FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

VOL. 34, NO. 3
(SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1989)



Contents

Editorial: The Outlook. 1
Reports of Sightings and Landings in Central Russia. 1
Physicists Confirm: "Time-Travel May Be Possible Via 'Worm Holes'." 2
The End of a Chapter? *Gordon Creighton* 2
Top Experts Fail To See Eyeball-to-Eyeball 3
The Silbury Cornfield Circles (1988). *Frederick C. Taylor* 4
A Documentation of Paranoia and Persecution Complex ... 7
George Adamski: An Historical Note. *Eric Herr* 15
The "Great Martian Scare" . . . Of Two French Ufologists Who "Now Think Better" and Have Changed Their Minds! *Pier Luigi Sani* 15
Stop Press. First Cornfield Circles in Hertfordshire 22
Airships of the 1890s. *Steven A. Arts* 23
Mail Bag iv

© Flying Saucer Review
Library of Congress copyright FSR Publications Limited 1981
Contributions appearing in this magazine do not necessarily reflect its policy and are published without prejudice.

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

The international journal of cosmology and eschatology, and for the discussion of reports of unidentified flying objects and their alien occupants.

Editor GORDON CREIGHTON, MA, FRGS, FRAS *(UK)*

Consultants and Correspondents

JOHN M. LADE, MA *(UK)* Hon. Secretary of FLYING SAUCER SERVICE LTD., 1956-1971, and of FSR PUBLICATIONS LTD, 1971-1988
COLIN C. ANDREWS, MASEE, AILE *(UK)*
V.J. BALLESTER-OLMOS *(CEI — SPAIN)*
DR WALTER K. BÜHLER, MD *(SBEDV — BRAZIL)*
MARTIN BURGESS, FIIC, FSA, FBHI *(UK)*
JONATHAN CAPLAN, MA *(UK)*
BILL CHALKER, BSc Hons *(AUSTRALIA)*
ANTONIO CHIUMIENTO *(CISU — ITALY)*
GRAHAM CONWAY *(CANADA — BRITISH COLUMBIA)*
DR ROBERT F. CREEGAN, MA, PhD *(USA)*
JOAN PLANA CRIVILLÉN *(CEI — SPAIN)*
IGNACIO DARNAUDE ROJAS-MARCOS *(SPAIN)*
PAT DELGADO *(UK)*
PAUL DONG *(CHINA)*
ANN DRUFFEL, BA *(USA)*
DR P. M. H. EDWARDS, PhD, MA, FTCL, LRAM, ARCM *(CANADA — VANCOUVER ISLAND & BRITISH COLUMBIA)*
LAWRENCE FENWICK *(CUFORN — CENTRAL CANADA)*
JOAQUIM FERNANDES *(CNIFO — PORTUGAL)*
DR BERNARD E. FINCH, MRCS, LRCP, DCh, FBIS *(UK)*
OMAR FOWLER *(SIGAP — UK)*
SALVADOR FREIXEDO *(SPAIN)*
DR JOHN F. GILLE, PhD *(FRANCE)*
TIMOTHY GOOD *(UK)*
IRENE GRANCHI *(CISNE — BRAZIL)*
DR I. GRATTAN-GUINNESS, MA, MSc, PhD, DSc *(UK)*
MARÍA-ÁNGELA THOMAS GUMA (Jane Thomas) *(SPANISH AMERICA)*
DR RICHARD F. HAINES, PhD *(USA)*
KHALED HAMSHO, *(SYRIA & MIDDLE EAST)*
DR JAMES A. HARDER, PhD *(USA)*
WING-COMMANDER A. CECIL HARPER, MA, RAF Ret'd *(UK)*
THE REVEREND CHARLES HARRINGTON *(UK)*
LEIF HAVIK *(UFO NORGE — NORWAY)*
RICHARD HEIDEN *(USA)*
AHMAD JAMALUDIN *(MALAYSIA & S.E. ASIA)*
JOHN A. KEEL *(USA)*
MILOŠ KRMELJ *(YUGOSLAVIA)*
IB LAULUND *(IGAP — DENMARK)*
ANDERS LILJEGREN *(ARCHIVES FOR UFO RESEARCH, SWEDEN)*
CHRISTOPHER LINE *(UK)*
JUDY MAGEE *(AUSTRALIA — VUFORS)*
HANS HERMANN MARKERT *(WEST GERMANY)*
YUSUKE J. MATSUMURA *(CBA INTERNATIONAL, JAPAN)*
AIMÉ MICHEL *(FRANCE)*
WILLIAM L. MOORE *(FOCUS NEWSLETTER, USA)*
DR RICHARD C. NIEMTZOW, MD, PhD *(USA)*
PAUL B. NORMAN *(AUSTRALIA — VUFORS)*
HANS-WERNER PEINIGER *(GEP — WEST GERMANY)*
DR JEAN-PIERRE PETIT *(FRANCE)*
DR ROBERTO PINOTTI *(CUN-ITALY)*
DAVID POWELL *(SOUTH AFRICA)*
ANTONIO RIBERA *(SPAIN)*
DR VLADIMIR V. RUBTSOV *(USSR)*
LUIS SCHÖNHERR *(AUSTRIA)*
DR BERTHOLD SCHWARZ, MD *(USA)*
DR WILLY SMITH, PhD *(UNICAT PROJECT, USA)*
DR R. LEO SPRINKLE, PhD *(USA)*
FREDERICK C. TAYLOR *(UK)*, LICENSED PRIVATE PILOT
THE REVEREND DONALD THOMAS *(UK)*
DR JACQUES VALLÉE, PhD *(USA)*
GENEVIÈVE VANQUELEF *(FRANCE — LDLN)*
PAUL WHITEHEAD, NCTJ CERT *(UK)*
DR LEONARD M. WILDER, BDS (Lond.) *(UK)*
PROF. R. B. H. WINDER, BSc, CEng, FIMechE *(UK)*
GEORGE WINGFIELD, MA Hons. *(UK)*

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION (FOR FOUR ISSUES PER YEAR):–

UNITED KINGDOM: £12.00 (single copies £3.50 each)
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA $US30.00 (single copies $8.00 each)
ALL OTHER COUNTRIES: £15.00 (single copies £4.50 each)
(US dollars payable in New York. We cannot accept US dollar cheques drawn on foreign banks outside the USA)

Overseas airmail extra:– USA $10.00 All other countries £6

Overseas subscribers should remit by cheque drawn in *Sterling* on a bank in the United Kingdom, or by cheque in US dollars drawn in the USA only, or by International Money Order in Sterling. If remitting by Giro then FSR's account number is 356 3251.

All mail, editorial matter and subscriptions should be addressed to **The Editor, FSR Publications Ltd, PO Box 12, Snodland, Kent ME6 5JZ, England**

Artwork: Eve and contributors

COLLECTORS' CORNER

FSRs FOR SALE

54 issues, Vols. 15 to 27. Many years complete. Also 8 FSR CASE HISTORIES and SPECIAL ISSUES 4 and 5. SAE to Colin Bell, 3 Mitford Place, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3PQ.

From estate of a deceased FSR reader. FSR Vol. 1, right through to Vol. 33, almost all complete. Also a few Case Histories and Special Issues. SAE to: H.M. Mackintosh, 117 Lightsfield, Oakley, Basingstoke, Hants RG23 7BY.

FSR, years 1969-1978, plus 16 Case Histories and 2 Special Issues. SAE to R.L. Tripp, 7 Weavers Hill, Angmering, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN16 4BP.

FSRs WANTED

Vols. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. All issues. Also FSR CASE HISTORIES, Nos. 6 and 13. Please state price (including postage) and condition. Neil Hockey, 214 Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 9AF.

MELBOURNE EPISODE — CASE STUDY OF A MISSING PILOT

Author: FSR Consultant Dr Richard F. Haines, PhD.

$US12.95, plus $1 for US internal postage and standard overseas rates elsewhere.

(For UFO organisations 30% discount = price $9.08 per copy.)

Autographed copies available on request.

All orders to:
Dr. R. F. Haines
P.O. Box 880, Los Altos
California 94023 — 0880

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW
ESTABLISHED 1955

Vol. 34, No. 3
(September, 1989)

THE OUTLOOK

By now it is certain that all of the people, everywhere, who take an interest in or are aware of the "UFO Problem", will have heard and read a great deal about such things as the *"Majestic 12"* documents; the astounding claims of John Lear and of Bill Cooper; the shattering books *"Matrix"* and *"An Alien Harvest"*; the talk and the rumours of underground alien bases on Earth at such places as Dulce and Groom Lake; the talk of an alleged governmental deal with Aliens that went disastrously wrong; of human abductions, of cattle mutilation, and, alas — of other things much worse than that.

Apart from a few brief references in recent issues, we at FSR have so far said little about these potentially grave new aspects of the UFO Problem. There are others who have already said far more than we have. We ourselves propose to say little more for the moment.

But this does not mean that we are in any sense unaware of the prevailing situation. We have all the key books referred to — and more, and in fact the amount of accumulated material which we now have on all these matters is enormous and we doubt whether any other civilian investigators in Britain have anywhere near as much as we do. Indeed — and this may surprise some — we started receiving this type of material, from Canadian as well as U.S. sources, as far back as 1980. And although we still do not know how much of this disturbing material is true, it is notable that the main themes running through it for nearly a whole decade now have been remarkably consistent.

A reader asked us recently why we have not said much more than we have on all these developments. And the reply we gave him was simply that *we do not yet know how much of it all is true and how much false.* So we prefer to wait a while and see.

Rumour has it that Mr John Lear has said: *"It's all over bar the screaming".* He may or may not have said this. We at FSR don't know whether he said it. But, if the position really is as indicated in the voluminous material now in our hands, then we have to agree that it may indeed be *"all over bar the screaming".*

But we think we have some responsibilities, and one of those responsibilities is not to contribute to "rocking the boat" needlessly.

Unlike most others in this field, we do not seek financial gain, and we think that poor old *Homo Sapiens* (self-dubbed) has already got more than enough to worry about. So we think we will let others "spill it all now", if they want to. If it turns out to be untrue or badly exaggerated, an awful lot of alarm and despondency will have been generated unnecessarily. And, if the picture is indeed as sombre as presented, then we feel sure that *Homo Sap.* will find out quickly enough. We don't aspire to be the first bearers of all the bad news.

As a last thought however, we will tell you this: some of the information brought to us privately out of China in April of this year — information emanating from Chinese Government levels — was as terrifying as anything that we have ever heard. So it may well be, after all, that John Lear and Bill Cooper and Paul Bennewitz, along with not a few others, are telling the truth.

But, we repeat, we do not intend to be the first to write or speak too much about it all.

For one thing — there may be more than one side to the drama now being played out here.

REPORTS OF SIGHTINGS AND LANDINGS IN CENTRAL RUSSIA

According to the July 1 issue of the SOVIET WEEKLY (published in London in English) various newspapers in Central Russia had recently carried reports that the rural calm of the Slav countryside had been rudely disturbed by 'Space Visitors' during June. On June 6, outside the village of Konantsevo, in the Vologda District (N.E. of Moscow. Lat. 59° 25 N., 40°00 E.), children were reported to have seen a 'luminous dot' approaching them, becoming a 'shining sphere' as it got nearer.

The mysterious object is then said to have landed in a meadow and rolled towards the nearby river. The children were watching from a spot only ½ a kilometre distant.

The children claim that the object then split open, and "something resembling a headless person, in dark garb, emerged".

The craft is then said to have "melted into thin air", while the creature proceeded towards the village, before finally vanishing itself.

The children insisted that three more craft — two of them "manned" — later touched down on the same meadow, only to disappear in the same way as the first one.

Some days later, a "fiery ball" was sighted over Vologda, hovering over that city for 17 minutes before disappearing into the sky without attempting to land. And yet another UFO was spotted over Vologda on the following day.

Weeks later, a huge mysterious object was sighted hovering noiselessly, at a height of only 300 m, over the city of Cherepovetsk (59° 05 N, 37° 55 E), leaving a 'large luminous trail'.

(Credit and thanks to FSR Reader Edward Arratoonyan.)

That famous Californian insurance company UFO Abduction & Casualty have offered £6 cover if policy-holders get taken for an extraterrestrial voyage, for a premium of just £5 a year. Of course, they fully realize that it would be somewhat easier to prove you are the reincarnated Tutankhamun, but they helpfully throw in the cost of psychiatric aftercare.

A mad idea? Not really. The company has already coined £10,000 from people desperate for dinner-party topics.

— *DAILY EXPRESS*, July 24, 1989.

PHYSICISTS CONFIRM: "TIME-TRAVEL MAY BE POSSIBLE VIA 'WORM HOLES'"

In an article by their Science Correspondent in the London *Daily Telegraph* of November 23, 1988, interesting details were given of a paper recently published in the highly respected journal *Physical Review Letters* by three top American scientists, Prof. Kip Thorne and Prof. Ulvi Yurtsever of the California Institute of Technology, and Dr Michael Morris, of the University of Wisconsin, at Milwaukee. They say that, by means of 'worm holes', a sufficiently advanced technological civilization might be able to perform Time-Travel into the Past and make instantaneous journeys by spaceships to distant regions of the Universe. They say that 'worm holes' — actual holes in the structure of Space and Time — exist throughout the Universe.

They say that a message or a spaceship could in theory be "sent through a 'worm hole'", and emerge instantly in a different part of Space or Time.

As Dr Michael Morris explained: "Worm-holes are sub-microscopic objects, but an advanced technology might be able to enlarge them to a size where they would be useful".

Their paper suggests a way in which starships, by travelling instantaneously, could one day bypass the law that forbids faster-than-light travel.

Two 'worm-holes' separated by vast distances would in theory "create a tunnel through Space-Time between them". This would enable a spaceship or a message to make journeys that would be totally impossible in conventional physics.

It would also make time-travel possible. Said Dr Morris: "Travelling into the past has hitherto been considered inherently impossible, because it would enable you to murder your parents before they met, and you would cease ever to have existed.

"But this impossible paradox is avoided in our interpretation of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity. We suggest the existence of an infinite number of *parallel universes,* so that the past you travelled into would be a different past from that in which you grew up."

The three scientists draw attention to the "Many Worlds Theory" of the physicist Hugh Everett, and proposed by him in 1957, which suggests that the Universe is continually branching out into different "states".* There would, for example, be another Universe, just as real as our own, in which Mr Dukakis, and not Mr Bush, had been the winner in the last American Presidential Election!

Dr David Deutsch, a British physicist, of the Mathematical Institute at Oxford, said recently that these 'branchings of reality' might be detectable by a super-computer — a machine far more sensitive than the human mind, that could perform 10,000 million calculations per second.

Summing up, Dr Morris said: "Our theory is all very speculative. A new idea might, of course, emerge that would prove it impossible. But such speculation is valuable, since it encourages physicists to explore the Universe in new ways."

