations.**

Among the Soviet scientists who took part were Academician and astrophysicist V. A. Ambartsumyan; the mathematician and physicist N. S. Kardashev; Academician V. S. Troitskiy, director of the Gor'kiy Radiophysical Research Institute; physicist V. Ginzburg; astrophysicist I. Shklovskiy; and radiophysicist V. Siphorov.

Mentioned as among the foreign scientists participating were Dr. Carl Sagan of the USA; the American physicist Charles Towns (Nobel Prizewinner); and the American physicist F. Morrison. The representatives from Britain included the Nobel Prize-holder D. F. H. C. Crick, FRS, of the British Medical Research Council's Laboratory of Molecular Biology at Cambridge, and

Dr. Leslie Orgel, FRS, of the British National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill, London.

What, in my opinion, makes this Byurakan Conference most particularly interesting is the fact that, as the Soviet press stressed, the delegates included not only leading astronomers, astrophysicists, and radiophysicists, *but also biologists, anthropologists, historians, sociologists, and archaeologists.*

The articles which we have seen so far in the Soviet press about the Conference are two. The first, on November 9, appeared in *Pravda* under the title: "In Search of Extraterrestrial Civilisations" and was by G. Arakelyan, Erevan correspondent of that paper. The other article, "A Voice From the Universe", was by the *Izvestiya's* correspondent in Armenia, B. Mkrtchyan, and appeared in *Izvestiya* on September 15. As the latter was the fuller account of the two, I have made a full translation, which I think readers will find interesting:

A VOICE FROM THE UNIVERSE, **by B. Mkrtchyan**

" 'You saw that shooting star last night?'
" 'Well?'
" 'It's out on Horsell Common now.'
" 'Good Lord! Fallen meteorite! That's good.'
" 'But that's something more than a meteorite. It's a cylinder—an artificial cylinder, man! And there's something inside.' "

These lines from H. G. Wells' famous novel, *The War of the Worlds*, seemed a staggering piece of fantasy to folk living at the end of the last century. But seven decades have elapsed since then, and artificial devices fashioned by the hands of terrestrials have begun to furrow their way through the space around our Sun and to land on distant planets.

The scientific mind of man strives relentlessly forwards. The technological possibilities of man, and the sources of energy available to him, are expanding. Even such astonishing concepts as "astroengineering", with which there now is actually commencing the era of the triumph of "cosmic mind", the era of the establishment of man in the Universe, have already become household terms in everyday use among scientists. And about all these matters I had the opportunity to hear a great deal at the Byurakan Astrophysical Laboratory where, throughout the whole of this past week, they have been holding the first International Conference—the first in the history of Science—on Communication with Extraterrestrial Civilisations.

The Byurakan Conference was attended by eminent astrophysicists, radio-astronomers, theoretical physicists and biologists from the Soviet Union, USA, Britain, and other countries. And taking an active part in the discussions were also anthropologists, historians, sociologists and . . . archaeologists.

Communication with extraterrestrial civilisations—a task that is grandiose in its scale, a task which would be unthinkable without the creative collaboration of the representatives of the most varied and different sciences. It will be necessary for the scholars to throw light on many aspects of this problem that are still not clear. They will have to elucidate such questions as the likelihood that other planetary systems will be discovered, the question of necessity or chance in the origins of life and of intelligence, they will have to study the general laws governing the development of civilisations, predict the possible directions which astroengineering will follow, elaborate the best possible programme for searching for signals in the Universe, and, last but not least, they will have to consider the possible results of contacts with extraterrestrial civilisations.

For example, the participants in the Conference expressed the opinion that, with modern telescopes working in the infra-red band, it will be possible to discover new planets around the nearer stars. And there is yet another way in which planetary systems may be discovered, namely by observing those movements of the stars that are produced through the revolutions of planets around them. One such attempt has already proved successful—a planetary system has been discovered around Barnard's Star.

