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THE BUFORA JOURNAL AND BULLETIN

Volume 2 Number 11

Spring, 1970

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EDITORIAL

In its NEWS LETTER for January 1970, the Society for the Investigation of Unidentified Flying Object Phenomena, (SIUFOP), states clearly its opinion that there is no proof that Unconventional Flying Objects, known popularly as flying saucers, exist. It may be instructive to consider whether or not this assessment of the current situation in the field of UFO-research is a sound one.

Approximately 90% of UFO reports derive from misidentified man-made objects and natural phenomena, with a sprinkling of hoaxes and hallucinations to make up the total. Among the remaining 10% of sightings, however, a substantial majority of accounts relate to objects which exhibit a strong "family" likeness. The likeness is of flying machines of highly sophisticated design.

The U.S. Air Force and other UFO-debunking agencies dispose of these awkward reports by taking them one by one and making one or more negative assumptions in the case of each of them. Their key tactic is, "look for the loophole." It is not surprising that a loophole of some kind can almost always be found.

For my own part, I think that we should be mindful of the celebrated "razor" axiom of William of Occam, which bids us refrain from multiplying unnecessarily the (assumed) causes of phenomena. Why not make the overall assumption that the basic similarity in the narratives is due to the fact that the witnesses are describing objects belonging to a single class?

If I am reminded of the notorious unreliability of the human eye and mind, I reply that, by making the overall assumption, I am automatically cancelling out the individual visual and mental peculiarities of the observers by concentrating attention on the features common to all the reports under consideration.

Given the hard core of reports of objects exhibiting a common pattern of appearance and behaviour, does this constitute proof of the existence of flying saucers?

It depends on what one is prepared to accept as proof.

The late E. J. Ruppelt, in his book, "The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects," quotes an unnamed U.S. Air Force officer as follows:

"Everyone has a different idea of what proof really is. Some people think we should accept a new model of an airplane after only five or ten hours of flight testing. This is enough proof for them that the airplane will fly. But others wouldn't be happy unless it was flight-tested for five or ten years. These people have set an unreasonably high value on the word 'proof.' The answer is somewhere in between these two extremes."

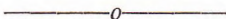
Precisely!

We have no flying saucer "hardware" except a few metallic fragments of disputed origins. Such evidence as can be presented in favour of the existence of Unconventional Flying Objects is circumstantial in nature. It is for each of us individually to weigh this evidence and arrive at a verdict for or against the reality of the elusive UFO.

After nearly twenty years of UFO investigation, I have no hesitation in stating that I regard the evidence in favour of the real existence of Unconventional Flying Objects as overwhelming. I do not base my finding on any single report or group of reports, but on the accumulated testimony of thousands of reports to which unbiased evaluation is obliged to attach the legend, "Unknown."

It is unfortunate that UFO-research has become the playground of emotionally unstable persons, cultists and space-struck juveniles. I have always opposed attempts to transform UFO-research into a "Movement" and condemned the sort of proselytism which assumes that a useful purpose is served by seeking to bludgeon the man-in-the-street into a conviction that UFOs exist. There is a real danger, unfortunately, that intelligent persons, such as our colleagues in SIUFOP would seem to be, may be deterred by all the folly and humbug from the realization that, as Dr. J. Allen Hynek has suggested, there is a signal in the noise.

To vary the metaphor, let us beware of throwing out the baby with the bath-water!



UFOs : PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORIES AND THEIR DEFECTS

Considering the UFO-sceptic's casual assumption that UFOs are always seen by cranks and simple-minded persons deceived by their wild imaginations, it is rather surprising that nobody has ever tried to arrive at a successful psychological explanation for all of the good reports. Certainly, the more ambiguous stimuli—the "lights in the sky"—may be considered in the light of psychological processes which modify the witnesses' perception of their "UFO" (see 2, 7, 10, and a brief mention in 5); but there is a limit to the extent to which normal perceptual processes may be distorted, and as Smith (9, p. 1) points out, the hardcore reports can be dealt with only in terms of three basic explanations: they are hoaxes, hallucinations, or real sightings of unconventional objects.