* * * * * * *

*NOTE BY EDITOR

For our previous discussions of these advanced problems of Physics, see the various articles by FSR Consultant Paul Whitehead:–

FSR 31/1. *"From Atoms To Tachyons And Hyperspace — And Back Again!"*
FSR 31/2. *"The Parallel Universe & Other Dimensions".*
FSR 31/3. *"A Look at the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence".*
FSR 31/4. *"Science Comes Under Attack — and the 'Hologram Universe' is proposed".*
FSR 31/5. *"Spinning Saucers Gain Credibility".*
FSR 31/6. *"Other Worlds — Fact, Fiction, Or Beyond Human Comprehension?"*
FSR 32/1. *"Life on Mars, UFOs, SETI, SETA — and Scientist claims the Paranormal is for Real!"*
FSR 32/1. *"Aliens, Laser Beams and Clones".*
FSR 32/2. *"From Dust, Alien Consciousness May Arise!"*
FSR 32/3. *"Mind and the New Physics".*
FSR 32/3. *"Scientists Confirm: There May Be a Parallel Universe".*
FSR 33/1. *"The Debate on Extraterrestrial Life 'hots up'".*
FSR 33/1. *"Manned Flight to Alpha Centauri Proposed".*
FSR 33/1. *"World Without End — Amen".*
FSR 33/3. *"Cosmology, UFOs, CE4s and the Fourth Dimension".*
FSR 34/1. *"Wormholes and Faster-than-Light Travel: Latest News".*
FSR 34/2. *Book Review:* Dr Jacques Vallée's "DIMENSIONS".

(See also: FSR 32/5. Rev. Donald Thomas: *"Parallel Worlds". Recent Comment from an eminent Oxford Physicist.*)

THE END OF A CHAPTER?

Gordon Creighton

As all of our information media continue to bombard us with depressing reports about the Ozone Layer; the "Greenhouse Effect"; the melting Ice-Caps and the rising seas; the rapid loss of the Earth's great tropical rain-forests; the massive pollution of land and sea and atmosphere; the terrifying overpopulation of the Earth by Man, the Great Predator; and the accelerating destruction of numerous other species of life, it is evident that many — even among the great unthinking masses of humanity — are beginning to perceive that *"SOMETHING IS HAPPENING".* And, here and there among them, the more perceptive ones are even starting to see that the close of one of the *Great Chapters in the Book of Life on Earth* may be at hand. Should this indeed be so, then it is nothing new! For these things have occurred repeatedly before. For what we are discussing is *"Catastrophism",* and we know that the old-fashioned Victorian idea of *"Gradualism",* once so dear to the hearts of such folk as the geologist Lyall, has now been totally discarded. Today we already know, from the scientific evidence, of *at least 77 reversals of the Earth's Poles.*

Firstly, there is the problem of the actual *wandering* of the physical Poles, and this is no doubt connected with the slow processes of Continental Drift and the movements of the Plates. Secondly, as stated already, there is the question of the *magnetic* reversals. It seems that there have been about twenty of these in the last 4,500,000 years, which gives us a rate of *about one reversal* every 200,000 years, on an average. There

have been found to be several sorts of time-interval between them. One of the intervals is of about 700,000 years, while another is of about only 10,000 years. *The longest interval yet discovered by our scientists happens to be in fact our current interval, as it seems that the last big reversal was about 690,000 years ago, though the scientists Folgheraiter and Mercanton have also found a brief period of reversal about 3,000 years ago.*

Findings of scientists in the Geological Department of the University of Minnesota (published in the London *Sunday Times* of July 15, 1984) indicate that a new "flip" is indeed pending. *They found that the Earth's magnetic field has halved in strength over the past 4,000 years. The actual reversal may, the scientists say, "take a few years, or a couple of thousand if History is any guide".*

Clearly, when it does happen, magnetic compasses will be useless for navigation during the change, and the protection which the Earth's magnetic field at present gives us against solar radiation could be altered, no doubt bringing major changes in climate (such as we are already experiencing).

Clearly, also, all creatures that utilize the Earth's magnetism for their navigation — birds, fish, and honey bees for example — will be thrown into utter confusion and their survival will be in doubt. And what about ours? (Incidentally, we have heard of all sorts of theories about the cause of the extinction of the dinosaurs — such as the explosion of a Supernova. But this magnetic field reversal might also have been the cause.)

All life is lived on a razor's edge

All life is miraculous and perilous, anyway, and we live on the razor's edge. In an earlier article, *"Will The Earth Be Struck Again Soon?"* (in FSR 30/5, 1985), I gave an outline of the views of Dr Allen Hynek and fellow-astrophysicists regarding a further danger with which our planet is faced — *and has always been faced* — namely the possibility of another major *strike* soon by an asteroid or a comet, from which it seemed pretty evident that a good many astronomers think we might 'cop' something quite nasty again before very long.

Such a view has recently received much confirmation. In his article, *The Dynamics of Armageddon,* published in the journal ASTRONOMY NOW, the Oxford University astrophysicist Dr Victor Clube has pointed out that, since about 1970, the previous scientific thinking about the likelihood of great geophysical disasters on our planet have been revised most drastically. He says that it is now perceived that, even within the tiny span of recorded history, the impact or near passage of comets have had quite startling effects upon the Earth.

Comet Encke, and another near-miss by an asteroid

Subsequently, on October 24, 1988, in an article in the London *Daily Telegraph,* Dr Clube showed that, in particular, COMET ENCKE, which, with its million-mile swathe of debris *intercepts Earth's orbit once every 3.3 years (!),* represents a terrible danger to this planet, and he adduces cogent evidence to show that in both the 5th century A.D. and the 11th century A.D., there were what he calls veritable "waves of attack" against the Earth by Encke. He also thinks, incidentally, that the famous *"Tunguska Phenomenon"* of 1908 was almost certainly a large chunk of ice about 40 yards wide and weighing some 30,000 tons, which had got detached from Encke's Comet.

But now (*Daily Telegraph,* April 21, 1989) we learn that our Earth has just narrowly escaped being struck by a fresh, *totally unknown,* asteroid weighing some 400,000,000 tons, which passed within half-a-million miles of us in March of this year! Dr Henry Holt, the Northern Arizona University astronomer who discovered this "beastie", using the Mount Palomar Optical Telescope, says that the thing had come in from the direction of the Sun, so that the Sun's glare had prevented anyone from detecting its approach sooner, and that, *"If it had appeared only a few hours earlier, it would have nailed us".*

"Half-a-million miles from Earth" means that, as it passed us, the size of the gap separating the asteroid from us was only twice the distance from the Earth to the Moon.

In 1937 the asteroid HERMES (400 million tons) also came within half a million miles of us. If we are to go on having many such "close shaves", then assuredly it can only be due to some Very High Guidance — in other words DIVINE PROVIDENCE. But — can we always count on it? IF WE ARE WORTH PRESERVING, MAYBE SOMEBODY WILL CONTINUE TO SEE TO IT THAT WE ARE PRESERVED.

As we contemplate these Immensities, we realize more acutely than ever that ALL OF LIFE IS LIVED UPON A RAZOR'S EDGE. What the purpose of our existence here is, not one of us knows, but we can be certain that *we are here because we are useful to Somebody or to Something.* Let us ever be thoughtful and mindful, then, for should we cease to be useful, might not our time be running out?

What do all the signs indicate? Are we not all living on borrowed time now?

TOP EXPERTS FAIL TO SEE EYEBALL-TO-EYEBALL

ACCORDING to a report published in the London *Daily Mail* on July 15, 1989, the top experts of the USA and Britain seem to be at variance on the vexed subjects of aliens and abductions by aliens.

The USA, represented by Mr Walt Andrus, International Director and Associate Editor of the MUFON UFO JOURNAL, was described as firmly asserting that such events as abductions by aliens *are a fact.* For the British side, however, top world expert J. Randles was reported as saying:-

"We are not a promotion agency for ET. We are here to try to explain scientifically what the public sees."

Pointing out that "different types of aliens have been reported in different parts of the world", J. Randles said that this is *"proof that the whole thing is culture-dependent".*

(So, as we've always told you, it really *is* all in your mind, after all!)

THE SILBURY CORNFIELD CIRCLES (1988)

© *Frederick C. Taylor, FSR Consultant*



Above: Dawn. Friday July 15 1988 First 'Quintuple'

Below: A few days later. Now there are thirteen circles

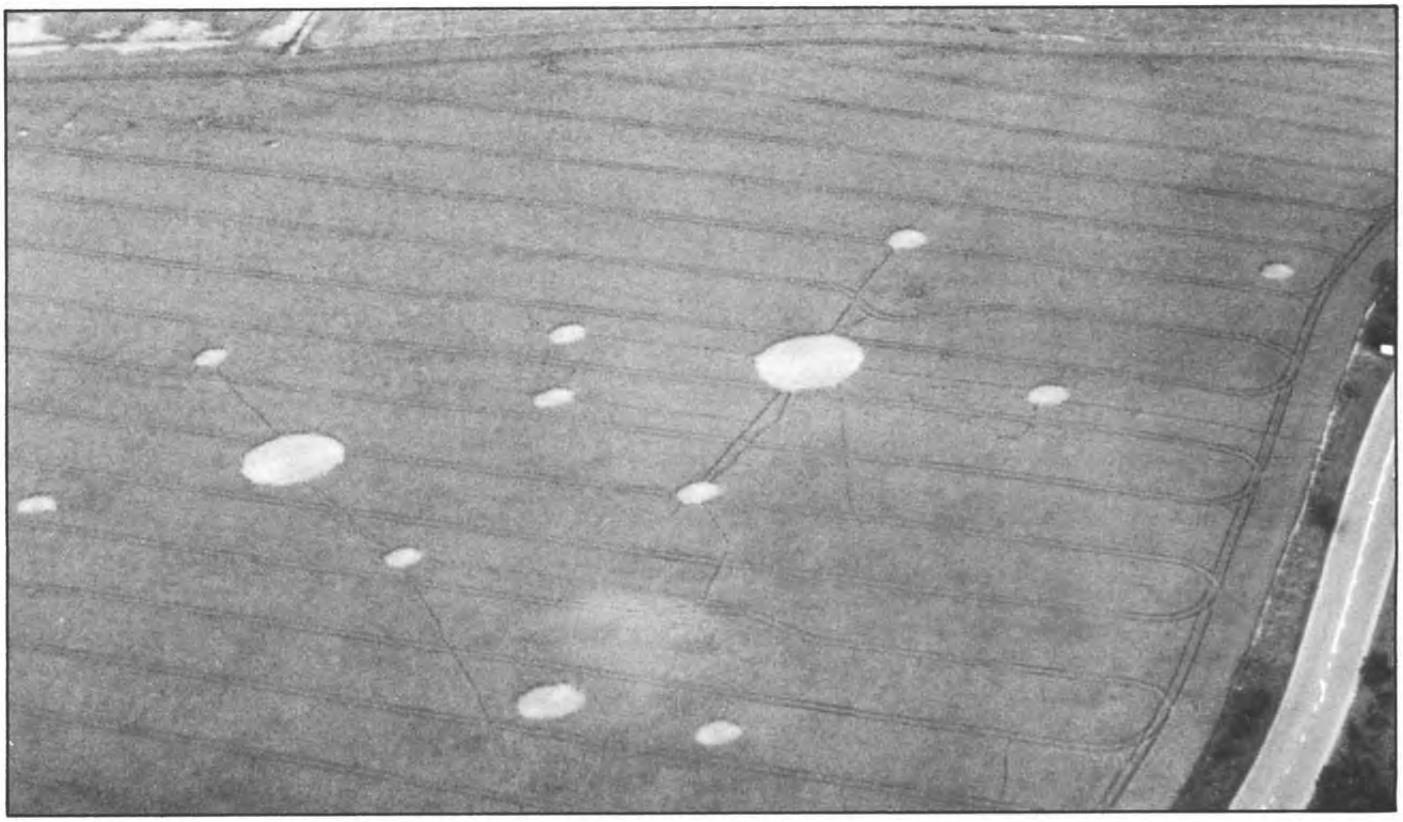




Above: A closer view

Below: Tracks between the circles are made by visitors

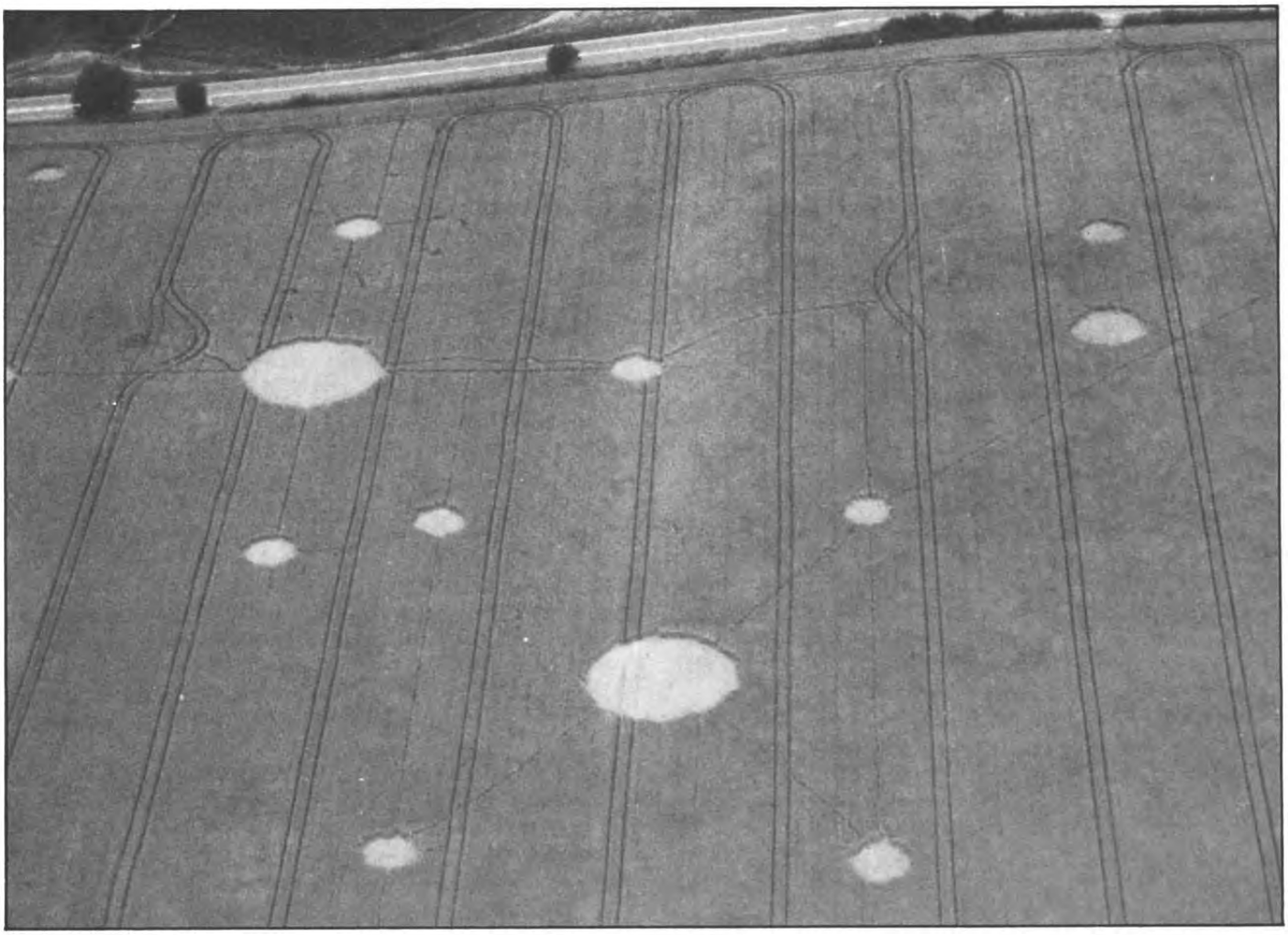




In our last three issues, FSR 33/4, 34/1, and 34/2) there was discussion of the huge concentration of 13 circles found in one single field near the famous Silbury Hill, in Wiltshire, S.W. England, in mid-July of 1988.