The discussion of the biological problems, in which an attempt was made to give various definitions of life, was summed up in a résumé by the British delegate, Nobel Prizewinner **Professor F. H. Crick.** He remarked that at present Science can explain only certain individual stages in biological evolution, and that the complete picture of how life arose in the Universe is still totally unclear to us. But in the meantime a clear definition of the processes in the commencement and development of life will enable Science to estimate how big a number of star systems would have to be investigated in order to make possible contacts with extraterrestrial civilisation.

All the addresses delivered in this unusual scientific forum were characterised not only by the thoroughgoing and profound manner in which the problems had been examined but also by their efficient and businesslike style. It could be seen, incidentally, that the talk here was not just about distant galaxies and unknown worlds but, as we might say, about the laying down of the gaspipe system or the construction of highways.

This kind of practical businesslike interest was evoked by the statement of the eminent Soviet radio-astronomer **V. Troitskiy** regarding his observations of stars distant hundreds of light-years from us. For this work, a special piece of apparatus was built for him, working in the one-centimetre and one-decimetre bands, as a result of which he was able to isolate sinusoidal signals from the background noise of the apparatus and of our Galaxy. The first of his investigations by this means were made on ten stars in our Galaxy—stars which in their characteristics resemble our own Sun. Last year attempts were begun also to discover brief, powerful bursts of radiation which might be due to the astroengineering activities of extraterrestrial civilisations. But analysis of the data obtained has shown that no powerful emanations were being beamed from our Galaxy. These observations were made on the 30 centimetre band.

The American radioastronomer **Oliver** also gave a talk on his own observations. It was he who, a few years back, headed the group of scientists who worked out the *Cyclops* programme for contacting extraterrestrial civilisations. The authors of this programme are of the opinion that, in order to establish such contact with technically developed civilisations of distant worlds, it will be essential to have absolutely gigantic systems of telescopes working in the microwave portion of the

MORE ON WELSH UFOs IN 1905

Roger Sandell

IN a previous article in *Flying Saucer Review*[1] a collection of press reports indicating that in 1905 several unusual aerial objects were sighted in the area of Egryn, Merionethshire, was summarised. At the time the village was one of the centres of a religious revival, and the objects were generally believed to be a mark of divine favour on Mrs. Mary Jones, a local revivalist preacher around whose house and chapel they appeared to centre. Further research has uncovered several other interesting reports from this wave.

The first is especially valuable because of the standing of the witness and the detailed nature of the account. Interviewed in the *Barmouth Advertiser* of March 23, 1905, the Rev. H. D. Jones, a local Baptist minister, described what had happened when he had accompanied Mrs. Jones (the two do not seem to have been related) to a revival meeting at the village of Llandebr, near Egryn. After the meeting Mrs. Jones and some of her followers rode back to Egryn in a car, while the Rev. Mr. Jones and others walked beside on foot. Then, according to Mr. Jones:

"After proceeding some distance the mysterious light suddenly appeared in the roadway a few yards in front of the car around which it played, sometimes in front, others behind. When we reached the crossroads the road towards Egryn makes [sic] a sudden turn to the left and, on reaching this point, instead of proceeding straight on, the light at once made its way in the direction of Egryn in front of the car. Up till then it had been a single light but here it changed. After going some

(*Continued on page 32*)

RUSSIAN CONFERENCE (*Continued from page 30*)

band. But many participants in the Conference disagreed with this way of formulating the question and considered the *Cyclops* method not the right one for the job, although they agreed that the making of a search in the microwave part of the band is promising.

Nobel Prizewinner **C. Towns** (USA) also drew the attention of the delegates to the new possibilities now being opened up to astronomers by the utilisation of lasers.

The delegates spent much time on the difficult problem of the search for informative signals in the Cosmos. Here it was a question of agreeing on which "windows" in Space should be used, in order to eliminate disturbing influences; what sort of information they would look for; and which wavelengths it would be best to listen on and to emit on. In the opinion of the Soviet radiophysicist **N. Petrovich,** it is necessary to work at the extreme limit of short impulses. It is probable, he said, that distant civilisations have already discovered a method of generating short impulses of gigantic power, whereas we are using receivers that only pick up long signals. The result is consequently that we are "looking at the book without knowing in which language it is written". This is why, he said, we must build broad-band receivers capable of picking up extremely short impulses.