Despite the fact that the two major alternatives to the alien intelligence hypothesis are both psychological, it is clear that no real attempt has been made to develop these ideas or give UFO reports a systematic treatment along these lines. The psychological literature is not very helpful. The latest book on superstition, for example, which might be expected to throw some light on the problem, carries only three references to "flying saucers," none particularly relevant (4). In an interesting article about subjective phenomena Holt (3) refers to the possibility that "nonhospitalised persons" (i.e. UFO witnesses) may hallucinate; however, since he describes the subject as "another journalistic sensation" it may be assumed that he has given the matter little thought.

It is not hard to see why so little attention has been paid to the hoax/hallucination theory, and why the Colorado Project failed to give it serious consideration in the CR. The difficulties are obvious. UFO sightings tend not to be unique to a single person—that is, a certain group of people with a common field of view either *all* see a UFO or *none* of them see it. Unless the doubtful “mass hallucination” concept is given credence, hallucination may be immediately discounted. Secondly, of course, physical evidence in the form of photos, radar tracks, landing imprints and so on have been associated with a significant number of sightings. Thirdly, it may be argued, somewhat less strongly, that the fact that there is similarity between separate individuals’ sightings regardless of their differing geographical and cultural environments (the same things are seen by Eskimos, African tribesmen, and Brazilian farmers) tends to suggest that the phenomenon is independent of the witnesses’ psychology and prior knowledge of UFOs.

Furthermore, hallucinations are rather infrequent happenings almost inevitably related to certain definite psychophysiological states: sensory restriction (exposure to a totally monotonous environment); sleep deprivation; abnormality (e.g. schizophrenia, epilepsy); drug intake (e.g. of LSD); and, more interesting from the ufologist’s point of view, they may be produced in deep hypnotic trance. An interesting review of such phenomena is given by McKellar (6). Rather vivid hallucinations may occur spontaneously just prior to sleep or after waking, and this should be kept in mind when considering a report from someone awakened in the night to see a UFO—especially one that flew in through the bedroom window to make repairs.

When, in a given case, hallucination is obviously not an appropriate explanation, the hoax possibility remains; and this is more difficult to deal with. Looking at the problem theoretically, it is clear that a potential hoaxer needs three things: motivation for faking a sighting; some means of producing the “evidence”; and considerable knowledge of the subject. These are all, in theory, susceptible to analysis. Certain very likely hoaxes do indeed seem to be associated with distinct sections of the population—e.g. some of the contactees, the people who like to send up hot-air balloons, and the pairs of teenagers often associated with polaroid photos of UFOs (8, p. 121). Attempts may be made to reproduce the physical evidence using conventional means. And, carefully used, the so-called “lie-detector” can elicit information about prior knowledge held by the alleged witness. Whole groups of witnesses may be dealt with in motivational terms (pilots, military people and policemen, for example) and with reference to availability of information (witnesses in very underdeveloped regions).

Only one serious attempt has been made to develop a psychological theory of UFOs, that by Black (1). He tries to show how multiple-witness sightings might be generated through an interaction of known perceptual, social and hypnotic phenomena in a kind of mutual-suggestion process. This model has the merits of quantification and testability, and it can easily be shown that the predictions derived from it are not in accord with the known data (to be published).

The only plausible explanation for the observed data might be one that postulated a spontaneously-occurring hallucinogenic condition affecting all the people in a particular area. However, its effects would of necessity have to be so specific that its presence would have to be artificially induced; indeed, this is the suggestion made by theorists such as Bowen and Cade. This does not really *explain* anything as the origin of the effects remains unknown, while the final answer is placed at a more fantastic level.

The current status of psychological theory in ufology is simply, therefore, that there isn't any. Nobody has succeeded in explaining how an ordinary farmer, going about his business, might suddenly experience a vivid hallucinatory UFO landing; nor have they shown why apparently normal policemen, astronomers, and radar controllers should try to prejudice their careers by telling wild stories and manufacturing fake evidence. Most discussions about these possibilities are either naive ("they're all equally crazy") or maintain a somewhat strained, embarrassed air, usually succeeding in ignoring any descriptions of real, hard-core sightings (e.g. 10).