Reproduced here are six of the colour photos which were taken at Silbury by Mr F.C. Taylor. Copyright on all six pictures lies with him.

EDITOR



A DOCUMENTATION OF PARANOIA AND PERSECUTION COMPLEX

DOCUMENT NO. 1 ***(Extract)***
A letter (unsigned) from J. Randles published in Mufon Journal, U.S.A., No. 234 (October 1987).

Field circles

I also wanted to comment on Dennis' remarks about the corn field circles in British fields. He is quite right in being sceptical of the UFO connection, which has been promoted in the US (e.g., by some fairy tales in *Weekly World News*). However sad as it is for me to say this since I was weaned on *FSR* please do not judge anything on what appears in there . . . on most subjects, including the circles. I am afraid if you were to gauge reaction from almost everyone seriously involved in British ufology you will find one of few subjects they agree on is the mixture of amusement, bemusement and dismay that follows any glance at *FSR*. From its once proud position it has fallen from grace and is not representative in most ways of what is going on . . . at least not in Britain.

The "mystery" circles were first investigated by BUFORA in 1980 when they initially appeared. Excellent work with Ian Mrzyglod and Bristol University appeared in *Probe Report* in the next two years, totally demolishing the media hype of UFOs. Since that time Paul Fuller, a geographer and statistician who is BUFORA's regional investigations co-ordinator for Hampshire and Wiltshire (the counties where 99 per cent of these rings appear each summer) has worked closely with Dr. Terence Meaden, a professional meteorologist and head of the Tornado and Storm Research organization and editor of the *Journal of Meteorology*. They have put months of hard graft into scientific appraisal of these rings (which change patterns from year to year but are clearly a terrain and weather related phenomenon).

Although we long ago recognized that these patterns are *not* caused by UFOs the National and local press in Britain have resurrected the idea that they do *every* summer since 1983 and *FSR*, laughing as it does at anything other than some kind of supernatural explanation, has frankly played right into their hands.

It was for this reason that BUFORA decided we had to devote precious time and resources to the matter. In the summer of 1986 we prepared a detailed 28-page report, entitled *Mystery of the Circles*. I provided a historical review of the subject, Paul Fuller reported on the morphology of the rings and gave pros and cons for the various theories and then we summarised the highly technical work that Dr. Meaden has published over several issues of the meteorological press. His view, that a novel type of fair-weather, short-lived stationary whirlwind is responsible for the patterns, has ample support and in the absence of any strong reason to believe otherwise has been accepted. Paul, myself and one or two others in the BUFORA investigation team had geared up a campaign for the return of the circles which we knew would come in June or July 1986. The booklet was ready for immediate release, a London press conference/public meeting involving all the key participants was in embryo, ready for organization within a week of the first "circle sighting", and Paul and I had much media work to set in motion. The result was a barrage of sensible publicity in the quality press and on TV and considerable success for BUFORA's booklet (which had to be quickly reprinted). The public generally were appreciative of efforts to find a workable solution.

You may have noted that *FSR* failed to mention *any* of this and merely continued to dismiss natural explanations in such a contemptuous fashion that it grossly mislead its readers into thinking those who adhered to the "wind" as the cause were both mad and uninformed; although I would argue that it is eminently more sensible to work with professional scientists in the appropriate field and trust to their judgement than invent wild ideas that champion notions which you *want* to believe in.

In the Winter of 1986-1987 Paul Fuller and Terence Meaden have continued their work. Indeed (we think for the first time) there has been a jointly funded research project between a UFO group (BUFORA) and a scientific research centre (The Storm and Tornado Organization). This conducted a major field study and survey of Hampshire cereal farms, revealing much useful data on the genesis of the rings. BUFORA is proud of all this work, which may not be directly relevant to UFOlogy but is surely what Ufology is all about. We do not feel that we need to apologize for attempting to understand these circles and spending considerable time and money working with scientists to do precisely that. *FSR*, on the other hand, may need to apologize to its many American readers for failing dismally to make any reference to this, because it did not support the utterly unsupportable contention that these rings have anything whatsoever to do with UFOs.

Mystery of the Circles is available from BUFORA (16 South Way, Burgess Hill, England RH15 9ST) at £1.25 or US equivalent (plus extra for air mail postage; cheques to "BUFORA Ltd").

The progess report on the 1986-1987 research is available as an update to the publication at £1, but is being summarised in the literature (I have a piece in *OMNI* and Paul Fuller and Dr. Meaden are producing articles for the meteorological press). BUFORA's twice-annual *Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena* will also report.

I am afraid Dennis Stillings' helicopter theory is untenable as an explanation for the circles because of several features of their morphology . . . plus the fact that on a couple of occasions witnesses have been adjacent to the fields when a circle formed and would certainly have noticed a helicopter (or UFO for that matter!).

DOCUMENT NO. 2
A letter dated November 19, 1987, to Editor of Mufon Journal *from Mrs Ann Druffel, Contributing Editor to* Mufon Journal *and Consultant to FSR.*

"Letters to the Editor"
MUFON UFO JOURNAL
103 Oldtowne Road
Seguin, TEXAS 78155

Dear Editor,

Recent letters in this Journal section have contained vague but deeply denigrating remarks against FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. The last letter of this kind (Oct. 1987 issue) was unsigned, but I would judge that was due to the Journal's editorial error. I would suggest that the author of that letter specify his or her specific objections to FSR. Then appreciative and admiring readers of FSR (and there are many) can answer them.

The author(s) of these letters apparently have other objections besides FSR's opinion about the so-called "Cheesehead Mystery Rings". Incidentally, the explanation by the consulting meteorologist gave my family a hearty laugh (a rare commodity these days!) Even my resident skeptic, who decries anything ufological, remarked that the meteorologist's theory was even crazier than the ufologists'. We are both well acquainted with whirlwinds, dust devils, tornadoes and waterspouts and cannot accept the idea of a "recurring stationary whirlwind".

Personally, I prefer to speculate that the swirled rings in Cheesehead might be linked somehow to the (admittedly mysterious) ley-line energies. There's no reason in the world why anyone should have to agree with anyone else on anything. Everyone is entitled to his/her own reasonable opinions, and I have yet to find anything unreasonable about FSR's contents or editorial philosophy. With very best regards,

(Signed) Ann Druffel,
Pasadena, California,
19 November 1987.

COPY TO GORDON CREIGHTON.
DEAR GORDON,

YOU MUST BE DOING *SOMETHING* RIGHT TO MERIT SUCH VITRIOLIC OBJECTIONS!
BEST REGARDS,
ANN DRUFFEL

NOTE: THE EDITOR OF MUFON JOURNAL WAS SEEMINGLY NOT DISPOSED TO PUBLISH THIS LETTER IN HIS JOURNAL, SO IT WAS PRINTED BY US, ON HIS BEHALF, ON PAGE 18 OF FSR VOL. 33, NO. 2 (JUNE 1988).

DOCUMENT NO. 3

A letter dated 4 September 1988 from Paul Fuller to Ann Druffel

Paul Fuller (BUFORA)
3 Selborne Court,
Tavistock Close,
Romsey,
Hampshire
SO51 7TY
England
4th September 1988

Dear Ann Druffel,

I am writing to you to express my concern at the sentiments you have been expressing in FSR and your view that atmospheric vortices are incapable of creating "mystery circles". Most British UFOlogists no longer subscribe to FSR (and haven't done so since Creighton became editor) so I may not be fully aware of what has been appearing in its pages; however, I must inform you that, regretfully, FSR's "honoured consultants" are guilty of blatant misrepresentation of what has been occurring here, of failing to adequately evaluate the Vortex Theory, and of damaging everything UFOlogists have been trying to achieve. I know you will find this difficult to accept, but I ask you to think very carefully about what follows and to bear in mind that if UFOlogists are shown to be wrong about FSR's view that 'paranormal UFOs' are creating the circles, then UFOlogists may never again have the opportunity to demonstrate that we *are* credible, rational researchers.

To begin with, there is very little doubt in my mind that natural *descending* atmospheric vortices are capable of creating circles. I have detailed some of the reasons why this is so in my IRU article, which doubtless you will be aware of. In addition to the reasons I have cited in this article, natural vortices frequently display spiral patterns over water surfaces and dusty desert surfaces due to the inflowing winds at their bases. These spiral patterns clearly mirror the patterns found in all genuine circles. Secondly, accounts exist (see Corliss, p 169, in 'Tornados, Dark Days & Anomalous Precipitation) of vortices which can remain stationary (which is what they would need to do to create circles). If you visit your local library, try to find a general reference book on meteorology and see if you can find any photos of vortices. On my first visit to my local library I discovered 'The Guinness Book of Weather Facts & Feats' by Ingrid Holford (1977). This had 2 excellent photos of vortices with *precisely defined* vortex funnels at the centre of the vortex, proof that vortices *can* create such precisely defined circles.

Corliss' accounts of vortices with outer (contra-rotating) sheaths really erased all lingering doubts in my mind as to the validity of the Vortex Theory because it really is too much of a coincidence that both vortices and mystery circles should display successive contra rotations, and that the positioning of these sheaths is identical for both phenomena. For the Vortex Theory to be wrong, this would be one hell of a coincidence. Many of the quintuplet formations display very thin sheath effects which are visible in FSR's own photos (see Vol 29 p 15 eg)! Sheaths are not always present in waterspouts but they can ascend and descend at will, this is the reason why some circles display outer rings but some circles do not — it depends on the timing of the descent of the sheaths.

I expect that FSR has not printed the map published in Terence Meaden's 'Journal of Meteorology' which shows the five known Cley Hill, Warminster circles all clustering around the eastern side of the hill (which juts up from a generally flat terrain). Winds in the South of Britain tend to be from a south-westerly or westerly direction and automatically create leeslope eddy currents on the eastern side of the hill, thus supporting the vortex theory.

I have sent an explanation of all the evidence for the vortex theory to Dennis Stacy which I hope you will be able to read. Please bear in mind that (a) the Vortex Theory is a *new* theory which was only published (in part) this summer, Dr Meaden is producing a more in-depth book which he hopes to publish in the next 2 years; this is the reason why meteorologists are quite unaware of the vortex theory and its supporting evidence (does your friendly local meteorologist subscribe to the Journal of Meteorology?) and this is the reason why meteorologists 'fall on the floor laughing' when FSR's "honoured consultants" ring them up. (b) It has taken me 3 years to come to terms with the vortex theory and to understand its complexities, clearly it is unfair to expect meteorologists to comment on something which is fairly complex when most of them specialise in other areas of meteorology

and when Pat & Colin simply ask them "Can whirlwinds do this?" instead of supplying all the supporting evidence. Certainly meteorologists are quite prepared to accept that *single* circles can be created by vortices, but they are unwilling to publically *(sic)* comment on a phenomenon that FSR has associated with UFOs — because of the risks they take in commenting on such an emotive subject — and they are not yet fully informed of the evidence, such is FSR's incompetence and bias on these matters.

It seems ironic that UFOlogists have waited over forty years for our first 'novel new phenomenon' but we're too stupid to recognise it when it arrives! Certainly there is nothing wrong with accepting an unrecognised meteorological phenomenon as the cause for these circles and I would hope that you will think very carefully about what FSR has been doing over the past year or so. Remember that Gordon Creighton worked for British Intelligence (just read 'Above Top Secret') and that our subject is littered with people who have links with the intelligence community. These people think nothing of feeding us with misleading erroneous information so that we discredit ourselves and our subject. It would not surprise me (or any of my colleagues) if Creighton were to be a long-term plant to undertake such a role. The vortex theory offers him an opportunity he cannot miss because we will all look like idiots when the theory becomes accepted scientific fact.

Turning to FSR's "honoured consultants", neither of these have spent forty years of their lives making their living out of understanding vortices and the atmosphere (as Terence Meaden has), and I doubt whether either has the most basic understanding of what meteorology is all about. They have rejected the theory purely because they *prefer* there to be an utterly sensational history-making explanation for what is happening and neither of them has bothered to examine the established meteorological literature to see if vortices *can* do the things they would need to do to be able to create mystery circles.

There is a great deal of credit to be gained by UFOlogists from this circles business and I am taking every opportunity to leave evidence that UFOlogists are happy to accept the vortex theory. Pat & Colin, on the other hand, just *love* to see their names in the press and on TV and they repeatedly make claims like "The circles are formed by an unknown intelligence by an unknown force in an unknown manner"! This year they have repeatedly appeared on local TV, bringing further ridicule down on UFOlogy, and their tactics are beginning to verge on the unpleasant.

I was very disturbed at their unquestioning acceptance of the Frank Barnes claims and I should take this opportunity to point out that this character just cannot be credible. To begin with, he has seen several UFOs aside from the one which allegedly created the circle at Cheesefoot ('between 5 and 8 summers ago'). This subsequent sighting was *also* witnessed by others (2 policemen), but like the Cheesefoot sighting these alleged witnesses have not come forward to back up the claims. Barnes filled in an R1 UFO Form I sent him which asked him to describe his sighting, significantly there was no indication that a photo existed on his form; in answer to the question 'Did you take a photograph or any measurements?' he replied 'No, I just saw it. That's all.' I find it difficult to believe that anybody who took a photo of a real UFO creating a circle and affecting 3 bystanders vehicles would really wait several years and then simply send it to his local newspaper. Surely he would sell the photo to the highest bidder in a blaze of publicity.

It has been misleading for FSR to associate the circles with UFOs because most of the UFO reports they cite would normally be totally ignored had they happened without circles being present. Certainly none of the reports I've seen relate to UFOs seen at the same time and same location as a circle actually appearing (except for Barnes' claims). The BUFORA/TORRO survey indicated that about 100 circle formations were appearing every summer; this implies about 500 over the past 5 years — yet look at FSR's total for the same period, ignoring the Barnes case, the Tully (Australia!) case, and the case where the psychic saw a light in the sky and received a telepathic message (!) I make this just 5 reports — only *1%* of circles have associated UFO reports being made, and this in an area where there are many secret military establishments (e.g. the Porton Down chemical weapons establishment, Boscombe Down airfield, the Salisbury Plain army ranges and the West Dean nuclear weapons depository). Clearly our military could be testing all kinds of devices and hoping that chance witnesses think they're seeing UFOs — just read my enclosed case.

I gather that Pat Delgado is claiming that these circles fall on straight lines. Now so far I have yet to see his evidence for this but my opinion is that (a) these straight lines are several miles wide, (b) are based on a highly biased sample of the circles which are appearing, (c) take no account of the geographical variation in mature arable crops which are capable of recording circles, and (d) take no account of the order in which circles allegedly appear along these straight lines. In short, Delgado has made the same mistake that UFOlogists were making in the UK over ten years ago.

Last year Delgado claimed in a magazine article that he had discovered a new invisible force called the Delgado Effect (modest eh?). What you do is you take a milk bottle top and balance it on the top of a needle; then you cup your hands around the top without touching the top and watch it start to spin!! For an engineer I'm surprised he's never heard of convection.