Much of what was discussed at the Conference can already be found in the pages of the stories and novels of Science Fiction. But, while the Science Fiction writers project their ideas into a distant future, the scientists are already considering those same ideas as concrete programmes of activity. One of these fantastic ideas, it seems, was outlined at the Byurakan Conference by **Professor Minsky** of the Massachussets Institute of Technology. In his opinion, contact with an advanced civilisation must mean contact with a society of highly intelligent machines. In other words, we should send out into Space not only impulse-signals of call-sign type, but also special programmes for extraterrestrial electronic computers and televised representations of electronic computations.

The closing day of the Conference was devoted to the drawing up of the first programme of Mankind for the organisation of a practical scheme to try to discover intelligent inhabitants of Space, and for the establishment of contact with highly developed civilisations in the Universe. When the various individual points of this programme were being discussed, we really were able to convince ourselves as to how serious and how important for the future destiny of the inhabitants of Earth the results of such intercourse with "cosmic mind" could be. And our civilisation might be of great interest also to the inhabitants of other galaxies.

* * * * *

I found that the Royal Astronomical Society seemed to possess no information about the Byurakan Conference, so I asked Professor Crick and Dr. Orgel whether they knew of any plan to publish anything about it in English. Dr. Orgel informs me that it was decided at Byurakan that a brief report on the Conference would be prepared by a committee and submitted for publication in the USSR and in the West. The English version will appear either in *Science* or in *Nature*, and Dr. Sagan is the person who is in charge of this.

The cover-story in *Time* magazine for December 13, 1970 (*Looking For Life Out There*), dealt mainly with the recent probes to Mars etc., but also contained a certain amount of information about the Byurakan Conference. *Time* mentioned in particular that the Byurakan delegates had concluded that there are now from 100,000 to 1,000,000 technological civilisations in the Milky Way. They are considered to be on an average a few hundred light-years apart, and each one is capable of transmitting radio messages.

Yes. It looks as though our thinking has altered quite a bit since the days of Sir James Jeans.

(*Continued from page 31*)

little distance up the road to Egryn a small red ball of fire appeared around which danced two attendant white lights, and the red ball remained stationary for some time, the other lights playing around it. Meanwhile the car proceeded on its journey, leaving the lights behind. Those then suddenly again combined in one and rushed at a rapid pace after the car which it then overtook. For over a mile did we thus keep it in view."

This report (quoted here word for word as it appeared in the newspaper) is reminiscent of many others in which UFOs are described as chasing vehicles. However another of the *Barmouth Advertiser's* reports is much more puzzling. It comes from Beriah G. Evans, one of the paper's reporters, and is published in its February 16, 1905, issue. Mr. Evans describes how, after interviewing Mrs. Jones, he walked to a revival meeting with her and three of her followers. On the way the manifestations began:

"Having proceeded a little over a mile along the road, all walking abreast, I saw three brilliant rays of light strike across the road from mountain to sea, throwing the stone wall twenty or thirty yards in front into bold relief, every stone plainly visible. There was not a living soul there, nor house, from which it could have come. Another half mile and a blood red light, apparently within a foot of the ground, appeared to me in the centre of the village street just before us. I said nothing till I reached the spot. Then it disappeared as suddenly and mysteriously as it had come.

" 'Mrs. Jones,' I said, 'unless I am mistaken, your light still accompanies us.'

" 'Yes,' she replied, 'I kept silent to see whether you had perceived it yourselves.'

"Then I learned to my astonishment that none of my three companions had seen it. That is the simple story of my experience. Why I alone, apart from Mrs. Jones, should have seen the light, I shall not attempt to explain."

This is certainly a curious report, and strongly suggests that some psychological factors were involved.[2] This is not to say that the object was merely an hallucination, but that it may in some way have been projected into the minds of the percipients. This possibility has already been discussed in several FSR articles.