It should be stressed, however, that our failure to explain just how a UFO might be generated psychologically does not rule out the possibility that UFOs *are* so generated. The question must ultimately be settled by a careful empirical analysis, and not by philosophical discussions about the possibility of life elsewhere, or the likelihood that there exist remarkable new psychological phenomena. Philosophising is no substitute for the formulation of testable theories, and in the continued absence of the latter the problem will remain unsolved.

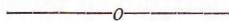
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- November 1969. CARL GROVE.

Editorial Note :

Readers seeking further information on the possible psychological implications of the UFO phenomenon, should consult, "Flying Saucers—a Modern Myth of Things Seen in the Skies," by the late Dr. C. G. Jung. They are also referred to the writings of Tom Comella. (Peter Kôr).

Professor Heuyer, of the French Academy of Medicine, has developed the idea of a "flying saucer psychosis."



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

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SPACELINK

WORLD UFO NEWS and FLYING SAUCER SCENE

Although publication is erratic, readers still say "SPACELINK is worth waiting for." They also compliment us on its high standard, variety of content and highly conservative approach. Vol. 6, No. 2 (1970) discusses that Mysterious Chunk of Canadian Hardware, the Woburn Abbey affair, the Tyneham "landing" and Angel Hair with photographic illustrations. As well as contact and historical material, it is packed with useful information, including book and magazine news, club news, list of European UFO magazines, LIONEL'S LITTER and 40 UFO lectures of events.

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SOUTH YORKS UFO STUDY GROUP, anyone interested in forming such an investigation group contact T. Driver, 3, Kingston Road, Intake, Doncaster, Yorkshire.

COMPUTERISED UFO-RESEARCH— A TIMELY REMINDER

“Data collection is a pleasant pastime, and the essential primary basis for scientific investigation, but it should not be an end in itself. In a subject such as ufology, moreover, if it is pursued to the exclusion of speculation, hypothesis, and theory, it is wellnigh worthless. Even if you analyse by computer roomfuls of ‘reports’ on funny lights and other things in the sky, what have you got? Maybe evidence of temporal or spatial incidence, shape, color, behaviour (alleged), and suchlike, but the whole exercise is useless unless you have at least *some* theory as to how such statistics should or might be interpreted. None of the buffs have any real theories except some of the older organizations that insist all UFOs are machines—but deny that they could contain living entities, we should note!—and the ‘contactees’ who express themselves as convinced that they are all manifestations of glorious ‘space people.’ No wonder our* opinions do not find favour with any of them.”

(*The Society for the Investigation of the Unexplained, from whose Journal, PURSUIT, Oct. 1969, the above extract from “An Open Letter to All Parties” is gratefully acknowledged).

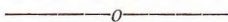
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SITU also report the following, published in the Spokane Daily Chronicle of 18th April, 1969:—“A member of the Condon Committee on Unidentified Flying Objects said Thursday three UFOs sighted by astronauts in space never have been explained. Dr. Franklin E. Roach, a visiting professor at the University of Washington and consultant with the Battelle-Northwest Laboratory, said one object was sighted by James McDivitt during the Gemini 4 flight. It had antenna-like extensions from both ends. Roach said: ‘Our first interpretation was that it was another satellite, but on checking we couldn’t come up with any known satellite with an orbit that would take it near Gemini.’ Another unexplained sighting was by Frank Borman in Gemini 7 who reported sighting a spark-surrounded object travelling in a polar orbit, Roach said.”

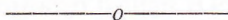
PUBLICISE BUFORA with BUFORA envelope stickers: 250—7/6; 100—3/6; 50—2/6; post free or send S.A.E. for free samples (red only). From: Lionel Beer, 14, Freshwater Court, Crawford Street, London W.1.H 1HS.