Both Andrews & Delgado have begun making claims about themselves which are patently untrue. Delgado has never worked for NASA, although he did work at the British nuclear weapons testing range in Australia; Andrews is not the Chief Electrical Engineer at Test Valley Borough Council, he is the emergency planning officer. Both men are completely obsessed with their wild ideas about these circles and they have led a lot of people down the garden path with their lies and selective use of evidence.

I have spent three years working with Dr Meaden and learning what I can about his theory. I was amazed to suddenly discover that behind my back people such as yourself were slagging myself and Jenny Randles without knowing anything about the circles and without even bothering to write to us requesting information (even Hans von Pinnegar wrote to me!). I hope that you will understand why I sent Dennis Stacy such an outraged letter and that you will pause before replying in kind. It is bad enough that FSR should be so totally discrediting us with its uncritical review of the circles, it is even worse that I should have to involve myself in a public slanging match (which Pat & Colin are bound to start, following my IUR article). During my lecture to BUFORA in 1987 Andrews continually interrupted me and engineered a scene to discredit me. After the lecture he and his colleagues threatened me with litigation for expressing an opinion which they interrupted me to obtain! These people are dangerous and need to be stopped with care.

Please think very carefully about what I have said

to you and remember that as UFOlogists we all have a duty to the advancement of our new science. This means that we should review *all* the theories and examine *all* the evidence. In my article recently submitted to MUFON I list 12 reasons why I support the vortex theory. For the theory to be wrong perhaps half of these reasons need to be demonstratably incorrect. Don't pillory us because you don't happen to agree with our interpretation of what is going on, go out and evaluate the evidence for yourself. You may save yourself from further embarrassment;

Your sincerely
(Signed): PAUL FULLER

DOCUMENT NO. 4

A letter dated October 14, 1988, from Paul Fuller to Ann Druffel

3 Selborne Court,
Tavistock Close,
Romsey,
Hants SO51 7TY
14th October 1988

Dear Ann,

Thank you for your letter and for describing your position more fully. It seems ironic that only last week Jenny Randles wrote to me expressing her concern about the difficulty we have in BUFORA in persuading Americans that the vortex theory is a valid contender to account for the circles phenomenon. Certainly we don't expect everyone to accept the theory without question — after all it took me three years before I accepted the theory — but what does concern us is the way in which FSR and its contributors have dismissed the theory even before we've explained it to you in detail. Whatever you may say about the scientific method, this doesn't seem to be at all fair.

By now I hope that you will have obtained the two books I recommended and that you will have read my submission to MUFON Journal which describes the theory and the substantial evidence which supports it. It's certainly been an eye opening exercise for me to discover that *all* my preconceptions about natural vortices were wrong — vortices *can* be precisely defined, *can* remain stationary, and *can* form in complex geometrical patterns. I certainly hope that even if you still cannot accept the theory once you have read this material you will be open minded enough to inform FSR's readers of the 'grand deception' that Creighton has carried out. He hasn't even asked us to explain the theory he's so eager to dismiss us and insult us. So much for us 'suppressing the truth'.

I think ufologists are always in a difficult position when it comes to evaluating anomalous phenomena because we alone are actually familiar with our subject matter. This is why it upsets everyone no end when debunkers like Klass tell us that there's nothing to UFOs, clearly they're wrong and — like Steuart Campbell — their rejection of the evidence only mirrors their personal prejudices. Such a climate does nothing to encourage an objective evaluation of our data because UFOlogists everywhere are incensed at Science's blinkered rejection of our data and in their enthusiasm UFOlogists like Colin Andrews get carried away.

I agree with you when you state that people must be allowed to publically (*sic*) state their objections to the vortex theory if the scientific method is to be followed. There is no disagreement over this. I agree wholeheartedly. I doubt whether we will ever convince everyone of the theory's validity (unless someone actually films the vortex creating a circle), but we wouldn't wish to stop others from commenting on it in a responsible manner. What upsets us about FSR is that Creighton has not allowed this to happen because he has suppressed the theory and its supporting evidence as if our support for the theory was the ultimate crime. All we've done is support Dr Meaden's theory (based on 8 years hard work), why the need for such unprovoked aggravation from FSR?

I cannot agree with you when you claim that Creighton is an original and valuable contributor to Ufology. I don't know any British UFOlogist who takes him seriously (except of course for his 'honoured consultants') and very few UFOlogists in this country even subscribe to FSR anymore. I don't think this has anything to do with his jin theory, it's simply that he doesn't have the critical ability which Bowen had.

I cannot believe that someone who believes that the world is 'in the hands of non human intelligences' or that someone is replacing 'good' UFO books with 'bad' UFO books in public libraries to cover up the truth about UFOs can be an objective, open minded person. Regretfully it seems that many UFOlogists in America are only too willing to believe everything that Creighton says without the slightest criticism or questioning. I agree that in the past he has contributed a lot to our movement, but over the past five years he has shamed us by promoting the most sensational and irrational interpretations of our cases in a totally irresponsible manner. His pronouncements seem to reflect a naive 1950s style UFOlogy where anything goes and UFOs are in control. In Britain we left all this behind many years ago.

I was rather astonished to read that you had sent Creighton a copy of my private letter to you even though you claim to be a peaceful person! No doubt Creighton will be delighted to use the material you sent him and he'll spend another whole issue of FSR trying to discredit us and avoid the real issues of debate.

This weekend BBC TV showed a half hour documentary which examined the circles phenomenon and which gave a great deal of time to Colin Andrews to present his views (strangely Pat Delgado had nothing to do with the programme — any ideas why?). I think FSR's readers will have been astonished to learn of the Melvyn Bell eye witness account of a vortex creating a circle, afterall Andrews and Delgado have deliberately suppressed this piece of evidence in their desire to manufacture something utterly sensational about the phenomenon. Andrews spent much of the TV programme avoiding saying what he thought was creating the circles and the presenter had to explaine (*sic*) what he meant ('something extra terrestrial') to his viewers. I cannot believe that anyone will take any notice of him after his false claim about the harrier pilot being killed by something 'uncanny' (i.e. UFOs), its (*sic*) public knowledge that the pilot accidentally ejected himself whilst the jet was on auto pilot.

It is very important that UFOlogists give the vortex theory a fair hearing over the next year or so, whatever lies FSR may be telling you. If UFOlogists in general reject the theory and then we are shown to be wrong yet again, our movement will have been put back by at least a decade and Klass and his buddies in SCICOP will have a field day discrediting us.

If, on the other hand, UFOlogists are willing to accept the vortex theory — despite its supposed limitations (which FSR has not identified in their haste to dismiss the theory) — then we will gain a great deal

in credibility and we will have demonstrated the existence of our first novel new phenomenon. We only have to prove the existence of *one* novel new phenomenon to persuade scientists to examine the rest of our data with a more sympathetic attitude. It's ironic that 'the world's best UFO magazine' should hold the power to put us back so far with its uncritical and biased presentation of the phenomenon.

I have learnt that Andrews and Delgado are to publish a book next year which will be full of their stupid, obsessive ideas and their uncritical acceptance of claims by characters like Frank Barnes. This will be a disaster for UFOlogy and I appeal to you to think very carefully about what you do next. I gather that MUFON has just published Andrews' photo of a UFO in a circle — a speck which could easily be a hoax by Andrews, the film developers, or just an unfortunate blemish on the film. It is very important that UFOlogists distance themselves from *'Circular Evidence'* when it is published next year. I badly need UFOlogists everywhere to at least show some degree of rationality about the circles, even if they don't accept the vortex theory. The alternative is just too awful to contemplate.

Please try your best to encourage a more open minded debate of the circles in America and please write to Dennis Stacy showing interest in the theory. I hope very much that — as MUFON's publicity material claims — you really are all objective, open minded researchers and you will all give the theory a hearing. I certainly feel that I've wasted a whole summer writing articles to counter FSR's lies when I could have been searching for and measuring more circles, or contacting scientists to persuade them to take a closer look at the UFO data.

UFOlogists must learn to wait for their colleagues to present their findings before pillorying them in our literature and UFOlogists must learn to be more realistic about the sorts of theories we need to account for the data we collect. Certainly UFOlogists everywhere should have immediately thought that the circles could have a mundane explanation when FSR first started publiciising (*sic*) them. Regretfully in my opinion FSR has muddied the waters so much that leading UFOlogists everywhere have been blinkered and conditioned to the idea that there can only be a sensational explanation for the circles. In my view, UFOlogists should *always* search for more mundane, 'natural' phenomena to account for our data. Only when we have exhausted the more mundane theories should we entertain the truly amazing theories which FSR has been promoting.

Looking forward to your reply,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed): Paul Fuller

NOTE

The existence of the letter of October 14, 1988, reproduced above was of course not known to Messrs Andrews, Creighton, or Delgado when they consulted their respective legal advisers. Copies of the letter are now in the hands of these solicitors. The apologies received so far do not therefore cover this letter, and the question of further, future, legal action therefore remains open.

THE LEGAL ADVISERS:

(1) For Mr Colin Andrews.
Fergus Houghton & Company,
Solicitors,
Foresters House,
4 London Street,
Andover,
Hants. SP10 2PA

(2) For Mr Gordon Creighton.
Donald, Darlington & Nice,
Solicitors,
11 Church Street,
Rickmansworth,
Herts. WD3 1DB.

(3) For Mr Patrick Delgado.
Dutton, Gregory, & Williams,
Solicitors,
23 St Peter's Street,
Winchester,
Hants.

DOCUMENT NO. 5

Paul Fuller
3 Selborne Court,
Tavistock Close,
ROMSEY,
Hampshire
SO51 7TY

2nd November 1988

To Mr Colin Andrews

I wish to apologise unreservedly to you for the unfair and unnecessary statements I made about you in my letter to Ann Druffel on September 4th.

In particular I wish to withdraw my allegation that you had made claims about yourself which were untrue.

I hope you will accept my sincere apologies for the distress my actions have caused you and I hereby undertake not to repeat such allegations at any time in the future,

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Fuller

Paul Fuller

DOCUMENT NO. 6

Paul Fuller
3 Selborne Court,
Tavistock Close,
ROMSEY,
Hampshire
SO51 7TY
England

2nd November 1988

To Miss Ann Druffel

Dear Miss Druffel,

I have received a solicitor's letter on behalf of Mr Colin Andrews which proves that I made a false statement to you about Mr Andrew's occupation. I now wish to withdraw this statement and to apologise for the unnecessary and unpleasant comments made throughout my letter of September 4th.

I hope you will accept my apologies for having mislead you and I have undertaken not to repeat these allegations again,

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Fuller

Paul Fuller

DOCUMENT NO. 7

Paul Fuller
3 Selborne Court,
Tavistock Close,
ROMSEY,
Hampshire
SO51 7TY

3rd November 1988

Dear Mr Creighton,

I am writing to you to formally apologise for the unnecessary and emotive statements contained in my letter of September 4th to Miss Ann Druffel. I realise that these statements must have caused you great personal distress and I withdraw them unequivocably.

I have written to Miss Druffel to retract my statements and I hereby undertake not to repeat these allegations again.

Yours Sincerely

Paul Fuller

Paul Fuller

DOCUMENT NO. 8

Paul Fuller
3 Selborne Court,
Tavistock Close,
ROMSEY,
Hampshire
SO51 7TY
England

3rd November 1988

Dear Miss Druffel,

I am writing to you to apologise unreservedly for the unnecessary and emotive comments made in my letter to you of September 4th about Mr Gordon Creighton and the F.S.R. which I now regret having made. I realise that these statements must have caused you some distress and I now wish to withdraw them.

I have written to Mr Creighton to apologise for these statements and I have undertaken not to repeat them again.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Fuller

Paul Fuller

DOCUMENT NO. 9

Paul Fuller
3 Selborne Court,
Tavistock Close,
ROMSEY,
Hampshire,
SO51 7TY

8th November 1988

To Mr Patrick Delgado

Dear Pat,

I apologise unreservedly to you for the unpleasant and unnecessary comments I made about you in the letter I sent to Ann Druffel on September 4th.

I hope you will accept my apologies for the distress my actions have caused and I undertake not to repeat these allegations again,

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Fuller

Paul Fuller

Mr Patrick Delgado
4 Arle Close,
Alresford,
Hampshire,
SO24 9BG

DOCUMENT NO. 10

Paul Fuller
3 Selborne Court,
Tavistock Close,
ROMSEY,
Hampshire,
SO51 7TY

8th November 1988

To Ann Druffel

Dear Ann Druffel

I have received a solicitor's letter on behalf of Mr Patrick Delgado about my letter to you of September 4th. I now wish to apologise for the unpleasant and unnecessary comments made throughout this letter.

I hope you will accept my apologies for having sent you this letter and I have promised Mr Delgado that I will not repeat these allegations again.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Fuller

Paul Fuller

Ann Druffel
257 Sycamore Glen,
Pasadena,
California, 91105
U.S.A.

STATEMENT BY EDITOR OF FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

Britain's leading expert on the UFO Problem and sole professional writer in the land has announced repeatedly that nobody in Britain today would dream of buying or reading or consulting FSR, and this ban must surely automatically include the 300 or so members of BUFORA, one or two of whom have tremblingly confessed that they would never dare to disobey the dread command.

Such being the case, we are unable to see how FSR or its Editor can have possibly exercised this magical "censorship" of which we are accused, or have possibly had this terrifying effect in the United States, since we don't have any subscribers there either — so we learn.

Since its inception in 1955, FSR has never "gone out" to canvas people for articles. We publish what people send to us. If they don't send it to us, we cannot publish it.

Since the date when I took over the editorship (September 1982) I can state categorically that I have never received from Randles or Fuller or from any other member of BUFORA any material concerning the "meteorological" or "vortex" theories to explain the cornfield circles. (Which is not surprising, since I had been warned from the outset that the annihilation of FSR was being planned and would inevitably be achieved).

The letters which I reproduce above represent me as exercising some marvellous, hypnotic, "Svengali-like" power over Mr Colin Andrews and Mr Pat Delgado and their *Circles Phenomenon Research Group.* It will suffice if I say that neither I nor FSR have any connection with the C.P.R. Group, and that we neither founded it nor control it, as the book *Circular Evidence* ought to make clear to anyone possessed of normal rational faculties. (Had we any control over it, do you all imagine that we would have let it be published *without even the address of FSR?)*

I have in fact been to Hampshire and Wiltshire *precisely twice* to view the cornfield circles.

GORDON CREIGHTON

DON'T FORGET TO TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT FSR. IT'S YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS THAT KEEP US GOING!!

GEORGE ADAMSKI: AN HISTORICAL NOTE

By Eric Herr (San Diego, California)

As those aware of UFO history know, the publication in 1953 of the book *Flying Saucers Have Landed* by Desmond Leslie and George Adamski was an event of exceptional importance to both the conception of UFOs by students of the subject and to the public awareness of them. Because the controversy that followed Adamski's writings continues to this day, it may be of some value to put the comments of one of his alleged scientific witnesses on record. I located this man, Gene Luther Bloom, after having by chance read again Adamski's references to him on pages 174 through 177 of *Flying Saucers Have Landed.*

First, what George Adamski said: "Then late in 1949 four men came into the café at Palomar Gardens . . . One of these men was Mr J.P. Maxfield, and another was his partner, Mr G.L. Bloom, both of the Point Loma Navy Electronics Laboratory near San Diego . . .

"They asked me if I would co-operate with them in trying to get photographs of strange craft moving through space . . .