A far more conventional UFO is reported in the February 23, 1905, issue of the *Barmouth Advertiser*. A reader, who simply signs himself "Miner," writes that:

"At 11.48 on Saturday 11th inst., whilst walking south near Llywyon, with the sky totally overcast, I witnessed in the southern sky a large meteor passing from east to west. It attained its greatest brilliancy whilst over Barmouth, when three or four balls of fire fell out of the main body which showing through the clouds, appeared peculiarly grand, and the light was then so intense that I could distinguish objects more clearly than by the full moon. The meteor was nearer horizontal in its flight and more brilliant than any I have hitherto seen."

The apparent releasing of smaller objects is, of course, a not uncommon feature of UFO reports.

Some interesting data is contained in an article describing visions seen by Mrs. Jones in the March 30, 1905, issue of the *Barmouth Advertiser*. Most of the visions described are those commonly seen by religious mystics, such as Christ speaking from the cross. However, one item is interesting for its similarity to the "Men in Black" reports that have become familiar in our field:

"Returning home long after midnight one night she (Mrs. Jones) dismissed her driver at the head of the lane leading towards the farm. 'My brother always comes to meet me when I am late,' she said, 'and there he is,' pointing to the figure of a man seen dimly approaching. The car drove off and she went to meet her brother, as she thought. She called her brother by name. The figure looked back over his shoulder and she realised it was not her brother. She began to sing one of the revival hymns, when the man stopped, turned on her and became an enormous black dog. 'And then,' she told me (stated the reporter), 'I knew it was the Devil himself. I prayed aloud and, as I prayed, he rushed screaming into this very hillock.' "

This report has interesting affinities with folklore. The ability of the Devil to assume the forms of men and animals at will is frequently described in the witchcraft tradition and many British ghost stories involve phantom dogs.[3]

Further on, the same article relates:

"In the neighbourhood dwells an exceptionally intelligent young woman of the peasant stock, whose bedroom has been visited three nights in succession by a man dressed in black. This figure has delivered a message to the girl which she is forbidden to relate."

This is reminiscent of various modern contactee reports involving entities that materialise in people's homes.[4]

A case from the past is reported in the *Barmouth Advertiser* for January 26, 1905. Seeking to find some precedent for the events taking place, the paper quotes from *Morden's Atlas of Wales*, published around 1805:

"Tis credibly reported that in the year 1692 a fiery exhalation was seen to cross the sea and set fire to ricks of hay, corn and barns near Harlech, and to infect grass, but it was not dangerous to men though they stood in the midst of it. It proceeded in the night from the same place for some months, commonly on Saturday and Sunday. The only remedy to extinguish it and drive it away was to sound horns and trumpets or discharge guns."

This report is rather obscurely worded, making it difficult to reconstruct what actually happened. In any case an account written in 1805 of something that happened in 1692 is not the most reliable of evidence. All that is safe to say is that this report suggests that unusual aerial phenomena may have occurred in the area before 1905.[5]

Watkins

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Artwork by Terence Collins

What conclusions can we draw from these reports? First of all, most of the sightings fall into what John Keel would call the "soft" category, consisting mainly of small lights seen close to the ground. The entities described (the "gigantic human being" mentioned in the previous part of this study, and the two "Men in Black" described above) seem to have all the characteristics of apparitions, appearing and vanishing instantaneously.

The similarity between one of the entity reports and folk-tales has already been noted. The UFOs themselves resemble the lights that feature in folk lore as the "Jack o' Lantern" or "Will o' the Wisp."[6] There is also a Welsh tradition of a sprite called the Cyhyraeth, said to haunt the coast in the form of a floating light.

Similar lights are often associated with ghost and poltergeist cases[7] and some aspects of the Egryn reports suggest a similarity to poltergeist phenomena. Some investigators believe that poltergeist activity focuses on those with hysterical tendencies and the 1905 Welsh Revival had seen hysteria on a massive scale.