PSYCHICAL RESEARCH AND UFO-RESEARCH

We are not alone in our difficulties in attempting to convince the 'Men of Science' the reality of UFO phenomena. The following is an extract from a talk given by Rosalind Heywood to the Centre for Spiritual and Psychological Studies, published by permission in the December 1969 number of the Journal of the British Society of Dowsers, entitled 'The Experience of Investigators into Psychical Research':—"To go back to the early researchers. With enormous industry they collected thousands of carefully checked and corroborated cases of psi—more than sufficient, so they thought, to carry the walls of scientific orthodoxy by storm. But those walls held fast, and most scientists labelled ESP, as one put it, an egregious logical sin. Any one ostensibly paranormal event, they said, if taken separately, could always be explained away as due to malobservation, faulty memory, deliberate lying, etc., etc., and if it seemed too watertight, then it was obviously a chance coincidence." If one substitutes 'UFO sighting' for 'psi,' 'UFOs' for 'ESP,' and 'ufological' for 'paranormal,' the parallel is remarkable. Moreover, in a novel I have read recently, one of the leading characters says: "There will always be criticism. Whatever the results produced, whatever the nature of the evidence, there will always be some people who are unable, for various reasons, to accept the idea of the existence of ESP. If Rhine made a mistake, it was in supposing that *any* amount of statistical proof would convince them. Did you ever hear the story about the man who had never seen a giraffe? That's what some people are like. They stand in front of the cage, staring up at this bloody great animal and say: 'I don't believe it!' You just can't talk to them, because their minds are like closed, empty boxes."



DONATIONS BUFORA Executive wish to acknowledge their thanks and appreciation to members who so generously responded to the recent appeal for funds.



PAPUA — JUNE 1959

I was in Darwin at the time. A small government settlement in the furthest corner of the Northern Territory of Australia of which the island of Papua and New Guinea is a Mandate Territory under a United Nations Charter. Darwin is the most remote radio station of the Australian Broadcasting Commission nationwide network. I was an announcer and reporter.

There are three people to every 100 square miles in the Northern Territory and the nearest town in Alice Springs 1000 miles away. It was perhaps this isolation which prompted us to take more than usual interest in our nearer neighbours Timor, New Guinea and Papua and the Islands of Indonesia. We knew of the work that our fellow Australians were doing in Papua and New Guinea, of their difficulties with the practice of headhunting and the efforts of people like Father Gill who had established mission stations in order to educate the native peoples. This area is still a part of the world that is a challenge to geographers and explorers alike.

But although I was in the same part of the world as Fr. Gill and the extraordinary events of 1959, it was not until 1963, having worked for a while attached to an oil exploration group in the jungle of Timor and completed a trip around the world that I ended up back in Darwin as Director of Talks Programs, again for the ABC, and subsequently discovered in the archives of the Darwin Flying Saucer Research Society (which was being disbanded) an original tape recording of an interview with Fr. Gill about his UFO contact. Procuring the tape I produced a radio program using Fr. Gill's account as the focal point of the narrative in which he relates what actually took place.

You may remember the story, it was the strangest, and at the same time one of the most authenticated UFO reports ever recorded. It told how Fr. William Gill, an Anglican clergyman in Papua, observed on two separate evenings and for up to four hours a number of disc shaped objects in the sky over his mission. One of these objects hovered so low that what appeared to be four human figures could be distinctly seen moving about on board. Testimonial giving a full account of all that happened was signed by Fr. Gill and the 37 other witnesses who were with him at the time.

But let's start at the beginning. We have said that the sightings occupied two nights. It was at a quarter to seven on the night of Thursday, 25th June 1959 when the first object came over the horizon and this is how Father Gill tells the story.

"I came out of the dining room after dinner and casually glanced at the sky, with the purpose, I suppose, of seeing Venus. Well, I saw Venus but I also saw this sparkling object, which was to me peculiar because it sparkled and because it was very, very bright and it was above Venus and this caused me to watch it, for a while. And I saw it descend towards us."

Father Gill then went on to say that the shape of this object was clear and well defined. That it made no sound and left no vapour trail behind it. When it moved it ascended and descended vertically. When asked about its size he said it compared with a grapefruit held at arms length. Fr. Gill also told interviewers that it changed colour as it came closer, from a brilliant white to a pale orange. He then went on: "The fact that we saw what appeared to be human beings on it, I think is the important thing. It certainly was the important thing to us. They weren't noticeable at first. The object came down to 450ft. perhaps, or maybe 300ft. even: it was rather difficult to judge at that time of night and not having experience in measuring elevation that is purely guesswork. But as we watched it, men came out from this object and appeared on the top of it, on what seemed to be a deck on the top of the huge object.