"I asked them then where I should look to be most likely to see the strange objects which they were asking me to try to photograph . . . The Moon was decided upon as a good spot for careful observation.

"Thus, when the military requested my co-operation in trying to photograph strange objects moving through space, with the aid of my 6-inch telescope, I was more than willing . . .

"And it was not too long after this meeting that I succeeded in getting what I deemed at the time to be two good pictures of an object moving through space . . .

"Some days later, Mr Bloom stepped into the place . . . I handed him the two photographs which I had taken. I asked him to pass them on to Mr Maxfield for examination and for the records. He said he would." (End of statement by George Adamski.)

In my interview with him on July 19th, 1988, Mr Bloom said that he and his colleague at the Naval Electronics Laboratory, Joseph Maxfield, had only stopped at the café where Adamski worked to have a brief lunch before continuing up the road to the Hale Observatory on Palomar Mountain. He said further that they were not there to ask for George Adamski's co-operation in any way, and, until meeting him, did not even know of his interest in flying saucers. He also said that neither he nor Maxfield instructed Adamski on how to photograph the saucers, and did not accept any photographs for analysis by the Naval Electronics Laboratory or for any other purpose. Mr Bloom's final comment to me was that "Everything Adamski wrote about us was fiction, pure fiction".

At the conclusion of Mr Herr's article is the following handwritten statement by Mr Gene L. Bloom:–

"Summary above of my conversation via phone call on 19 July is correct.

If anything is printed, I would appreciate seeing".

(Signed): GENE L. BLOOM

THE "GREAT MARTIAN SCARE" . . . OF TWO FRENCH UFOLOGISTS WHO "NOW THINK BETTER" AND HAVE CHANGED THEIR MINDS!

Pier Luigi Sani

(Translation from Italian)

For this very important article, by one of Italy's foremost UFO researchers, we are indebted to the Editor of *Il Giornale dei Misteri* of Firenze, from issues Nos. 166 and 167 of which (June and July/August, 1986) we have translated it. As we reported in *It Didn't Happen!* (FSR 31/2), and as we have indicated in various places since then, it is evident that for some time past a new phase has been under way, especially in France, in the brainwashing operation now being conducted against mankind. "Good money" is probably available for those who are prepared to help to spread the idea that all reports of UFOs are due to mis-perception or mass-psychosis or hoax. We shall perhaps not be far wrong if we interpret all this as meaning that the "take-over" here is reaching a more advanced stage.

In *It Didn't Happen!* we have already given a brief account of the book *La Grande Peur Martienne (The Great Martian Scare)* by the French writers Gérard Barthel and Jacques Brucker. Pier Luigi Sani has, however, devoted two long articles to this curious book, and in view of its great importance we have thought it well worth while to provide our readers with a full translation of what the Italian investigator has to say about it. — Editor

PART I. THE PROBLEM

Among all those folk who are drawn towards Ufology, there are few that do so out of the pure desire for knowledge. More are impelled by mere commonplace curiosity; others are fired by the typical enthusiasm of the "believer"; and yet again others are spurred on by the ambition of finding in the field of Ufology those opportunities to shine which they have been unable or have not known how to achieve in other fields.

All these people sooner or later begin to slacken off. The curiosity-seekers do so because at a certain moment their curiosity, being an end in itself, is quenched or no longer finds enough to feed on. The enthusiasts, for their part, fall off because their ardour dies down or is extinguished or else it finds greater opportunities for free play in the realms of "contacteeism" and cultism. The ambitious ones, finally, drop out because, inevitably, they end up disappointed, either by the fact of having failed to "become somebody" — as they had hoped — or by a constitutional incapacity to endure the long-term indifference and contempt meted out to them by "official Science".

The "Second-Thoughters"

It is precisely this last-named category, the category of the ambitious, which has in recent years spawned — and especially in France — the new race, the *"Ufologists who have changed their minds"*. These are individuals in whom disappointment has ended by converting into rage that passion which in the first instance had induced them to launch themselves so boldly into the ufological arena. Like the celebrated fox in the fable, who disdains the grapes when he perceives that he can't reach them, these folk, the minute they realize that the UFO Phenomenon insists on remaining outside the limits of their own particular capacity for comprehension (leaving aside of course the question of other peoples' capacities), they instantly start pouring scorn on it. Devoid of intellectual humility themselves, they are not even capable of grasping the fact that the solution of a problem may call for very protracted periods of research and study (maybe even more than one or several generations), so they take refuge in the most convenient and most simplistic of rationalizations: namely, that, *if the UFO Problem refuses to let itself be solved, then this means there IS no problem, that it has no objective reality, and is merely a "myth".*

"Experts" in Psychology, Sociology, etc.

And, lo and behold, it is at this point that all those frustrated Ufologists suddenly transform themselves, as though by some sort of enchantment, into "experts" in Psychology, in Sociology, and in the Physiology of Human Perception, hoping in this way to attract to themselves the attention and the approbation of the "moderate" rationalists! The old idols, like Keyhoe, Ruppelt, Hynek, Vallée, are being toppled from their pedestals. The new heroes are Menzel, Klass, Sheaffer, and Oberg, and all those who, in any manner or fashion, however licit or however convincing it may be, now deny the genuineness of this or that UFO case, or insinuate doubts, however well or ill-founded they may be, concerning this or the other. *The only things that count and that matter are to criticize, to doubt, to confuse, and, above all of course, to display "ambitions of being scientific"*, so that "those whose duty it is" will see how "clever" they have become, and how very, very different they now are from those poor "quixotic" types — the traditional Ufologists!

A "Rationalist" Book, and the Enthusiasm of the Simpleton

A typical product of this "vogue for repentance" is the book *La Grande Peur Martienne (The Great Martian Scare(* by the ex-Ufologists Gérard Barthel and Jacques Brucker, and published in France in 1979 by the Nouvelles Editions Rationalistes, a group who are the leaders in the *"Union Rationaliste"*, a French organization whose declared aim is to combat, in the name of "rationalism", certain modern "superstitions", such as Parapsychology, Ufology, etc. Dedicated by its two authors to Michel Monnerie, "who opened our eyes", and furnished with a flattering preface by Evry Schatzman, President of the "Rationalist Union", the book aims to prove that the famous great French UFO Wave of 1954 was nothing more than a mass-psychosis nurtured by the journalists and the good-time boys expert in "Martian jokes".

Well now, whoever reads this volume with even a minimum of critical sense and objectivity will have the greatest difficulty in finding any justification whatever for all the enthusiasm and admiration that it has evoked among certain Ufologists who are adherents of the so-called *"nouvelle vague" ("new wave")*, since if there is anything at all that the book does succeed in proving, it is simply the "anti-Ufological fury" of its two authors. The selection and presentation of the cases; the arbitrary character of the conclusions everywhere suggested; the fragility of the arguments employed in order to *"reduce"* certain pieces of evidence, leave in fact little doubt as to the "catechizing" intentions of the book. Like all partisan works, in a word, the objectivity of the information furnished is in inverse proportion to the desire to flog one's own preconceived theses as "gospel truth".

Within the confines of this one article, it would be impossible for me to analyze the whole Barthel-Brucker thesis item by item. I must accordingly limit myself to a few remarks that will suffice to give an idea of the type of intellectual attitude that underlies the book.

The assumption from which Messrs B. and B. start out is that the subject-matter of Ufology is totally devoid of reality, being reducible to:–

(1) Accounts given by folk telling all sorts of tales in bars.
(2) Journalists reporting all sorts of tales and embellishing them as they see fit.
(3) Ufologists who naively believe the tales.
(4) Writers of books who make use of the tales.
(5) Gullible folk who seek nothing more avidly than to believe the tales.

Nevertheless, say our two authors, "We have not wanted to run the risk of 'throwing out the baby with the bath-water', as the British proverb puts it, and, bearing this in mind, we have passed the entire French Wave of 1954 through a fine sieve". The result, so they tell us, has been to *"dry up the vast swamp of the so-called Wave"*.

Well, of course, there's nothing wrong with all that sort of talk, so far as it goes up to this point. They start out from a premise: namely the non-existence of Ufological data. They subject it to verification, (i.e. re-examination of the 1954 cases); and they discover that their premise is confirmed. (The "swamp" is "drained".)

But, alas, the flaws in the argument appear — and they are big ones — when we examine the criteria with which our authors have carried out their "drain-

age", thereby presuming to have proved the assumption that was their starting-point. Alas indeed! With similar criteria, you could "drain away" not merely the UFO Wave of 1954 but anything you like! *You could, for example, prove the non-existence of Picasso, given the fact that countless 'fake Picassos' exist. And you could even throw doubt upon the validity of Palaeoanthropology, given the fact that the 'Piltdown Forgery' exists!*

That Messrs B. and B. are shamelessly "cooking" the data instantly became clear (at any rate, to anybody with a minimal knowledge of matters Ufological) from the quantity and the quality of the cases they utilize to "demolish" the Wave. The number of sightings recorded at the time when Aimé Michel formulated his Theory of Orthoteny (that is to say, at the close of the 1950s) was already far in excess of 400, but the successive researches carried out later took the figure to at least double that. Aimé Michel himself, in the last edition of his book *Mystérieux Objets Célestes* (1967), reports the discovery of at least 300 more cases. Well now, Messrs B. and B. claim to demolish the entire Wave by using, in their book, no more than 70 to 80 cases, *that is to say, less than 10% of the total!* But even that might still have been acceptable (particularly bearing in mind the time that had elapsed, and consequently the difficulty of retracing the eyewitnesses, some having moved, some having died) provided — naturally — that the model employed had been *statistically "honest"*, that is to say — not contaminated by *ad hoc* selections.

But, on the contrary, the model is a biased concoction, being built up largely from confessed fakes, hoaxes, and anonymous testimony.

Today, it is a well-known fact that any wave of UFO sightings, if publicized by the press, does inevitably trigger off a situation of *some* psychosis, with the resulting development of spurious cases consisting of erroneous observations or outright hoaxes, but it is also an equally well-known fact that any wave (whether publicized by the press or not) always contains an above-average nucleus of "unexplained" sightings (by which we mean cases with a high coefficient of *"credibility-strangeness"*). It is consequently captious to do as B. and B. have done — that is to say, to analyze a wave by employing chiefly its spurious element and then engineering the results — obviously negative — to demolish not only the wave in question, but all other waves with it, and, consequently, the entire fabric of Ufology.

How to Reduce Cases "Rationally"

It is assuredly no accident that our two authors — while they found it necessary to justify the very small percentage of cases that they have used ("The number was enormous, and we could not quote them all") — nevertheless are extremely careful not to reveal what criteria they followed in making their selections. Had they done so, it would have been rather difficult for them to explain, for example, why they devote so much space in their book to "documented" cases of ... *anonymous letters* (!), while, on the other hand, they totally ignore many celebrated cases (and pretty difficult ones to "reduce"!) — cases like those at Mouriéras, Cenon, Contay, Chabeuil, Poncey-sur-l'Ignon, etc.

To be sure, limiting oneself to little items in the daily newspapers (and of only certain daily papers in particular) makes it a whole lot easier to "supply grist for one's own mill", as we say in Italy. And, by speculating about the dubiousness of UFO reports in the press, or speculating about the absence of, or inaccuracy of, dates, or about the "embellishments" made by certain people, or by disregarding certain cases with the excuse that they "were reported by folk who already *believed in* flying saucers", seems to be just a very good way of rapidly freeing oneself of material that is "inconvenient".

Maybe they call these tactics *"rationalistic criteria"*, though to what species of "rationalism" they pertain I confess that I find it impossible to see.

On the other hand, I would remark that the accusation of "partiality" levelled against those investigators whom they allege to be "credulous" can easily be reversed. In fact it is legitimate for us to wonder why investigations made on the spot, and at the time, by investigators who were *"believers"* (or are considered to have been such) should be refused credibility while, on the other hand, *we should now be asked to accept investigations made twenty and more years later, often merely by telephone, by investigators not claiming to be "believers" (and they certainly aren't)!*

And our suspicions increase when we learn that all of these "re-investigations" by "non-believers" invariably end in *"reductions"*, (i.e. *"demolitions"*).

Here are a few examples from the book:–

1. *The Case at Jonquerets de Livet*

A farmer sees an oblong-shaped object in a field. Two hours later, a passing motorcyclist has an accident through the sudden failure of his machine, and in the meanwhile he sees strange lights in the field. Messrs B. and B. do their reinvestigation. In the meantime, the farmer has died. The motorcyclist now confirms that he saw the lights in the field, but he rules out any connection between them and the failure of his engine. Conclusion of Messrs. B. and B.:–

The farmer saw the Sun going down; the motorcyclist saw something unusual, but assuredly of a meteorological or geophysical or psychosociological nature.

2. *The Case at "Jonches"*

A sighting of two beings in light-coloured clothing. Two hours later, a luminous object was also seen, at a low altitude. Traces were left by it, and there was an investigation by the Gendarmerie. Conclusion by B. and B.:–

There is an airport in the vicinity, so consequently the UFO hypothesis is at once ruled out.

3. *The Case at Claix*

A veterinarian declares he has seen a UFO and a humanoid. Interference by the UFO with the electricity in his car. Re-investigation by B. and B. (Meanwhile the veterinarian has died in 1956 of cirrhosis of the liver due to alcoholism.) Conclusion of Messrs B. and B.:–

The alleged sighting was a drunkard's hallucination.

4. *The Case at Les Egots*

A boy says he saw a hairy dwarf dressed in red and with eyes as big as the eyes of a cow. Re-investigation by B. and B.

They fail to trace the witness, but "a local woman" declares it was a piece of nonsense.

5. *The Case at Maisoncelles-en-Brie*

An individual was paralyzed by an oval object with a cupola which had landed in a field. Re-investigation by B. and B.

The witness was not traced, but his workmates laughed about the thirty-year-old story and said it was a "bluff". Conclusion by B. and B.:–

A hoax.

6. *The Case at Toulouse*

A cook and his grandson see a gigantic spindle take off and vanish into the sky. Traces on the ground. Investigation by Police and Military. Conclusion by B. and B.:–

The saucer was the handiwork of the cook, clearly a man well acquainted with plates and saucers.

7. *Cerf Case*

Sighting of an object shaped "like a segment of an orange" which then assumed the form of a "pear", and finally split into three parts, which vanished, as though behind a curtain. Explanation by B. and B.:–

"Only a minimum of 'rationality' is required to know that it was the Moon, seen through clouds".

But it would be useless to continue. B. and B.'s "reductions" are all more or less of this type — that is to say, based mainly on statements by "friends of friends", or by "mayors", or by "neighbours", or on the authors' own personal inferences. (This does not of course mean that the original cases quoted in the book are to be considered as surely authentic. Of course not. It simply means that the "reductions" by B. and B. aren't worth tuppence.)

The selection of their "cases" is already extremely fragile, and the acceptation of them as genuine or their refutation is in the ultimate analysis only a question of *opinion.* The trouble, however, is that, merely on the basis of such a selection as this and on their relative interpretations thereof — operated as we have indicated above — our two "second-thoughters" claim to have *"demonstrated"* that:–

A. The fantastic UFO Wave of 1954 over France was *"a generalized psychosis comprising a mixture of mistakes made in good faith, hasty interpretations, embellishments by chroniclers, gross frauds and hoaxes, and journalistic fix-ups".* Most of the alleged UFO landings or take-offs, say the authors, would be explicable as follows: namely that any object or phenomenon coming from the horizon towards the witness is "taking off" and, *vice-versa,* any object or phenomenon descending, i.e. going from the observer towards the horizon, is "landing". And then, when a UFO shaped like a football was seen taking off suddenly at supersonic speed, it was *"a squall of journalistic wind."*

B. The number of sightings in the Wave that were truly ascribable to an unknown phenomenon was ... NIL.

C. The Ufonauts of 1954 never existed. The disc-type of craft with cupola and port-holes was never truly seen on any occasion.