It cannot be denied that these reports present many unusual features. However a similar combination of religious hysteria and UFO sightings appears to have been associated with the revolt of the Camisard religious sect in France in 1702. Describing the Camisards, Professor N. Cohn, an expert on religious fanaticism, states:

"They fought in the absolute certainty of divine support. The Camisards were guided to places of safety by mysterious lights in the sky. Supernatural voices consoled them. Children and women, shaking all over, encouraged them with prophecies of the Second Coming."[8]

These reports serve to underline the complexity of the UFO picture. If we are to make any progress towards understanding it will only be by detailed research conducted with no preconceptions at all.

Notes

1 *UFOs in Wales in* 1905, FSR July/August 1971.
2 For a similar case see E. Buckle: *What the Children Saw.* FSR CASE HISTORIES No. 6, August 1971.
3 See Eric Maple: *The Realm of Ghosts* (Pan 1970) and Dennis Bardens *Ghosts and Hauntings* (Fontana 1972). Sir Arthur Conan Doyle based his "Hound of the Baskervilles" on these traditions.
4 See J. Keel: *Strange Creatures from Time and Space* (Fawcett 1970) and C. Bowen: *Strangers About the House* (FSR September/October 1968).
5 Wales seems to play an important part in historical ufology. The first part of this article mentioned lights seen in the same area in 1649 and Carl Grove's recent articles on the 1909 mystery airships gave several Welsh reports. There is also the "flying ship" seen at Holyhead in 1743 mentioned in a letter in FSR May/June 1970.
6 See Maple, *op. cit.*
7 See Bardens, *op. cit.*
8 Article in Purnell's *Man, Myth and Magic.*

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Messrs Michel, Vallée, Keel, et al: why the secrecy?

Dear Sir,—On page 4 of FSR Vol. 17, No. 6, Aimé Michel repeats his declaration of intent not to reveal details of the Dr. "X" case, and adds that such omission is "typical" of such cases. This is confirmed by a cursory examination of the literature, which revealed the following cases of non-publication of data:

1. John Keel, FSR Vol. 15, No. 5, p. 27, speaks of "A Long Island contactee whose story lurks in my files, far too sensational ever to be published."

2. P. M. H. Edwards, FSR Vol. 16, No. 2, p. 23, case 34, states that "a youngster had a traumatic experience with alien beings, which cannot be publicly described as yet."

3. Jacques Vallée, in *Passport to Magonia*, p. 132: "Of course, some details relevant to this aspect of the UFO phenomenon *cannot* be published." (Vallée's emphasis.)

What could possibly be too sensational, or traumatic, or personal to be published in the journal that brought AVB to the attention of the ufological world?

A similar sort of thing is Vallée's statement in *Challenge to Science*, p. 165-6: "Certain elements of the answers have already been found, by computer correlation . . . but they are still too new . . . to be published here." After six years this information, as far as I know, is still unpublished. Along with such matters as the repeated postponements of the Hynek and Salisbury books, and an apparent decision never to publish the book James McDonald was preparing, all this adds up to a lot of puzzlement and frustration for the rank-and-file.

A Ph.D. (name and address supplied)
of Dallas, Texas.
January 26, 1972.

[*And if the rank and file are puzzled by the suppression of our correspondent's identity, then his P.S. should be noted*—ED.]

P.S.: If any part of this letter is printed in FSR please do *not* publish my name or address!

[*All too frequently we are subjected, for no good reason, to frustrating hints of the kind which aggravate our correspondent, in the literature on the subject of UFOs. In some cases, however, researchers and authors resort to such hints when they need to make a point, yet hope that expected developments will enable them to present a more detailed picture in the future. Again, there are cases where witnesses and correspondents will not agree to their names being given as, for fear of ridicule, they do not want it known that they are associated with this subject.*

The case of Dr. "X" is very different. The very existence of the affair was made known directly to Aimé Michel, the leading and most respected researcher in the world, a man supported by many professional colleagues. It was imperative that the identity of Dr. "X" was suppressed so that the attentions (and contaminations) of sensation-seekers, etc., could be avoided while the investigation—and the follow-up of any subsequent events—continued—EDITOR.]

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