"There were four men in all. Occasionally two, then one, then three, and then four. We noted the various times when the men appeared, and gave them each a number for identification. We noted the times when 1, 2, and 3 appeared, and when 1 and 2, and when 1, 3, 4, and 2, and so on, and later on all those witnesses were quite sure that our records were right. They agreed with them and saw the men at the same time as I did. They were able to sign their names as witnesses of what we assume was human activity or beings of some sort on the object itself.

"Another peculiar thing about it was the shaft of blue light which emanated from what appeared to be the centre of the deck. Now from time to time these

men seemed to be working at something on the deck. They would bend forward and appeared to manipulate something on the deck and then straighten themselves up and occasionally would turn round in our direction, but on the whole they were interested in something on the deck. Then from time to time this blue light—more like a thin spot-light—emanated skywards. It would remain on for a second or two and then switch off. I recorded the times at which we saw the blue light come on and off, and for the rest of the night, after all that activity, the craft ascended and remained very, very high up. Now between 8.28 p.m. and 9.15 p.m. we saw four of these objects altogether. They were the main object and three others. I have a diagram in my report showing their relative positions regarding the two main mountains behind the place of observation.”

Finally the craft sped off across the bay. The time taken to cover this 30 mile distance being estimated as half a second!

Well that was the night of Thursday, 25th June. Two evenings later on Saturday 27th the craft returned. Fr. Gill continues the story: “Now the next night was the really exciting night and to my mind the main event of the whole episode. At 6 o’clock, one of the female members of the hospital staff at Boianai came to me or rather ran shouting out to me that this object had been sighted again. That was 6 o’clock, long before darkness. It was just after sunset and this girl had sighted the object. So we came out again and we called all the people we could muster, and we began official observation at 6.02. Now this night was as I say the greatest night of activity and the most exciting. In the sky we had the first craft of which I spoke earlier, still with the men on board, but beside that we had seven other objects in view. Apparently a lot smaller, quite high in the sky, and they were all disc shaped, quite different from the other main object, which after this we called the ‘mother ship.’ The ‘mother ship’ was a huge disc. It had decking and so on top, or at least what appeared to be decking. Well now I am a poor mathematician but I at one time dared to say it was about 35 to 40 feet at the base and perhaps 20 feet at the top. At no time did we see the discs come from or return to that ‘mother ship.’ We just assumed that they belonged to it in some way.

“We saw no human activity on the other discs so I presume we can assume they were remotely controlled in some way or other.

“This night was the night when we actually exchanged signals between ourselves and the ‘mother ship.’ We waved and the figures on top of the deck waved back. When we flashed a torchlight towards it, it moved forward and came quite close towards the ground . . . we actually thought it was going to land. But it didn’t. We were awfully disappointed about that.”

The original account of Fr. William Gill’s experiences was chiefly published to the world by the Rev. Norman Crutwell. The Rev. Crutwell is himself an administrator at an Anglican Mission station in Papua, and the two reports to the Flying Saucer Review (Sept./Oct. and Nov./Dec. 1959) which were given considerable column space were due to him. The two mission stations are only about 15 miles apart, and the two gentlemen were acquainted. Rev. Crutwell had already been a keen and active observer and reporter to many quarters of the world of UFO activity in and around his mission station. He was already at that time a correspondent to the Flying Saucer Review.

The June episodes were merely the climax of what had been a steadily increasing interest by UFOs in that area. These earlier sightings prior to June had already been reported to the world's press. It need hardly be stressed that clergymen, perhaps even more than others who hold positions of responsibility and discretion, need to be very sure of their facts before jeopardising their integrity. This in no way renders the two men infallible but if you have heard, as I have, the verbal account by Fr. William Gill of the events outlined, taken note of his objective approach to details such as times, heights, and distances, and seen the sworn affidavit of the events of that week, signed not only by himself but by no less than 37 other witnesses, then we can but conclude that we have on record one of the most authenticated accounts of a distant encounter with UFOs and occupants yet to reach our files.