D. To sum up: since no humanoid ever emerged, and no object from "elsewhere" ever landed here, it is clear that no traces attributable to such a happening can have been left, and no physical effects on any vehicle can ever have been suffered. And, as regards the alleged physiological reactions of the eyewitnesses (such as "paralysis", "pins and needles", "tingling", etc.) these were either pure imagination or can be explained as due to the fear caused by some chance event (such as lightning, or a meteor, or a mirage). Thus they can never in any case at all have been due to the actual presence of a craft.

The Undrained "Puddles"

Faced with such assertions (based, I repeat and I emphasise, on arbitrarily chosen and opportunistically interpreted data) the student of our subject might confine himself simply to making some ironic comment on the perpetrators, or might dismiss them with Dante's famous line, *"Non ragionam di lor, ma guarda e passa."* ("Let us just disregard them, but watch them, and pass on" . . .)

However, the book was not written for the field-workers. As I have already said, it is a "catechizing" job. And the "rationalism" in the name of which it purports to be offered — to say nothing of the pomposity with which it is written — could on the one hand be convincing to readers possessing no previous personal knowledge of Ufology and, on the other hand, could influence (and even excite) the more naive sort of Ufologists, particularly the younger ones who are already affected with "scientomania". So, for the sake of these latter, I venture to point out that the rationalistic pomposity of B. and B. is solely a matter of appearance. Only a minimum of critical sense and reflexion are needed for us to discover that matters are in fact not quite so clear and simple as our two authors would like to have us believe. I have already shown that they disregard (intentionally) *all of the strongest cases* of the Great French UFO Wave of 1954. They only discuss *two* of them — namely the De-Wilde (Quarouble) Case and the Prémanon Case. But they fail to demolish the former and, in the latter, they claim to have "reduced" it, as we shall see, by means of arguments that are frankly highly dubious.

Moreover they are obliged to admit that they have not truly drained the *"vast swamp"* of the 1954 Wave entirely. They say that *"puddles still remain",* and they add: "Will the Sun of *Reason* finally evaporate these puddles, or will they continue to conceal a treasure?"

No particular acumen is required for us to grasp what these "puddles" are. *(They are, in fact, precisely the "strong" cases that they have disregarded!)* Nor are any exceptional critical capacities needed for one to see that these "puddles" still remaining to be drained represent a flagrant contradiction of the two authors' assertions as listed by us above.

One of these "undrained puddles" is, as mentioned, the Quarouble or DeWilde Case. Now evidently the *"Sun of Reason"* which Messrs B. and B. have concentrated on to that case has turned out to be too tepid! The authors console themselves by attributing to the DeWilde case the special role of having served as the *"detonating factor"* to almost the entire French Wave (they don't mention whether it also triggered off the big Italian Wave of 1954 which, as everybody knows, occurred at the same time as the French Wave!) As a consolation they also maintain that "the effectiveness of the DeWilde Case as a decisive argument in the armoury of the Ufologists has never been proved". The conclusion in which they take refuge sounds spiteful: — "If certain Ufologists want to cling on desperately to this case, they are aware that it is simply a relic — one of the few rare remains, we might say, of the 'extraterrestrial shipwreck'").

We refrain from comment.

But these admissions that our authors have been obliged to make in utter contradiction of their own arrogant claims are not confined to the DeWilde Case. Speaking of the UFO landing reports, after having declared that most of them are explicable as low-level light phenomena", they concede that, on a very few occasions, (in fact 50%), "the phenomenon was indeed seen on the ground", but they then hasten to add that in such cases "the possibility cannot be ruled out that the eyewitnesses were mistaken over some perfectly explicable event".

O.K. then.
But, which event?

Then there is the thorny problem of the marks left

on the ground — a problem that has never ceased to create difficulties for those who aim at the complete "reduction" of all UFO Phenomena — even those who are a lot more "authoritative" than our Messrs B. and B. Having laid it down in advance that "no trace mark can be due to UFOs" (seeing that, *by definition,* UFOs are non-existent), our two authors still know of no better recourse than to avail themselves of the traditional "let-out" of all the "reductionists":–

"The explanation for the trace-marks may lie in natural causes, even though these may be very rare."

And, while they are saying this, they don't perceive that they themselves are falling into that same "error" that they impute to the Ufologists, *namely that they are hypothesizing regarding the occurrence of an unknown phenomenon.*

—Which is a pretty grave error for "rationalists"!

PART II. A DOUBLE RETRACTION — THE MYSTERY OF THE BENT GRASS — INCONSISTENT ARGUMENTS — AN ATTEMPT THAT FAILED

The "Demolition" of the Prémanon Case

I have intentionally left until last, in this my critical discussion of the B. and B. book, the Prémanon Case, one of the *only two* "important" sightings of the French Wave of 1954 that our two authors have looked at. (The other being the DeWilde Case.) DeWilde — as we have seen — could not be demolished. B. and B. claim however that they *have* demolished Prémanon.[1]

Well now, I maintain that the data they produce with this end in mind are not convincing, and therefore are not conclusive. At the very most all that they might do is to throw some doubt on the case. At any rate, the discussion needs to be taken a little deeper.

I won't give a detailed account of the Prémanon episode, which is in any case extremely well known.[2] I will simply recall that it happened on September 27, 1954, and that the eyewitnesses were four children between the ages of four and 12 years. They said they had seen a strange "being" and had seen a "luminous disc" take off. Traces were left on the ground. There was the investigation by the Gendarmerie, and numerous journalists visited the site. The children weathered the interrogations without falling into contradictions, and no satisfactory explanation for the traces was found. The case remained unexplained, and was considered *genuine.*

And lo, now, 24 years later, our Messrs B. and B. succeed in "demonstrating" that nothing happened at Prémanon. Nothing at all! It was all just an invention by the four children, influenced by their schoolteacher — who had talked to them in previous days about flying saucers. B. and B. say this is proved by the fact that, when traced by them, one of the children (the eldest boy, aged 12 at that time) today retracts the whole thing. B. and B.'s argument would consequently appear to be decisive and final, but in reality it is far less so than might seem at first sight. *For, in fact, I note that only one of the four eyewitnesses has been traced and interviewed. Secondly, I note that this eldest boy, today, is "following a scientific career in a University in the South of France".*[3] *Thirdly, I note that, although he retracts the story, he has not explained* "how" *in collusion with his three brothers, he managed to create those marks on the ground that successfully perplexed and deceived the Gendarmerie and the journalists.*

So that the reader may have a better understanding of why it is that I don't consider this "retraction" conclusive and final, I must state first of all that it is the common experience of anybody who ever has had occasion to re-interrogate the witness or witnesses of a UFO sighting, many years after it happened, finds himself confronted with a remarkable reluctance on the part of the individuals concerned to recall their own ufological experience. B. and B. themselves state that: "When the individuals who had the sighting at the time are interrogated, they wander off into conjectures, sometimes no longer have a good recollection of what they saw, at other times admitting that they saw something, but who knows what it was?"[4]

To this I might add that not infrequently they refuse to recall their experience (through fear of once more having to undergo the unpleasant consequences that the incident had for them at the time, in the form of investigations, interrogations, intimidations, mockery, etc.) or they totally withdraw their original testimony, inasmuch as, with the passage of time, it has now come to tend to represent a sort of "thicket" that they would prefer to erase or deny, particularly when they are living in a "rationalistic" society or are following a career for which being pointed out as a "visionary who sees flying saucers" might be a handicap or even downright dangerous. Now, the basic argument that B. and B. produce in order to demolish the Prémanon Case is precisely this fact of the retraction by one of the eyewitnesses who — and note this well — is now *"following a scientific career in a French university".*

The other arguments, namely the opinion of the *present* Mayor of Prémanon, and the statement by the aged father of the children to the effect that "the thing never happened", are just like those always produced in order to reduce the number of cases, and they aren't worth a row of beans. Particularly suspect does the present attitude of the children's father seem, who no longer lives in Prémanon and who, at the time of the sighting, not only did not deny that the affair had occurred, but expressed his certainty as to the truthfulness of his children and even let himself be photographed beside the wooden post that had been stripped of its bark by the saucer!

It was he, the father, who supplied B. and B. with the necessary information with which to trace the son Raymond who is now pursuing the "scientific career". Why precisely Raymond? *Why not the other three children also?* When B. and B. talked to Raymond, he was at first astonished, and then he is supposed to have "confessed". He said it was his schoolmistress at the time who had triggered off the children's imaginations, inducing them to invent the story of the UFO sighting. The rest was then allegedly done unwittingly by the journalists ("already 'sensitized' by the tales of flying saucers") and by the Gendarmes, "obliged to record facts that they themselves were unable to verify".(!!!)

And what about the marks on the ground? From B. and B.'s book it does not appear that Raymond has explained "how or when" they were made. Which is pretty strange, seeing that it was precisely these marks which, at the time of the episode, constituted the determining feature in causing the case to be accepted as authentic. There were, to be precise, the minutes of the discussion held by the Gendarmerie. Furthermore, these findings were confirmed by the journalists, among them Charles Garreau, who described the marks in great detail: a circle four metres in diameter, within which the grass was bent (*not* "flattened") in anti-clockwise fashion, and in which were to be seen four holes arranged in a square, each hole 10 cms. wide and inclined at 45° towards the centre of the

circle. Near the circle, a wooden post had lost its bark over an area of 15 cms., at a height of 1½ m. from the ground. And at the foot of the post there were two more holes in the ground, identical with those in the circle.

Now, how could four children, aged between four and twelve years, have prepared those marks? And without anybody being aware of it? This problem is solved of course by B. and B. who suggest: "A few square metres of ground trampled down by animals, a post with its bark removed by no matter what, and, lo and behold, you have one of the most solid cases in the whole literature of Ufology". The only trouble is that this so "simple" solution is the fruit of the imaginations of B. and B. and not of the imagination of Raymond. And, more serious than that, is the fact that B. and B. are unaware, or pretend to be unaware, that the grass at the site was not "trampled down by animals", but merely "bent in an anti-clockwise direction" and the mark was "circular" and also contained four large holes set at the points of a square and inclined at 45°.

Let us now attempt to visualize for ourselves the scenario, with the children doing all this. After having worked out the plan for the hoax, they get some animals (cows?); take them out to the field; and, at a certain spot, begin to make them go round and round in a circle in such a fashion as to *"bend the grass without trampling it"*(!) Then, when the "circle" is ready, the children get a big pointed stick and run it four times into the soil inside the circle, producing four holes 10 cms. wide in cross-section and inclined *(all of them)* at an angle of 45° so as to form a "square". Then they get an implement (scythe, billhook, or other) and remove bark from the post near the circle and then, in the ground beneath the post, they make two more holes like the others. Nobody else noticed any of this. The cows that had "bent the grass" were taken back to their stalls, the stick with which the holes were made in the ground is hidden or removed, and the scene is now set.

Now the children run through afresh the part that each of them has to recite and, with everything set, they put the project into operation. Everything goes off marvellously smoothly. Their parents believe their story, and the schoolmistress and the parish priest also believe them. But — more important (and even more surprising) — is the fact that the Gendarmes and the Press believe them too! Questioned separately, all four of the little pranksters recite their parts to perfection: no contradictions, no hesitations — not even from the smallest little girl (aged four!). And then, to cap it all, even the marks work all right; nobody , not even the Gendarmerie, manages to discover how the marks were made: not a single blade of trampled grass; not a single animal's hoof-mark, not a single thing to suggest to those clue-less Gendarmes this solution which is so simple that, 24 years later, B. and B. found it so easily and so brilliantly!

A real masterpiece indeed — by four little kids from a little village in the French Jura!

So — I ask myself: is it right to accept as valid the "demolition" of Prémanon based on the "proofs" presented by B. and B.?

Personally, I don't think so. Raymond's retraction may have been dictated by the necessities of his own career: *you aren't very well regarded in university circles if you say you have seen a UFO.*

And confirmation that this retraction may have been "an accommodation" is furnished by the failure to explain how and when the famous marks were made. And, finally, *there are still three other retractions that are lacking: the retractions of the three other eyewitnesses.* Why have B. and B. failed to trace *them* and question *them* too? There is something about the whole affair that is unconvincing, and in my opinion we are right to have our doubts.

I imagine that, at this point, the "moderate-minded" person will, in turn, accuse me of wanting to believe in the authenticity of the Prémanon Case *at all costs* (as though the whole reason for the existence of Ufology depended on it). Such an accusation would be the argument of someone who has no better arguments with which to meet my objections. Prémanon, like so many other cases, more or less "classic", more or less quoted, *could* be genuine — or it *could* be false. What I am here maintaining is not that Prémanon "is pure gold", but, simply, that the arguments produced by B. and B. to demolish it not only do not appear conclusive, but don't even seem any more solid than those advanced in favour of its authenticity. And that, consequently, to choose the arguments of the one side as against the other is merely a matter of personal opinion. The arguments for the prosecution, in a word, are worth no more than those for the defence, and an honest and objective jury would only be able to find, on the basis of the data now available, a verdict of *"insufficient proof".*

Conclusions

I said at the outset that it would have been difficult, for anyone who had read the book by B. and B. with a minimum of critical sense, to justify the enthusiasm that this book has evoked among certain "science-crazy" young Ufologists. I don't know whether I have succeeded, within the limits of these two brief articles, in making the reader grasp the full reasons for this statement. I believe that an inquiry into the objectivity, the background, and, above all, into the *motivation* that has led B. and B. to write their book could provide some highly illuminating results. In any case, to accept the book as "proof", "all sewn up and in the bag" — as the young science-maniacs have done, without the slightest exercise on their part of that "critical spirit" which they themselves are always proclaiming that they possess — and given their alleged ambitions of *"scientificness"* — all this, as I say, gives rise to a certain suspicion: namely that this "critical spirit", should they genuinely possess it, operates "one way only". Evidently the criterion of *"scientificness"* — if one may use this term — employed by certain Ufologists is founded upon two "theorems": firstly, that to hold the view that the UFOs, regarded as an unknown phenomenon, might truly exist, is of little or indeed no scientific validity; and, secondly, that, on the other hand, it is "supremely scientific" to maintain that, regarded as an unknown phenomenon, UFOs indeed do not exist at all. From this second theorem derives the following "corollary":

> It is useless to take the trouble to verify the data and statements of the UFO-deniers inasmuch as, by their own very nature, such data and such statements are *"scientifically irrefutable".*

Needless to say, in adopting such a criterion, our "scientific" Ufologists are themselves committing precisely the same sin that they claim to be able to find it necessary to reproach in so many if not all of the "traditional" Ufologists, namely — *credulity.* Since to believe blindly in the UFO-deniers and refute indiscriminately all the UFO-supporters in an intellectual attitude that is in no way different from its opposite. The terms are changed, but the result does not change, and the consequence in both cases is a pretty poor job. This *"Ufological Manichaeanism"* shows once again how difficult it is to interest oneself in the

problem without also getting emotionally involved in it, and, consequently, *how rarely do we find the student of Ufology who is capable of receiving and evaluating the available data with the objectivity and the detachment of one who is intellectually free, not only of theoretical or fideistic prejudices, but also free of the conditionings imposed by the scientific dogmatism of certain academics and of moderate "rationalists".*