SEAN AINSCOUGH.

Footnote. The BUFORA Research Section has obtained a tape recording of the radio program from which the bulk of this article has been prepared. The Director of Research has a copy of some extracted notes from the report on 'Papuan Unidentified Flying Objects' by the Rev. N. E. G. Cruttwell, M.A., Oxon., of the Anglican Mission, Menapi, published in March 1960. These extracts, including copies of the drawings made by Fr. Gill and other witnesses will appear in the next edition of the Research Bulletin.

STEPHEN SMITH.

(Typed from original notes provided by Sean Ainscough, and from the interview given by Fr. Gill to the Darwin UFO Research Society as recorded for the Australian Broadcasting Commission, Darwin Station, by Sean Ainscough. 24/1/70.

S.L.S.

NOTES & QUOTES

Appreciation.

It is learned with great regret of the resignation of Richard Farrow from the post of Investigations Co-ordinator. His enthusiasm, conscientiousness and ability in research have been of inestimable value to BUFORA, for which we thank him. Good luck, Richard, in your new job in Norway.

A Gift of Value.

We wish to register our thanks to BUFORA member Mr. Peter Johnson of Norwich, for the generous gift of the E-M detector, constructed by him, which was used for demonstration purposes in the DAILY MAIL New Year Show in 1969.

No report necessary.

Our Chairman, Ivar Mackay, arrived early one morning during last Autumn's Chelsea Antiques Fair, of which he is Chairman and a Director, to find a number of "UFOs" hovering over his Stand. They looked most impressive but he is not submitting a report. A practical joker had suspended a number of very large wooden bowls and other circular objects from the roof on nylon thread.

**Was it that visit to
Cradle Hill?**

thing we don't yet know about.
forces of the mind."

"Not even nuclear rockets will make interstellar travel possible because of the distance involved, though it could come through some-

I suspect it might be something to do with the

—Patrick Moore, quoted in the "Sunday Times" of 28/12/'69.

Bye-Bye Bluebook.

Keyhoe and NICAP, who lose an old and tried target for their spleen. In fact, undoubtedly, the U.S. Air Force will continue its UFO studies behind the scenes, unhampered by the need to juggle periodically with statistics in order to haze the American public.

Project Bluebook, the U.S.A.F. UFO investigation Agency, (or Front), is to cease operations.

Few will regret its passing, except possibly Major

The Aftermath of Condon.

into a positive one will help matters at all. The Report, together with a scarcity of UFO manifestations in Britain and many parts of the World, has led to a falling-off of interest in UFOs on the part of a section of the public which normally exhibits a measure of interest in them. I am not personally much concerned, however, in that I have never looked upon the evangelistic efforts of certain UFO buffs with a favourable eye. If every man, woman and child in Britain suddenly evinced a belief in UFO reality, we should not, on this account, know a single thing more about UFOs than we do already.

Has the Condon Report harmed UFO-research?

Of course it has—and no amount of special pleading designed to transform a negative report

A Fallacy Revived.

prehistoric population of Britain, lacking means or incentive to do anything of the sort, laid out a vast and countrywide system of straight trackways? When I debunked the idea in the Summer 1967 issue of this JOURNAL, not a single ley enthusiast raised a voice in opposition to my remarks. Belief in leys seems to be a matter of faith rather than of proof or logic. An elementary knowledge of Prehistoric Archaeology suffices to disprove the idea. Why clutter up the field of UFO-research with such notions?

The journal, "The Ley Hunter," has been re-born under the editorship of Mr. Paul Screeton.

Will someone please tell me how and why the

Is the End in sight?

dawn of a New Age. Maybe! In the past, many such beliefs have been exploded by the passage of time. The Dead Sea Sect of Essenes, for instance, anticipated in detail the destruction of the Ancient World and the triumph of their beliefs. Then, in A.D. 68, the Roman Tenth Legion, moving down to the attack on Jerusalem, took a casual swipe at the headquarters of the Sect—and that was that! Messianic dreams faded in the cold light of reality.

We continue to receive predictions from UFO enthusiasts connecting the phenomena with an

assumed catastrophe to come, followed by the

J.C-B.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor,
BUFORA Journal.

Norwich, Norfolk.
30th January, 1970.

Dear Sir,

I have just read "The Scroriton Mystery" for the first time. In it, Mr. Bryant says that some of the spacemen he met had only four fingers on each hand.

In another book connected with UFOs, I read of a legend about the beginnings of mankind. It states that the mother of all men was a woman named Oryana, who had four fingers on each hand. She came down from the sky and gave birth to seven sons, from whom all men are descended. Then she went back to the sky and was not seen again.

Perhaps it could be ascertained whether Mr. Bryant had heard of this legend before he made his contact claim.

Yours faithfully,

C. E. STUART-MILLS (Miss).

Editorial Comment :

I don't think so, nearly three years after Mr. Bryant's death, especially in view of the difficulty experienced in finding out during his lifetime exactly what he *had* read on the subject of UFOs.

This may be one more odd coincidence in an affair abounding in peculiar and inexplicable circumstances.

—o—

Editor,
BUFORA Journal.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute,
College of Arts & Sciences,
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061,
U.S.A.
22nd January, 1970.

Dear Dr. Cleary-Baker,

In the BUFORA Journal, Volume 2, Number 9, you mention that certain observations due to Allen H. Greenfield are in close accord with views that you have formed independently "on the basis of information available" to yourself. I would be grateful if you would kindly let me know the nature of this information. It seems to me that all the members of BUFORA have a right to this knowledge, otherwise I cannot understand what BUFORA is for.

Sincerely,

I. J. GOOD,
M.S., Ph.D., D.Sc., Sc.D.,
University Professor.

Editorial Comment :

I have no information which is not available to any BUFORA member who cares to consult the Association's library and records. My *interpretation* of the available information is my own and happens to coincide closely with that which Allen H. Greenfield has framed on the basis of (presumably) identical information.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Bufora Western Regional Conference : It is with great pleasure that we can announce that our hosts for this event will again be members of the British Flying Saucer Bureau, who organised such a successful Conference in 1969, is scheduled for 16th May next at Shirehampton Public Hall, not far from Bristol. More definite information regarding this event will be circulated later.

National Sky-Watches : Two sky-watches have been proposed—for 16/17th May and 27/28th June. Further details will be given in due course.

Symposium : ' Spacelink ' is arranging a symposium to be held in London on the 18th July. The venue and other details are eagerly awaited but, we are told, admittance is to be by ticket only and all those who wish to attend should write to: Miss Christine Henning, 99 Mayday Gardens, London, S.E.3. Cost will be about 8/- per head.

Lectures :

BUFORA— 4th April. ' Question Time Special '—This will be the last of the present series. The next series will start on 5th September and is in the course of preparation. BUFORA Annual General Meeting will be held on 3rd October, 1970.

COS-MOS— 21st March. ' The Hoaxers ' by Norman Oliver.
25th April. ' Spacemen from the Past ' by Raymond Drake.

(All the above will be held at Kensington Central Library at 1900 hrs).

CONTACT-UK— 18th April. Lecture by Rex Dutta. Caxton Hall, 1900 hrs.

BOOK REVIEWS

"OPERATION EARTH"

BY THE HON. BRINSLEY LE POER TRENCH

Published by Neville Spearman.

PRICE: 30/-.

The fifth book from the pen of the International Chairman of the 'CONTACT' organisation, former Editor of Flying Saucer Review, internationally acclaimed authority on UFO phenomena and a staunch protagonist of the 'Sky People,' has, quite frankly, left me a little breathless and I find it rather difficult to review impartially.

To the hide-bound scientist it will mean little or nothing and is likely to end up in the w.p.b., whilst I can almost hear the starry-eyed, emotionally unstable, over-imaginative UFO buffs quoting from it like Bible-punchers at Speakers' Corner. I know Mr. Le Poer Trench to be a deep-thinking, level-headed and entirely conscientious person and I'm sure that he never intended his book to suffer this kind of treatment. Nor should it, for I suspect that it holds the ultimate essence of his particular ufological philosophy, of which his previous works were the forerunners, in regard to the reality, origins, purpose and relationship of this disturbing phenomena to the evolution of this planet in the past, at the present time and in the near future.