I will close by observing that the *"Sun of Reason"* which B. and B. hoped (after they had annihilated the Shades of Ufological obscurantism) would shine down so benignly in the shape of applause and admiration from the scientists, has in that respect revealed itself to be delusive. The only applause they have received is that (which one can discount) from the Rationalist Union, who themselves championed the book. But, from the scientific side, not only has there not been any praise for them: there has even been criticism. Thus, clearly alluding to B. and B. and their attempt to "reduce" the Great Wave of 1954, the astrophysicist Dr Pierre Guérin wrote, for example, in *LDLN* No. 200 (p. 3):–

> **"This 'reduction' was effected with varying success, the authors at times displaying lucidity, and even humour, in detecting a bolide, the planet Venus, or some hilarious cock-and-bull story behind this or that alleged 'saucer'; or, on the contrary, having gone hopelessly wrong by conducting their own enquiries too hastily, by phone, and from individuals only familiar with the alleged facts by hearsay, or from individuals who, having indeed been eyewitnesses of the facts, have since decided, once and for all time, to minimize them or even never speak of them again. In any case, this book of which we are speaking is very, very far indeed from covering the totality of the cases during the period studied (basically the Wave of 1954 — all very old now). And the authors are very careful not to mention this, no doubt in order to make their non-specialist readers believe that, when a serious investigation of the alleged facts is made, it will be found that in Ufology there is nothing left.**
>
> **And, let us repeat, this book deals mainly with easy cases."**

Should anyone object that Dr Pierre Guérin, although a scientist, is nonetheless still a Ufologist too, I shall reply that not even G.E.P.A.N., the French body that is studying UFOs officially within the framework of the CNES (French Space Research Agency) has displayed much interest in the work of Messrs. B. and B. In their *Technical Note No. 3* (page 13), speaking of the statistical results obtained by Claude Poher tending to show that the UFOs are seen by the observers to the same extent as ordinary physical phenomena, they refer to certain persons who have been mistaken over the scope of those results, some of them concluding that they deal indeed with merely physical phenomena, while others think even that it is a question of known physical phenomena". Well now, in a note at the foot of the page, G.E.P.A.N. comment ironically: *"We owe this little pearl to the 'rationalist' pen of Messrs Barthel, Brucker, and Monnerie."*

To sum up, then: our valiant "repentant" Ufologists have not reaped the hoped-for fruits from their "repentance". *"The Great Martian Scare"* is, in conclusion, nothing but the reflection of their own fear: *the fear of appearing, as Ufologists, unworthy of scientific consideration.* From which comes their ostentatious transition to "rationalism" and the exploit of producing a book which, as they had intended it, was to have rehabilitated them in the eyes of the academic world. But they have not succeeded. I would say that, on reputation, they have lost out. Their mistake has been, I think, that they forgot that, in order to shine, their "Sun of Reason" requires a sky free of clouds: *especially free of the clouds of prejudice and the even darker clouds of intellectual abdication.*

Notes and References

(1) G. Barthel and J. Brucker. *"La Grande Peur Martienne.* Publ by Nouvelles Editions Rationalistes, Paris, 1979. (pp. 88-93).
(2) See, for example, *Il Giornale dei Misteri,* No. 344.
(3) Barthel and Brucker: op. cit., p. 92
(4) Barthel and Brucker: op. cit., p. 100.

Note by Editor, FSR

Should it be asked why we have troubled to translate and publish this very lengthy article, we would explain that in our opinion the question under discussion is an immensely important one. We have already reported on the astonishing success in France of the current attempt to eliminate all interest in UFOs and prove that not a single genuine case has ever occurred. We know a good deal about the political motivations that lie behind all this, and we know what are the political allegiances of those who, in the USA, just as in France and Britain, are pursuing these ends, so there is no need to say more than that. It is certain that preparations are under way for a massive drive here in Britain to achieve the same results, and we must expect therefore to see books appearing here in which the same methods are employed as have been employed in France by Messrs B. and B.

Our deepest thanks go to Monsieur Roger Chereau for giving us a copy of this book which is now out of print and most difficult to get!

Finally, to round all this off, it might be advisable to say a word or two for our English-speaking readers about some of these famous French cases in the Wave of 1954. With the passing of the years, there are naturally even fewer people in Britain (and assuredly in the USA, Canada and Australia) who recall any details of these matters than there are in France. And in France itself they are few enough!

Of the 1954 French Cases mentioned by name in Pier Luigi Sani's articles, only a few will be recalled even by our older readers. Details of those at Mouriéras, Cenon, Contay, Chabeuil, and Poncey-sur-l'Ignon (all cases that were too "good", as Pier Luigi Sani says for B. and B. to dare to look at them!) will be found in the American book FLYING SAUCERS AND THE STRAIGHT-LINE MYSTERY (Criterion Books, New York City, 1958) the first half of which is a translation of the original edition of Aimé Michel's famous book *Mystérieux Objets Célestes* (1958).

As for the seven cases that B. and B. did choose to select (Jonquerets-de-Livet; Jonches; Claix; Les Egots; Maisoncelles-en-Brie; Toulouse, and Cerf) it does not seem, at this moment at any rate, that, except for the first, I can lay my hands on any English language source that gives them.

As for the two most important cases which are discussed here, namely those of Quarouble and Prémanon, both are given in detail in Aimé Michel's book *Mystérieux Objets Célestes* and in the American translation thereof *(Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery).*

In FSR's collection, THE HUMANOIDS (Futura Paperbacks, 1974) some of the cases will be found on the undermentioned pages, in Jacques Vallée's section, *The Pattern Behind the UFO Landings*:–

Quarouble Case (Marius DeWilde)	*Humanoids, p. 31*
Cenon Case	*Humanoids, p. 31*
Contay Case	*Humanoids, p. 30*
Mouriéras Case	*Humanoids, p. 31*
Chabeuil Case	*Humanoids, p. 32*
Prémanon Case	*Humanoids, p. 32*
Les Jonquerets-de-Livet Case	*Humanoids, p. 53*
Poncey-sur-l'Ignon Case	*Humanoids, p. 36*

And, finally, how *very* interesting it is to note that, in the Prémanon Case of September 27, 1954, Messrs B. and B. are accusing four little children of having *"bent" the grass, but not "trampled" it, in a circular, anticlockwise fashion. Clever kids! It seems that B. and B. managed to find only one of the children (by then a university student) but did not manage to find the other three children. But we in Britain know very well where the missing children are. They are in England, on the farms of Wiltshire and Hampshire, and still up to their old anticlockwise tricks too, as is proved by our recent reports on the great swirled rings in the cornfields! — G.C.*

STOP PRESS

FIRST CORNFIELD CIRCLES IN HERTFORDSHIRE

Mystery circles appear in wheat field

August 11, 1989 MERCURY M 7

MUCH HADHAM (N. Hertfordshire)

MYSTERIOUS circles, which cannot be explained by the country's top experts, have appeared in a wheat field at Much Hadham.

Partners Rodney and Richard Munday discovered two 10-yard wide circles in a field behind The Jolly Wagoners, Widford Road, on their 180-acre Camwell Hall farm.

The wheat had been completely flattened, bent over at the base of the stem and was lying in a clockwise direction.

The circles were about three yards apart and one was slightly bigger than the other.

They were discovered at the weekend as the brothers, whose family have been at Camwell Hall since 1935, began to harvest their crop.



THE MUNDAY brothers in one of the circles.

Mr Rodney Munday (41) said: "It's totally extraordinary. I have never seen anything like it.

"I can't see how it could happen."

They believe from the state of the flattened wheat that it could have happened up to two weeks earlier.

The brothers were puzzled that if the circles had been caused by a freak shift in air pressure, why the edges were not ragged or did not tail off.

They concluded it would have taken quite a force to flatten the wheat.

They also believe it was one of the first times that the mysterious circles had been discovered in the region.

Since they were first recorded in 1981, the number of circles found every year has been growing.

Initially there were just 25 in a year. Last year there were 250, and already there have been 250 this year.

Most have been in the Hampshire and Sussex areas.

Several theories have been put forward to explain them — including freak mini-cyclones, or the presence of underground workings or historic settlements.

More bizarre explanations include alien spaceships.

Mr Richard Payne, the senior policy advisor of the East Anglian region of the National Farmers' Union said it could have been a result of chemical spraying over old workings in the exceptionally dry weather.

He added that it was the first case reported to the union in the region.

Mr Willie White, assistant technical adviser in the NFU's south east region, where most of the circles have been found, said: "There is absolutely nothing to explain what they are. It is really weird."

AIRSHIPS OF THE 1890s

By Steven A. Arts (Nebraska, U.S.A.)

It is a long time since FSR published anything on the extraordinary UFO Wave over the United States in the years 1896-97. Long ago we devoted a lot of space to those events, but today there must be a great many folk among our newer or younger readers who may not even have heard about the curious phenomenon of the great "airships", carrying very powerful headlights or searchlights, which seem to have visited large regions of the United States in the last century. We shall therefore probably find an opportunity to carry a few recapitulations in the coming months. Meanwhile, two things seem to be quite certain about the UFO Wave of 1896/97 over the U.S.A. *Firstly, there does not appear to have been a single report anywhere in America of a craft of 'saucer' or 'disc' shape during those years (although there had been a notable one at Denison, Texas, in January 1875). And secondly, not a single one of the numerous reports from Americans who claimed to have seen the occupants of landed machines in 1896/97 referred to "small beings" or "big heads",* although it is true that at least one account (on the Hamilton ranch at Leroy, Texas), referred to extremely unpleasant-looking creatures. Otherwise the encounter accounts — and there appear to have been quite a number of them — seem to describe very "normal" sorts of individuals resembling Americans in size and features. And every account of the craft seen seems to indicate something large and of the shape of an airship, or what we were later to call a dirigible or a "zeppelin". *So, whatever and whoever it was that was examining the United States in 1896/97, it does not seem that they were anything like the small critters with big heads who are plaguing us at present.* EDITOR

* * * * *

The sightings started in the Sacramento (California) area, in November of 1896. One of the very first sightings, recorded in the newspaper *Sacramento Bee* of November 18, shows a difference. Voices are heard, but speaking English.

Titled *"Voices in the Sky"*, the paper's account states:

"Startled citizens last night living at points of the city along a rough diagonal line, yet far distant from each other, declare that they not only saw the phenomenon, but they also heard voices issuing from it in mid-air — not the whispering of angels, not the sepulchral mutterings of evil spirits, but the intelligible words and the merry laughter of humans.

"At those intervals where the glittering object, as if careless of its obligation to maintain a straightforward course, descended dangerously near the housetops, voices were heard in the sky saying:

'Lift her up, quick! You are making directly for that steeple.'

"Then the light in the sky would be seen obeying some mystic touch and ascending to a considerable hight (sic), from which it would take up again its southwesterly course."

The article goes on to give some other details, and refers to a man purported to be the inventor of just such an airship, and planning to fly it from New York to California.

Another section of the story relates the tale of one Charles Lusk, cashier of the Central Electrical Street Railway Company, who saw the airship. He, too, heard a voice saying:

"Well, we ought to get to San Francisco by tomorrow noon."

Carmen of the tram lines said they saw the airship, which was balloon-shaped. They considered it a balloon.

A Mr. G.C. Snyder, in the same article, claimed the airship was definitely not a meteor.

"I assure you," he is reported to have said, "there is no joke about this matter, so far as I am concerned. Last evening, about ten minutes before 7 o'clock, I saw a light, which was above, approximately, Twenty-seventh and P Streets, sailing in a southwesterly direction. It rose and fell and swayed from right to left as if it were being propelled by some motor power. It was a white light, and was not a star or a meteor, I am certain of that."

That south-westerly direction, mentioned twice, would, of course, take the airship in the general direction of San Francisco.

Two days later the *Sacramento Bee* copied an article published originally in the *San Francisco Chronicle* about the airship reports gaining popular attention in that city.

Asked the *Chronicle* story:

"Are there up in the sky four jolly and intrepid human travellers, paying their last respects to Mars, singing quartets to Venus, and saluting the planets generally within hailing distance, or are the people of Sacramento affected with the disease known in polite society as "illuminated staggers".

"That is the question."

Was it, though? Observers of the modern UFO sightings will notice a somewhat nasty turn of events here. The story suggested that the Sacramento witnesses of the airship were drunk. A subtitle of the above article was: "Freemasonry of Liars, Suggests Prof. Davidson."

People who saw the mysterious lights in the sky were accused of drinking too much. Airships were thought to be kites, balloons, the planet Venus, the star Sirius, hoaxes, fakes, or, in another vein, ships from an advanced civilization on Mars.

The man who claimed they were from Mars said:

"In my investigations of this subject, it would seem that this visitor is from our neighboring planet Mars. We know, from the evidence of scientists and astronomers, that Mars is millions of years older than the Earth."

Elsewhere in his impassioned letter to the *Sacramento Bee,* he says:

"The speed of our Martian ships is very great, and can be regulated to the rapidity of a thousand miles a second."

Real heady stuff, to say the least. What was this aerial phenomenon that had folk talking for nearly a year, from California to Maine?

It was what modern observers would call "unidentified flying objects", or "UFOs" for short. Back then they were called 'airships'. The above quoted letter was dated November 24, 1896!

'Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable', dating back to about that period, defines airships as being *"balloons".*

These airships could not have possibly been balloons. What balloons, especially in the 1890s, could travel at an estimated 200 miles per hour, in one case that's on record?

There are similarities to modern UFO sightings, as one would expect, but there are many differences as well.

Another trend is visible in an article from the newspaper *Sacramento Union* of November 20th. They have started using nonsense humor, perhaps in an effort to downgrade the reports.

"The man who is alleged to have heard the chorus

while the machine was doing the 'Corbett duck', has put his remembering tank to work, and recalls that one line was *'Just Tell Them That You Saw Me'*, and now goes about mournfully whistling, *'It Never Came Back'*. Another who heard the music declares the words to have been, *'Will You Miss Me When I've Gone?'* and the refrain was, *'I Gave That Man a Fill'*."

Two paragraphs further down they make a very half-hearted attempt to appease the people of Sacramento by saying:

"There are some of the stories floating about concerning the aerial mystery, and "there are others". Still the citizen pays his money and takes his choice, and, as this is a free country, has a right to his opinion. The lunacy commission is taking a vacation now, so the danger is reduced to a minimum. The question yesterday was not 'What is it?' but 'Have you seen it?' "

The *Sacramento Bee,* on November 19th, reported an investigation of the airships by a Grand Jury. On the same day, in another article, a subtitle declared: "All Men Liars? Looks That Way!"

Newspapers, it seemed, were beginning to take pro and con sides in the great airship debate. Yet it was not always easy to tell who was who.

To give you an idea of the controversy engendered by the airship issue, we quote here from six short reports from newspapers all over California and Nevada. From the *Sacramento Bee,* November 23rd:

"Our Citizens Are All Bright."

(From the *San Francisco Report*):

"Many of Sacramento's best citizens are said to believe they saw a real air ship Wednesday night and heard people in it talking. Never mind, Lady Somerset and Miss Willard are coming, and will of course visit Sacramento."