The future is grim indeed if the growing apprehension that the planet is going to 'flip' within the next three decades comes true. It's inhabitants have already 'flipped-their-top' according to a hypothetical Spaceman who says: "All of you on your planet are mad. Every person you meet on the streets is insane," and then proceeds to enumerate a fairly comprehensive list of our failings. But there is hope for us—in spite of the brainwashing by the denizens of Etheric and Inner Earth realms, the machinations of the USAAF, CIA, Colorado University, USSR Academy of Sciences, MIB and other visible and invisible 'suppressors' and 'conditioners,' including Government employed psychiatrists, whose future policy might well be one suggesting that all who see UFOs are in need of some kind of psychiatric attention, to spite the fact that we are all quite mad already. Yes, there is hope for us, but only when these 'celestial craft' are openly accepted and when a closer contact established with the benignant Sky People leads to the triggering of an expansion of consciousness to the awareness of higher spiritual principles and an eagerness to operate in harmony with the Christ Consciousness. In fact, in the past we have had our 'Men in White' to help us, but I rather fancy it is really up to us now—or else!

It is both a book of doom and a book of hope, indicating unseen pitfalls and exciting possibilities. It is, I feel, almost an 'appeal.' There is mention of the heritage and traces that the Sky People have left in our planet in past ages and our possible genetic links with them; Orthoteny and Leys; Space-travel by a method faster than the speed of light; other Space-Time Continua; Astral Projection; Disappearances and Abductions; Atlantis; the predictions of Edgar Cayce and the famous Nostradamus regarding the happenings to take place at the end of this century; a few nice words about the 'Drop-outs' of our modern society, and many other matters of interest.

Of the photographs, I was surprised to see that the last two were exactly similar to the lenticular clouds which I have so often seen and photographed in Corsica and which are a familiar cloud phenomena in that part of the world. I was also surprised to see quoted the over-ripe and quite un-substantiated story, promulgated by Ray Palmer, of the late Admiral Byrd's expeditionary flight over the North Pole observing an ice-free land with lakes and tree-covered mountains with a monstrous animal moving around. The only official account of the expedition was published in the National Geographic Magazine and makes no mention of such an area. The story is generally regarded as the product of an over-fertile imagination, and as complete nonsense by the informed.

A bibliography, index and eight pages of photographs are included.

E.A.I.M.

“ MYSTERIES OF THE SKIES ”

BY GORDON I. O. LORE and HAROLD H. DENEULT

Published by Robert Hale & Co., London.

PRICE: 36/-.

In many of the published works covering the history of UFO phenomena the same old sightings are dished up to one again and again in one form or another. I am not suggesting that these sightings are of little importance; on the contrary, they are classics of their type, but one must not be led to think that there were not other equally important events which have not had such frequent publicity. Thus it is that one turns the pages of this volume to discover a treasure-house of these lesser known sightings.

The Authors, co-founders of Aerial Research Associates, claim to have access to all the most comprehensive collections of UFO data in the world, including that of NICAP of which Gordon Lore is Assistant Director and Harold Deneault was formerly Assistant Editor.

With an Introduction by the President of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots' Association, Washington, they open with a very full study of the mysterious 'Airship' flap of 1896/97, then retrogressing in time, record a number of sightings made at sea, the first of which is made by Christopher Columbus in 1492. Observations by Astronomers, and others, of some very startling aerial phenomena during the 18th and 19th Centuries are followed by an account of the extraordinary "Battle of Los Angeles" in 1942, not to be found in history books, and the "Foo-Fighter" epidemic of World War II not only in the air but also over the sea and on land, all of which makes fascinating reading.

The survey is brought up to within recent years with the inclusion of certain 'classics' supported by a considerable number of important but lesser-well-known sightings of which mention has been made above.

Well annotated, indexed, and containing a useful Chronology (and Bibliography) of the history of Flight from 1709 to 1947, as well as a general Bibliography set in 'Time Periods,' a chart of Planet positions and ten pages of illustrations, it will prove, I believe, a useful addition to UFO literature as a 'first' from these Authors.

E.A.I.M.

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