"What Kind Do You Mean?"

(From the *Fresno Republican*):

"Up in Sacramento some people claim to have seen a mysterious air ship coursing through the air against the wind. Spirits, boys, spirits!"

"No, The Same Old Brand."

"*The Bee* puts a dozen or more witnesses upon the reporter's stand to prove that an air ship passed directly over Sacramento this week. The reporter must have struck a brand which is stronger than his ordinary drink."

"*The Bee's* Assurance Goes."

(From the *Nevada Silver-State*):

"However, whatever it was, or whatever it pretends, it cannot be reasonably denied or doubted that the thing actually occurred as alleged by our frightened neighbors of Sacramento. For we have the assurance of the *Bee* that the whole population of the city was not drunk between 6 and 7 o'clock that evening."

"The Wicked Reporter Man."

(From the *San Jose News*):

"The story doubtless originated in the brain of some ingenious newspaper reporter in Sacramento, who has prepared the narrative with considerable care, going so far as to secure the co-operation of alleged witnesses, a comparatively easy matter, as there are many people who would "stand in" to support an improbable report yarn of that kind, considering it a huge joke."

And finally:

"Oh, Now, You Stop!"

(From the *Woodland Democrat*):

"A toy balloon was turned loose in Washington a night or two ago. It floated over Sacramento and the people were deluded with the idea that it was an air ship."

The reporter of the last dispatch got his facts wrong. The supposed balloon was not a toy, and its alleged originating city was New York, not Washington. These articles were obviously written long before the age of litigation for libel against newspapers became popular.

The airship, or rather airships, moved east. There were various sightings in such states as Colorado, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa and South Dakota, west of the Mississippi River, during the spring and summer of 1897.

The population size of a state seemed to have no bearing on the number of sightings reported. Nebraska, with a population then of a mere 1,060,000, had dozens of reports.

One of the first reports in Nebraska came from the city of Hastings, when an airship, west of that town, was observed by several people floating 500 feet above the ground, for 30 minutes. That was from the fall of 1896.

When it reappeared in February 1897, it was 800 feet above the ground, and lights were seen on it. This mention of lights is reported on numerous occasions. It then descended 200 feet and "travelled at a most remarkable speed for about three miles. It then stood perfectly still for about five minutes and then descended for about 200 feet, circling as it travelled at a most remarkable speed for about two miles and then, slowing up, it circled for about fully 15 minutes, when it began to lower and disappear as mysteriously as it had made its appearance . . . A close watch is being kept for its reappearance."

A report from Hastings dated February 12, is a longer article, but has all the earmarks of the above one. The craft was reported to have been seen by a dozen people.

A report from the *Kearney Daily Hub,* of February 22, tells of a sighting there. Something of an editorial paragraph precedes the article itself.

"The *Hub* must admit that it has taken all air ship stories coming out of our sister towns with a grain of salt, and in one or two cases the dose of the saline accompaniment has been doubled. It doesn't believe in air ships, and the writer personally has never seen anything that resembled the much talked of 'light in the sky' more than one of the 'free' arc lights furnished in the past by the Kearney Electric company. Yet any belief should be held subject to revision when confronted by good and sufficient evidence. That evidence appears now to be on top."

They go on to report:

"If Mr. Prescott has seen an air ship he doesn't know it. In fact, if he was to see one he wouldn't be sure of it without it was labelled in large Gothic letters. But Wednesday evening, while walking home, between the hours of nine and ten o'clock, he saw a light in the west, a description of which strongly resembles the stories of the air ship that have come from other towns. The light appeared to be a great distance away, and its size looked to be about the same as the head of an ordinary wooden water bucket. It didn't move around to any great extent, but stayed out in the western atmosphere long enough to be seen distinctly. Whether it was an air ship, or one of the populistic signs of the times forecasting the selection of Sullivan as judge, has yet to be determined."

Besides politics, commercialism played a role in the reporting of the airship phenomenon, especially in Nebraska. The *Wilsonville Review* of April 9, 1897 reported that its editor had heard the craft's inhabitants yell *"Weiver Eht Rof Ebircsbus"*. (It sounds like an alien version of Latin, but spells out *"Subscribe for the Review"*, backwards.)

The Wymorean, published in Wymore, Nebraska,

(March 19) reported:

"That Air Ship Again.

"The air ship passed over this city last night at 15 minutes to 8. It came from the south and disappeared to the NW, moving at a rate of about 15 miles per hour against a strong wind from the east. As near as could be judged by those who saw it, it was about 2000 feet above ground. At times its motion was steady and at other times it would move up or down. Quite a crowd gathered on the street and watched the strange light for at least 10 minutes. Many of them have been skeptical heretofore, but now they are forced to admit that there is something in it."

Sightings ranged across Nebraska at least until May 1897 in such places as Omaha, Inavale, York Beatrics, Grand Island, Lexington, Odell, Peru, Central City, Table Rock, Norfolk, Fremont and others.

Among the many sightings in Kansas, one at LeRoy, on April 19, stands out. It occurred at 10.30 p.m. One Alexander Hamilton, owner of the farm in LeRoy, stated:

"I arose, thinking that perhaps my bulldog was performing his pranks, but upon going to the door saw to my utter astonishment that an air ship was slowly descending upon my cow lot, about forty rods from the house."

It was described as being three hundred feet long, cigar shaped, with a carriage beneath. Sounds much like a dirigible would be described.

Sightings also occurred at Topeka, Belleville, Atchison, Holson, Hiawatha, and Everett, Kansas.

There were sightings at Canton and Deadwood, South Dakota. But a report from the *Sioux Valley News* (S. Dakota) says of a report in Minnesota, dated April 16:

"The air ship has come and gone. It was the same air ship that has been seen floating above the Western states for the last three weeks. It is not a fake, but a genuine aeronautical conveyance. A square-shaped reddish light that looked half as large as the moon was seen by a number of persons from the Guaranty Loan restaurant windows at 9.25 o'clock last night. It was first seen in the direction of Hopkins, the crowd in the restaurant being congregated by J. J. Barrett, the St. Louis dispatch agent on the eleventh floor, whose attention was called to it by the operator at Hopkins, who saw it moving west. Jasper Gibbs, proprietor of the restaurant, saw the light first; it was then blazing red, but it gradually lost its redness, and suddenly again brightened again like a flash of light. It was moving in a diagonal line away from Minneapolis; and slowly commenced to sink over the horizon until 9.35, when it became invisible."

Next we move to Texas, where there were literally dozens of sightings. On April 17, 1897, one was spotted near the town of Aurora. This sighting will be quoted in whole, since it was different from its predecessors.

"About 6 o'clock this morning, the early risers of Aurora were astonished at the sudden appearance of the airship which has been sailing throughout the country.

"It was travelling due north and much nearer the earth than before. Evidently some of the machinery was out of order, for it was making a speed of only 10 or 12 miles an hour and gradually settling toward the earth.

"It sailed directly over the public square, and when it reached the north part of town collided with the tower of Judge Proctor's windmill and went to pieces with a terrific explosion, scattering debris over several acres of ground, wrecking the windmill and water tank and destroying the judge's flower garden.

"The pilot of the ship is supposed to have been the only person aboard, and while his remains are badly disfigured, enough of the original has been picked up to show that he was not an inhabitant of this world.

"Mr. T.J. Weems, the U.S. Signal Service officer at this place and an authority on astronomy, gives it as his opinion that he (the pilot) was a native of the planet Mars.

"Papers found on his person — evidently the records of his travels — are written in some unknown hieroglyphics and cannot be deciphered.

"This ship was too badly wrecked to form any conclusion as to its construction or motive power.

"It was built of an unknown metal, resembling somewhat a mixture of aluminium and silver and it must have weighed several tons.

"The town is full of people today who are viewing the wreck and gathering specimens of strange metal from the debris. The pilot's funeral will take place at noon tomorrow."

The pilot's funeral? Subsequent investigation has offered no proof of the above crash, let alone burial. It has been termed a hoax.

Though definitely different from the bulk of reports from this era, it does not qualify as the first report of a crashed airship.

In Dundy County, Nebraska, in 1884, an airship supposedly crashed some 35 miles north-west of the town of Benklemen, on a ranch. A cowboy named Williamson had his face blistered by the intense heat. This story, from the *Holdrege Nugget* (Nebraska), has not been verified from other sources.

A report from Merkel, Texas of April 26, says:

"Some parties returning from church last night noticed a heavy object dragging along with a large rope attached.

"They followed it until in crossing the railroad it caught on a rail. On looking up they saw what they supposed was the airship.

"It was not near enough to get an idea of the dimensions. A light could be seen protruding from several windows; one bright light in front like the headlight of a locomotive.

"After some 10 minutes, a man was seen descending the rope, he came near enough to be plainly seen; he wore a light blue sailor suit, was small in size.

"He stopped when he discovered parties at the anchor and cut the rope below him and sailed off in a north-east direction.

"The anchor is now on exhibition at the blacksmith shop of Elliot & Miller and is attracting the attention of hundreds of people."

This report, and many others of that era, bring to mind the old television series *"Wild, Wild West"*, where American spies thwart the plans of evil men in the old West, trying to take over the nation.

A report from Waterloo, Iowa and another from Burlington were purportedly hoaxes (April 10, 1897). Other sightings in Iowa were reported at Ottumwa, Des Moines, Belle Plaine, Fontanelle and others.

Then the sightings went into a wide number of states east of the Mississippi River.

One of the main ways in which the 1890s reports differed from modern ones was that these people, for the most part, considered the airships to be guided by *human, earthbound agencies.* There are, of course, a few exceptions, already cited. Among the supposed human inventors claimed to be hovering above American cities were: Hiram Maxim, Octave Chanute (an aviator), an unnamed associate of Thomas Edison, and many relative unknowns.

To give you an idea, here is a quote from the *Sioux Valley News,* South Dakota (May 14, 1897).

"*Sioux City, Iowa.* May 11. P.E. Jewell of this place claims he has an air ship which actually flies. Thus far he has not entrusted his person to the tender mercies of his craft, but a ship of sufficient size to carry a man is now being constructed on the pattern of a successful model already tested. The model soared to a height of 100 feet and was then pulled in."

The report goes on to give details of this wondrous machine.

The similarities between the old and modern UFO sightings are remarkable. Detractors called the witnesses 'deluded', 'lunatics', or worse. Airships were 'Venus', 'balloons', 'kites', the usual standbys.

The author of this present article does not claim to know what those people saw 90 years ago. *One thing is certain, though. They did see something.* It may have been humans flying before it was officially recorded; pre-Spanish-American War fever; aliens; or the planet Venus. No one will ever know.

NOTE BY EDITOR, FSR

Like pretty well everyone else no doubt, I have seen exhaustive pieces of research thoroughly debunking every one of these various cases. But somehow I don't feel able to accept that they were all faked by humans. And I note that, in his latest book DIMENSIONS, Dr. Jacques Vallée still accepts as genuine the case at the Hamilton Ranch at Leroy, Kansas, on April 19, 1897, and I think I am correct in saying that Dr. J. Allen Hynek was also inclined to accept it. (Though, as readers may recall, the version given above is not the full one. For the alien craft was actually reported to have lassoed and carried off a calf from one of Mr. Hamilton's paddocks. And *that* rings a bell, doesn't it!) All the same, great effort has gone into proving the Hamilton story to be a fake. And we can fully appreciate that in 1896 and 1897 many 'excellent folk' thought it fully justified to spread any sort of lie in order to prevent the truth from getting out. *After all, don't they still do precisely the same in 1989!*

MAIL BAG

Correspondents are asked to keep their letters short and give full name and address (not necessarily for publication). It is not always possible for the Editor to acknowledge every letter personally, and so he takes this opportunity to thank all who write to him.

The Claims of George Adamski

Dear Mr Creighton, — It continues to puzzle me that so many people still believe George Adamski; if they lived in his home town as I do, they would have ample opportunity to learn otherwise. At the least, Desmond Leslie and anyone else interested in the facts should have written to the various persons mentioned by Adamski before accepting his statements at face value. In any case I hope that the enclosed article will not be too controversial for FSR. (What am I saying? Nothing is too controversial for FSR!)

Yours sincerely,
Eric Herr,
6250½ Stanley Avenue,
San Diego, CA 92115,
U.S.A.
August 6, 1988.

Readers will find Mr Herr's article on page 15 of this issue. — EDITOR

"Missing Persons" on Ships

Dear Mr Creighton, — In connection with the *"Mary-Celeste"* type of incident reported by Robert Perry Collins in his recent article *The Double Deception* (page 14 of FSR 34/2), I wonder how many of your readers remember their Suetonius?

In his chronicle of the Lives of the Caesars, this Roman historian (A.D. 70-160 approx.) gives the account of a ship from Alexandria which, approaching Dertosa,* *was noted to have lost all its crew.* (See: Suetonius: *The Twelve Caesars,* Penguin Classics, p.253).

Yours sincerely,
Hugh H. Trotti Jr,
230 Wilton Drive,
Decatur, Georgia 30030,
U.S.A.
July 24, 1989.
(*Modern *Tortosa,* on coast of N.E. Spain, south of Barcelona. ED.)

A bouquet for FSR!

— Please give my best regards to the Editor, Gordon Creighton, and to everybody working with FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

We love you all. Great job!

Eugene Bauer,
U.S.A.
March 8, 1989.

Two Small Beings

Dear Sir, — Having discovered the book *"Above Top Secret",* and then your publication, I feel that I must mention this experience of mine, just for the record.

It was February 1974. I was driving back home after taking my children to school. As I was approaching the house (I live in Kent) I saw two children on the pavement in front of my garden. I will never forget my first reaction and what followed. I wondered whose children they were, "skiving" from school. They looked about 7 or 8 years old. I did not recognize them as any of the local children. They wore identical dufflecoats and the hood was covering their faces. They were shuffling their feet playfully. The colour of their garments struck me by its intensity, and I remember wondering where I might buy such beautiful coats for my girls.

As a car came past them from the other direction, I saw them cross the metal bars, which form a feature of the front wall, as if nothing was there, and carry on with their playful movements.

I was still sitting in the car, and what I was seeing did not at first strike me as odd. Then I got out of the car, and went looking for them in the back garden, convinced that they must have gone to the back of the house, as they were nowhere at the front. They were nowhere at the back either. They had vanished into thin air, and I knew it, although the need for rationality made me go looking for them in the back garden.

I then sat down and started recollecting my thoughts, and realized that what I had seen was not possible. I considered the many details I had noticed in a few seconds, and nothing made sense. Conflicting thoughts began to occupy my mind. I related my experience to my husband and to some friends, but their reaction was so completely negative that I never spoke of it again.*

Yours faithfully,
Mrs — — (Full name and address on file)
June 1989.

*The lady is very wise. However, I have in my records a large number of similar cases, and those who have been reading FSR for years will recall several very striking ones that we have published. Of course the episode was "impossible". We all know that! *Lecturing on psychic phenomena to an audience of doctors and scientists, one of France's most famous pioneers in Parapsychology said: "Messieurs — I did not say that it was possible. I merely said that it happened!"*

Published by FSR Publications Ltd, Box 12, Snodland, Kent ME6 5JZ England,
and printed in Great Britain by OPTICHROME Ltd, Maybury Road, Woking, Surrey, England